

# Early grade LTSM in African languages



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It encompasses **all but one** of South Africa's indigenous African languages (Xitsonga – *pfula*).

vula means 'open' in isiXhosa, isiZulu, isiNdebele,
 Siswati and Tshivenda (and 'say' in Xitsonga)
 bula means 'open' in Setswana, Sesotho and Sepedi

Children must **open** books to read and write, and **open** their minds to learning and knowledge.

# Direct translation from English into African languages is problematic in the early grades

The vast majority of early readers currently available in the African languages are directly translated from an original English source document. This leads to the creation of complex texts that are not commensurate with the learners' level of reading.

ISIZULU ibhola likanobhutshuzwayo

1 word 6 letters 2 syllables

2 words 24 letters 10 syllables

Example of English basal reader text:

The red fox and the big dog are in the hut. The sad rat and the fat pig sit in the sun.

Sight words (Dolch or Fry's list)
the, and, are, in

Decodable phonics (CVC patterning)

red, fox, big, dog, hut, sad, rat, fat, pig, sun

Result of **translation** of this English text into isiXhosa:

Ingcuka ebomvu nenja enkulu zisendlini.

Impuku elusizi nehagu etyebileyo zigcakamele ilanga.

The deliberate selection of specific phonic structures become lost in translation

It's like writing an early English reader like this:

The hungry hippopotamus and the friendly giraffe live in the game reserve.

# Which text would you prefer to read aloud?

#### **Amaxesha Onyaka**

Ndihlala eRhawutini.

Ehlobo kushushu.

Ehlobo ndinxiba iimpahla ezipholileyo.

Ekwindla kukho umoya.

Ekwindla umoya uyandityhiliza.

Ebusika kuyabanda.

Ebusika ndinxiba iimpahla ezishushu ndifudumale.

Entlakohlaza akubandi kodwa akushushu.

Entlakohlaza ndithanda ukubukela iintyatyambo.

Elona xesha ndilithanda kakhulu kusehlobo!

#### Utata usele nosana

Utata usele nosana.

Usana luyalila.

Utata uyadanisa nosana.

Usana lusalila.

Utata uculela usana.

Usana lusalila.

Utata unika usana ipere.

Usana lusalila.

Utata unika usana ubisi.

Usana luyekile ukulila.

Usana ludiniwe luyalala ...

notata udiniwe uyalala!

# Story text translated from English into isiXhosa – no control over phonic structures

#### Amaxesha Onyaka

Ndihlala eRhawutini.

Ehlobo kushushu.

Ehlobo ndinxiba iimpahla ezipholileyo.

Ekwindla kukho umoya.

Ekwindla umoya uyandityhiliza.

Ebusika kuyaba<mark>nd</mark>a.

Ebusika **ndinx**iba **iimp**ahla ezi**shushu nd**ifudumale.

Entlakohlaza akubandi kodwa akushushu.

Entlakohlaza ndithanda ukubukela iintyatyambo.

Elona xesha ndilithanda kakhulu kusehlobo!

Story text written in isiXhosa – control over phonic structures

#### Utata usele nosana

Utata usele nosana.

Usana luyalila.

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# Research on early reading instruction

- Beginner readers should receive literacy instruction using easily decodable texts at their instructional reading level (Fountas & Pinnell 1996)
- □ From a diagnostic perspective, a text in which a learner can read and comprehend 90% of the words easily is considered to be at that reader's instructional reading level; more difficult text is considered to be at the reader's 'frustration level' and will require additional teacher support (Clay 1991)
- □ In transparent orthographies, reading is typically taught using purely phonics-based approaches focusing on grapheme-phoneme correspondences (Aro & Wimmer 2003: 622)

Isigama – amagama amatsha amabawaqhele

Izandi

Amagama abawabona rhoqo

**VOCABULARY** 

**PHONICS** 

SIGHT WORDS

Display boards are used to help teachers frame and structure new language learning in the Foundation Phase classroom (examples in isiXhosa)

Isakhelo sokubhala

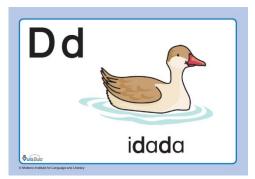
**WRITING** 

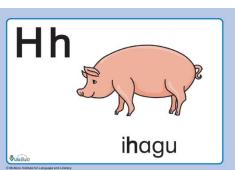
# **Correct reading skills and strategies**

- PHONICS and DECODING SKILLS (knowing individual sounds) are important for learning to read in all languages, especially African languages:
  - u**b**isi, i**c**awe, i**d**a**d**a, isi**kw**ere, i**hl**osi, i**mv**ubu, **ndl**u, ilo**khw**e
- **SYLLABIFICATION SKILLS** (dividing words into syllables) are important for learning to read in all Nguni languages: ba-le-ka, li-xe-sha, i-ncwa-di, i-si-lwa-na-ya-na
- PREFIX, INFIX, ROOT WORD and SUFFIX RECOGNITION is important for building fluency in all Nguni languages: ndi-ngu-Zinzi, u-titshala-kazi, asi-na-mazinyo, nase-sipilini

# Short and simple when starting to learn to read

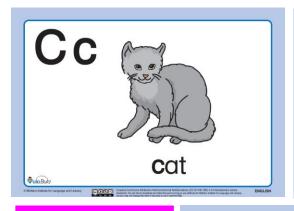
- Short, simple,
   common words
   introduce the
   different sounds.
- Words are mostly phonically regular, enabling learners to read them easily

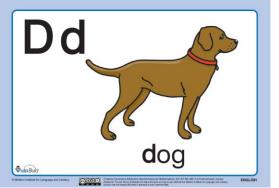




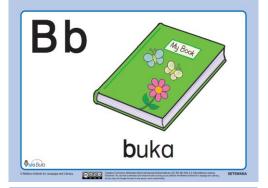


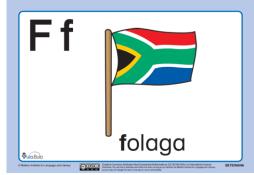




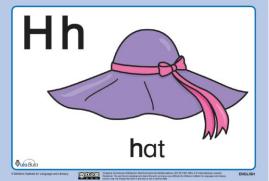


# **SETSWANA**

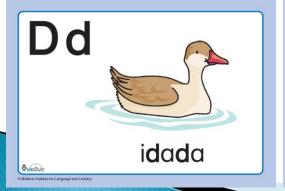


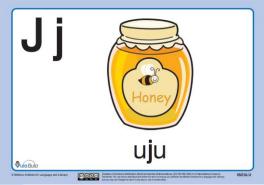


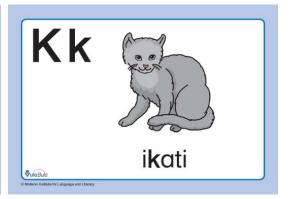
# **ENGLISH**



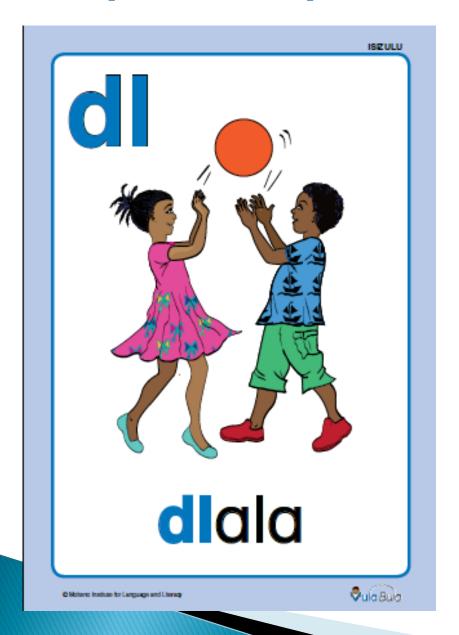
# ISIZULU







### Example of isiZulu phonic frieze and flashcard words









# GRADED DECODABLE TEXTS (Grade 1 and Grade 2)

#### Methodology

- Words are selected that contain <u>specific</u> target sounds, e.g. g, f, mv, kh, tsh, ndl.
- The story is developed around these words.

The purpose of graded basal reading is for children to practise their decoding skills and to gain reading fluency.

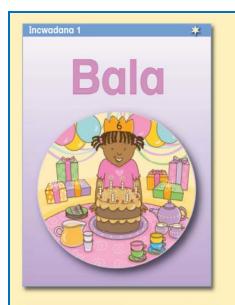
#### **Each story:**

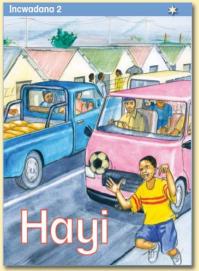
- is used to develop <u>phonic decoding skills</u>, <u>whole word</u> <u>recognition</u> (sight words), <u>comprehension</u> and <u>vocabulary</u>.
- facilitates the acquisition of visual literacy skills
- is <u>followed by a comprehension activity</u>.

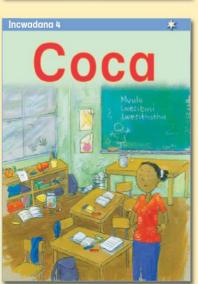
# Vula Bula Grade 1 and Grade 2 story titles and phonics programme

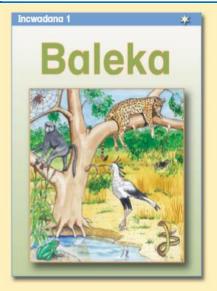
Story title	Phonics introduced	Story title	Phonics introduced
1. Bala	b, a	17. Ncedani!	nc, th
2. Hayi	h, i	18. Uphi uZinzi?	nz, sh
3. Vula vala	v, u	19. Sidlala undize	dl, nd
4. Coca	c, o	20. Sityiwe isonka	nk, ty
5. Baleka	k, e	21. Izinyo	lw, ny
6. Lala	l, n	22. Evenkileni yempahla	mp, nj
7. Zoba usike	s, z	23. Umnqathe omkhulukazi	nq, ts
8. Mamela	m, y	24. Ibali lobugqi	gq, rh
9. Jika	g, j	25. Gcinela ngomso	gc, nt
10. Umnikelo	p, r	26. Usuphu yelitye	ch, kw
11. Utata usele nosana	d, t	27. Idabi lomoya nelanga	qh, tsh
12. Sebeza	f, q	28. Umvundla nofudu	mv, ndl
13. Lelikabani eli vili?	w, x	29. Ingonyama nempuku	kr, nw
14. Ekhaya	hl, kh	30. Ukubhaka nomakhulu	dw, sw, ntl
15. Uhambo	mb, ng	31. Edolophini	ngq, nts
16. Yophukile ifestile	bh, ph	32. UMzantsi Afrika ngowethu	xh, zw

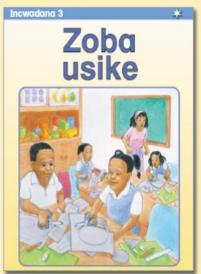
# Vula Bula FIRST READERS (isiXhosa)

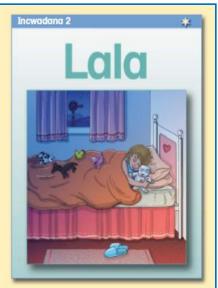


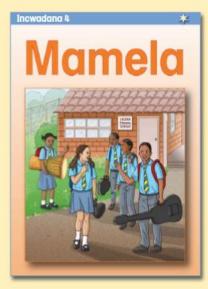










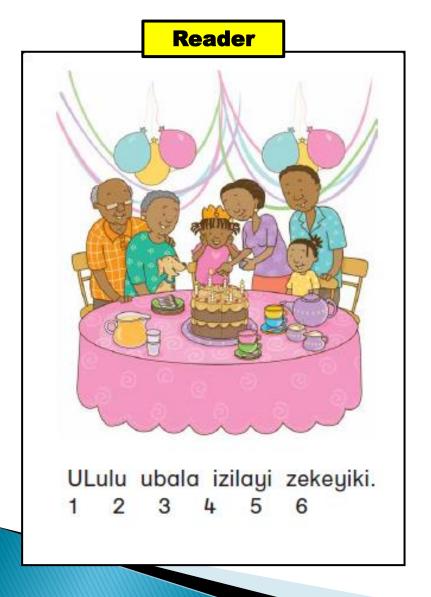


# **Reading Record**

IINCWADI ZESIXHOSA	AMAGAMA AMATSHA AMABAWAQHELE	IZANDI	UMHLA NOMQONDISO NGOKUTYIKITYA NGUTITSHALA	UMHLA NOMQONDISO NGOKUTYIKITYA NGUMZALI
INQANAB	A loku-≭			
Hayi!	uyacinga			
Vula vala	iphi			
Baleka!	ndoda	ukuziqhelanisa		
Lala	lixesha	izandi zonoobumba		
Bala	futhi	be-alfabethi		
Coca				
Zoba usike	mnye			
Mamela		nd		
INQANAB	A lesi- <b>≭</b> ≭			
Jika	kakhulu			
Utata usele nosana	thula	ukuziqhelanisa izandi		
Umnikelo	enkosi	zonoobumba be-alfabethi		
Lelikabani e i vili?	kakuhle, enkosi			
Uhambo	kakhulu	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: nd NTSHA: mb, ng		
Sebeza	benje, namhlanje	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: nd NTSHA: hl, th		
Ekhaya	apha, bonke, lilizwe	hi, kh		
INQANAB	A lesi-***			
Ncedani!	ukhwela	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: †h NTSHA: NC		
Yophukile ifestile	ifestile	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: nd NTSHA: Dh, ph		
Uphi uZinzi?	uphi	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: kh, nd, ng NTSHA: NZ, Sh		
Sityiwe isonka	efestîleni, kodwa, uphinde	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: kh, nd NTSHA: Nk, ty		
Sidlala undize	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: İİXESİND NTSHA: YİNO, EPİNİ	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: hl, kh, nd, ng, th NTSHA: dl, nk		
Izinyo	encwadini	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: ng NTSHA: lw, ny		

IINCWADI ZESIXHOSA	AMAGAMA AMATSHA AMABAWAQHELE	IZANDI	UMHLA NOMQONDISO NGOKUTYIKITYA NGUTITSHALA	UMHLA NOMQONDISO NGOKUTYIKITYA NGUMZALI
INQANAE	A lesi-***	K		
Evenkileni yempahla	umnqwazi	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: bh, hl, kh, lw, nd, ng, nk, ph, th NTSHA: mp, nj		
Umnqathe omkhulukazi	kwihagu, impuku, yatsho	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: bh, kh, mb, ng, nk, ny, th NTSHA: NQ, ts		
Ibali lobugqi	watsho	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: kh, nd, ng, nk, sh, th NTSHA: gq, rh		
Gcinela ingomso	emazantsi	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: hl, mb, nd, ng, nk, nz, ph, th, ty NTSHA: gc, nt		
Isuphu yelitye	itswele, iminqathe	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: kh, mb, nd, ng, nk, ny, nz, ph, th, ty NTSHA: Ch, kW, nt		
INQANAE	A lesi-***	o <b>k</b>		
Idabi lomoya nelanga	amandla, ixhathisile	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: gq, hl, kh, kw, lw, mb, nd, ng, nk, nt, ny, nz, ph, sh, th, ts NTSHA: qh, tsh		
Umvundla nofudo	ukuqwalasela kwakhona: watsho ntsha: ukuqhayisa	UKUQWALASEIA KWAKHONA: dl, gq, hl, kh, kw, lw, nd, ng, ny, ph, sh, th, ts NTSHA: mv, ndl		
Ingonyama nempuku	ukuqwalasela kwakhona: yatsho ntsha: xhakamfu, utitshalakazi, emva, incwadi	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: bh, ch, gq, hl, kh, kw, mb, mp, nc, nd, ng, nj, nt, ny, nz, ph, th, ts, ty NTSHA: KT, NW		
U kubhaka nomakhulu	ukuqwalasBa kwakhona: kodwa ntsha: izandla, amaqebengwana, imvuthuluka	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: bh, hl, kh, kw, lw, mb, nc, nd, ng, nt, ny, nz, ph, sh, th, ty NTSHA: Qh, SW, ntl		
Edolophini	ibomvu, yindlu, cwaka	UKUQWALASELA KWAKHONA: bh, dl, gc, gq, kh, kw, lw, mb, mp, nc, nd, ng, nk, nt, ny, nz, ph, rh, sh, th NTSHA: NCW, ngq, nts		
U Mzantsi Afrika ngowethu	uMzantsi Afrika, ngokutsha, ngesixhobo, ingwenkala, indwe, isiqwane, yintyatyambo	UKUOWALASELA KWAKHONA: bh, hl, kh, kw, lw, mb, nc, nd, ng, nk, nq, nt, ny, nz, ph, rh, sh, th, ts, ty NTSHA: kr, zw, ndi, nti		

### Receptive language is more advanced than reading knowledge at this time



#### **Big Book story**

Namhlanje, lusuku lokuzalwa lukaLulu. Iminyaka yakhe, mithandathu qwaba.

Umama umenzela itheko elincinane ululu ukubhiyozela lo mhla. Amabhaso akhe uwasongele ngelona phepha lakhe lalihle. Itafile iyabukeka, idekiwe ngooni nooni, yaye inomtsalane zezo bhaloni ezimibala-bala ezijinga phezu kwayo. Umama umbhakele ikeyiki yetshokolethi ayithanda kakhulu ululu!

'Yizani nonke etafileni sibhiyoze. Konke sele kulungile,' uyababiza umama.

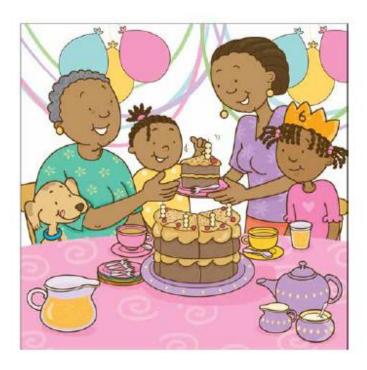
Umama ulumeka amakhandlela amathandathu amele iminyaka kaLulu. ULulu uphefumla kakhulu, ebizela umoya, abe sele ewavuthela omathandathu ngaxesha

22

nye, cimi, pam!
Khawubone olo
ncumo nolonwabo
kuye ngeli lixa
usapho lonke
lumculela ingoma
emyoli, u-mini
emnandi kuwe.
Nditsho nenjana
yakhe, uBobby,
ingenelele,
ikhonkotha
ngehlombe.

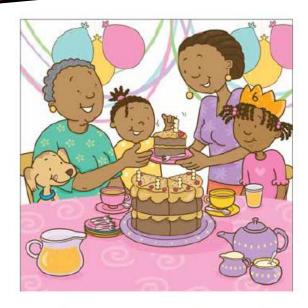


# LEVEL 1 READER Bala



ULulu ubala izilayi zekeyiki. 1 2 3 4

# LEVEL 3 READER Iqhekeza lokugqibela



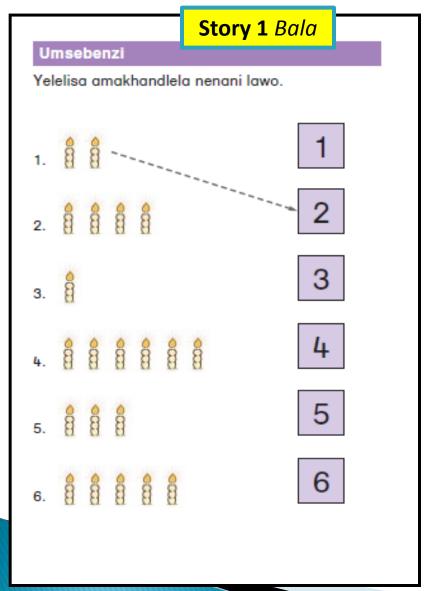
Umama udlulisa iqhekeza lesibini kumakhulu. ULulu uyabala kwakhona. Nye, mbini , ntathu, ne. Ngoku, kusele amaqhekeza amane.

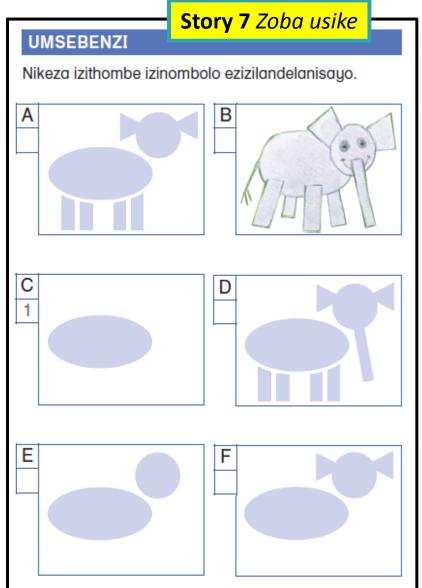
'Mmmm!' uyanambitha umakhulu, umlomo ugcwele yikeyiki emnandi.

ULulu ukhotha umlomo. Sekungathi kuye utya iqunube elibomvu lekeyiki.

UBobby naye ukhotha owakhe umlomo, unukisa iqunube.

Each story is followed by an **after-reading activity**. These activities are levelled and become more demanding as the learner progresses.





#### Story 22 Evenkileni yempahla

#### **UMSEBENZI**

Umuntu ngamunye ubefunani esitolo? Qedelela imisho.

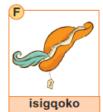














- 1. Umama ufuna \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Ubaba ufuna \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Ugogo ufuna \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Usisi ufuna \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. Umkhulu ufuna .
- 6. Umfowethu ufuna \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. U-Ayoyo ufuna \_\_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Story 30** *Ingonyama nempuku*

#### **UMSEBENZI**

Sesiphi isivakalisi esihambelana nomfanekiso?

1.



- A. Ingonyama yabamba impuku.
- B. Impuku yabamba ingonyama.
- C. Ingonyama yatya impuku.

2.



- A. Ingonyama yayikhululekile.
- B. Ingonyama yayonwabile.
- C. Ingonyama yayibhajisiwe.

3.



- A. Impuku zange iyincede ingonyama.
- B. Impuku yayinceda ingonyama.
- C. Ingonyama yayinceda impuku.

4.



- A. Ingonyama yayihleka impuku.
- B. Impuku yayiyoyika ingonyama.
- C. Ingonyama yayibulela impuku.

#### **GRADE 3**

#### Each story is followed by:

- COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS
- a LANGUAGE USAGE activity
- a WRITING ACTIVITY

The activities link to the Grade 3 CAPS.

In addition, the comprehension questions are modelled on the type of questions asked in the ANAs and in PIRLS.

#### A. Comprehension

- 1. Whose birthday is it?
- 2. How do you know that it is someone's birthday party?
  - a) There are presents and balloons.
  - b) There is a cake with candles.
  - c) Everyone sings the Happy Birthday song.
  - d) All of the above.
- 3. Why does Mama cut the cake into six slices?
- 4. Who was the first person to get a slice?
- 5. What three parts of the cake does Lulu dream about eating?
- 6. Why wouldn't Lulu share her cake with Bobby?
  - a) Bobby has his own cake.
  - b) Lulu wants to eat the whole slice herself.
  - c) Dogs don't like cake.
- 7. Why did Mama give Bobby a dog biscuit instead of cake?

#### B. Language usage

Write a list of adjectives (describing words) that tell you about the cake.

#### C. Writing

Write half a page about a special day in your life, for example a birthday party or Christmas Day or a relative's wedding.

#### **GRADE 3 story: Sidlala undize**

#### Sidlala undize

#### A. Uvavanyo lokuhlola ulwazi

Sebenzisa izivakalisi ukuphendula imibuzo.

- Umninawa kaSandile uNdumiso wangenelela emdlalweni kuba
  - wayefuna ukudlala nabantwana abadala
  - abahlobo bakaSandile bamcela ukuba adlale nabo
  - kwakubanda ngaphandle
- Kwakutheni uSandile ebala ukuya kutsho ku-20?
- Zintoni ezamkhokelela ukuba abafumane abahlobo bakhe uSandile?
- Wabafumana kwawaphi amagumbi endlu abahlobo bakhe uSandile?
  - a) egumbini lokuvasela, elokulala nelokuphekela
  - egumbini lokuphumla, elokulala nelokutyela
  - egumbini lokuphekela, elokulala nelokuphumla
- Ingaba umama kaSandile wayebabizela ntoni abantwana?
- Khangela kwiphepha lama-157. Sesiphi isivakalisi esikuchazela ukuba abantwana babesonwabele isidlo.
- Wayezimele phi uNdumiso?
- Phawula ngenani elingu-l ukuya ku-4 izivakalisi ngokulandelelana kwazo ebalini:
  - a) USandile wathi nguye ophumeleleyo.
  - USandile wabala ukuya kutsho ku-20 ukunika abahlobo bakhe ithuba elaneleyo lokuzimela.

- UNdumiso wathi nguye ophumeleleyo kuba uSandile wayengazange amfumane.
- d) USandile wabafumana bobathathu abahlobo bakhe.

#### Ukusetyenziswa kolwimi

Incwadi yomsebenzi yoku-i yeBanga lesi-3 yakwa-DBE Iphepha 21 Incwadi yomsebenzi yesi-2 yeBanga lesi-3 yakwa-DBE Iphepha 21

Khetha isingxi (.) okanye uphawu lombuzo (?) okanye uphawu lwesikhuzo (l) ukugqibezela izivakalisi ezilandelayo.

- Sendifikile, nokuba umntu akakayifumani indawo yokuzimela
- USandile ubaleka ungena egumbini lokuphumla
- Inokuba aphi la mantombazana

#### Ukubhala

Incwadi yomsebenzi yoku-i yeBanga lesi-3 yakwa-DBE: Iphepha 24 Incwadi yomsebenzi yesi-2 yeBanga lesi-3 yakwa-DBE Iphepha 24

Balisa okukhumbulayo ngebali. Sebenzisa esi siseko singezantsi ukukunceda.

Igama;	Umhla;
Igama lebali;	
<ul> <li>Nachani abalinganicu</li> </ul>	ra abanhambili2

- Bhala isishwankathelo esifutshane sebali. Isishwankathelo sakho kufuneka sibe nesigalo, isigu nesiphelo.
- Yeyiphi eyona ndawo oyithandayo ebalini?
- Ulithandile eli bali? Kungani ulithandile okanye ungalithandanga?

### **Vocabulary development is crucial**

#### Shapes and colours a yellow a blue a purple a red a green an orange circle diamond triangle rectangle square oval a pink a white a brown a turquoise a black a grey ball heart box star cross cone

















unxande

oluhlaza



elisawolintshi



i-ovali

esomi

esiphuzi



unxantathu oluhlaza okwesibhakabhaka



okotshani







isiphambano





eliluhlazana





ikhowuni empunga

**SEPEDI** 



ephinki



Obticitions includes for Language and Library MOLTENO ZENEX (0.000) Conference on Allela data from Section Conference on Allela data fr

emnyama







elinsundu

# Dibopego le mebala







khubedu



botalalerata







sekalee sa



serolwane









ye tala

namune

mmala wa

boperese





pelo ye pinki



naledi ye





sefapano se



lepokisi le letsothwa

















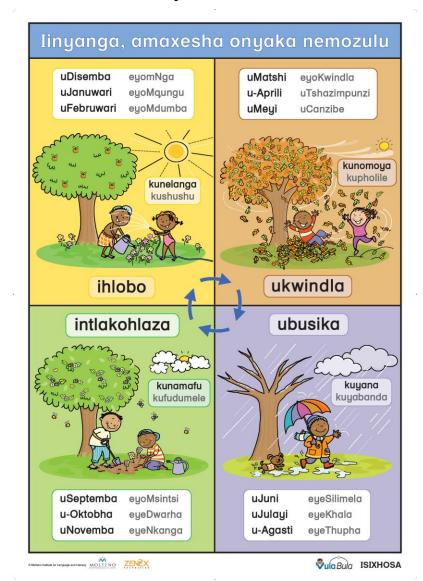
### isiXhosa poster

#### Numbers • Days of the week

Amanani		ni	Iintsuku zeveki
nye	1	•	Mvulo 🎉 📀
mbini	2	••	Lwesibini 🌼 🤄
ntathu	3		Lwesithathu 🌞 🤡
ne	4	••	Lwesine 🎉 🕃
ntlanu	5	•••	Lwesihlanu 🌞 🤄
ntandathu	6	000	Mgqibelo 🌞 🤄
sixhenxe	7	••••	Cawe 🎉 🤄
sibhozo	8	••••	imini ubusuku
lithoba	9	••••	
lishumi	10		<b>Vula</b> Bula IsixHosA

### isiXhosa poster

#### Months of the year ● Seasons ● Weather





## www.vulabula.co.za

#### RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

- Alphabet friezes PHONICS
- Alphabet flashcard words PHONICS
- Phonic friezes PHONICS
- Phonic flashcard words PHONICS
- Graded readers SCAFFOLDED READING PRACTICE
- Big Books RECEPTIVE WHOLE LANGUAGE
- Vocabulary posters VOCABULARY
- High frequency word lists AUTOMATICITY
- Story anthologies SCAFFOLDED READING PRACTICE
- Teacher booklets BRINGING IT TOGETHER IN CAPS

#### **LANGUAGES**

- isiNdebele
- isiXhosa
- isiZulu
- Siswati
- Sepedi
- Sesotho
- Setswana
- Tshivenda
- Xitsonga
- English
- Afrikaans