



# One hot Saturday afternoon

Nombulelo Thabane and  
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English

It was a very very hot Saturday afternoon in December. Everyone was grumpy.

“Bontle and Mpho and Lerato, go out and play!” Mme said to us.

“I don’t want you under my feet.”





We ran out of the house.  
“Let’s go to the river,” Lerato said. “It’s cooler there.”  
“But Mme told us not to swim in the river,” said Bontle.  
“We won’t swim,” answered Lerato. “We’ll just play in the shade next to the water.”

But playing libeke is hot work,  
even when you're under the  
trees next to the river.  
First we took off our shoes.  
But we were still hot.  
Then we took off our shirts and  
skirts.  
But we were still hot.



We put our feet in the river to cool off.  
Then we splashed each other.  
Soon we were soaked with water.



“Oh come on! ?Let’s swim,”  
said Mpho. “Mme will never  
know.”  
We swam and swam and forgot  
about the time.





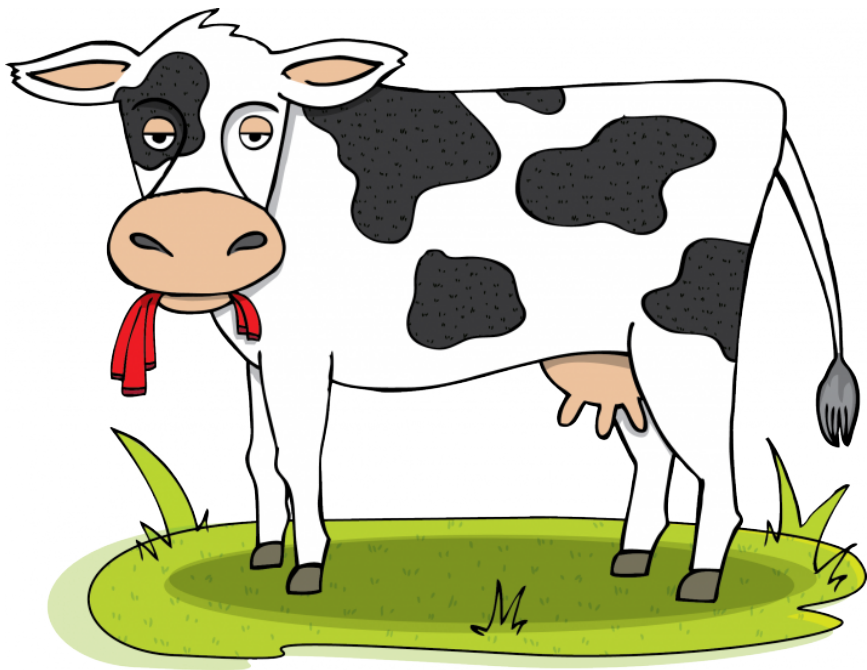


The sun started to go down,  
and we felt chilly.  
Where were our clothes?

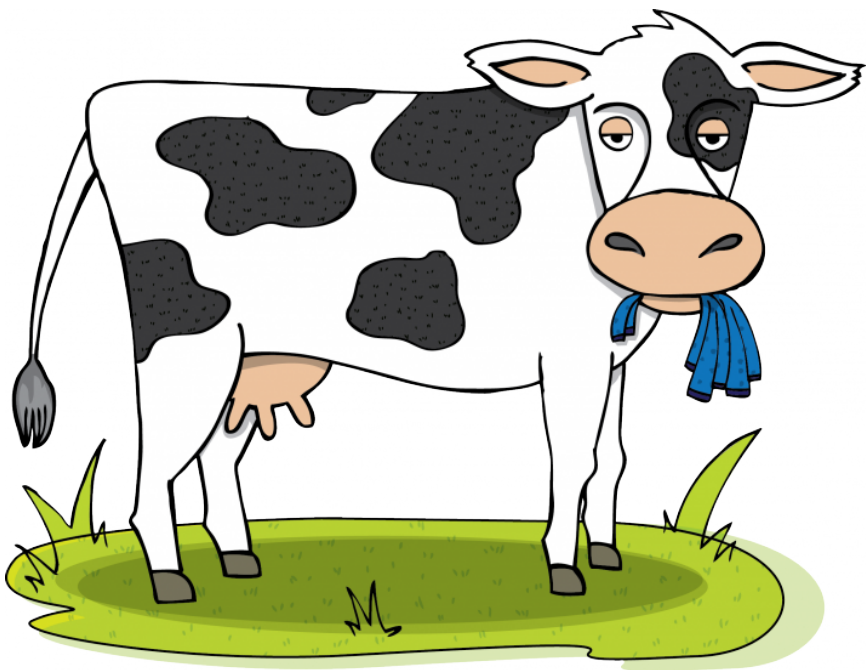
We looked under the trees.  
We looked on the bushes.  
We looked everywhere.







There were some cows near the river, enjoying the sweet grass. Bontle looked up, “Look at that cow! What’s in her mouth?” “She’s eating a red flower,” said Lerato. “It’s not a red flower,” shouted Mpho. “It’s your shirt!”



We looked at another cow who was chewing something blue. “That’s my skirt!” shouted Bontle.

We went home in our panties,  
shivering. But not only because  
it was cool.

“It was the cows,” we cried.  
“The cows ate our clothes.”  
But did Mme believe us? Soon  
our bottoms were very warm.  
And it wasn’t from the sun.



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interesting version of this story -  
from the point of view of the cows! -  
go to The Two Sotho Cows  
performance on YouTube at  
[http://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=S\\_pUNNJQ2UE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_pUNNJQ2UE).

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