




Khalai alitemwa ifilimbwa

Khalai talks to plants

 Ursula Nafula

 Jesse Pietersen

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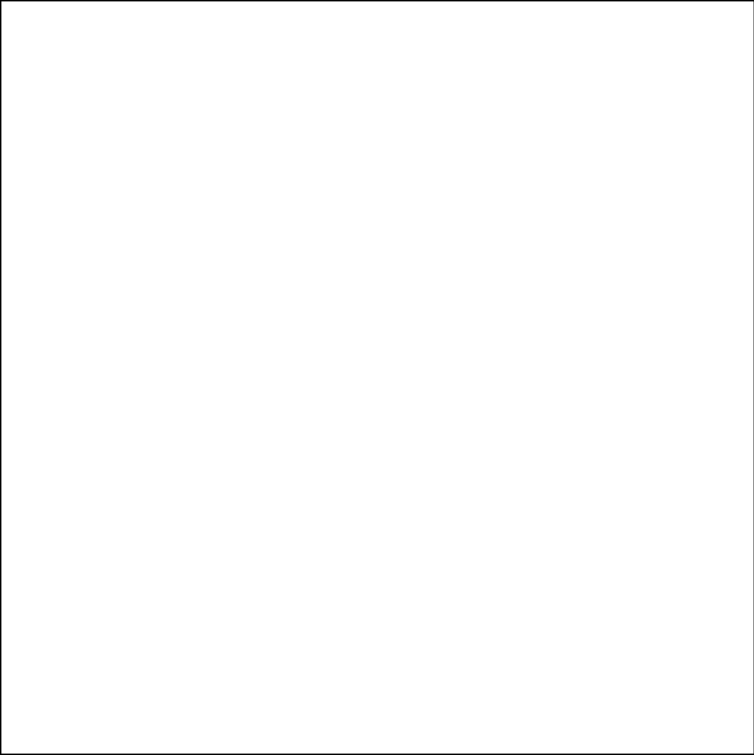
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Uyu ni Khalai. Ali nemyaka cinelubali. Mu Cibemba, Ishina Iyakwe lipilibula “umuntu umusuma”.

...

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



Lyonse Khalai nga ashibuka alalaanda ku cimuti cama cungwa ati: “Wecimuti cama cungwa, napapaata kula, utwaale namacungwa ayeengi, 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.”

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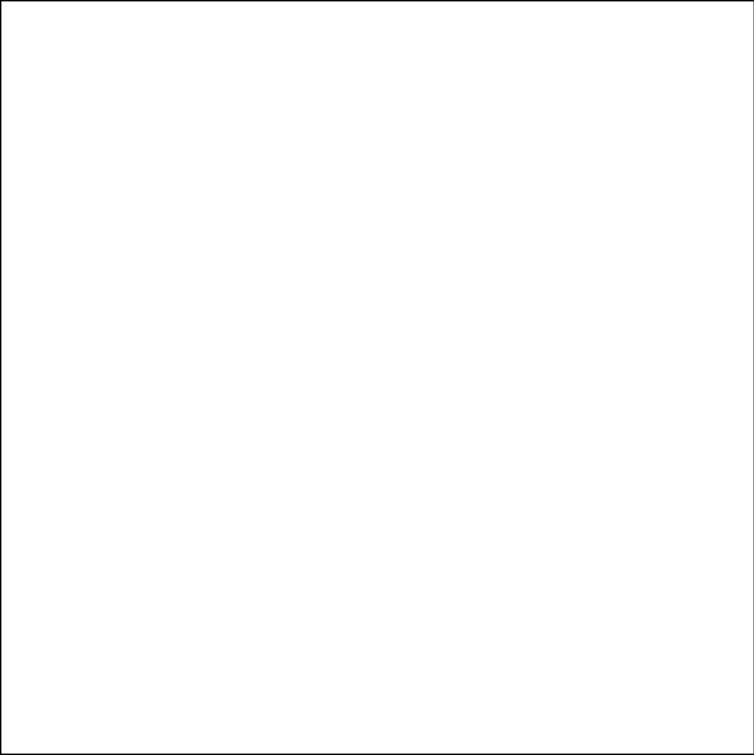
Khalai walks to school. On the way she talks to the grass. “Please grass, grow greener and don’t dry up.”



Khalai nga asaanga amaluba yampanga nayo
alayeba ati: “Mwe maluba mulebaluula bwino
bwino pakuti ndeswako nokufwala mumutwe
wandi.”

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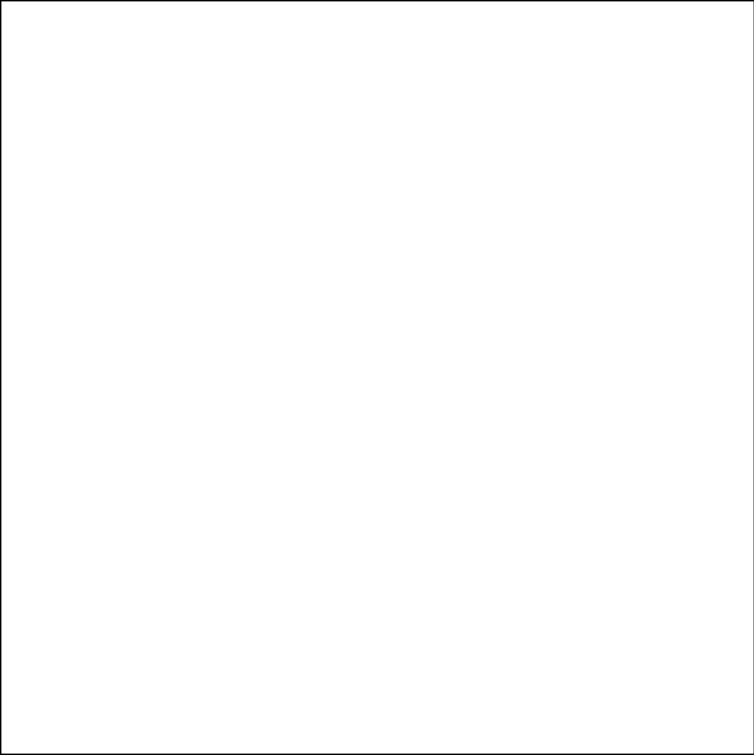
Khalai passes wild flowers. “Please flowers,
keep blooming so I can put you in my hair.”



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

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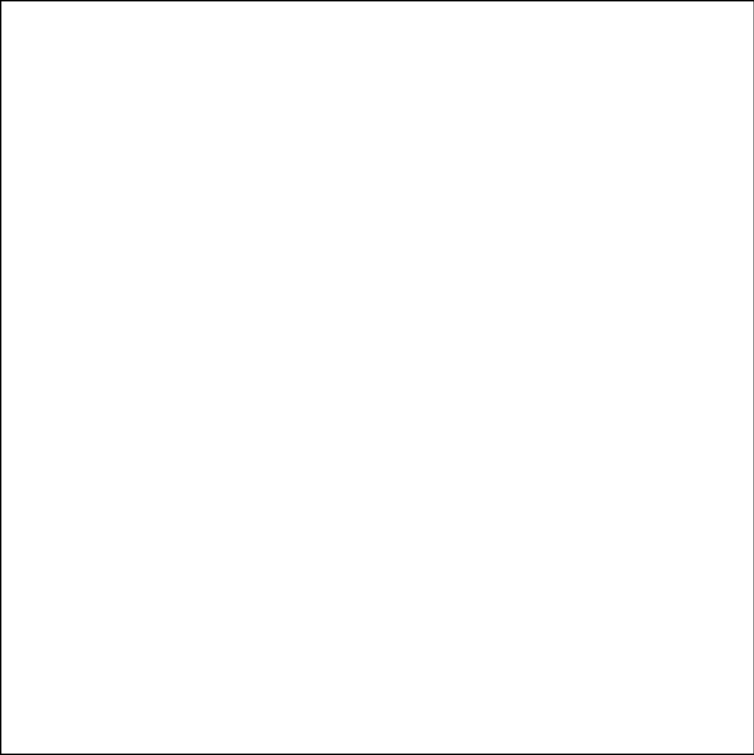
At school, Khalai talks to the tree in the middle of the compound. “Please tree, put out big branches so we can read under your shade.”



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

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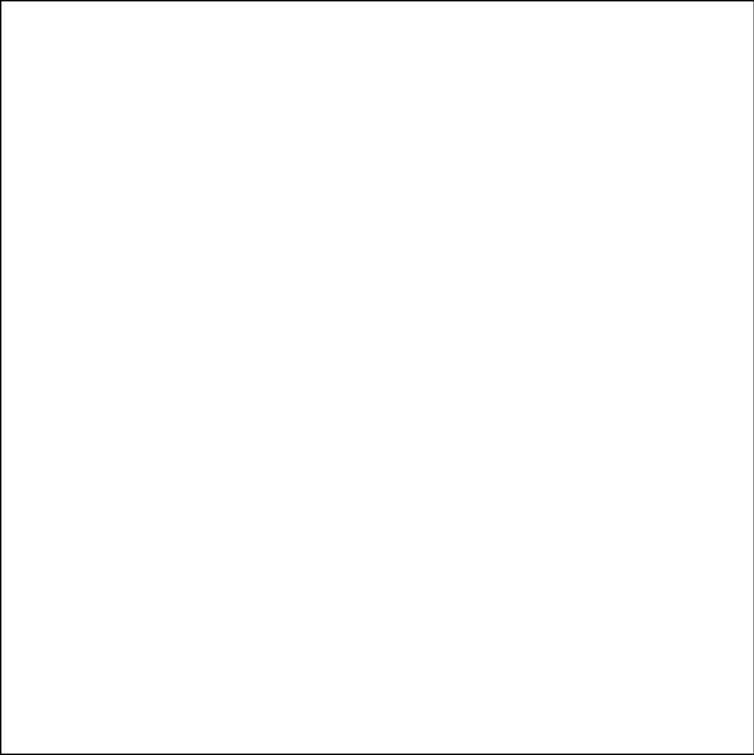
Khalai talks to the hedge around her school.
“Please grow strong and stop bad people from coming in.”



Khalai nga ainuka lyonse, alaya mukupempula
icimuti camacungwa nokucipuusha ati: “Bushe
amacungwa yobe nanoomba tayalapy?”

...

When Khalai returns home from school, she
visits the orange tree. “Are your oranges ripe
yet?” asks Khalai.



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!”




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