



Searching for the Spirit of Spring

Author: Mosa Mahlaba

Illustrator: Selina Masego Morulane

Level 4



The Winter cold had passed.

Spring was coming to Nkanyezi's village. Soon the villagers would gather to celebrate the new season. Nkanyezi looked forward to the Spring festival more than any other day in the year.



One warm morning, Nkanyezi overheard two village elders talking about the festival.

“The people of Ndlovu have lost their spirit of celebration,” one sighed.

“How can we have a Spring festival in a village that has forgotten how to celebrate?” asked another.



Nkanyezi was worried.

“How will the sun shine again unless we sing to wake it from its winter slumber?” she asked herself.

Nkanyezi thought for a long time.

“I must find what we have lost,” she decided.

“I must go in search of things that will bring back the spirit of celebration to my village.”



The elders gave Nkanyezi their blessing for the journey. They gave her a bag to carry the things she would find.

Nkanyezi was afraid, but she believed she would succeed.



Nkanyezi walked all day. She hiked up a hill, and down into a valley. She sailed across the great river, and climbed between sharp rocks. She marched across the plains until she reached the shadow of the red mountains.



As night was closing in, Nkanyezi arrived at a village of patterns and colours as she had never seen before. She told the village elders about her journey to bring back the spirit of celebration to her people.

The mother of this tribe gave Nkanyezi a gift.

She told the girl, "With love we give to you this paint to restore colour to a village that has gone dull."

Nkanyezi thanked the elders and put the paint in her bag.

Early the next morning she went on her way again, excited with this gift of colour.



Nkanyezi walked all day, through a vast forest of giant trees. As the sky became too dark for her to see, she heard the sound of beating drums. She hurried towards the drumming, feeling the spirit of dance coming to her tired feet



Nkanyezi found herself in the village of the Bhubezi. People were sitting around a fire, drumming and singing. She had never before heard such wonderful music.

She told the village elders about her journey to bring back the spirit of celebration to her people. The Bhubezi invited her to rest and stay the night.



In the morning the chief called on Nkanyezi.

“My child,” he said, “here is a special drum. It plays a new song every time you beat it.”

Nkanyezi thanked the elders and put the drum in her bag. She went on her way again, delighted with this gift of music and dance.



On the third day of her journey, as she passed a field of fat cows, her nose started to tingle. An aroma tickled her taste buds and her mouth started to water. She followed the scent, and arrived in a village to find people standing over steaming pots of stew.

This tribe was famous for its feasts and Nkanyezi had never before tasted such flavours. After she had eaten her fill, she told the village elders about her journey to bring back the spirit of celebration to her people.



The next day, the council of cooks gave her a secret spice blend.

“Our daughter,” they said, “with these spices, happy tummies are guaranteed! We give you the gift of good food.”

Nkanyezi thanked the elders and put the spices in her bag.

She knew she had everything she needed. With new energy she started the long journey back to the village of Ndlovu.



When she arrived home the villagers gathered around her to hear of her adventures. She told them the tales of what she had seen, heard, and eaten. Then she opened her bag to share the gifts given. The people rejoiced to receive these treasures.

Through the generosity of others and the courage of Nkanyezi, the villagers again found the colour, song and dance in their lives. And so the spirit of celebration was restored to the village of Ndlovu.



Story Attribution:

This story: Searching for the Spirit of Spring is written by [Mosa Mahlaba](#) . © Book Dash , 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

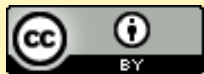
Other Credits:

This story 'Searching for the Spirit of Spring ' has been published on StoryWeaver by BookDash.

Images Attributions:

Cover page: [Girl with butterfly](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [Girl with butterfly in front of mountains and huts](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [Girl hiding](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [Girl thinking happy thought](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [Mothers and children](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [Girl sailing](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [Girl with closed eyes holding a corked bottle](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [Girl in the forest](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [Dancing around the fire](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [Woman giving girl a crown](#) by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: [Girl sniffing](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



This book was made possible by Pratham Books' StoryWeaver platform. Content under Creative Commons licenses can be downloaded, translated and can even be used to create new stories - provided you give appropriate credit, and indicate if changes were made. To know more about this, and the full terms of use and attribution, please visit the following [link](#).

Images Attributions:

Page 12: [Women, girl and soup](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [Girl with a trail of followers](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [Miniature picture of girl in thought](#), by [Selina Masego Morulane](#) © Book Dash, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



This book was made possible by Pratham Books' StoryWeaver platform. Content under Creative Commons licenses can be downloaded, translated and can even be used to create new stories - provided you give appropriate credit, and indicate if changes were made. To know more about this, and the full terms of use and attribution, please visit the following [link](#).

Images Attributions:

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Searching for the Spirit of Spring

(English)

Nkanyezi can't wait for the Spring festival, but the people of Ndlovu have lost their spirit of celebration. She must go in search of the spirit of Spring. What will she find?

This is a Level 4 book for children who can read fluently and with confidence.



Pratham Books goes digital to weave a whole new chapter in the realm of multilingual children's stories. Knitting together children, authors, illustrators and publishers. Folding in teachers, and translators. To create a rich fabric of openly licensed multilingual stories for the children of India and the world. Our unique online platform, StoryWeaver, is a playground where children, parents, teachers and librarians can get creative. Come, start weaving today, and help us get a book in every child's hand!

This book is shared online by Free Kids Books at <https://www.freekidsbooks.org>
in terms of the creative commons license provided by the publisher or author.

Want to find more books like this?



<https://www.freekidsbooks.org>
Simply great free books -

Preschool, early grades, picture books, learning to read,
early chapter books, middle grade, young adult,
Pratham, Book Dash, Mustardseed, Open Equal Free, and many more!

Always Free – Always will be!

Legal Note:

This book is in CREATIVE COMMONS - Awesome!! That means you can share, reuse it, and in some cases republish it, but only in accordance with the terms of the applicable license (not all CCs are equal!), attribution must be provided, and any resulting work must be released in the same manner.

Please reach out and contact us if you want more information: <https://www.freekidsbooks.org/about>

Image Attribution: Annika Brandow, from You! Yes You! CC-BY-SA.

This page is added for identification.