

Reading for Meaning

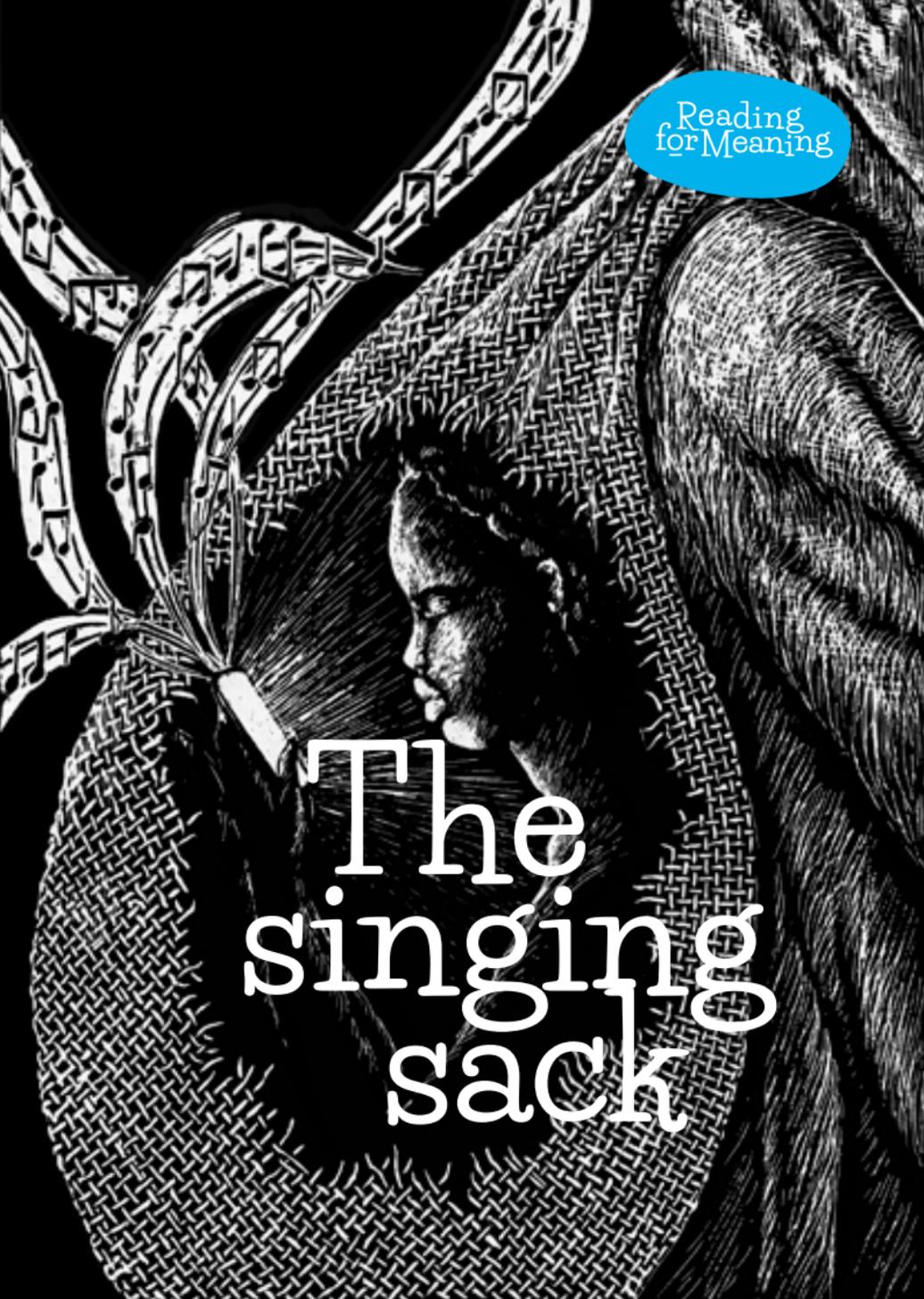
Welcome, story supporter!

**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

The singing sack

Anele was very happy on her twelfth birthday. Her birthday present from her mother was a cell phone.

Her mother said, “This cell phone is only for sending messages to me if you get lost or if you are late coming home.”

Her mother smiled. “I have downloaded a playlist on your phone,” she said.

The song on Anele’s phone that she loved the most was *Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana*. Her mother used to sing it to her when she was a baby.

*Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana
Thul’umam ‘uzobuya ekuseni
Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana
Thul’umam ‘uzobuya ekuseni.*

Anele told everyone, “This song makes me happy” and she would often play it.

One hot day Anele called her two friends,

Aphiwe and Nandipha, and said: “Let’s go to the river to swim.” So they did and they swam in the cool water all afternoon.

When they saw the sun sinking Nandipha said: “It is late. We must go home. Our mothers will be worried.”

They started walking back to their village. On the way, Anele stopped and said: “Oh no! I have left my cell phone by the river. I will run back and fetch it quickly.”

Nandipha and Aphiwe said: “Be fast! We will hurry home so that our mothers do not worry.”

Anele ran back to the river. She saw her cell phone on a rock. She picked up her cell phone and put it in her pocket.

Just then a great big ugly giant came out of the reeds. He was an isiGebenga! He was carrying a big sack over his shoulder.

The isiGebenga called out with his big voice:

“Come here, girl!”

Anele was frightened so she started running away.

But isiGebenga was too quick. He caught Anele and put her in his sack. Anele shouted, “Please let me go. My mother will be so worried if I do not go home.”

But isiGebenga laughed loudly, “Ha ha ha!”, and threw the sack over his shoulder. Then he said to Anele: “When you hear me say, ‘Sing, sack, sing!’ you must sing. If you do not sing, I will eat you!”

Inside the dark sack Anele whispered to herself, “I must send a message to my mother on my cell phone. She will be worried about me.” She tried to send a message to her mother. But there was no reception!

isiGebenga walked along, carrying the sack with Anele inside. Every time he came to a village he would say loudly, “I am hungry. Give me food.”

If the villagers refused, he said, in a softer voice: “I have a sack that can sing. If you give me food and drink, my sack will sing for you.”

Then he would prod Anele in the sack and say “Sing, sack, sing”. And Anele would click on her playlist and play her favourite song:

*Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana
Thul’umam ‘uzobuya ekuseni
Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana
Thul’umam ‘uzobuya ekuseni.*

The song made Anele feel brave.

One day they came to the village where Anele’s family lived. Her mother and father and her two brothers had been looking everywhere for Anele. But they could not find her. They were so worried.

isiGebenga said: “I am hungry and thirsty. I need a place to sleep. Give me some *umngqusho* and some *umqombothi* “ then I will show you how

my sack can sing.”

A woman said: “A sack cannot sing. Go away from our village!”

Anele heard the voice. It was her mother!

isiGebenga said to the woman: “I will show you. Sing, sack, sing!” He prodded Anele in the sack.

Anele thought “isiGebenga will eat me and my family if I do not sing.” She tried to switch on her phone, but it had no battery!

IsiGebenga prodded harder. “Sing, sack, sing!” he shouted.

Anele was frightened. In a trembling voice, she sang the song herself:

*Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana
Thul’umam ‘uzobuya ekuseni
Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana
Thul’umam ‘uzobuya ekuseni.*

Anele’s mother’s eyes grew big. She said to her

husband, “I know that voice! It’s our daughter, Anele, in the sack!”

“What! What can we do?” said her father softly.

Anele’s mother thought of a plan. Listen to what Anele’s mother did. She brought isiGebenga a huge bowl of *umqombothi*.

isiGebenga drank all of the *umqombothi*! Then he fell asleep and started snoring. *Ngghhrr ngghhrr*.

Anele’s mother ran to the sack. She opened it and whispered: “My daughter, quick, climb out of the sack!” So Anele crawled out.

When her mother saw her, she cried.

Her mother said, “We were sick with worry! Now we are so happy!” She hugged Anele.

Anele’s father hugged her too and said: “Welcome home, my daughter, welcome home!”

Then Anele’s parents looked for stinging insects

and snakes. They put the stinging insects and snakes in isiGebenga's bag.

Sometime later, isiGebenga woke up. He called out: "I am hungry. Bring me some *umnqusho*."

Anele's mother said, "We will bring you *umnqusho* if you make your sack sing."

So isiGebenga said to the sack, "Sing, sack, sing!"

But the sack did not sing.

isiGebenga grew angry. He kicked the sack. "SING, sack, SING!"

But the sack did not sing.

Now isiGebenga was very angry. He opened the sack. The insects flew out zzzzz. The snakes crawled out s-s-s-s-s.

Insects stung his face and arms! Snakes twisted themselves around his legs and bit him! isiGebenga screamed, "Help! HELP!" But nobody

helped him.

The isiGebenga ran away, out of the village and up over the hill. Nobody in that village ever saw him again.

Then all of the people began to sing. They sang and danced around Anele.

*Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana
Thul'umam 'uzobuya ekuseni
Thula Thu Thula baba Thula sana
Thul'umam 'uzobuya ekuseni.*

And that is the end of the story.

EXTEND THE STORY...

It's time to
sing-along!



WRITING
ACTIVITIES



GAMES

WHAT TO USE

Pen or pencil and a blank sheet of paper

WHAT TO DO

- Ask your child to write a song or rap that they would sing with Anele. If they are struggling, you can help them write it.
- The song/rap can be in any language - they can even use more than one language!
- Practise singing the song together. To make it more fun, get everyone at home to join in

and sing/rap with you.

- Use a bucket as a drum and cutlery to create a unique sound for the song. Use your hands to clap and give the song a rhythm.

Remember to be creative!

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