

Grade

Anthology

3

# Read Aloud Story 3

## The beach picnic and the bakkie

We are Jennilee and Zane. We are twins. We live on the Cape Flats. We are nine years old.

Last week it was our birthday. We went to the beach. We went with big our brother Franz and big sister Kaylie, and our mother and grandfather. We call my mother “Ma.” We call my grandfather “Oupa.”

We wanted to have a braai for our birthday. “Sorry,” said our ma. “No fires on the beach. So no braais on the beach.” But she said we would have a birthday picnic. She cooked some chicken for a picnic. We packed our picnic. We packed bread rolls. We packed lettuce and tomato. We packed the cooked chicken. We packed a birthday cake. We packed paper plates. We went to the aunty who sells fruit under her umbrella on the corner. We got apples from her. We packed the apples. We packed our favourite snack that we call “slangetjies”, but it’s not little snakes. It is crunchy stuff that tastes good. We packed cool drinks.

My oupa tried to pack a bottle of beer with the cool drinks. “Sorry Oupa,” said our ma. “No beer on the beach. No bottles on the beach. It’s cool drink for you Oupa.” My oupa uses a lot of words from Kaaps. Kaaps is a kind of Afrikaans. He said “Ag, nee!” He meant “Oh, no!” Then he said, “Not even for a ou toppie like me?” He meant “Not even for an old man like me?” “Not even for a ou toppie we love as much as you,” said my mother. My oupa smiled. “Ag, well, okay,” he said “Stoney ginger beer for me then.”

We went to the beach. We four children went in the back of my oupa’s bakkie. His dog came with us. The dog’s name is Sokkies. A traffic cop stopped us and said we shouldn’t be sitting in the back of the bakkie with no canopy on it. Sokkies growled at him. So he said “Ag, just go!”

It was very windy. “Yoh, yoh, yoh!” said my mother when we got to the beach, “Quick, put up the screen!” We all helped to put up the screen. It was not so windy behind the screen.

We went with our oupa to see if he could catch a fish. He stood on some rocks next to the water. Then he put bait on a hook. Then he threw it into the water with his fishing rod. We waited for a fish to come. Sokkies waited with us. Oupa caught a fish but he said it was too small. He took the hook out of its mouth. He said “I will catch you when you are a big fish!” and put it back in the water. It swam away. We got tired of waiting for more fish. We ran to splash in the waves. Sokkies ran with us. Sokkies loves splashing in the waves. We got very wet. It was cold in the wind so we went to have our picnic.

We sat behind the screen to hide from the wind. We ate all the chicken with the bread rolls and tomatoes. Then we got the birthday cake. My oupa tried to light the candles with matches but it was too windy. While he was trying to light the candles he dropped the cake in the sand. “Ag, well!” said my oupa “No fish, and no candles. And no beer. But lots of wind and lots of sand.” And he put a big piece of cake in his mouth and crunched the sand. “And it’s still all lekker!” he said.

Then we got in the bakkie to go home. On the main road we heard gunshots. Oupa stopped the bakkie. We saw people running out of the road. “It’s gangs!” said Franz “Lay down! Go Oupa, go!” We fell flat in the bakkie. Franz held Sokkies. Oupa drove away very fast. When he went fast round a corner Kaylie banged her head on the side of the bakkie. But she was okay.

At home Oupa was not happy. “Yoh, that was not lekker,” he said, “But you all safe, you all safe. But no more riding in the back of the bakkie.” He hugged us. “You all safe,” he said again and he smiled.

We loved riding in the back of the bakkie. But now Oupa won’t take us in the back any more. He says it’s not safe. So no more riding in the back of the bakkie for us.