

Bandile goes to the city



Making stories fun!

Tips for reading books with young children

Children aged 4–5 years will enjoy this story.

National Curriculum Framework Birth to 4 years (NCF) level:
Towards Grade R

★ **Children love stories! They build important language skills when we read with them, especially when it is fun.** Involve the children when you read, use languages that they know, and talk about the stories together. Here are ideas to make storytime fun for the children ... and for you!

📖 **Get ready:** Include time for a story every day. You can read the same book many times! Choose a story, or let the children choose a favourite. Sit together and hold the book so that everyone can see the pictures.

📖 **Before** you read, introduce the story with the title. Show the front cover and read the story description on the back. Show the first few pages. Ask: What do you think the story will be about? Why do they need to go to the city?

📖 **During** the story, read with expression and use different voices to keep the children interested. Remember to show the pictures. Ask: What will happen next? How is Bandile feeling now?

📖 **After** the story, discuss the book. Ask: What did you like about the story? Extend the learning with play-based activities:

Memory: Get the children to describe Bandile's journey. Can they draw a map of the journey?

Role play: Bring shopping bags, old clothes and empty food boxes. Children can make paper money or use leaves or marbles. Let the children take turns being shopkeepers, Bandile and Tata.

✅ **Let the children use the books.** Children need time to discover the books for themselves. Keep the books in a reading corner. Make it comfortable with a carpet and cushions. Encourage children to look at the books during free-play time.

Sharing books supports the **three themes of the NCF**: (1) I am a competent person, (2) My learning and development is important, and (3) I need strong connections with adults.

Books and reading build children's skills in **all six of the Early Learning and Development Areas (ELDAs)**: (1) Well-being, (2) Identity and belonging, (3) Communication, (4) Exploring mathematics, (5) Creativity, and (6) Knowledge and understanding of the world.

This story aligns with early learning themes:

Transport
Habits and routines
My home, where I live

Bandile goes to the city





Today Tata and I are going shopping in the city. Usually we only buy food, but today I am excited because Tata says that we will buy me a new pair of takkies!

It is a *very, very* long way to the city, so we leave home early in the morning.

First, we walk to the taxi stop.

“Wait for me, Tata!”

Then, we have to catch a taxi. Luckily, there's one waiting near the spaza shop.

I hold Tata's hand tightly when we cross the road.

"Wait for us, taxi!"





The taxi drops us at the bus stop.

We climb up the big steps of the bus that will take us closer to the city. Tata finds us seats near a window so I can look out. Soon the driver starts the engine and we are on our way.

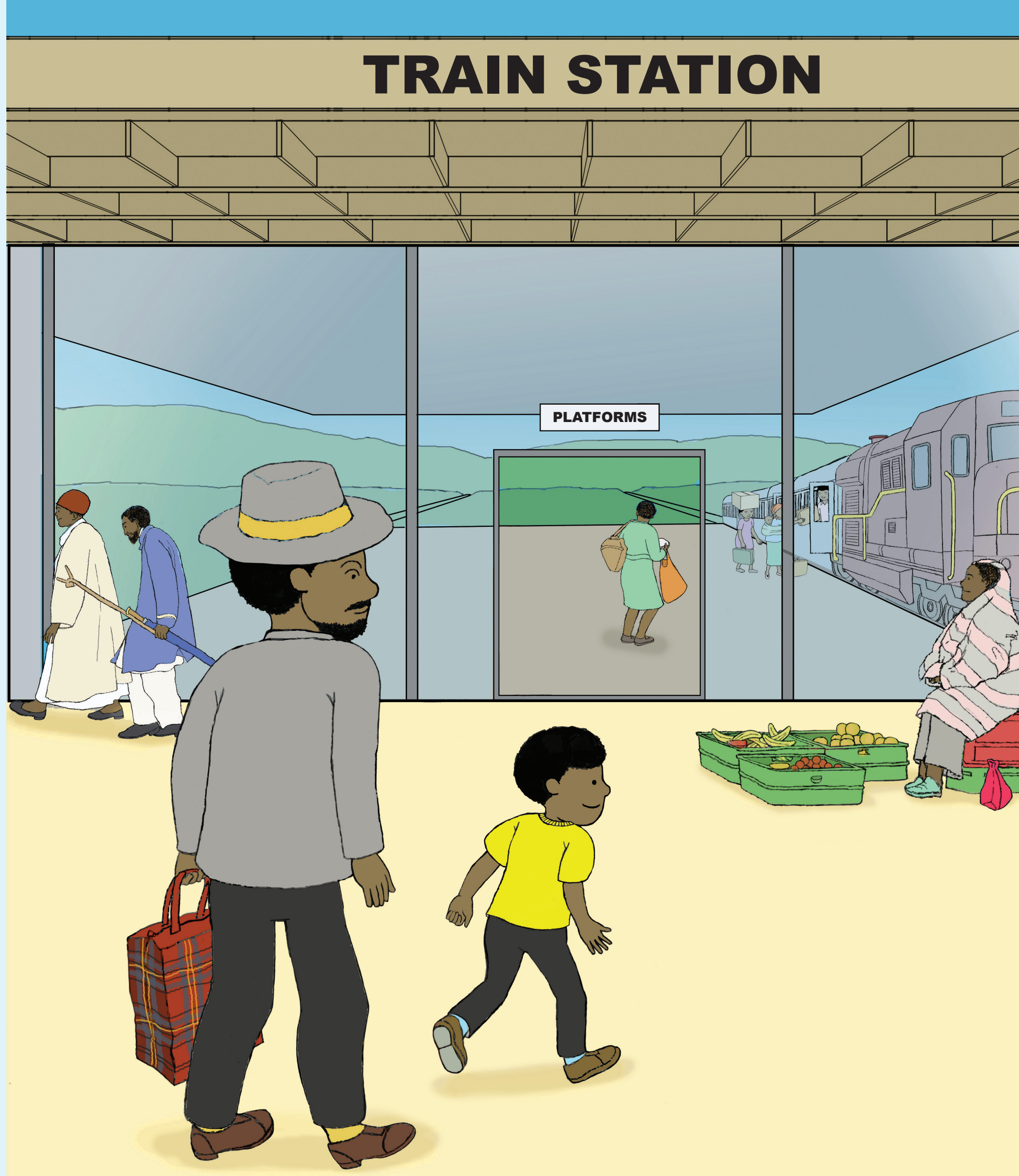
“We’re coming, city!”

The bus drops us at the train station.

Tata asks the person at the ticket office which train we must catch to get to the city.

We have to run to catch our train because it is about to leave.

“Wait for us, train!”





I look out of the train's
big window.

“Look, Tata, there are
lots of houses ...
and cars ...
and bikes.
We must be
getting closer!”

**“We’re almost
there, city!”**

What a busy day we have in the city!

First, we go to the supermarket. Tata buys a big bag of sugar, teabags, cooking oil and a box of biscuits.

Next, we go to the shoe shop to buy my new takkies. I try on lots of different takkies before we find a pair that fits my feet just right.



Then, we go to a clothes shop. We spend a long time there because Tata needs a new shirt for church and he wants to buy a hat for Mama – it's her birthday next week. Tata also lets me choose some socks to wear with my new takkies. Now we have so much shopping that we even have to buy another bag!

And then it is time to go back to the train station.

TRAIN STATION



When we get to the train station we have to carry our *very* heavy bags to the train.

We walk as fast as we can because we don't want to miss our train. We have had a really exciting day in the city, but now it is time to go home.

"Take us home, train!"



Can you remember how Bandile
and Tata will get back home?

Bandile goes to the city

Story development by Book Dash,
with Shelley O'Carroll and Arabella Koopman
Additional illustration by Jiggs Snaddon-Wood
Design by Magenta Media
Proofreading by Ilse von Zeuner

ISBN: 978-1-4315-4029-7

This storybook was developed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE), in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Book Dash to increase access to quality reading materials and encourage reading for joy with children from birth to five years.

© DBE and UNICEF, Pretoria, 2025

The original story "A long trip to the city" was first published in *Big Book 2: Early Learning and Development from the Start (NCF-LTSM for 2- to 3-year-old children)*, DBE and UNICEF, 2024.

Storyline by E!SH Production Services
Illustrations by Roland Metcalfe

The licence of this book allows you to:

- ✓ **Print out or photocopy:** You **may** print out or photocopy as many copies of this book as you like, on your own printer or at a print shop. For "How to print", see www.ecdinfohub.org.
- ✓ **Translate, change, adapt or quote:** You **may** translate, adapt or make changes to this book. You **may** also quote or use extracts from it. You must credit the creators of this book.
- ✗ **Sell:** This book is free. You **may not** use it commercially or charge anyone to use it.

How to credit this book: *Bandile goes to the city, Early Learning and Development from the Start: Stories for Joy* series, Department of Basic Education, Pretoria, 2025.

Get more books

You can find this book, as well as other books in the *Stories for Joy* series along with materials to support emergent literacy and the National Curriculum Framework for Children from Birth to Four, at www.ecdinfohub.org.



Department of Basic Education
222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0002
Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001

Telephone: 012 357 3000

Fax: 012 323 0601

Email: ecd@dbe.gov.za

Website: www.education.gov.za

Bandile loves going to the big city with Tata. They leave home early because the journey is long. Today they have some exciting items on their shopping list. Come along for the ride and see what they buy ...



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

unicef 
for every child

English



9 781431 540297