Sipho feels sad and ashamed.

Sad because he has no family to belong to anymore.

Ashamed because he cannot write his name like other children can.

Sadness and shame turn to joy and pride in the first of this series of inspiring stories based on the real lives of AIDS orphans in southern Africa.

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BOOK 1

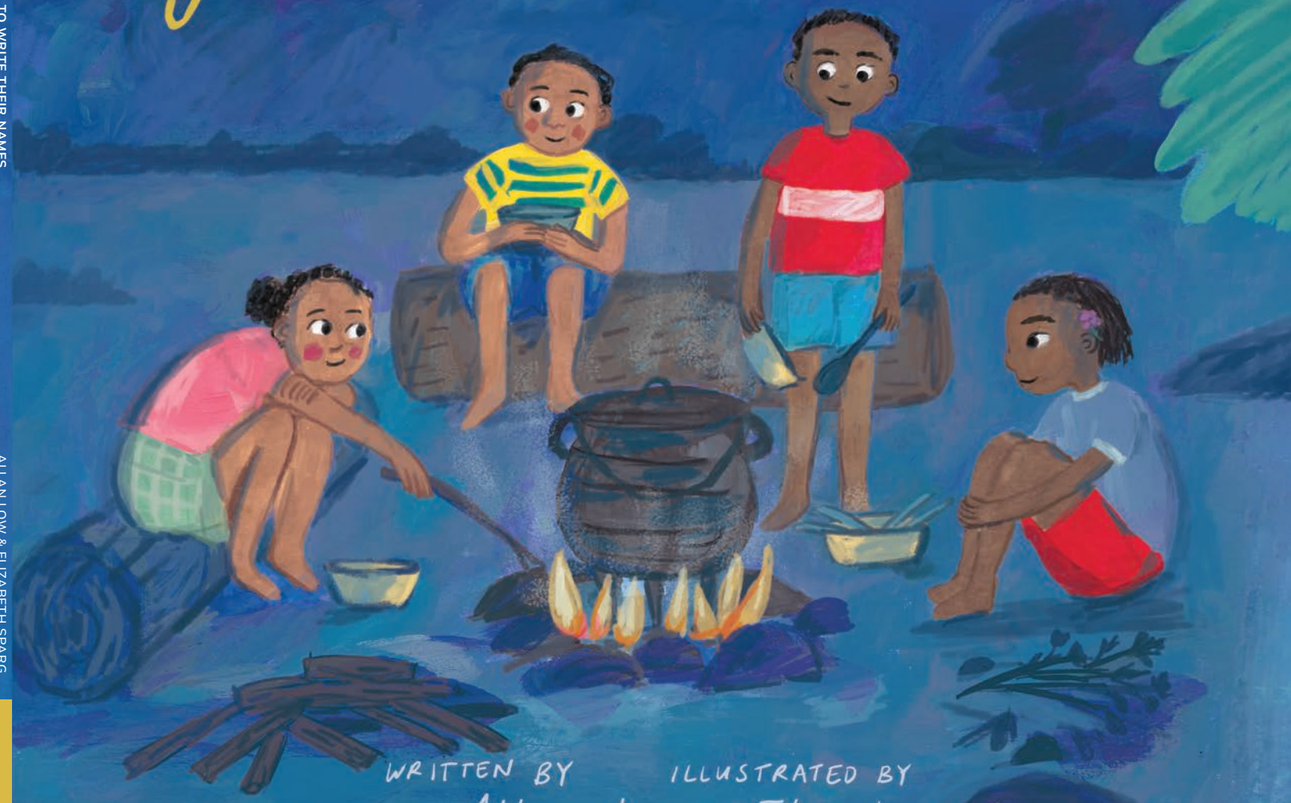
THE BUNDU BUNCH GET TO WRITE THEIR NAMES

ALLAN LOW & ELIZABETH SPARG

THE BUNDU BUNCH SERIES

— Book One —

The Bundu Bunch get to Write their Names



WRITTEN BY Allan Low

ILLUSTRATED BY Elizabeth Sparg

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How to pronounce some of the words in this story:

Aiyasha (I-**ee**-sha)
Sipho (**See**-p-o)
Meyego (May-**e**-go)
ingculaza (in-**ca**-laza) – AIDS
omama nobaba (o-**mah**-mah ne-**bah**-bah) – mothers and fathers
umama (u-**mah**-mah) – mother
Bundu (**boon**-doo) - countryside

I wish this same wish at about the same time every day.

Every day I wish for a nearby tree to provide a shady escape from the blazing African sun.

With me, down by the river collecting water for the Indvuna (headman) of our community, are my sister Jabu and our fellow orphan, Monica.

‘Aiyee,’ exclaims Monica, stretching her back. ‘It is so hot already. And this is so fiddly and slow. Sipho, can’t you think of a better way?’

‘Keep going,’ I reply. ‘The sooner we get the containers filled, the easier we will make it for ourselves this afternoon.’

A look towards Indvuna Meyego’s kraal shows me how much work we still have ahead of us. And a look up there reveals something more.