

Reading for Meaning

Welcome, story supporter!

**We hope that you and your child
have fun with this story.**

**Nurturing and supporting
your child is important for
their physical, emotional and
academic development.**

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

**Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.**

Reading
for Meaning

Lost in the supermarket



I have a brother much younger than me. I am almost thirteen and he is only three. He goes to nursery school during the day, but sometimes I have to look after him. I don't really mind. We play outside or watch TV.

It was December and a few days before Christmas. The shopping malls were busy and the shops were crowded.

Mom was cooking for the holidays when she ran out of things she needed. We would have to go to the shops, she said. When we arrived at the mall, we had to drive around looking for parking. At last we found a parking spot but we had to walk a long way to get to the shops.

When we arrived at the doors to the supermarket, mom gave me a list. "Take Lungelo with you," she said. "You can get started with the shopping, while I quickly go to the bank. Oh yes, here's the list of what we need to get."

The first thing I did was to collect a trolley. I put

Lungelo in the trolley. He loved sitting there. Pushing the trolley with so many people around was hard. I read mom's list and started putting groceries into the trolley. I packed the tins and boxes next to Lungelo.

Lungelo was getting restless. He was hot and tired and didn't want to ride in the trolley any more. Instead, he climbed out and tried to push the trolley on his own. He was too small to reach the handle and I had to take over as he walked behind.

We passed the pasta, the bakery and the tinned foods. When we saw the chocolates and sweets I stopped to look at them. Which one would I get if I had some money? There was a special on Simba chips. Buy two packets and get a third packet free! Yes, I'd buy the chips.

Suddenly Lungelo was gone. He had disappeared!

Where could he be? What must I do now? I was

in the middle of a busy supermarket with so many people and faces I did not know. But I had to find my little brother!

I was panicking. I left the trolley and ran down the rows looking for him.

Near the fruit and vegetables I saw a woman wearing a uniform. I quickly explained what had happened. She started talking into her radio. Soon two big men in blue uniforms came to talk to me. They told me not to worry. The woman took my hand.

We started searching. We looked under shelves and between people. We looked left and right, up and down. We were all looking for a small boy in green pants and a Superman T-shirt.

We searched and searched, but Lungelo was nowhere to be seen. I was really scared. I had lost my baby brother. What if something happened to him? What would my mother say? She had trusted me.

Then they found him! One of the guards saw a tiny shoe sticking out of a pile of blankets. It was Lungelo's shoe. He had fallen asleep.

I was too happy to be angry with Lungelo. I grabbed him and hugged him. As we started back to our trolley, we saw mom wave and smile as she came through the door. What a relief, Lungelo was safe – and the shopping was done!

By Johan Pienaar (Via Afrika)

EXTEND THE STORY...

Change the story



WRITING
ACTIVITIES

WHAT TO USE

Pen or pencil and a blank sheet of paper

WHAT TO DO

- After reading the story, ask your child how they feel about what happened in the story.
- Ask them to think of a different ending for the story and to rewrite the story with their different ending.

This will help with thinking and writing skills.

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