

Reading for Meaning

Welcome, story supporter!

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

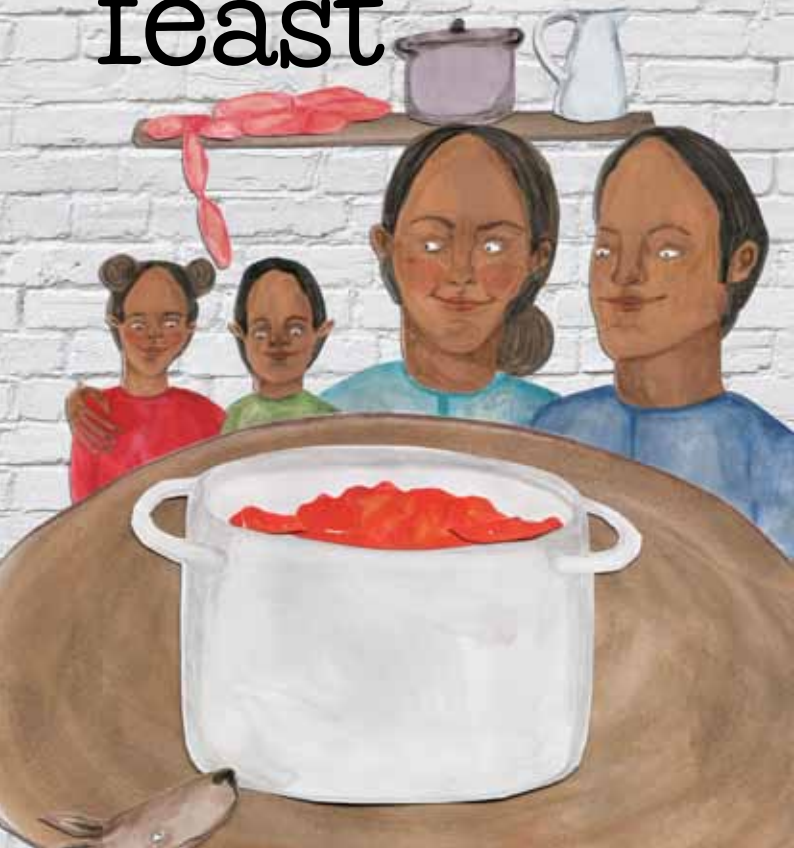
**Nurturing and supporting
your child is important for
their physical, emotional and
academic development.**

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

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

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The feast



The Smuts family lived in a small village on the coast. Papa Smuts was a fisherman. He would go out with the other fishermen in a small boat with their nets, and they would use those nets to catch fish.

Since they could remember, the sea provided them with a living as well as food. When they came back to land, they had plenty of fish to sell. That money was enough to support each family, and enough left over for the families to eat.

But all this had changed. In the last few years many new fishing boats had come to fish off that coast, so there were not as many fish for the people in the village to catch.

Times were hard. On some days Papa Smuts came home empty-handed. Then poor Papa Smuts would feel really down-hearted.

That's when Mama Smuts would give him a big hug and say: "We'll manage somehow. We'll make ends meet." And Sannie and Frikkie would

add: “We always do, Papa.”

Somehow, they always did because no one could grow redder tomatoes, greener beans, crunchier carrots and crispier cabbage than Papa Smuts, with the help of Sannie and Frikkie.

And no-one, absolutely no-one, could turn the reddest tomatoes, the greenest beans, the crunchiest carrots into a more delicious meal than Mama Smuts.

Sannie and Frikkie loved to help their mother cook a big pot of tasty stew with all these vegetables.

Mama Smuts used to say: “My children, you are both going to grow up into first-class cooks. I think you’ll go on TV one day.”

So because of the garden, whenever the fishing was bad, at least the family had some food on the table.

One lucky day, Papa Smuts caught five big fish.

He said to himself: "Today, I really got lucky. If I sell four fish, that will give enough to pay for the week's electricity and buy some groceries. Best of all, I can take one fish home for supper."

So soon he was heading back home with the precious cash in his pocket and one last fish for the family to eat for supper.

But as Papa Smuts passed Maria's farm stall she called out: "How much for the fish?"

"Sorry Maria," said Papa Smuts. "But this one is for our supper."

"What if," asked Maria, "you took something different home, something like these sausages? Now wouldn't that be lovely?"

Papa Smuts thought for a moment, but only for a moment because the sausages did look good!

So Maria and Papa Smuts swapped the fish for the sausages. Then Papa Smuts hurried on home.

There was much excitement when Papa Smuts told Mama Smuts, Sannie and Frikkie about his lucky day. It wasn't often that the family ate sausages.

Mama Smuts placed the plump pink sausages on her prettiest plate and then put them in the cupboard. She knew exactly what she would make with them. It was to be her best-ever chakalaka. She would fry up the sausages separately and then, at the last minute, she would stir them in. That way, they would seem to go further.

So they set to work. Papa Smuts went into the garden and picked three tomatoes, two carrots, a handful of green beans and a big crispy cabbage. Frikkie washed the vegetables, Sannie chopped and sliced them, and Mama Smuts put them all in the pot and blended them with some delicious spice.

Sannie and Frikkie laid the table then went off

to do their homework while Papa Smuts went to have a short rest before supper. As the food bubbled and cooked, the smell spread through the house.

Then, at last, it was dinnertime. And what a dinner!

“Mmm, mmm!” said Sannie.

“Mmm, mmm!” said Frikkie.

”My, oh my...oh my!” said Papa Smuts. “I did not think it was possible but this Chakalaka is your best. Those sausages made all the difference!”

Her fork stopped halfway to her mouth. She said nothing. And if Papa Smuts, Sannie and Frikkie had not been so busy enjoying the meal they might have seen Mama Smuts drop her fork and clap her hand to her forehead.

Mama Smuts went quietly over to the kitchen cupboard. She looked at the plate of plump pink sausages sitting there and wondered how she

could possibly have forgotten them.

Then she turned to the family and said: “Well, everyone, I’m glad you’re enjoying this so much, because I’ve got an even bigger treat. Guess what we’ll be having for breakfast? Sausages!”

EXTEND THE STORY...

Preparing for a birthday party



**WRITING
ACTIVITIES**



**ARTS &
CRAFTS**

WHAT TO USE

Crayons, paint, old magazines, scissors, glue stick and a blank sheet of paper

WHAT TO DO

- Ask your child to imagine that it's their birthday party in a few weeks time. They must think of what they would like the birthday party to look like - what decorations and food they want and what clothes they want to wear.

- Ask them to create a menu for their birthday party. They must also make a list of things they will need to buy.
- Help them design an invitation card for friends to attend the party, and draw a birthday cake.

Let's get creative!

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