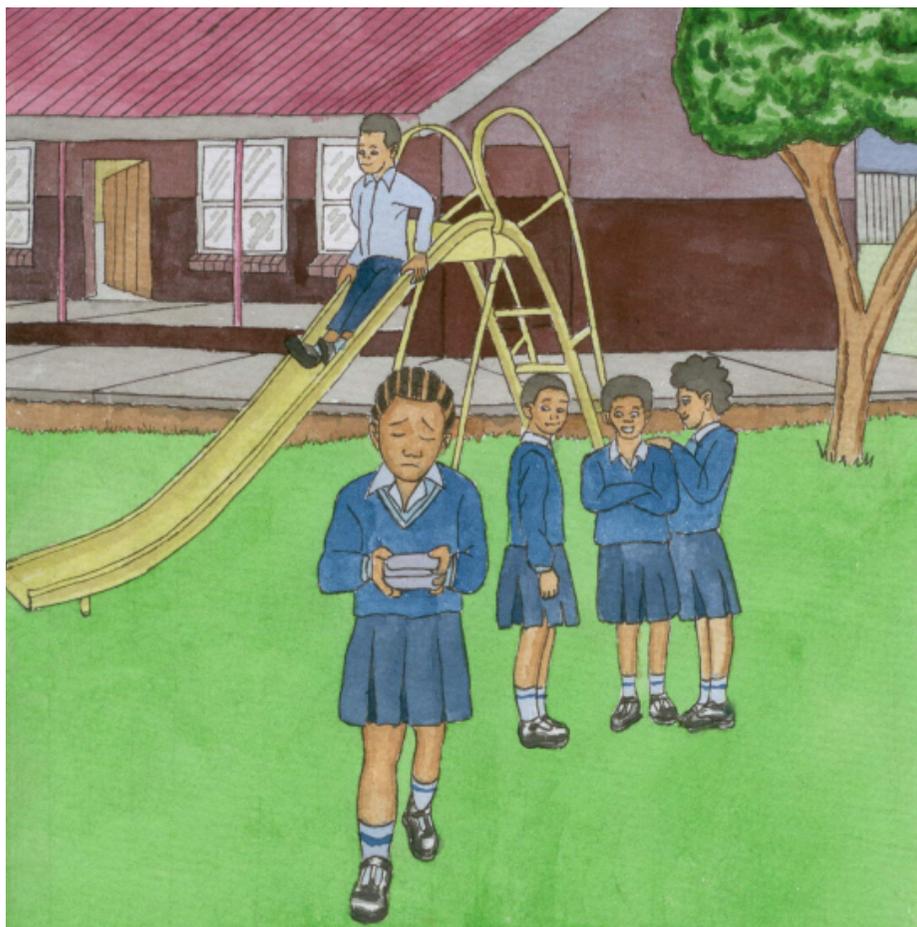# Teacher Mthetho explains HIV

Ntombifuthi Ncwayiba
Simon Mokoena
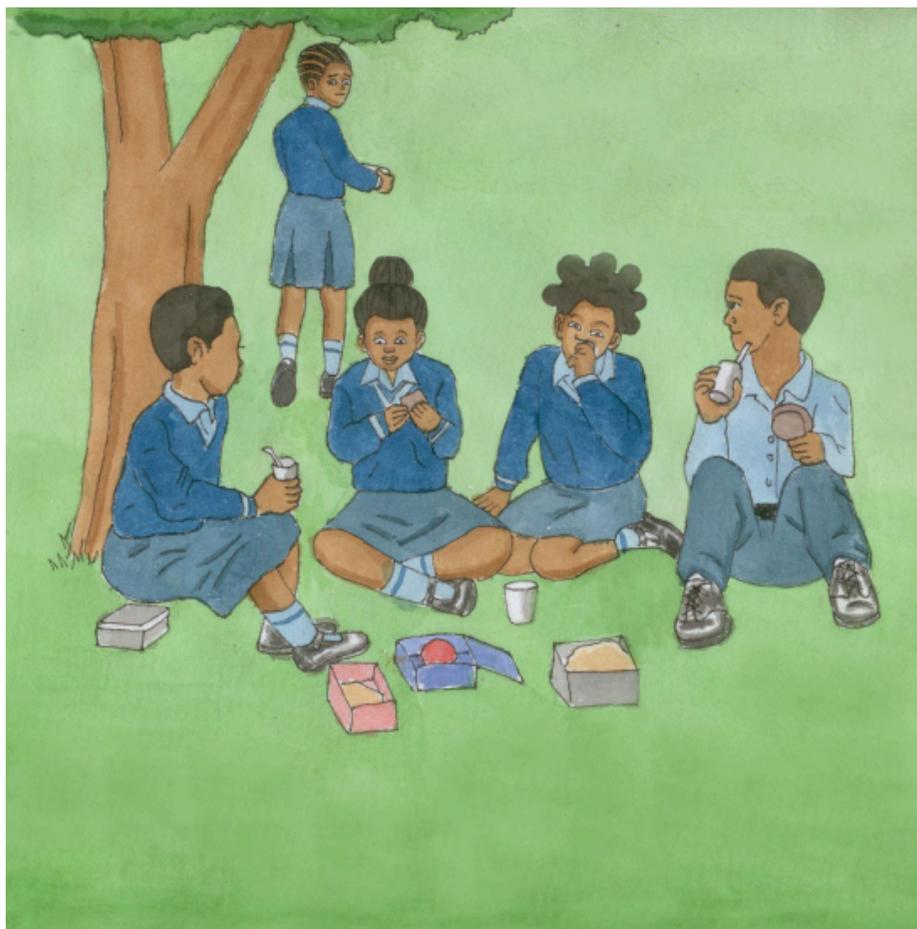
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Sihle is seven years old.

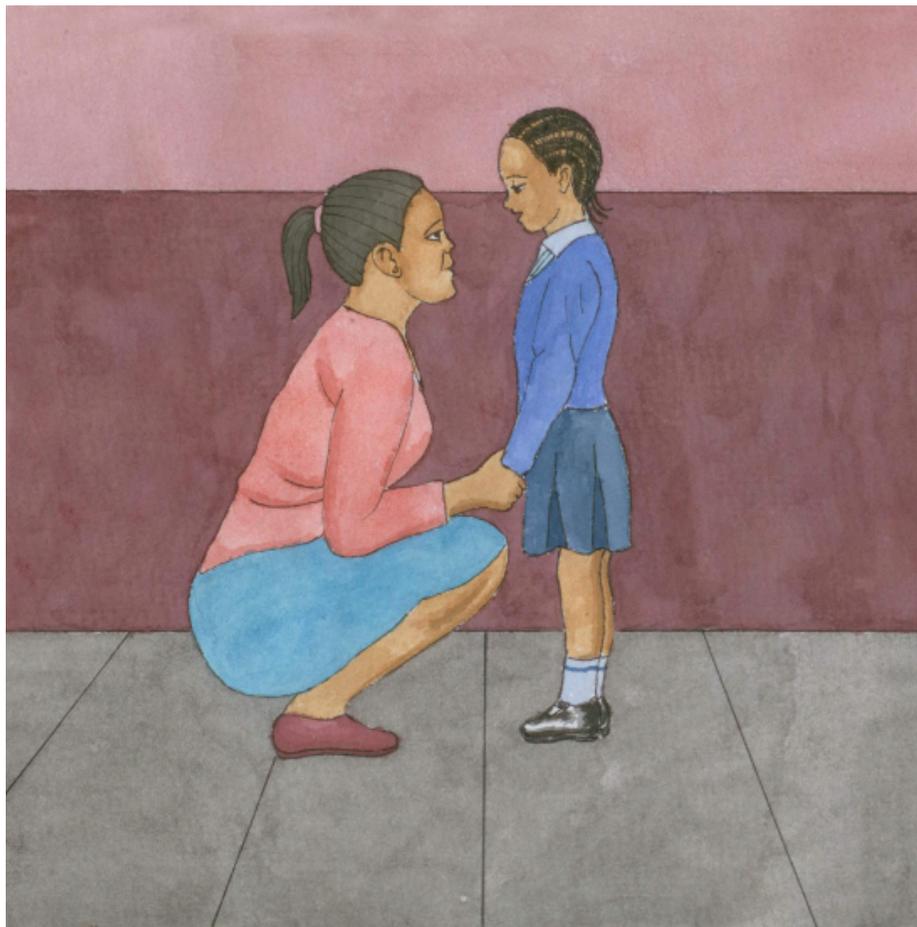She goes to primary school.

The other children do not talk to her.

One day, children were eating together under a tree.

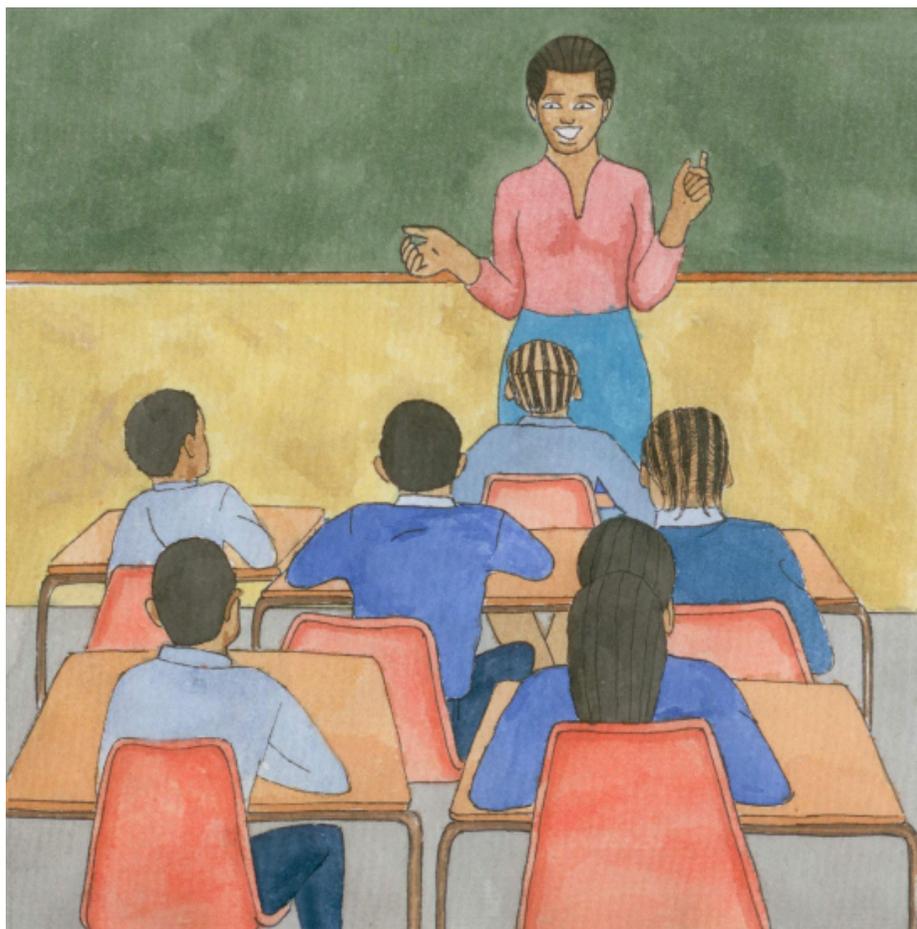Sihle thought, "They look so happy, sharing and chatting."

When Sihle went over but the children would not talk to her. She went to eat her lunch alone, again.
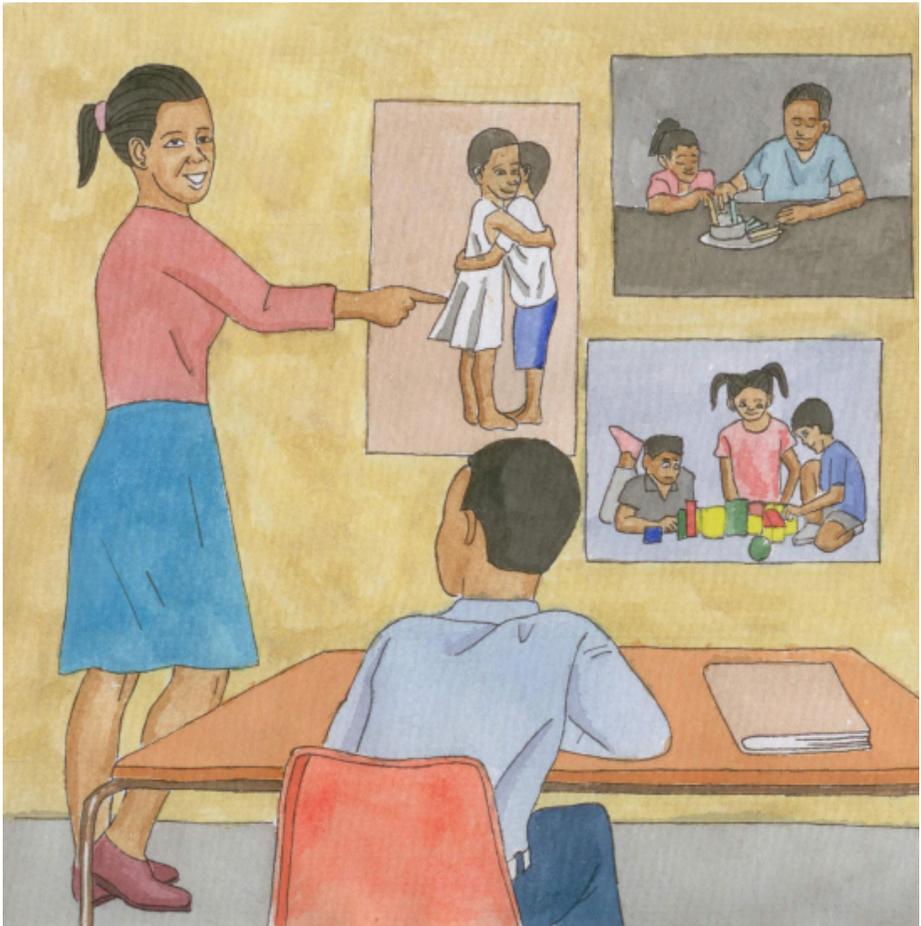
Teacher Mthetho noticed what happened.

Teacher Mthetho asked Sihle what was wrong.

"The other children do not want to be with me because of my disease," Sihle told Teacher Mthetho.

Later, the teacher talked to the children.

She explained, "I want to tell you about HIV. It is a virus that is spread by touching blood or other fluids from inside our bodies."

Teacher Mthetho continued, "HIV is not spread by playing together, eating together, or hugging."

"You can play and eat together. You can hug each other."

Teacher hugged Sihle.

The children were happy to learn the facts about HIV.

They said to Sihle, "We are sorry we were unkind to you."

From that day, Sihle was happy to be at school.

She played freely with the other children.

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Ulwazi Lwethu

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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