





Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five. To that end, Book Dash gathers creative professionals who volunteer to create new, African storybooks that anyone can freely translate and distribute. To find out more, and to download beautiful, print-ready books, visit bookdash.org.

The Memory Tree

Illustrated by Agrippa Mncedisi Hlophe

Written by Savnola Goldridge

Designed by Jason Gien

Edited by Mariam Mahomed

with the help of the Book Dash participants in Durban on 29 October 2022

ISBN: 978-1-92849-796-7

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material) this work for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the following license terms:

Attribution: You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

No additional restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

Notices: You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation.

No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material.

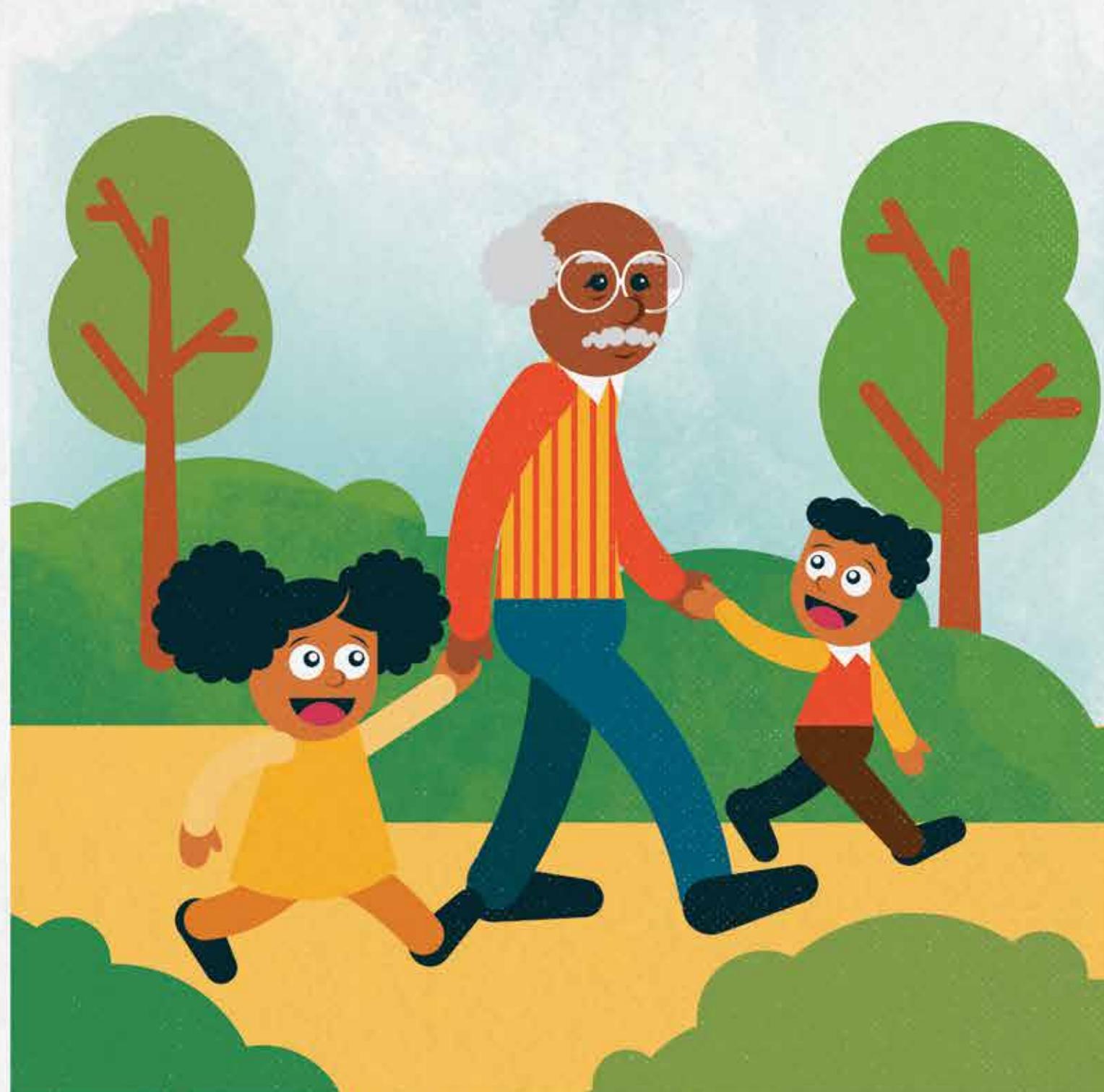
The Memory Tree



Savnola Goldridge • Agrippa Mncedisi Hlophe • Jason Gien

Thembi and Thulani like to visit the
park with Grandpa Nathi.

They love their Grandpa Nathi.





But Grandpa Nathi is very sick in the hospital. His eyes are closed.

The machine next to Grandpa Nathi goes beep, beep, beep.

“Mommy, why won’t Grandpa Nathi sing with me?” asks Thembi.

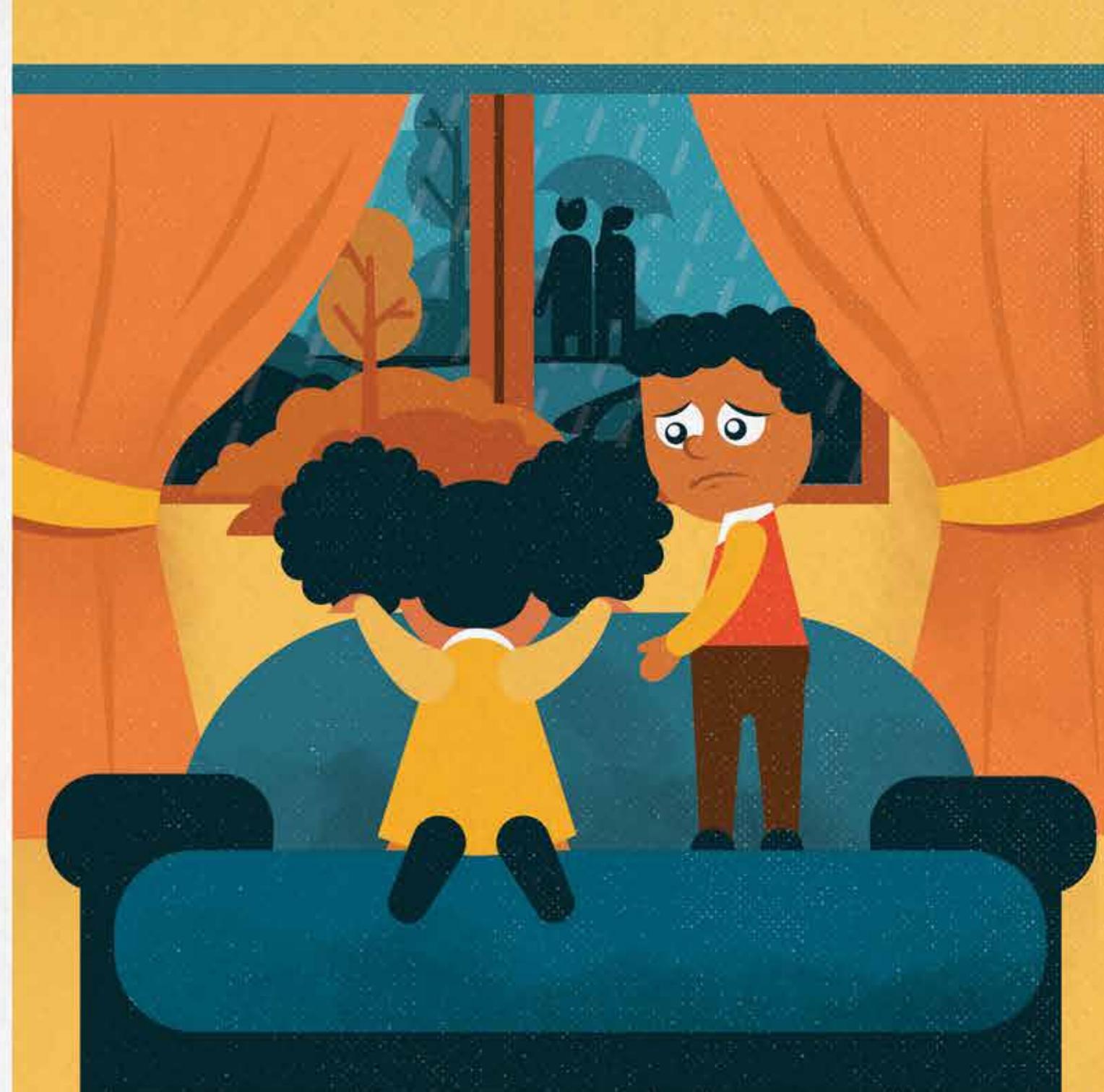
Mommy says, “Grandpa Nathi can still hear you. His heart is singing with you.”

At home, Thembi and Thulani
are waiting at the window.

Mommy and Daddy are taking
so long at the hospital.

Then Thembi sees Mommy and
Daddy walk up the driveway.

“They are back!”





Mommy and Daddy are very sad.

“What’s wrong?” asks Thembi.

Her tummy feels sore.

Mommy’s voice is very quiet.

“Grandpa Nathi was old and sick.
The doctors couldn’t make him better.”

Her eyes fill with tears, “we won’t be
seeing Grandpa Nathi again.”

Thulani is sitting outside under Grandpa Nathi's favourite tree.

He doesn't feel like playing with Thembi. He wishes Grandpa Nathi could read him a story.





Thembi is angry and throws her doll.
“Why did Grandpa Nathi have to die!”

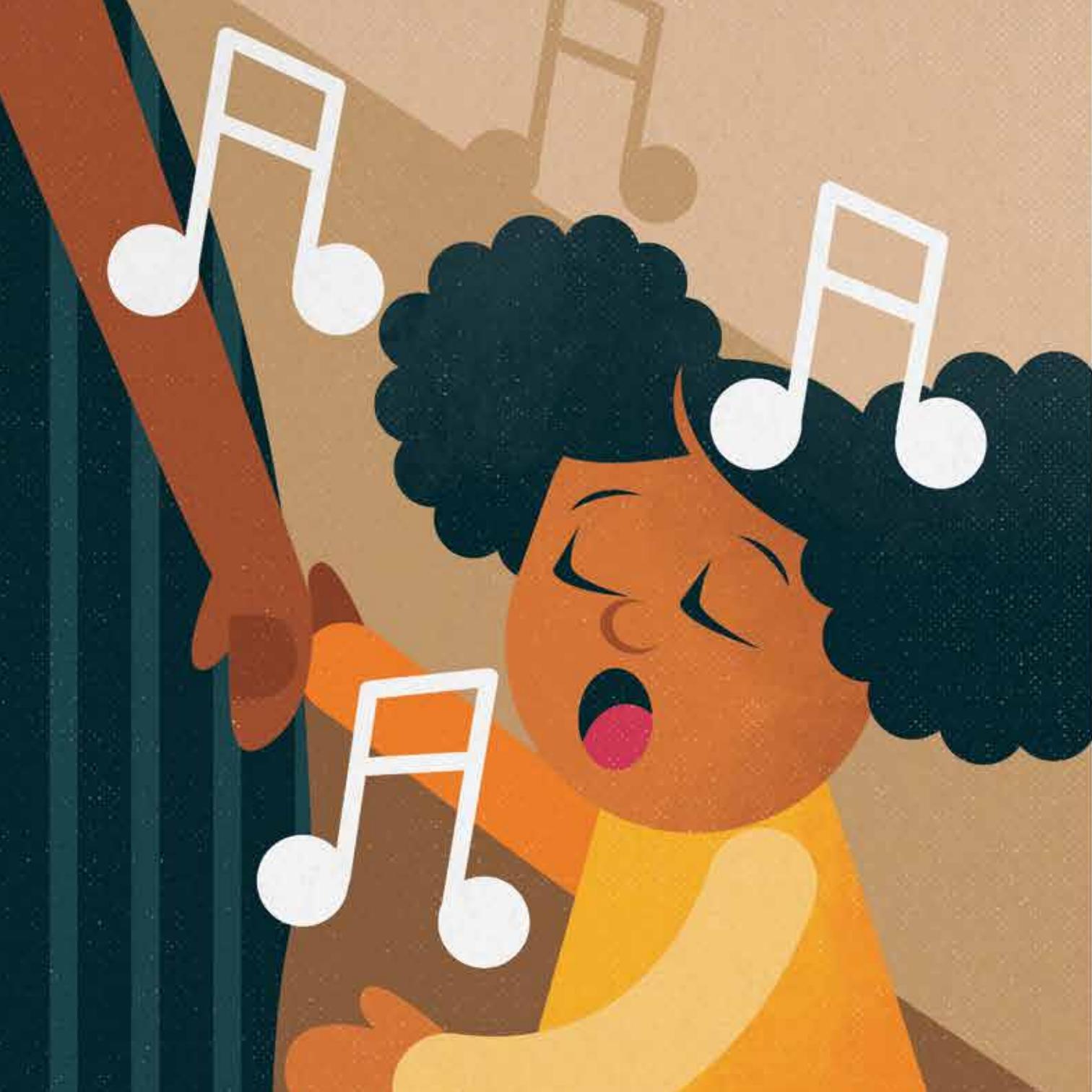
Mommy pulls Thembi close on her lap.

“It’s okay to be angry,” says Mommy.
“I miss Grandpa Nathi, too.”

Today Mommy, Daddy, Thulani and Thembi are wearing their best clothes to go to church for Grandpa Nathi's funeral.

Everyone is coming to remember Grandpa.





Mommy holds Thembi's hand as they sing Grandpa Nathi's favourite songs.

Everybody sings and dances too.



Thembi can't sleep. She calls out to Mommy.
"Mommy, I miss Grandpa. My heart is so sore!"





Thembi and Thulani are eating breakfast when Daddy walks in with a big, big, big cardboard tree.

“This is a memory tree,” says Daddy. He sticks the cardboard tree on the wall.

Mommy has a box of photos. “Take your favourite pictures of Grandpa Nathi and stick them on the tree.”

Together they all stick pictures of Grandpa Nathi onto the tree. They remember the fun times they had.

Thembi claps excitedly.
“This is my new favourite tree!”





Daddy smiles. “Now anytime we want to remember Grandpa Nathi, we can come to our memory tree.”

“We will never forget Grandpa Nathi. He will always be in our hearts.”

