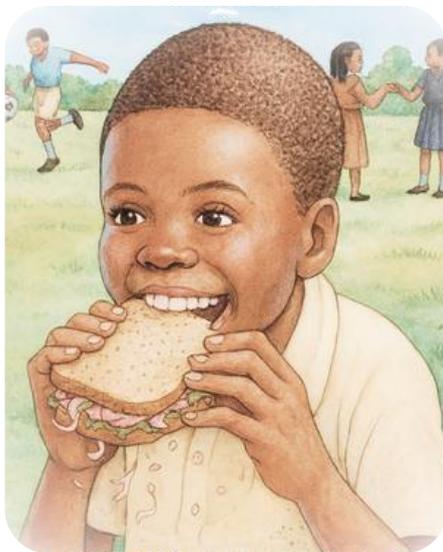


The Story of Thabo and Thabisile



by Tozie Zokufa

Published by
The Humane Education Trust



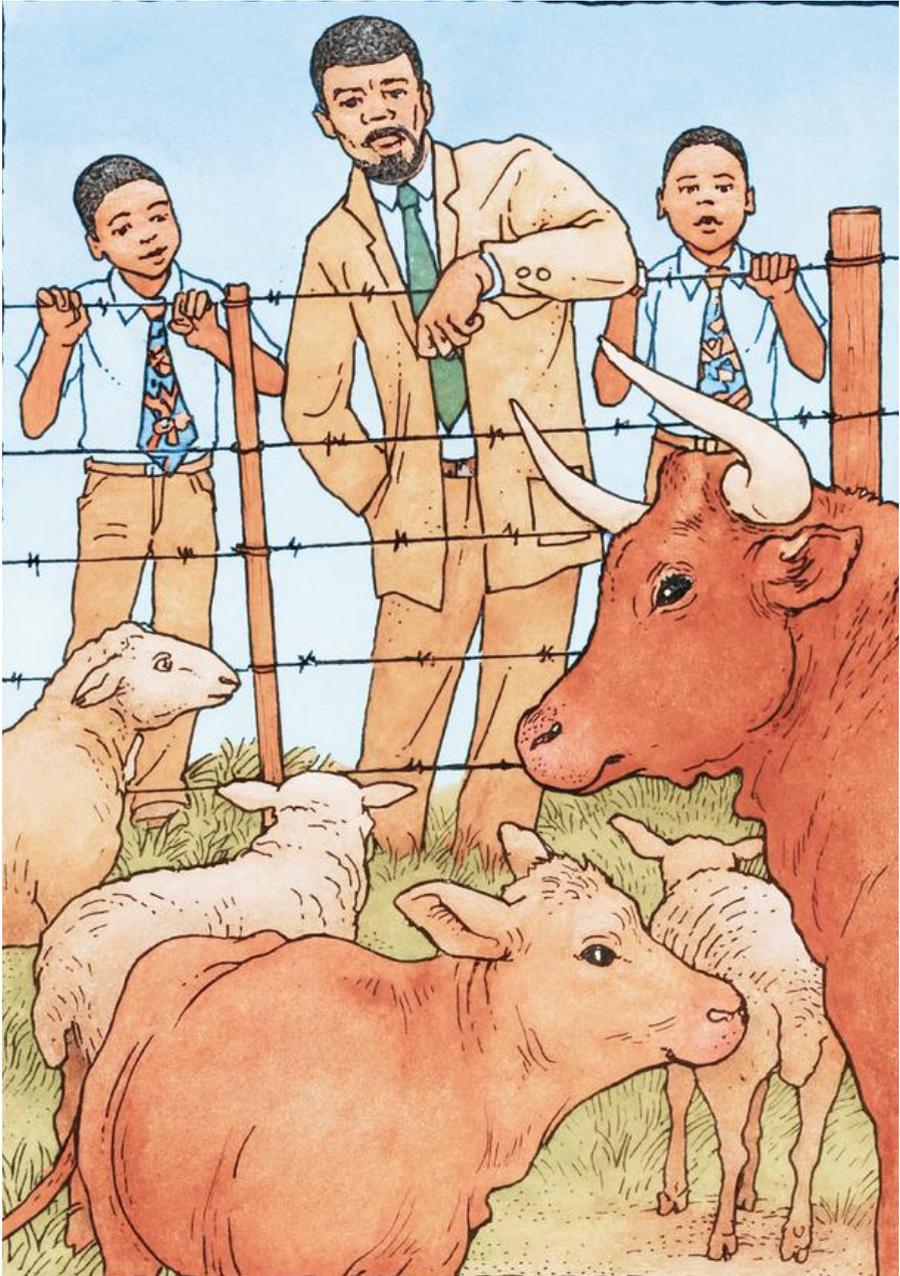
www.naturebased.education

ISBN 978-0-9814072-2-7

Illustrations: Pandora Alberts

©**The Humane Education Trust**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the written permission of The Humane Education Trust.



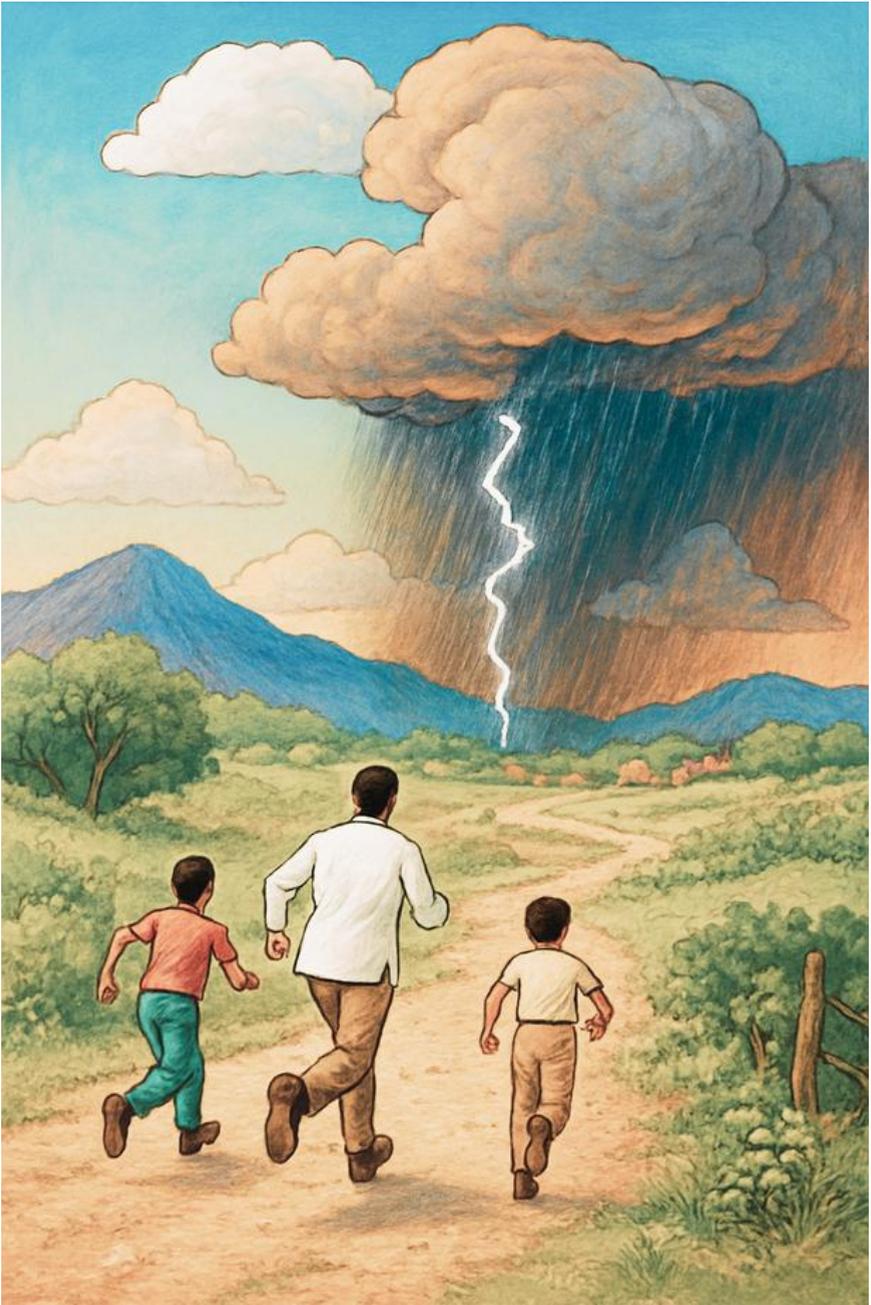
On a sunny Sunday morning Thabo and Thabisile dressed in their best clothes to go to a church service with their father Mr Mokoena. The previous two days had been very hot.

Already the cicada beetles were buzzing loudly in the trees promising that this day too was going to be hot. As he set off down the dusty road with his twin boys, Mr Mokoena stopped at the fence of the kraal to inspect his cattle and sheep. He was proud to see them fat and contented.

Mrs Mokoena did not attend the church service that morning. She stayed home to prepare Sunday lunch. She cooked a scrumptious potjiekos, which was a family favourite.

By mid-morning, grey clouds had begun to fill the blue sky. As they stood up to sing the hymn *Avulekile Amasango Ezulwini* (Heavens doors are opened) Thabo and Thabisile heard thunder rumble in the distance.

By the time Mr Mokoena and his boys emerged from church, a light rain had started. Mr Mokoena was worried about his cattle and sheep.



The thunder was coming nearer. Lightning streaked the sky. The drops of rain grew bigger. They still had a long walk to get home. He knew his cattle and sheep were afraid of the big claps of thunder.

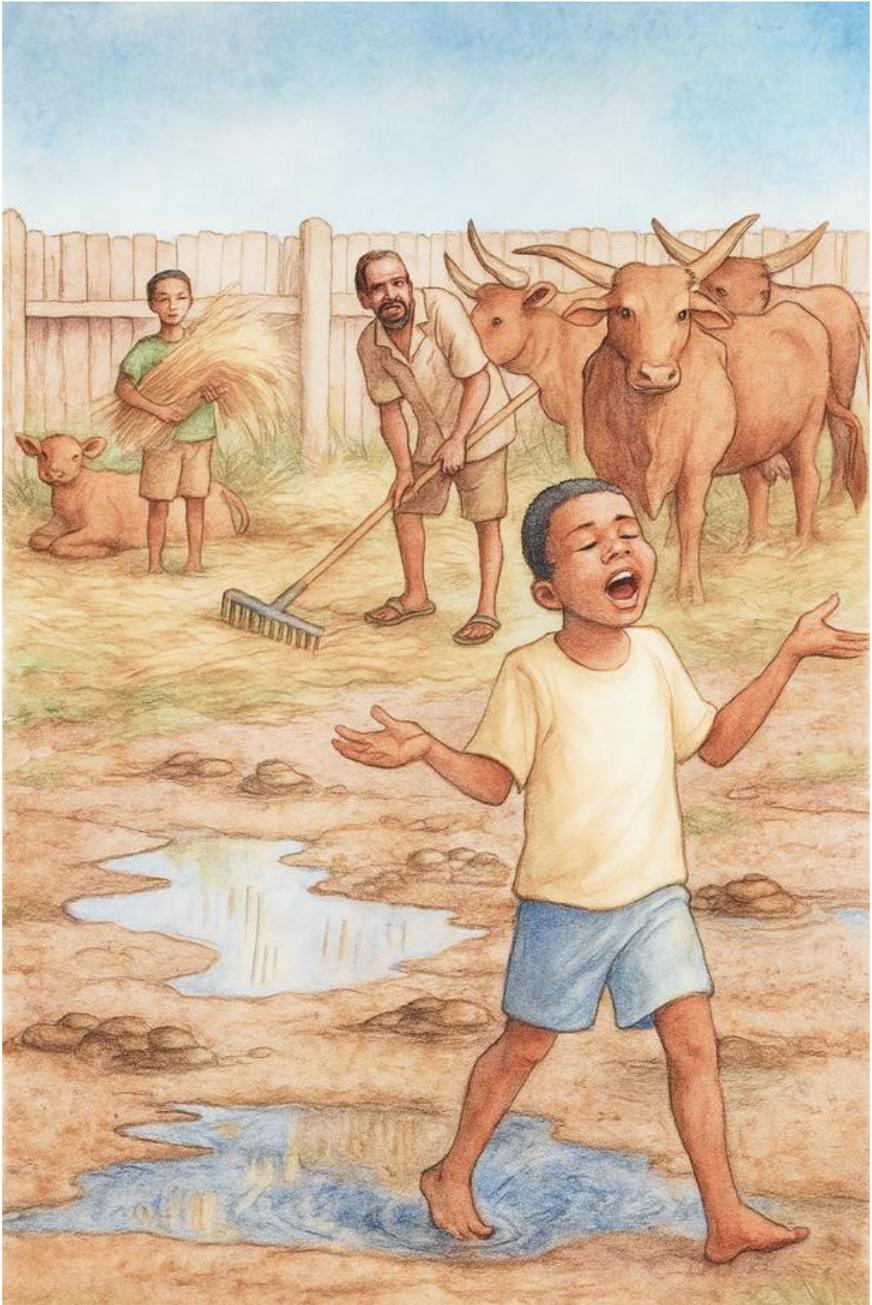
“Let's jog all the way back,” he suggested to the boys. The three of them were drenched by the time they reached home. Mama, with towels ready, waited at the door for them. A wonderful smell from the kitchen made their mouths water but Mr Mokoena said he first had to make sure the thunder had not disturbed the sheep and cattle too much, before he could sit down to eat.

By evening, the rain was still pelting down. Mr Mokoena asked his boys to help him put sand and straw in the kraal so that the cows and sheep could sleep dry and warm for the night. But Thabisile said: “Tata, I am too tired. Let Thabo help you instead.”

Mr Mokoena was disappointed at his son's laziness.

He replied: “Alright, but then, my son, you must not expect the cows and sheep to do anything for you either.” Relaxing on the couch, Thabisile nodded his head and gave a big yawn.

Thabo and his father put on their plastic raincoats.



They went outside to the kraal to lay the sand and rake straw over it. In this way, the rain would sink through the straw and sand and down into the earth, and the cows and sheep would be able to settle down for the night to sleep on bedding instead of in puddles. As Mr Mokoena and his son worked, the drenched animals stood to one side, patiently cudding, fully aware that soon they would be able to lie comfortably.

The next morning Mama prepared breakfast. The twins were sitting at the table when Thabisile noticed that his mother had forgotten to add milk to his bowl of porridge.

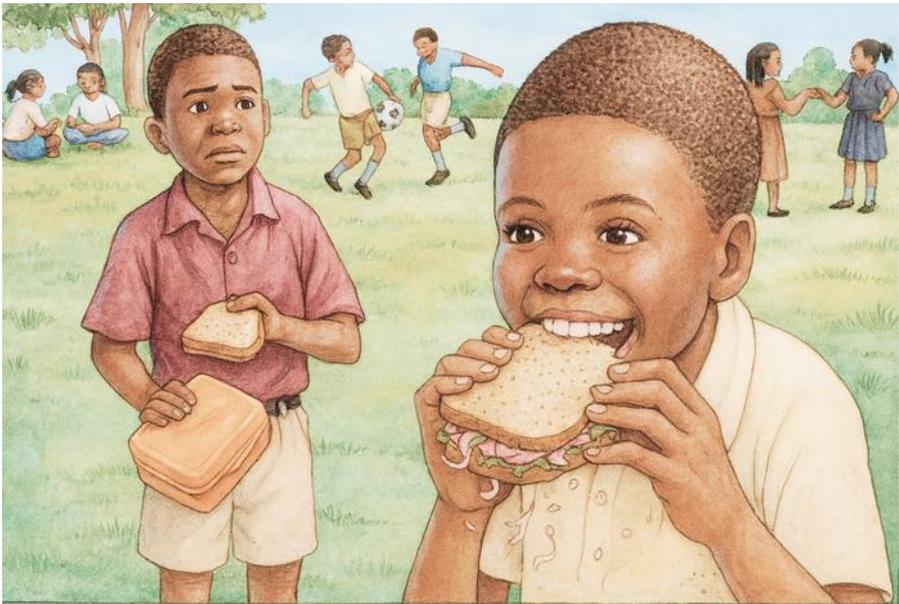
“Pass the milk please,” he said to Thabo.



But his father was quick to answer. “No, Thabisile,” he said. “Remember, you should not expect anything from the cows.” Thabisile frowned. Then he shrugged crossly.

During the lunch break at school Thabisile noticed that the sandwiches in his lunch box did not have cheese in them. He glanced at Thabo's lunch box. His brother's sandwiches were filled with grated cheese. Thabisile felt a sudden surge of anger. He felt like boxing Thabo right on the nose. Thabo saw his twin was angry.

“I will tell Mama and Tata if you touch me,” he warned Thabisile. “Don't you remember? You didn't help the cows and sheep yesterday. Only I helped Tata.”



When the twins reached home after school Thabisile saw that his mother was busy preparing Umphokoqo (African Salad with Amasi) for supper. He knew right then and there that there would be no Amasi for him that night.

When his father came home from work, Thabisile ran to greet him. "Tata, what can I do to help the cows and sheep? I know I was selfish and lazy yesterday. I've learnt my lesson."

Mr Mokoena asked: "What lesson did you learn, my son?"

Thabisile answered sheepishly: "I know now that life is about giving and receiving and not just about receiving," he said.

"Good", said Father. "Come let's talk about how you can be of help."

ACTIVITIES

- Conflict situations are part of everyday living... *Actions and Reactions*
- Understanding the meaning of words
- Mr Mokoena could have chosen other ways to discipline his son for being lazy. Select the likely *negative consequences* from the list.
- Mr Mokoena showed Thabisile that there are logical consequences to all actions. Pick out the *lessons* that Thabisile learnt.



WORD SEARCH



This book promotes the development of compassion,
respect and justice for all life, through literacy.



THE **HUMANE** TRUST
EDUCATION
CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA

NatureBased
EDUCATION 
A DIVISION OF THE HUMANE EDUCATION TRUST