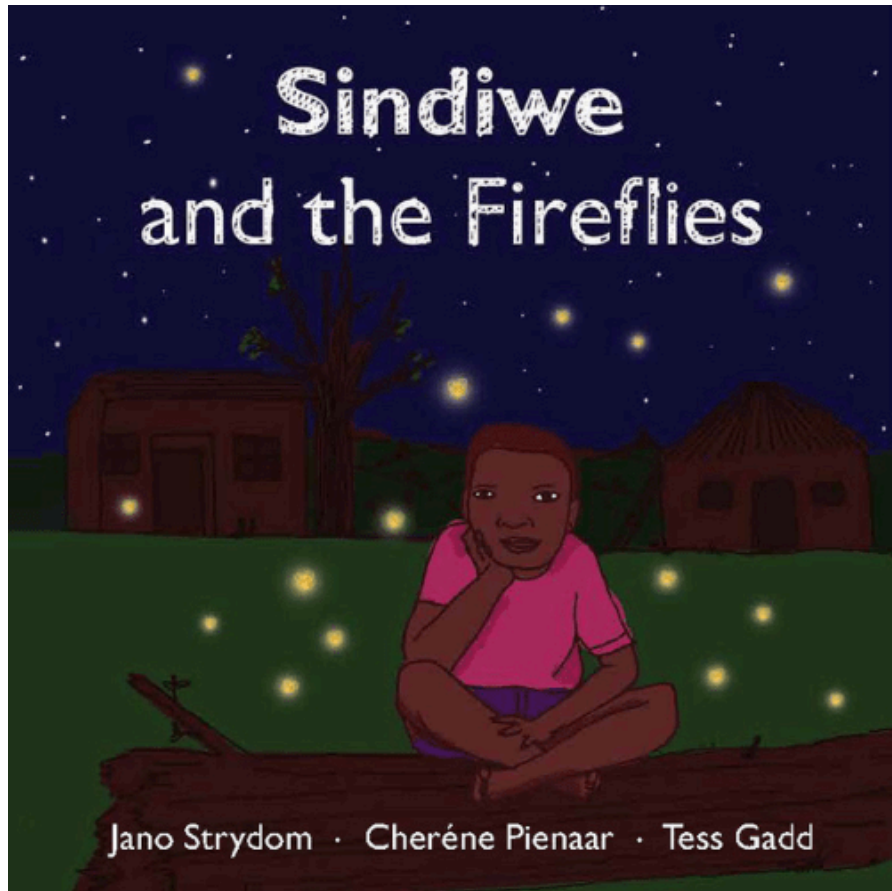


Sindiwe and the Fireflies

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Environment & Conservation

STEAM

Social & Emotional Wellbeing

SUB-THEMES

Social Justice

Women Role Models

Story Discussion Guide

- Learn about apartheid and how it affected children's access to education.
- Understand how stories can be a tool for hope, identity, and social change.
- Be introduced to Sindiwe Magona as a role model who used her voice to make a difference.
- Explore how one person's journey can inspire and empower generations.

Lesson plan

A biographical story session that introduces children to real-life heroes who used creativity and determination to overcome hardship. The story prompts discussion about justice, education, and the power of words.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- What do you know about South Africa?
- Why are stories important to you or your family?
- Can you name someone whose words or actions changed the world?

During Reading:

- What challenges did Sindiwe face growing up?
- What made her grandmother's stories special?
- How did Sindiwe use her education and voice to help others?

After Reading:

- What do you admire most about Sindiwe?
- How do you think stories can bring change?
- What story would you like to tell if you could speak to the world?

Activities:

- From My Grandmother's Lap: Children draw or retell a story they heard from a grandparent or older family member.
- Storyteller Portraits: Invite children to draw Sindiwe with symbols representing her life journey— books, the UN, children, fireflies.

Expected Outcomes

Be inspired to see themselves as changemakers, no matter their background. Understand that struggles can be turned into strength. Learn about apartheid and how it affected children's futures. Appreciate the power of storytelling in keeping culture alive and advocating for justice.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4: Sindiwe's fight for education and her work to ensure storytelling reaches children.
- SDG 5: As a woman overcoming systemic barriers, her life reflects the power of gender empowerment.
- SDG 10: Sindiwe's life story challenges racial inequalities, especially in education.
- SDG 16: She used her voice to advocate for justice and healing through her work at the UN and back in South Africa.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them. That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.