Honey

Martha Kekana Mathamela

Tammi Mbambo

Ulwazi Lwethu
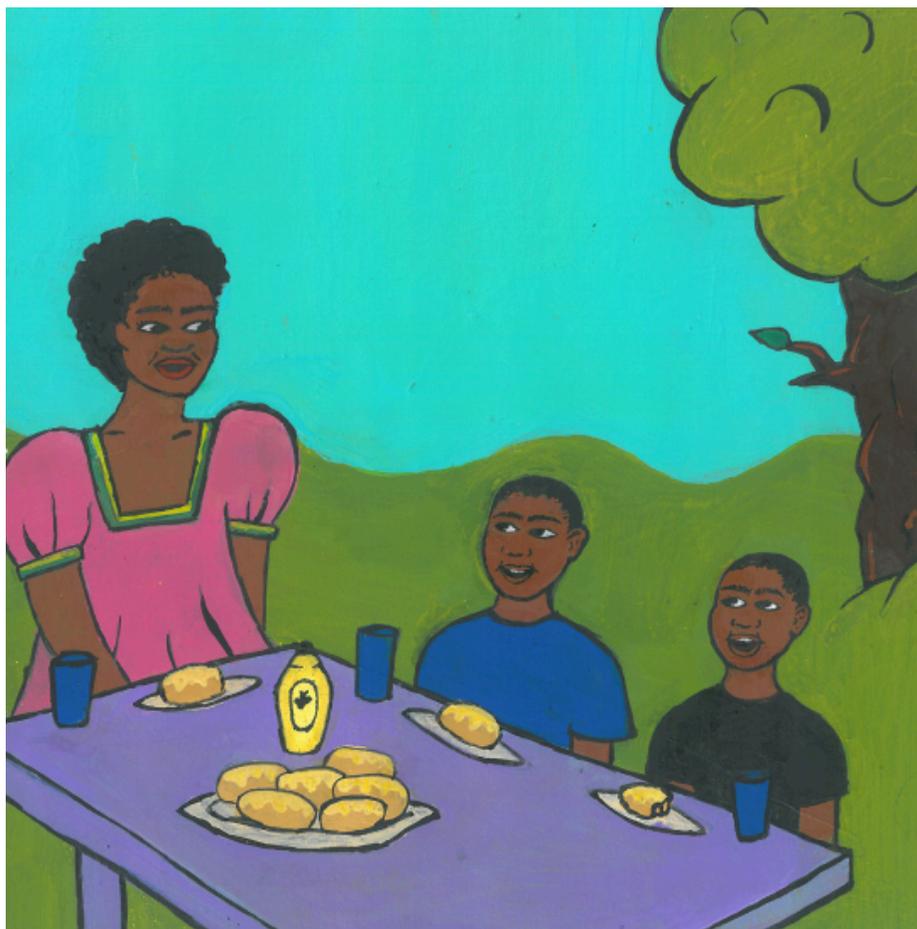
Kopano and Lereko were eating scones that their mother baked.

Those scones were covered with honey.

Lereko asked their mother, "Where does honey come from?"

"My child, bees make honey," answered mother.

"Bees make honey from flowers. They collect nectar from flowers," explained mother.

"Bees also carry pollen between flowers."

"Pollen is part of a flower's seed.

Pollination is when bees spread seeds from one plant to another. This helps plants to reproduce."

"Bees take pollen from one plant to another. They pollinate our crops," said mother.

"We also get useful products from bees."

"I know! Bees make honey from nectar," said Kopano.

Lereko added, "Honey tastes so sweet and delicious!"

"Honey is also used in medicine," said mother.

"In traditional medicine, some pills and powders contain honey."

"Honey soothes sore throats, coughs and colds."

"Honey helps to heal wounds and burns."

"Honey isn't good for small babies, though. It can make them very sick," warned mother.

"Now, have you been listening? Why are bees important?" asked mother.

"They pollinate plants!" said Lereko.

"And make honey!" added Kopano.

Since that day, Kopano and Lereko have respected bees.

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Ulwazi Lwethu is a Zenex Foundation funded and initiated project to develop a series of graded and leisure African language readers and teacher support materials. This project is targeted at teaching and supporting learners in the Foundation Phase to improve their home language reading and understanding. The readers have been originated in nine African languages in collaboration with Molteno Institute for Language and Literacies, Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development, Room to Read South Africa, and Saide. All resources are developed as Open Education Resources (OER).

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