

Zulu Transcript:

Z: Wakhulela khona eProtea North¹?

J: Cha, ngakhulela eDiepkloof², nalapho kuseSoweto³. Kuhlala lapha umam'khulu wami ongunyisi wakamamam' omdala. Ngakhulela khona nabomzala bami lapho sikhulela... sidlala estradeni⁴, imidlalo ehluhlukeni njengomgusha⁵. Umgusha yila uthatha i-*pantyhose* uyibophelele ngamafindo, *and then* niloko niya... *jump*-ela ngaphakathi nangaphandle. Sasidlala futhi ngetenesi⁶ sibiza umadzumana⁷ – yila ushaya umuntu ngetenesi kabuhlungu kuze abe-*red* emathangeni – noma kanjani. Futhi sasifika *late* endlini sigibela izihlahla sithatha amapetshisi sidlala i-*black mampatile*⁸. Yila umuntu abala khona ebondeni abanye bayabaleka bayozifihla *so*⁹ kwakumnandi ngoba sasibaningi ekhaya futhi nganginabangani abaningi khona lapha eDiepkloof.

Z: Kulamalanga abantwana badlala ngokufana njengani kuzenisebancani? Noma bayenza izinto ezihlukile?

J: Ngenxa ye-*technology* – abantwana abasathandi ukudlalela ngaphandle. Kunezinto ezinjengabo-*DSTV*¹⁰ *so* babukela ama-*Popeye*¹¹ njalo. Kunabo... ama-*games* ango-*PS3* abo-*Wii Nintendo*. *So* abasenaso lesosikhathi sokuphemela estradeni badlale ngalondlela le thina besidlala ngayo. Ngombono wami lento le iyenza ukuthi abantwana bangayazani bangabi nabangane, ngaloxa yokuthi bayahluleka ukuphuma endlini ngoba babukele lama-*game* lawa – angalunganga ngoba abafundisa izinto zokuthi nje... bahlale babodwa njalo.

Z: Wena ufundeni njengenkati le udlala estradeni?

J: Ngafunda i'ntweziningi – njengokuthi ngikwazi ukuzisukumela ebantwini abebangihlukumeza abaziwa nje ngokuthi ama-*bully* esikoleni. Ngoba uyazi ukuthi unabangane – uyazi ukuthi bazokuvikela e'ntweni ezimbi futhi uyakwazi ukuxoxisana nabanye abantu, ubazi abantu – kuze izinto ezimbi zingakuwenzakaleli.

¹ Protea North: A residential area in the Johannesburg township of Soweto.

² Diepkloof: A residential area in the Johannesburg township of Soweto.

³ Soweto: A township in Johannesburg. It is the largest township in South Africa.

⁴ *estradeni*: In the streets. From the Afrikaans *straat*, meaning street.

⁵ *umgusha*: A game similar to jump rope. Pieces of pantyhose are tied together to make the ropes.

⁶ *itenesi*: A tennis ball.

⁷ *umadzumama*: A term for a game which involves a tennis ball. Two teams take turns trying to hit members of the opposing team with a tennis ball, while the other team has to dodge these attempts. It is roughly similar to dodgeball.

⁸ *black mampatile*: Hide-and-peek.

⁹ The speaker uses the English word “so.” The Zulu equivalent would be *manje*.

¹⁰ DSTV: Digital Satellite Television.

¹¹ *ama-Popeye*: A generic term for cartoons. Derived from the classic *Popeye* cartoon.

Z: Kwakuphephile ukudlalela estradeni?

J: Yebo, kwakuphephe kakhulu ngoba sasinabo bhuthi¹² abasibhekele njalo. Futhi eDiepkloof kwakuthulile estradeni *so* kwakungadluli i'moto eziningi. Ngalokho besinalo ithuba sokuthi sidlale ibhola kakhulu nge-*summer* ngoba ilanga laliyehla ngabo-*eight* wasebusuku *so* sasivumelekile ukuthi sidlale ngaphandle sijabule.

Z: Naniyenza nini umsebenzi wasesikoleni?

J: Umsebenzi wesikolo sasuwenza *before* siphumela estradeni siyodlala ngoba sasifika ekhaya ngabo *three* – siyenze imisebenzi yesikolo *until* ngabo *four o'clock*. Masiceda siyaphumela ngaphandle ngoba abangane bethu bonke babesebuyile sidlale lapha estradeni *until* abazali bethu sebasibiza ukuthi sesizodla ukudla kwasebusuku.

English Translation:

Z: Did you grow up in Protea North¹³?

J: No, I grew up in Diepkloof¹⁴, which is also in Soweto¹⁵. My aunt, who is my mother's older sister, lives there. I grew up there with my cousins, where we grew up... playing in the street, different games like *umgusha*¹⁶. *Umgusha* is where you take pantyhose and tie pieces of it together into long ropes, and then you jump inside and out. We also played with a tennis ball, and we called it *umadzumana*¹⁷ – where you hit someone with a tennis ball pretty hard until their thighs are red – no matter what. We even arrived at home late – climbing trees, picking peaches, and playing *black mampatile*¹⁸. That's when one person stands against the wall counting while the others run away and hide. So it was fun because there were many of us at home and I had a lot of friends in Diepkloof.

Z: These days do the children play in the same way as you did when you were younger? Or do they do different things now?

J: Because of technology, children don't like to play outside anymore. There are things like DSTV¹⁹, so they watch cartoons all the time. There are... video games like PS3 and

¹² In Zulu culture, many relative terms do not necessarily signify biological relation. For example, one would call any older person “mother” or “father.” In this case, one would call any male who is a couple of years older “*bhuti* (brother)” and a female who is a couple of years older “*sisi* (sister).”

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¹⁵ Soweto: A township in Johannesburg. It is the largest township in South Africa.

¹⁶ *umgusha*: A game similar to jump rope. Pieces of pantyhose are tied together to make the ropes.

¹⁷ *umadzumama*: A term for a game which involves a tennis ball. Two teams take turns trying to hit members of the opposing team with a tennis ball, while the other team has to dodge these attempts. It is roughly similar to dodgeball.

¹⁸ *black mampatile*: Hide-and-seek.

¹⁹ DSTV: Digital Satellite Television.

Nintendo Wii. So they don't have that time to go out into the streets and play in the same way we used to play. In my opinion, this causes children not to get to know each other and make friends. This is because they cannot go outside, because they are playing these games that are not good because they are teaching them just to... stay alone all the time.

Z: What did you learn while playing in the streets?

J: I learned a lot of things – like knowing how to stand up for myself against the people who were harassing me at school, who are known as bullies. Because you know that you have friends – you know that they will protect you from bad things, and you know how to speak to other people – and *know* people, so that bad things don't happen to you.

Z: Was it safe to play in the streets?

J: Yes, it was very safe because we had brothers²⁰ who were always watching us all the time. Additionally – in Diepkloof it is not busy on the street, so there weren't a lot of cars passing. Because of that, we had a chance to play soccer – especially in the summer, because the sun only set around eight at night, so we were allowed to play outside and have fun.

Z: When did you do homework?

J: We did our homework before we went out into the streets to play, because we only got home [from school] around three – and do homework until four o'clock. After doing that, we go outside, because all of our friends are back by then, too, and we play in the street until our parents call us in for supper.

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²⁰ In Zulu culture, many relative terms do not necessarily signify biological relation. For example, one would call any older person “mother” or “father.” In this case, one would call any male who is a couple of years older “*bhuti* (brother)” and a female who is a couple of years older “*sisi* (sister).”