



NOTSHE, KUBU LE NTSI

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Written by Ephenia Dikeledi Magongoa

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards reprinting and towards funding the next title by the author.

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Contents

English Section

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Bee, Hippo and Fly | 4 |
| 2. Lesson | 6 |
| 3. About the Author | 7 |

THE BEE, THE HIPPOPOTAMUS AND THE FLY

It is said that one day when Hippo was skinny and polite and was relaxing in the water, father Bee and his wife asked Hippo to look after their children while they were busy pollinating the flowers, spreading pollen and making honey.

Hippo agreed and started looking after Bee's children. Hippopotamus bathed them and dressed them every morning in clean clothes and also gave them breakfast to eat.

He asked them to wash their hands before they ate, but they refused. Hippo grabbed them and washed their hands and then gave them food. When they had finished eating, they again refused to wash their hands.

Hippo grabbed them once again and washed their hands. Bee's children were stubborn and they did not want to listen. In the evening when Bee and his wife returned from work, they found the children crying.

Bee and his spouse became very angry and they stung Hippo on the head. Hippopotamus cried out loud and ran into the water to relieve the pain.

Fly told Hippo that he would go with him to work the next day to explain the truth to Mr. Bee and his wife. Hippo asked him how he knew about the whole affair. Fly said that he saw everything as he was hiding on the wall, behind the curtain where nobody could see him. In the morning, Hippopotamus woke up with a swollen head yet he still went to work.

Fly accompanied Hippo to explain what he had seen. Bee's children said that Fly was lying because he was not there.

Bee and his wife went to work as usual to spread pollen and make honey.

Hippo politely asked Bee's children to wash their hands every time they returned from playing outside, from the bathroom, after blowing their noses, after scratching themselves and before they ate, so that they should not get sick.

Bee's children refused. Fly flew from the curtain and also asked the children to wash their hands. The children again refused because they had no respect for Fly or for Hippopotamus.

Mr. Bee and his wife came back and again found the children crying. Bee asked what was going on and of course, the baby bees said that Hippopotamus was not treating them well.

Fly was hiding on the curtain. He came down and told the parents that their children were lying since he had seen everything.

The baby bees cried even more. Bee tried to sting Fly but he flew away.

Bee and his wife then turned to Hippo and attacked his feet and his hands until he swelled up. Hippo ran back to the water.

The next day, Bee's stubborn children refused once more to wash their hands. When Bee and his wife found them crying, without even asking, they landed a series of spiky punches which left Hippo on the ground covered in needles. Hippo fled to the dam. He tried to pull out the needles but failed. Fly came and sat on Hippo's head and took out the needles even though Hippo's whole body was already swollen. His swollen body never went down and stayed swollen forever. Hippopotamus never went to Bee's house after this and stayed in the water. He only came out to graze on the grass.

Fly was annoyed by these hard-headed, and arrogant children who showed no respect and decided: *"I am going to teach them a lesson. I am going to get my insect friends and relatives to help me with my plan. We will get all the illnesses from other people and come and dump them in their food and on their hands".*

Bee and his wife started taking their children to work with them. One day, one of the children started getting sick from diarrhoea, another got tuberculosis, another had mumps with swellings under his ears as if stung by his dad, another had a bad case of flu, while the last child was covered in red spots and had red, watery eyes because of measles.

Mr. Bee and his wife took the children to the hospital. The nurse asked the parents and the children lots of questions and found that the children caught the illnesses because of not washing their hands over and over again, even fifty times a day. They had to do this if they did not want to become ill.

The nurse sent them to the doctor. The doctor gave them painful injections each and every day according to the sicknesses they had caught. They screamed: "Ouch! ouch! This needle stings. Doctor! Please! We've had enough. We won't do it again." They slept on their tummies because their bottoms were so sore and felt like they would explode. When they were healed, they went back home and learned to wash their hands many times a day.

They regretted what they had done and told their parents the truth.

Bee took the children to Hippo to ask for forgiveness. But when Hippopotamus saw them, he refused to come out of the water thinking that they had come to sting him

again. Hippopotamus did what he did because he was protecting himself and knows that "it is better to be safe than sorry".

Lesson

Respect your parents and elders and appreciate what they know. Lies will not help you.

New Words

- Pollen - A fine powder made by flowers
- Appreciate - To be thankful
- Spouse- The person you are married to
- Diarrhoea- A runny tummy
- Lungs - The parts of your body inside your chest that let you breathe
- Measles - A sickness where you get red spots on your body and a fever
- Mumps - A painful illness that makes the neck swell
- Fever - A sickness which gives you a very high temperature
- Regret - Feeling sorry for what you have done
- Coward - a person who is not brave and avoids trouble

Proverb:

"Better to be safe than sorry."

Explanation:

It is best to avoid trouble than be faced with it.

Synopsis

The bee, the hippo and the fly is the 2nd publication in a 10 part folklore series that tells stories from Africa similar to the ones that were narrated by our grandmothers in evenings around the fire. They are written in Setswana but have been translated into English and other languages to attract a diverse audience. Some parts of the story have been directly translated to retain the humour while making it fun and easy for the children to learn a new language.

This is an original story about the hard-headed and arrogant nature of the baby bees while under the care of Hippo. Their cheekiness landed them in hospital and destroyed their father's friendship with Hippo.

Project Goals

There are great untold stories from Africa which are highly educational and can benefit children all around the world. Every story has a lesson that is presented at the end of the story. Our main goal is to show the world that Africa does have some great edutainment stories of her own.

Biography/About the Writer

Mrs. Dikeledi Magongoa is a retired teacher with over 30 years primary and high school language teaching experience. She was also Head of the Departments of Setswana, Afrikaans and English Languages in her 13 years of high school teaching. She holds an Honours Degree in Setswana from the University of Pretoria. She works as a freelance translator and writer for various publishers, broadcasters and non-profit organisations.

Mrs. Magongoa is also a board member of Bagodi Social Club - NPO programme aimed at imparting dress making and needle working skills to senior citizens (grandmothers) in the Hammanskraal area thereby empowering them to raise the cash necessary to take care of the needs of their families

When not translating and writing, every Friday, Mrs. Magongoa volunteers her time at the Temba Community Library, reading stories to kids as well as teaching them how to read, write and speak Setswana fluently.

Mrs. Dikeledi's book - Notshe, Kubu le Ntsi also known as The Bee, The Hippo & The Fly was awarded a community publishing grant in 2010, by Centre for the Book, a division of the National Library of South Africa

SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGES

The languages of South Africa are English, Afrikaans, xiTsonga, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Tshivenda, siSwati, isiNdebele, Setswana, North and South Sotho.

The majority of the people in South Africa have a black skin colour. Almost one quarter of South Africans speak isiZulu as a home language. Less than one tenth of the South African population speak English as a mother tongue, but English is the lingua franca in South Africa.

Business people and politicians mainly speak English during their meetings. It is mandatory to study English at school.

GLOSSARY

- Population - All the people living in a specific area
- Lingua franca - A common language used by people who speak different languages
- Mandatory - Everybody must do it