

**Khalai alitemwa ifilimbwa**

**Khalai talks to plants**



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📖 Margaret Nambao, Agnes Chileshe

Chibamba

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**Khalai alitemwa ifilimbwa / Khalai!**

**talks to plants**

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Uyu ni Khalai. Ali nemyaka cinelubali.  
Mu Cibemba, Ishina lyakwe lipilibula  
“umuntu umusuma”.

...

This is Khalai. She is seven years old.  
Her name means ‘the good one’ in her  
language, Lubukusu.



Lyonse khelai nga ashibuka alalaanda  
ku cimuti cama cungwa ati: "Wecimuti  
cama cungwa, napapata kula, utwale  
namacungwa ayengi, utupeleko  
tulyeko:"

...

Khalai wakes up and talks to the orange  
tree. "Please orange tree, grow big and  
give us lots of ripe oranges."



Khalai nga aleenda lyonse pakuya kusukuulu alalaanda kufyani ati: “We cani, napapaata moneka uwayemba elyo kabili wilauma.”

...

Khalai walks to school. On the way she talks to the grass. “Please grass, grow greener and don’t dry up.”



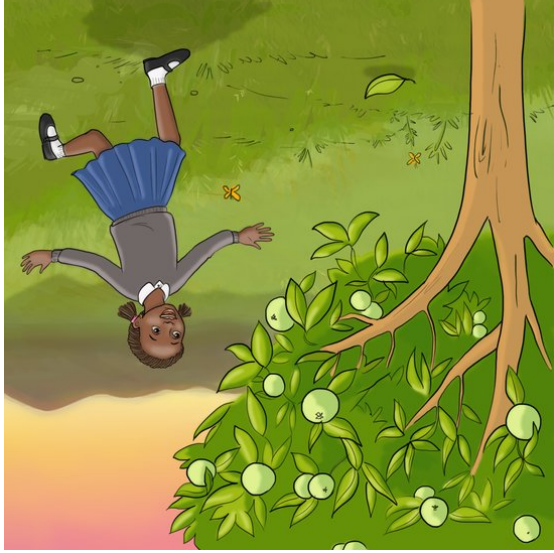
Aaaa! Amacungwa yacili ayabishi! Nkesa kumonako nakabili mailo. Limbi nkasangako nangu icungwa limo nalipya.

...

“The oranges are still green,” sighs Khalai. “I will see you tomorrow orange tree,” says Khalai. “Perhaps then you will have a ripe orange for me!”



khalai nga asaanga amaluba yampanga  
nayo alayeba ati: "Mwe maluba  
mulebaluula bwino bwino pakuti  
ndeswako nokufwala mumutwe wandi!"  
...  
khalai passes wild flowers. "Please  
flowers, keep blooming so I can put you  
in my hair!"



khalai nga ainuka lyonse, alaya  
mukupempula icimuti camacungwa  
nokucipuusha ati: "Bushe amacungwa  
yobe nanomba tayalapyaya?"  
...  
When Khalai returns home from school,  
she visits the orange tree. "Are your  
oranges ripe yet?" asks Khalai.



Khalai nga afika kusukulu, lyonse alalaanda kucimuti icabeela pakati kalubansa lwesukulu ati: “Wecimuti, napapaata kula utwale nemisaambo iyakutupeela icintelelwe icakuti tuleikalamo pakubeleenga.”

...

At school, Khalai talks to the tree in the middle of the compound. “Please tree, put out big branches so we can read under your shade.”



Elyo kabili, Khalai alalaanda kulupango lwesukulu ati: “We lupango ube uwakosa saana pakuti ulelesha ifipondo ififwaya ukwingila mukati ke sukuulu lyesu.”

...

Khalai talks to the hedge around her school. “Please grow strong and stop bad people from coming in.”