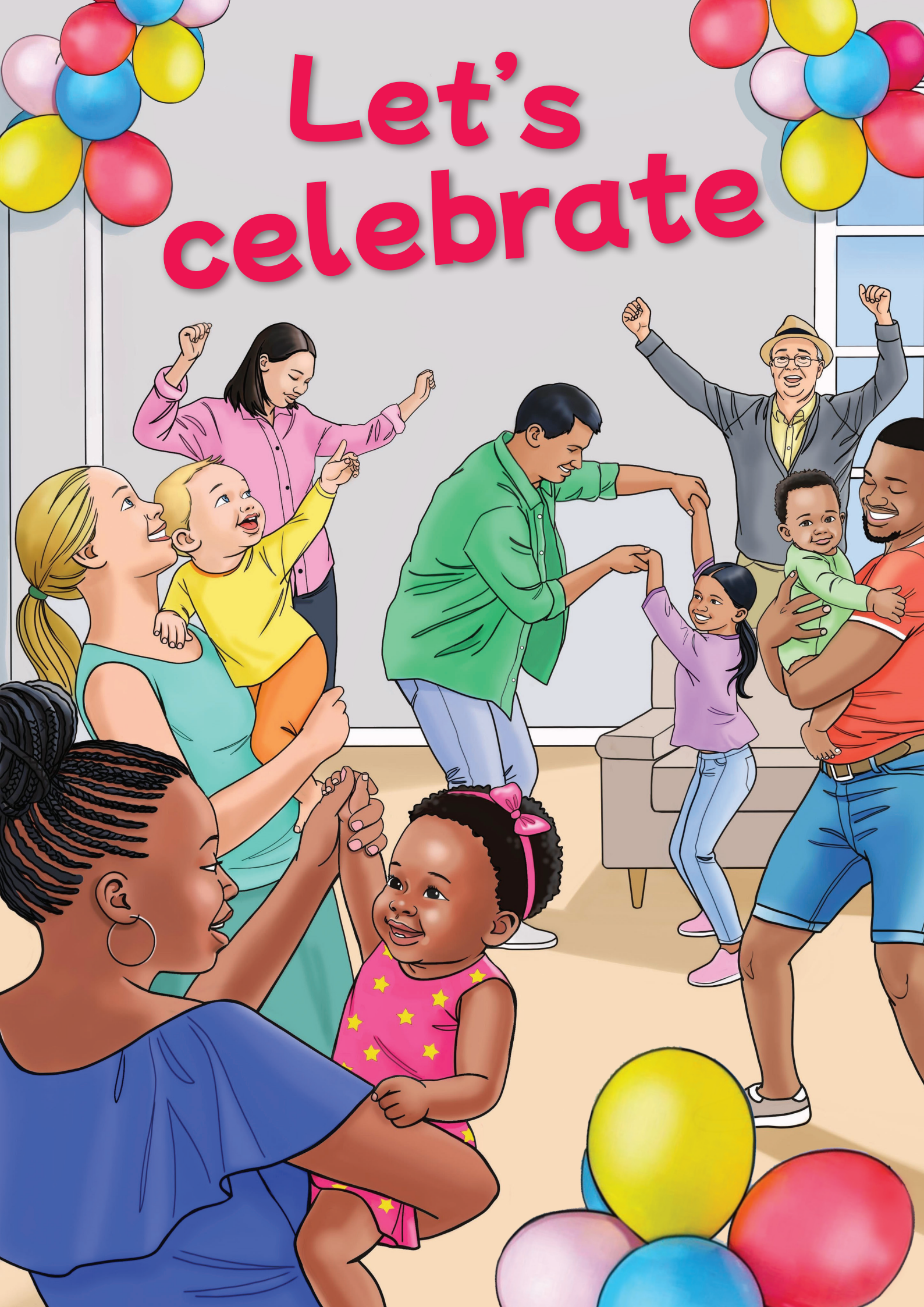


# Let's celebrate



# 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 see in the picture? Does anything look familiar to you?

📖 **During** the story, read with expression and use different voices to keep the children interested. Remember to show the pictures. Ask: Who is in this picture? What colours can you see?

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

**Drawing:** Children can draw themselves and their family at a celebration in their own special outfits or with special food.

**Songs and dance:** If the children sing a song or do a dance to celebrate, they can take turns each day to teach it to the others. At the end of the week, put on a “Let’s celebrate” mini-show for the other classes with the pictures, songs and dances.

✅ **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:**

Culture and celebrations

All about me

Clothing, colours and designs





Let's celebrate





We all love to celebrate  
with the people we love.  
Sometimes we go to a  
special place to celebrate.

Sometimes we celebrate at  
home. Sometimes we wear  
special clothes, sing, dance  
and eat special food.





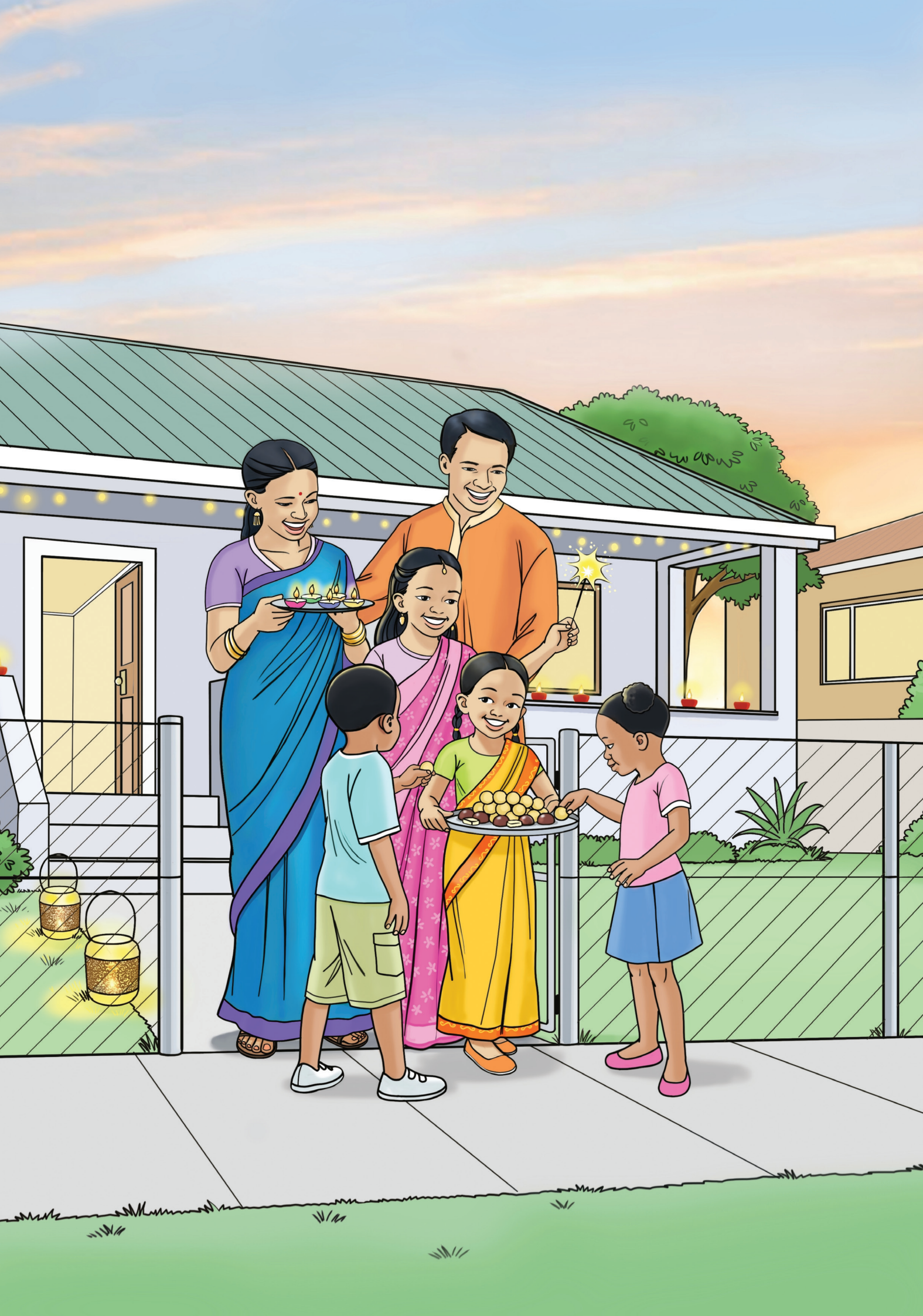
Amahle is at an **umshado** with her family. She enjoys dancing and stamping her feet to the beat of the music.

The bridegroom wears special clothes made from animal skin and he carries a shield. The bride wears a special skirt and hat. Her clothes have lots of colourful beads on them.

Amahle has beads on her outfit too. Can you see them?







Neela's family is celebrating ***Diwali*, the Festival of Lights.**

Neela helps to light the little oil lamps called *diyas* that decorate their home. The family shares sweet treats they have made with their neighbours.

Neela wears a special *sari*, just like her mom and sister. This year she is wearing a *sari* in her favourite colours. Can you tell what her favourite colours are?

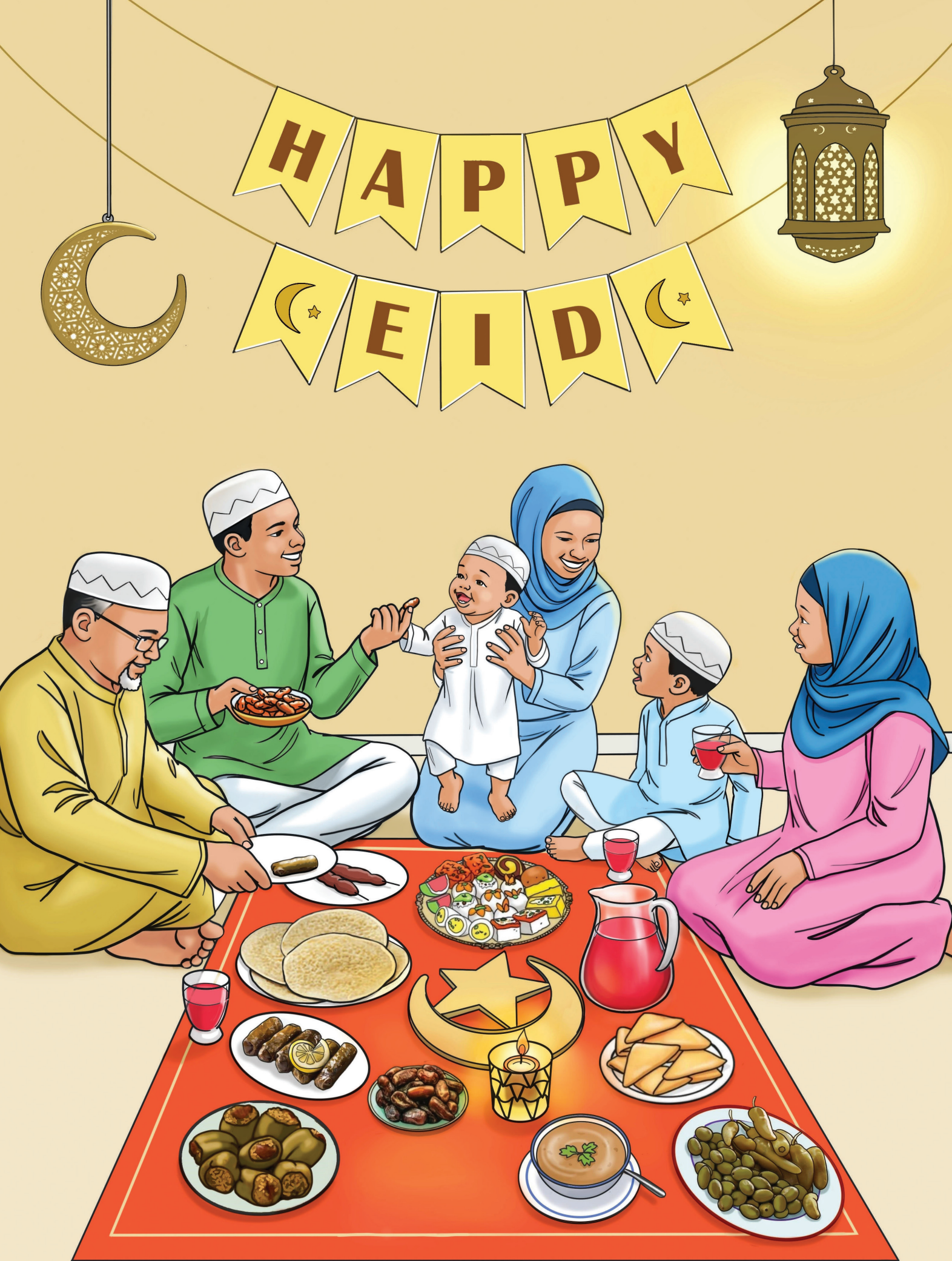


Levi's family is celebrating the beginning of **Pesach** with a meal called a *seder*. Levi and his dad wear small caps on their heads called *yarmulkes*. His dad reads a *Pesach* story from long ago, then Levi sings a special song.

There are many special foods to enjoy. The crispy *matzo* crackers are Levi's favourite. Can you see them?







It is the end of *Ramadan* and Kaashief's family is celebrating ***Eid al-Fitr***. They all wear their best clothes. Kaashief wears a *kufi* on his head, just like his dad and brother.

The family eats a special lunch together. All the food is delicious, but the *samosas* are Kaashief's favourite. His mom folds the pastry into little triangles when she makes them. Can you see the *samosas*?



It is the day before **Christmas**. Siya's grandparents have come to visit. Everyone wears special hats. Siya helps to put shiny decorations on the Christmas tree.

Tomorrow the family will enjoy lunch together. Then they will open the presents that are under the tree – that's Siya's favourite part of Christmas.

How many presents does Siya's family have this year?







Today is a special holiday in South Africa, called **Heritage Day**. We celebrate all the different cultures and where they come from.

These families are having a big braai together to celebrate Heritage Day. They sing and dance and talk together.



**How does your family celebrate special days?**



## Let's celebrate

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- In *Big Book 2: Early Learning and Development from the Start (NCF-LTSM for 4- to 5-year-old children)*, "Sara and Sello's family and friends love to celebrate".

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Illustrations by Angie Bowring

### 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](http://www.ecdinfohub.org).



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We all celebrate with the people we love. Sometimes we go to a special place and often we wear special clothes, sing songs and eat special food. No matter where you are from, celebrating is for everyone.



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