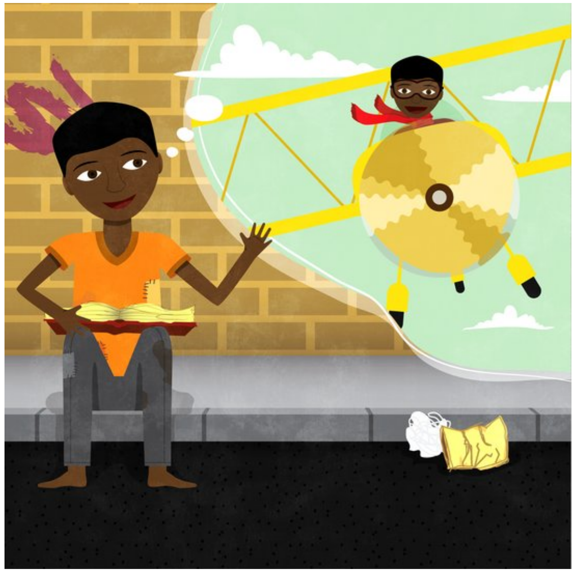

Magozwe

Lesley Koyi

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5

Chichewa ny

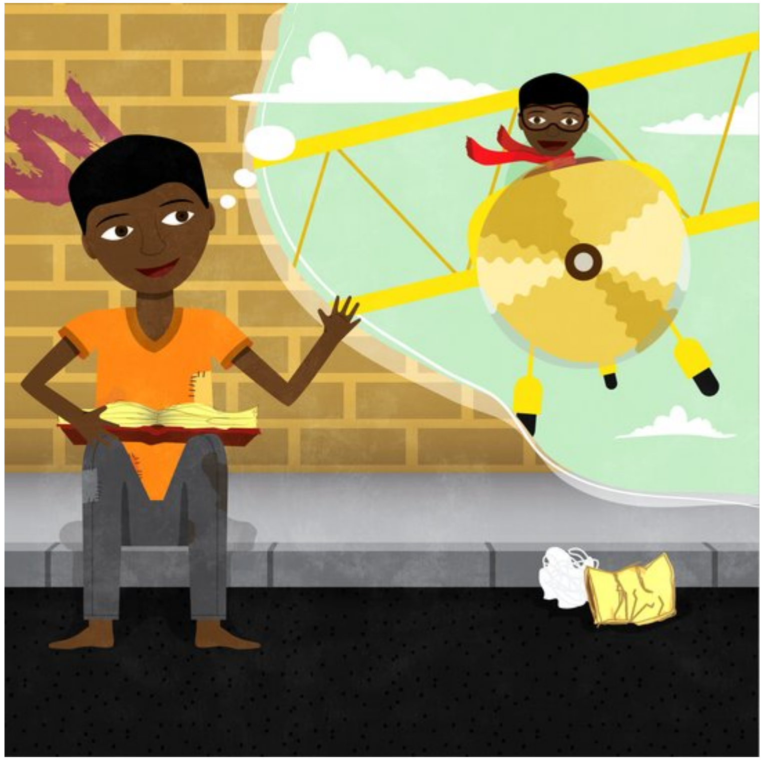
Mu tauni ya Nairobi, kutali nama banja, kunali kunkala anyamata analibe mabanja. Anangonkala mwa siku pa siku. Kuseni kwina, anyamata anali kulonga mpasa zao pambuyo pogona pampepo mumbali mwa museu. Kusewenzesa vinyalala, anayasa moto kuti asangenewe mpepo. Pagulu la anyamata ili panali Magozwe. Iye ndiye anali wamung’ono.

Pomwe makolo ake Magozwe anamwalila, iye anali na zaka cabe kumi. Ndipo anayenda kunkala na amalume ake. Amalume ake sanatayeko nzelu kwa mwana. Sanali kumupasa cakudwa cokwanila Magozwe. Ndipo anali kugwilisa ncito zambili.

Ngati Magozwe wafunsa mwina wadandaula, amalume ake anali kumumenya. Pomwe anafunsa kuti ayende kusukulu amalume ake anamumenya nanena nati “Ndiwe cisilu kwambili sungapunzile kalikonse.” Patapita zaka zitatu zosungiwa mozuzindwa, Magozwe anataba kucoka pa nyumba pa amalume ake. Ndipo anayamba kunkala pa museu.

Kunali kovuta kunkala kwa pa museu ndipo anyamata ambili anali kuvutika masiku onse kupeza cakudya. Masiku ena anamenyedwa, ntawi zina anagwilidwa na apolisi. Akadwala kunalibe muntu owatandiza. Ndalama zomwe anapeza mukupempa pempa, kugulisa ma pulasitiki na zina, ndiye ndalama zomwe zinali kuwatandizila. Umoyo unavutilako cifukwa magulu ena a anyamata anali kufuna kulanda malo osiyana siyana mu tauni.

Siku lina pamene Magozwe anali kusakila-sakila muvinyalala, anapeza buku lina losila long’ambika. Anacosako madoti ndipo analiika mu saka. Siku lililonse lokonkapo, anacosa buku ndipo anayamba kulangana vitunzi tunzi mu buku. Sanali kuziwa kuwelenga mau.



Vitunzi tunzi vinalangiza munyamata omwe anakula kunkala oyendesa ndeke. Magozwe analota na muzuba momwe, kunkala oyendesa ndeke. Ntawi zina anaziona kuti ndiye wamene anali munyamata wamubuku.

Kunali kozizila ndipo Magozwe anaimilila pa museu kupempa-pempa. Muzibambo wina anabwela pafupi naye. “Bwanji, ndine Thomas. Nisewenza pafupa napano, pamalo pamene ungapeze cakudya,” anakamba. Anasonta nyumba yacikasu, ya malata yobilibila. “Niziwa uzayenda kuti utengeko cakudya?” anafunsa. Magozwe analangana muzibambo nalangana nyumba. “Kapena nizayenda,” anayanka, ndipo anacokapo.

Panapita Mwezi, ndipo anyamata alibe mabanja anali kuonana na Thomas. Thomas anali kukonda kukamba na antu makamaka antu onkala pa museu. Thomas ananvesela nkani za antu awa. Anali wacidwi ndipo wonkazikika mutima, ndiponso sanataye ulemu. Anyamata ena anayamba kuyenda kunyumba yacikasu ya malata obilibila, kutenga cakudya muzuba.

Magozwe anali nkale mumbali mwa museu alangana vitunzi tunzi mu buku yake pamene Thomas anabwela nankala pafupi naye. “Ikamba cani nkani?” anafunsa Thomas. “Ikamba pali munyamata amena anankala oyendesa ndeke,” anayanka Magozwe. “Nindani zina munyamata?” anafunsa Thomas. “Kaya, siniziba kuwelenga,” anayanka Magozwe mwacisinsi.

Pomwe anakumana, Magozwe anayamba kuuza Thomas, nkani za umoyo wake. Anamuuza za mwamene anatawila kucoka kwa amalume ake. Thomas sanakambe kwambili, ndipo sanauze Magozwe vocita koma anamvesela mwacidwi. Ntawi zina Magozwe na Thomas anakambilana pamene anali kudya munyumba ya malata obilibila.

Pomwe Magozwe anali pafupi nakukwanisa zaka kumi, Thomas anamupasa buku. Buku inali pali munyamata wa mumunzi wamene anakula kunkala womenya bola wozibika kwambili. Thomas anamuwelengela Magozwi kwambili, mpaka siku lina anakamba nati, “Niganiza kuti uyambe kuyenda ku sukulu, kuti ukapunzile kuwelenga. Uganizapo bwanji?” Thomas anakamba kuti anali kuziba malo kumene ana angayende kunkala ndiponso kupunzila kwameneko.

Magozwe anaganizila za kumalo uko ndiponse zoyenda ku sukulu. Nanga kapena amalume ake anakamba zoona kuti anali cisilu kwambili ndipo sangapunzile kalikonse? Nanga ngati bamumenya uku kumalo kwinangu? Anayopa. “Kapena cilibwino kupitiliza kunkala pa museu,” anaganiza.

Anamuuza Thomas kuti anali na manta. Thomas anamusimimikizila kuti, azankala na umoyo wabwina uku kumalo.

Ndipo Magozwe anapita kunkala mu cipinda mu nyumba ya malata amusipu. Anankala na anyamata ena awili mu cipinda. Pamozi anali anyamata kumi amene anali kunkala pamozi mu nyumba. Pamozi na a Anti Cissy na amuna ao, magalu atatu, ka kiti na mbuzi yokalamba.

Magozwe anayamba sukulu ndipo inali yovuta. Nivambili vamene anali kufunikila kuziwa kuti alingane na anzake. Ntawi zina anali kufuna kuleka. Koma anaganizila oyendesa ndeke na omenya bola a muma buku ake. Monga aja anyamata amumabuku, sanaleke.

Magozwe anali nkale panja panyumba ya malata a musipu, awelenga buku lake lakusukulu, pamene Thomas anabwela nonkala pafupi pake. “Ikamba cani nkani?” anafunsa Thomas. “Ikamba pali munyamata amene anankala mupunzisi,” anayanka Magozwe. “Nindani zina munyamata?” anafunsa Thomas. “Zina lake ni Magozwe,” anayanka Magozwe mosekelela.

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