

# 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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for Meaning

# Palesa's list



“I need to go shopping,” said Mama, writing a list. “I need cabbage and meat and onions, flour, yeast and oil.”

“I’ll go to the market,” Gogo said. “You’re so busy here. Palesa can come with me and help me carry everything home.”

“Thank you,” said Mama. “Don’t forget the shopping list.”

So Gogo and Palesa set off for the taxi rank.

“What do we need to buy, Gogo?” Palesa asked as she skipped along.

“Let me see,” said Gogo, reading the shopping list. “We need cabbage, and meat and onions, and flour, yeast and oil.”

“Cabbage and meat and onions, and flour, yeast and oil,” sang Palesa, turning the list into a little song. “Cabbage and meat and onions, and flour, yeast and oil.”

Beeb-beep! Beeb-Beep! The taxi came up next to them and stopped to pick them up.

“Where to?” asked the driver.

“To the market,” said Gogo. “We want to buy some groceries.”

“That’s right,” said Palesa. “We need cabbage and meat and onions, and flour, yeast and oil.”

The taxi stopped near a big tree. A large lady got into the taxi with her crying baby.

“Hai,” said Gogo “This baby is crying so much that she is giving me a headache. Palesa, remind me to buy some pain tablets.”

“Ok,” said Palesa. “We need cabbage and meat and onions, and flour, ice-cream and oil. And some pain tablets.”

The taxi drove very fast, beeping its horn.

Soon they arrived at the market. There were people everywhere. There were stalls selling

fruit and vegetables; stores selling meat; stores selling fish and stores selling shoes and socks, skirts and dresses.

There were tables with cakes and bread, brushes and combs, soap and detergents. There also was oil and mealie meal for sale, pots and pans and goats and chickens. Wherever they looked, there were people busy buying lots of things.

“What a big crowd,” said Gogo. “Now where’s my shopping list? I can’t find it anywhere.”

“Oh!” said Palesa. “I think we left the list in the taxi. Don’t worry, Gogo! I remember what we have to buy. Mama asked us to buy mealie meal and meat and onions, and flour and ice-cream and oil. And pain tablets.”

“Good girl,” said Gogo. “Let’s start shopping. Where do we buy the mealie meal?” The first stall they passed sold mealie meal, so they bought a big bag.

“Now all we need is meat, onions, flour, sugar, ice-cream and oil. And pain tablets,” said Palesa.

“Are you sure your mama wanted sugar?” asked Gogo. “I saw a big bag of sugar in the cupboard at home.”

Palesa scratched her head. “Um. Maybe it was sweets?”

“That’s it,” said Gogo. “I’m sure she wanted sweets.”

So they bought a jumbo bag of sweets. Next they came to the stall selling fruit and vegetables. “Didn’t your mama need vegetables?” Gogo asked, frowning. “I can’t remember.”

Palesa looked at the big bunches of bananas. They looked so yummy.

“I wish we could buy some bananas. Can we, Gogo?” asked Palesa.

Gogo looked confused. “I’m not sure, my child.

Were they on the list?”

“Mealie meal, sweets, bananas, flour, ice-cream and oil, and pain tablets,” sang Palesa.

“Good girl,” said Gogo, buying a bunch of bananas.

“You are clever to remember everything so well. Now let’s buy the flour, ice-cream and oil, and then we can go home. My feet are killing me!”

“Don’t forget the pain tablets,” said Palesa.

So Gogo bought a bottle of tablets, the flour, ice-cream and oil, and a bottle of cooldrink. She swallowed two tablets with a mouthful of cooldrink.

“Here’s the taxi,” said Gogo. “You’ve been such a good girl. Here is the rest of the cooldrink for you to enjoy on the way home.”

Mama was very surprised to see them come home so soon. “Well done,” she said. “Thank you

for shopping for me. Now I can get started on making bread and my nice meat and cabbage stew.”

“Cabbage?” said Palesa. “Did you want us to buy cabbage?”

“Meat?” said Gogo. “Did you want us to buy meat?”

Mama unpacked the plastic bags. She stared at the groceries and the bottle of pain tablets.

“What is this?” she said loudly. “Mealie meal, sweets, bananas, flour, ice-cream and oil. What am I going to do with these?”

“Oh dear,” said Gogo.

“Yo!” said Palesa.

“I gave you a list,” said Mama. “Didn’t you buy the things on the list?”

“We lost the list,” said Gogo. “I forgot it in the taxi.”

“Mama, I’m sorry,” said Palesa and she began to cry.

“At least you bought pain tablets,” Mama said. “I now have a terrible headache from wondering what I can cook for dinner today! I was going to cook cabbage stew. Now I have no idea!”

She swallowed two pain tablets with a glass of water and went to lie down. Mama was very upset.

Gogo and Palesa sat at the kitchen table. They felt very bad.

“Now I remember,” Palesa said. “The list DID have cabbage on it.”

Gogo nodded. “Mama wanted meat too, and onions.”

Palesa looked at the food on the table. “Those bananas look so good,” she said.

“There’s lots of oil,” said Gogo, “And there’s flour.

And I know there's sugar in the cupboard, and a couple of eggs. Shall we use them to make banana fritters?"

"Yum," said Palesa, fetching the big plastic bowl from the cupboard.

"Here, you can peel the bananas," said Gogo, cracking the eggs into the bowl.

Half an hour later, Palesa knocked softly on the bedroom door. "Mama," she called. "I've brought you something nice."

"Come inside," said Mama.

Gogo pushed the door open and helped Palesa carry the tray. Carefully they put the tray on the bed.

"We brought you tea," said Gogo. "To say we're sorry."

"And we made you banana fritters," said Palesa.

Mama sat up in bed. "Banana fritters. I LOVE

banana fritters.”

They were all very busy drinking tea and eating banana fritters with ice-cream. And when they had finished the plate of fritters, nobody was hungry anymore.

Mama did not have to cook any supper that night.

“Good night, Palesa,” Mama said at bedtime, giving her a goodnight kiss.

“The next time I go shopping with Gogo, I promise to keep the shopping list safe, so that Gogo doesn’t forget it in the taxi again,” said Palesa. “Good night Mama,” and she gave her mother a hug and a kiss.

And that is the end of our story.

**EXTEND THE STORY...**

# Memory game



**GAMES**

## **WHAT TO USE**

*Pen or pencil and a blank sheet of paper*

## **WHAT TO DO**

- Ask your child to think about a grocery shopping list for the home.
- They must write a list of things that need to be bought. You can help them if they don't remember the words for some items.
- Try and get them to write down at least 10 items.

- Once they are done with the list, play a memory game together. The first person starts by saying a item from the shopping list. The next person must then repeat that item (said by the first person) and then add a new item from the list. The next person must say the two items already said, and then add a new one from the list.
- Repeat this process until someone can repeat all the items from the list, and then add a final one.

**Have fun with this game! It will help your child to remember things.**

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