

ZINZI & TAMKHULU

by Lucy O'Keeffe



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My name is Zinzi. I'm nearly seven years old and I live in Joza with my little brother, my Mum and my Tamkhulu.



We also have a dog called Rocky. He likes to chase our chickens and dig in our vegetable garden. Mum gets cross with him.



My Mum is a nurse at the clinic.
She works very hard. I wish she
could be home with me after
school but I know she is looking
after lots of people.



We are lucky that Tamkhulu lives with us. He fetches us from school.



He walks with a stick and everyone greets him so it takes a long time to get home.

Tamkhulu has a short sleep after lunch. Until earlier this year he would always read us a story when he woke up. That was my best time of the day.



Tamkhulu wears glasses and has a big, deep voice. When he speaks in church it is very loud for everyone to hear, but during those story times it was just for us.



One day Tamkulu said he couldn't read to us. His eyes were too tired. Mum said he couldn't see the words anymore. I wished I could make magic glasses to fix his eyes.



At first I was very sad. No more stories. But then I had an idea...



I am in Grade I and learning to read. I can read to Tamkhulu and my little brother!



Tamkhulu is so proud of me. He loves to listen to me reading. He calls me his 'bright spark' and says one day I will even write my own story books.



Questions to discuss with your child:

1. Who does Zinzi live with?
2. What is Zinzi's Mum's job?
3. How does Zinzi feel when her Grandfather can't read to her anymore?
4. What makes you feel sad?
5. What makes you feel happy?
6. Who are the people that you like spending time with?
7. Why do you think Zinzi loves reading so much?
8. If you could write your own story, what would it be about?