

Umzi watsha •



The house is burning

Umzi watsha, umzi watsha!
 Khangela phaya, khangela phaya!
 Umlilo! Umlilo!
 Galel'amanzi, galel'amanzi.

The house is burning, the house
 is burning!
 Fetch the engine, fetch the engine!
 Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!
 Pour on water, pour on water.



PRAESA



Malunga nesicengcelezo

Esi sicengcelezo sesiXhosa nesiNgesi sidla ngokukulwa. Inguqulelo yaseMzantsi Afrika yevesi yabantwana yesiNgesi ethi “London’s burning”.

About the rhyme

This isiXhosa and English rhyme is most often sung. It is a South African version of the well-known English nursery rhyme “London’s burning”.

Imisebenzi

- Njengoba nicula le ngoma, yenzani ezi zinto kukulwa ngazo. Ningabeka izitulo nenze ngokungathi zezetrakhi yokucima umlilo. Okanye nihlale phantsi nenze ngathi nihleli kwizitulo zetrakhi yokucima umlilo nakugqiba nicule le ngoma ngelixa “niqhuba” isicima-mlilo.
- Yakha indlu ngezinto ezikhoyo ekhayeni (umzekelo, amakhalibhodi, imiqamelo, iingubo, izitulo).
- Ncokolani ngomlilo. Siwucima njani? Ubaluleke njani kuthi? Kutheni unobungozi? Mema abantwana benze imizobo yesisicengcelezo/ngoma.

Activities

- As you sing the song/say the rhyme, do the actions that the words suggest. You could also use chairs to make the seats inside a fire engine (or just sit on the floor) and then sing the song while “driving” the fire engine.
- With your children, build a house with materials that you have available at home (for example, empty cardboard boxes, cushions, pillows, blankets, chairs).
- Talk about fire. Is it hot or cold? How do we put out a fire? How is fire useful to us? Why is it dangerous? Invite your children to draw pictures of the rhyme.

