

UJWAZI

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magazine



EDUCATE | INSPIRE | MOTIVATE

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Welcome to ULWAZI MAGAZINE:

Ulwazi Magazine is a quarterly publication dedicated to inspiring, educating, and motivating high school learners. We believe that knowledge is power and our aim is to provide you with the tools and information you need to excel in your academic pursuits and beyond. Through engaging articles, interviews with successful individuals, and insightful features, we hope to encourage you to pursue your passions and achieve your goals. Join us on this journey of discovery and learning, and let Ulwazi be your guide to a brighter future.

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GCINA OKUHLE. USHIYE OKUBI. UKUQEDA UMKHOKHA



Wonke umndeni uhlukile. Eminye mincane - uwena, umzali nodadewenu noma umfowenu. Eminye mikhulu, inabazala, obabekazi, omalume nogogo nomkhulu bonke behlala ndawonye. Amanye amakhaya anabazali ababili, amanye zizizimzali oyedwa. Abanye bakhuliswa ugogo noma udadewabo noma umfowabo omdala. Awukho umndeni owodwa ojwayelekile kodwa noma ngabe owakho unjani, kuningi ongakufunda kuwona, okuhle nokubi.

Qala ngalokho umndeni wakho okwenza kahle. Mhlawumbe uphuma emndenini olwela lokho okholelwa kukhona. Mhlawumbe umndeni wakho uyanakekelana, uyathandana futhi uyesezana. Noma ngabe yini enhle, kubalulekile ukuyiqaphela. Lezi yizinto

okubalulekile ukuqhubeka nazo - imikhuba, izimiso kanye nezindlela zokweseka abantu ofuna ukubagcina empilweni yakho. Bese ubheka okubi, ngeqiniso. Lokhu kunzinyana kodwa kubalulekile. Mhlawumbe kunomkhokha emndenini wakho ongafuni ukuwuphinda - ukuhlukumezeka, izidakamizwa, inhlupheko noma ukungafundi. Ukukhuluma ngako akuyona into embi. Kumayelana nokubona kahle ukuze ukwazi ukuzenzela izinqumo ezechukile.

Ngezinye izikhathi ukuqeda umkhokha kuqala ngawe. Ukuba ngowokuqala ukuphasa umatikuletseni. Owokuqala ukuya enyuvesi. Owokuqala ukuthenga imoto, ukuthenga umuzi noma ukuthola iziqu ongekho emndenini oseke waba nazo. Ukuba ngowokuqala kunzima, ngoba akekho okukhombisa ukuthi kwenziwa kanjani. Ufunda ngendlela, kwesinye

isikhathi ngaphandle komuntu ozokweseka noma akukhombise indlela. Lokhu kunzima kodwa akusho ukuthi akwenzeki. Yonke imindeni inomuntu wokuqala ukwenza okuthile, owenza isinqumo sokuthi umkhuba othile ugcina ngaye.

Umndeni uyakubumba, uthanda ungathandi, kodwa kukuwena ukuthi iyiphi ingxenye yalokho kubunjwa oyigcinayo. Thatha okuhle, ufunde kokubi. Uma kunguwe okufanele aqede umkhokha othile emndenini wakho, vumela lelo joka likugqugquzele kunokuthi likusinde. Akulula kodwa kufanele ukwenzele wena nalabo abeza emva kwakho.



Dream Big. Build Bigger.

Every dream starts with a choice. Sometimes the road ahead is clear, but often it's filled with challenges, setbacks and unexpected detours. The people who achieve their goals aren't always the ones with the easiest journey, they're the ones who refuse to give up. Civil Engineer Bokang Sithole knows this first-hand. Her story shows that your circumstances don't define your future. Your determination, resilience and willingness to keep moving forward do.

Q&A with Bokang Sithole

Bokang is a respected Civil Engineer, Researcher, Project Manager and Mentor who has become a role model for young women entering the engineering profession. Her story is one of resilience, determination and purpose.

Q: Your journey hasn't been easy. What kept you going after losing your mother?

"My mother passed away when I was 16 years old. It was one of the hardest moments of my life, but I had a choice. I could allow my circumstances to define me, or I could choose education and keep moving forward. Discipline and focus helped me persevere. My family and my teachers supported me and reminded me that my dreams were still possible."

Q: What made you choose engineering?

"It all started with a career exhibition while I was in high school. That exhibition introduced me to engineering and sparked my curiosity. I enrolled for Bioresources Engineering at the University of Kwa Zulu-Natal, but university life wasn't easy. I faced academic challenges and got excluded mid-degree. Instead of giving up, I enrolled for Civil Engineering at the Durban University of Technology (DUT). Even then, I always knew I wanted to go back and finish what I had started. I didn't move over a thousand kilometres from Limpopo to KwaZulu-Natal just to fail. Completing that Bioresources degree I was excluded from became something I needed to do for myself, and I did eventually go back and finish what I started."

Q: When did you know Civil Engineering was the right career?

"While studying Civil Engineering, I did vacation work and visited construction sites. Watching a dam being built right in front of my eyes changed everything. Seven years later, I went back to visit that same dam. Standing there, knowing I had been part of building something that continues to improve people's lives, reminded me why I chose engineering."

For Bokang, engineering isn't just about building structures. "It's about leaving a legacy."

Q: How would you describe engineering to someone who knows nothing about it?

"Engineering is really about solving problems. As engineers, we're trained to think differently. We don't just learn how to solve one type of problem, we learn a way of thinking that can be applied to almost any challenge. Whether you're building roads, bridges, dams or water systems, you're making a real difference in people's lives. You can actually see the impact of your work, and that's one of the most rewarding parts of being an engineer."

Q: Why are Maths and Science so important?

"A lot of learners think Maths is only about numbers, but it's much bigger than that. Maths trains your brain to solve problems. People often ask me how I became a top student. The answer is simple: practise. You cannot master Mathematics without putting in the time. The more you practise, the more you start recognising patterns, and eventually the concepts become easier. Maths isn't about being naturally gifted—it's about consistency and dedication."

Q: Engineering is still seen as a male-dominated career. What advice would you give to young women?

"Be yourself. You don't have to become someone you're not just to fit into the industry. You don't have to act tougher or louder to earn respect. There is room for both men and women in engineering. We each bring different strengths and perspectives. Those differences don't compete, they complement each other."

Women should never feel they need to lose their femininity to succeed."

Q: What skills do young engineers need besides technical knowledge?

"Communication is one of the most important skills. Engineers work with architects, project managers, technicians, communities and government officials. You need emotional intelligence, leadership and people skills because engineering is never done alone. Technical knowledge may get you the job, but soft skills help you succeed."

Q: What advice would you give learners choosing a career?

"Choose your career wisely. Do your research before making a decision. Understand what the job involves, what opportunities exist and whether there is demand for those skills. The career you choose has a huge influence on the direction your life takes, so don't choose just for the sake of choosing."

*Bokang's Favourite Quote
"Attitude is a small thing that makes a big difference."
- Winston Churchill*

"Your attitude in any situation matters. It can make or break your journey. Always show up with the right attitude."

Today, Bokang is a registered Professional Engineer (Pr.Eng) and certified Project Management Professional (PMP). She holds a BSc in Bioresources Engineering, an MSc and BTech in Civil Engineering, an MBA, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management. She also completed the International Leadership Development Programme at GIBS.

Her story is a reminder that your circumstances do not determine your destination. Your attitude, your choices and your willingness to keep going do.

MORE THAN JUST BUILDING ROADS: DISCOVER THE DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

When most people hear the words civil engineer, they usually think about someone building roads or bridges. While that's true, civil engineering is much bigger than that. It is one of the world's oldest and most diverse professions, with many exciting specialisations that help shape the communities we live in.

Whether you're interested in designing skyscrapers, protecting the environment, solving water shortages, or building transport networks, there's a place for you in civil engineering.

Civil engineers play a vital role in building the infrastructure that powers our country. From roads and bridges to clean water systems, schools and hospitals, their work improves lives every day. As South Africa continues to grow, skilled civil engineers will remain in high demand.

So, the next time you drive across a bridge, turn on a tap, or walk into a shopping mall, remember, behind every great structure is a team of civil engineers making it all possible.

Discipline	What they do	Typical Projects
Geotechnical (Geotech)	Investigate soil and rock conditions and design foundations.	Foundations, retaining walls, tunnels, embankments, slope stabilisation
Water Engineering / Water Resources	Design systems that manage water supply, drainage, flooding, treatment, and wastewater management.	Dams, pipelines, water treatment plants, stormwater systems, irrigation networks
Structural	Design structures to safely carry loads.	Buildings, bridges, towers, industrial structures
Transportation	Plan and design transport infrastructure.	Roads, highways, intersections, airports, railways
Municipal Engineering	Develop infrastructure for towns and cities.	Roads, water, sewer, stormwater, public services
Environmental	Protect the environment during infrastructure development.	Wastewater plants, pollution control, waste management
Hydraulic Engineering	Study the movement of water through infrastructure.	Flood control, canals, pipelines, hydraulic structures
Coastal & Marine	Design infrastructure along coastlines and oceans.	Harbours, ports, sea walls, jetties, offshore structures



Imali yebhanoyi? Siyasazi Sonke Isiphetho...

Kuqala ngendlela efanayo njalo. Umngani wakho ukuthumelela umyalezo ngo-WhatsApp othi: “Ngifake u-R500 izolo ngathola u-R2000 namhlanje!” Noma mhlawumbe kunomuntu ku-TikTok oveza imali eningi nezithombe zemibiko yasebhangwe, ethembisa ukukusiza “ushintshe impilo yakho” uma nje ungatshala inani elincane lemali naye. Kuzwakala kujabulisa uma kusaqala. Uqale ucabange yonke into ongayithenga, amateku amasha, umakhalekhukhwini omusha, noma ukusiza umndeni wakho ngezindleko. Kuzwakala njengethuba okade wawulilindele. Kodwa bakubamba la, kufanele uphuthume ngoba “izikhala ziyaphela”. Bayakwexwayisa ukuba ungaphuthelwa ngoba wonke umuntu wenza imali. Okulandela lapho ukuboleka imali, ukusebenzisa imali obuyibekile noma ukunxenxa abangane nomndeni ukuba bangele nabo.

Okwesikhashana, yonke into ibukeka ihamba kahle. Abantu abambalwa bayenza ngempela imali, okwenza lolu hlelo lubukeke lusebenza. Bese konke kuyashintsha. Iqoqo laku-WhatsApp linyamalale. I-website iyeke ukusebenza. Ucingo lomhleli alusangeni. Amakhasi

ezinkundleni zokuxhumana asevaliwe kanti nabantu ababenxenxa wonke umuntu ukuba ajoyine abasatholakali. Sesikubonile lokhu kwenzeka kaningi lapha eNingizimu Afrika. Amagama alezi zinhlelo ayashintsha, kodwa indlela ezisebenza ngayo ziyafana.

Isizathu esenza abantu abanengi bayikholwe le nkohliso ukuthi lezi zinhlelo zithengisela abantu ithemba. Zithembisa imali esheshayo ngomsebenzi omncane, zikwenze ukholwe ukuthi uthole indlela esheshayo ngesikhathi wonke umuntu ehamba indlela ende. Ngokweqiniso, kulezi zinhlelo kuzuza abantu abajoyine zisaqala. Inzuzo yabo iqhamuka emalini ekhokhwa amalunga amasha, hhayi kwibhizinisi langempela, umkhiqizo noma utshalomali. Ngokuhamba kwesikhathi, ababi banengi abantu abajoyinayo. Yilapho ibhanoyi khona lishiya laba abajoyine ekugcineni bengenalutho ngaphandle kwezithembiso ezingafeziwe.

Kungaba mnandi ukube imali ibiphindaphindeka ngempela emahoreni ambalwa nje. Ngeshwa, imali ayisebenzi kanjalo. Ingcebo yangempela yakhiwa ngesikhathi, isineke, imfundiso, ukufunda, ukonga, ukutshala imali ngobuhlakani

kanye nokwenza amaphutha ngezinye izikhathi. Kungangazwakala kujabulisa kodwa iyona ndlela esebenzayo.

Ngaphambi kokutshala imali yakho, zibuze imibuzo embalwa ebalulekile. Ngabe lo muntu uthembisa inzuzo eqinisekiwe? Ukufakela ingcindezi yokuba ujoyine ngokushesha? Kulindeleke ukuba ufake abanye abantu ngaphambi kokuba uhole? Uma impendulo kungu-yebo, linda ucabange kahle. Khuluma nabazali bakho, uthisha omethembayo noma umuntu onolwazi ngezezimali ngaphambi kokuba unikele ngemali yakho. Ungavumeli ingcindezi yokungafuni ukusala ngaphandle ikwenzise izinqumo zezezimali. Isizukulwana nesizukulwana sinohlobo lwaso sephupho “lokuceba ngokushesha”. Izinkundla ziyashintsha. Ukukhangisa kuyashintsha. Amagama ayashintsha. Kodwa kuphetha ngendlela efanayo.

Ungavumi ukunikela ngemali yakho oyisebenze kanzima. Yiba nesineke, wenze izinqumo ezisekelwe ulwazi futhi wakhe ikusasa lakho ngesinyathelo esisodwa esiphusile ngesikhathi. Ingcebo yangempela ayakhiwa ngosuku olulodwa, ithatha isikhathi.

THE PERSON YOU'RE
CHATTING TO...

MIGHT NOT BE WHO
THEY SAY THEY ARE

CATFISHING

These days it's easy for anyone to create a fake social media profile. The person you're chatting to could be using someone else's photos, pretending to be your age, or making up an entire life. This is known as catfishing, and it's becoming more common than many people realise. Whether you're on Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook, WhatsApp, Discord or an online game, it's important to remember that not everyone is who they claim to be.

*"She's 14 and loves music."
"He's in Grade 11 and lives in Durban."
"We just clicked. We have so much in common."*

*Sounds normal, right?
But what if none of it is true?*

Catfishing is when someone creates a fake online identity to trick other people. They might use stolen photos, a fake name, or lie about their age, where they live, or even which school they attend. A profile that looks like a friendly teenage girl could actually belong to an adult. That "cute guy" you've been chatting to every night might not even exist.

While some people do it as a prank, others have much more serious and dangerous intentions.

People catfish for different reasons. Some are looking for attention, while others are trying to scam or manipulate people. Sadly, some online predators deliberately target teenagers because they know young people are often more trusting.

Be careful if someone does the following:

- Uses photos that look like they belong to a model or influencer.
- Tells you they love you after only a few days.
- Asks you to keep your friendship or chats a secret.
- Wants personal information, money, or intimate photos.
- Starts talking about meeting in person very quickly.

If something doesn't feel right, don't ignore that feeling. Trust your instincts.

Getting a message from someone new can be exciting, but that doesn't mean you should reply. The safest option is to chat with people you already know in real life or whose identity has been confirmed. Remember, a profile picture and a few posts don't prove that someone is genuine. Anyone can create a convincing fake account in just a few minutes.

Thinking About Meeting Someone You Met Online?

The safest answer is simple: Don't. Meeting someone you've only spoken to online can be risky because you don't really know who will arrive.

If you ever decide to meet someone you've known online for a long time, make sure you do it safely. Stay safe: Tell a parent, guardian or another trusted adult. Meet in a busy public place, such as a shopping mall or café. Never meet in an isolated area, someone's house or a quiet park.

Take a trusted adult or friend with you. Share your live location with someone you trust. Arrange your own transport and never accept a lift from the person. If you feel uncomfortable at any stage, leave immediately.

Once something is shared online, you lose control over where it ends up. Even if someone promises to delete it, there's no guarantee they actually will.

The internet is an amazing place to learn new things, make friends and connect with people from around the world. Many genuine friendships have started online. But your safety should always come first.

Before you trust someone you've only met on the internet, ask yourself one simple question:

"Do I really know who is behind this screen?". If the answer is "I'm not sure," slow down. Verify who they are, speak to someone you trust, and never let anyone pressure you into doing something that makes you uncomfortable.

BRACE YOURSELF: Everything You Need to Know About Braces

That metal-mouth smile you see on your classmate, your favourite TikToker, or maybe even in your own bathroom mirror soon. Braces have come a long way from being something to be shy about. These days they're practically a rite of passage, and for a lot of teens, they're even a whole fashion statement. But what exactly are braces, why do people get them, and what does the journey actually look like? Let's break it down.



So, What Are Braces?

Braces are a dental device made up of brackets (small squares glued onto your teeth), wires, and tiny elastic bands that work together to slowly move your teeth into better positions. Think of them as a gentle, constant nudge. Over months and years, that steady pressure reshapes your smile and the way your jaw fits together.

What Do Braces Actually Fix?

Braces do much more than straighten your smile. They help correct crooked or crowded teeth, close gaps, fix bite problems such as overbites, underbites and crossbites, and improve jaw alignment. These corrections not only enhance your appearance but also make it easier to chew, speak, and maintain good oral hygiene.

Where Do You Get Braces?

In South Africa, braces are fitted by a qualified orthodontist, a dentist who specialises in correcting teeth and jaw alignment. The process usually begins with a visit to your regular dentist, who may refer you to an orthodontist. After an assessment using X-rays, photos and dental moulds, the orthodontist will create a personalised treatment plan, fit your braces, and schedule regular check-ups every four to six weeks to monitor your progress and make adjustments.

How Long Do You Have to Wear Them?

This really depends on your individual case, but most people wear braces for between 18 months and 3 years. Simpler cases might be quicker, while more complex jaw issues can take longer. Your orthodontist will give you a realistic timeline once they've assessed your teeth, and yes, it can feel like forever, but the results are worth the wait.

After the Braces Come Off: Retainers
Getting your braces off is a huge moment, but the journey doesn't stop there. Enter the retainer, a device that holds your teeth in their new position while your gums and bone settle around them.



Skipping your retainer is one of the biggest regrets people have after braces, teeth can slowly shift back to where they started if you don't wear it as instructed. Think of your retainer as the guardian of all the hard work your braces just did.

How Much Do Braces Cost?

The cost of braces in South Africa depends on the type of braces you choose and how complex your treatment is. Traditional metal braces typically cost between R25,000 and R40,000, while ceramic braces can range from R35,000 to R50,000. Clear aligners, such as Invisalign, are usually the most expensive option, costing between R45,000 and R60,000 or more.

Braces might feel like a big commitment, but they're an investment in your smile, your confidence, and your oral health that lasts a lifetime. Whether you're metal-mouthed and proud, rocking clear aligners, or counting down the days to your retainer, remember: every tightened wire is one step closer to the smile you'll be flashing for years to come.

SIZA! Ngifunda umatikuletsheni!



Sekuyileso sikhathi sonyaka lapho ususondele khona ekugcineni. Izinsuku ziya ngokuba mfishane kanti nokubala izinsuku sekuqalile. Selidumela emasumpeni! Yize izinto zibucayi, kubalulekile ukuba ungatatazeli. Ukutatazela kulesi sigaba kuzokwenza udideke kakhulu. Ngakho-ke, nawa amasu nemihlahlandlela ezokusiza uqhubekele phambili.

Phefumula! Yebo, umatikuletsheni unzima futhi unomthelela omkhulu empilweni yakho kodwa kubalulekile ukuhlela kancane ubheke ukuthi ume kuphi njengamanje futhi uhlelele izinyanga ezizayo.

Yiba neqiniso. Sisakhona isikhathi sokuthuthukisa amamaki akho kodwa yiba neqiniso ngezifiso zakho nalokho okulindele. Amamaki akho ngeke asuke ku-F aye ku-A+ ngomlingo kodwa ungaphokophelela okungcono ube ucabanga ngamakhono akho namamaki akho angaphambili.

Yenza okuhambisana nawe! Kulula ukuzithola ulahleka esiphithiphithini ugcine usuwenza okwenziwa yiwo wonke

umuntu. Kufanele uthole izinto ezisebenzela wena. Abanye abantu bafunda bedlala umculo, abanye bafunda kuthulekile. Abanye basebenza kangcono ngabodwana kunokusebenza nabanye abantu, abanye bafunda kangcono ebusuku kanti abanye bafunda kangcono ekuseni. Yenza lokho okukusebenzela kangcono ukuze uphumelele.

Phumula. Ngizazi lokhu kuzwakala kunzima ngoba ubona ngathi awunaso isikhathi. Ukuphumula kubalulekile ngoba kukulungiselela umsebenzi osakuhlalele. Thatha isithongwane, dlala umdlalo wekhompyutha, welule izinyawo - noma yini ezophumuza umqondo nomzimba. Ayikho into embi ukwedlula ukufunda ubusuku bonke bese uyazumeza phakathi nesivivinyo.

Yehlisa ukuphuza ama-energy drink. Siyazi, ukhathele futhi udinga amandla athe xaxa. Ukuphuza i-energy drink kanye emva kwesikhathi eside kulungile kodwa qinisekisa ukuthi awuphili ngawo ngoba awawulungele umzimba wakho.

Ungakhohlwa ukubhalisa emanyuvesi. Khumbula ukubhalisa ngaphambi kokuba kuvalwe.

Ungakhohlwa ukuzijabulisa. Kukho konke okwenzekayo, ungakhohlwa ukwenza isikhathi sokuzijabulisa nabangane nomndeni. Noma ngabe wenza umdanso omusha waku-TikTok noma uya ezitolo, yenza okuthile okungahlangene nomsebenzi wesikole ukuze uzizwe kangcono.

Umatikuletsheni unzima, kodwa owesikhashana. Ezinyangeni ezimbalwa ezizayo, konke kuzobe sekudlulile. Thatha izinto kancane kancane. Usuhambe waze wafika lapha, uzophumelela!

Imingcele:

Fundisa Abantu Ukuthi Bakuphathe Kanjani



Elinye lamaphutha amakhulu esiwenzayo ukulindela abantu ukuba bazi ukuthi basiphathe kanjani. Sicabanga ukuthi kusobala kanti isikhathi esiningi, kufanele sibatshele. Imingcele imithetho ozibekela yona - okwamukelayo, ongakwamukeli kanye nezimiso zakho. Uma ungayicacisi leyo mithetho, abantu bazoyephula, kwesinye isikhathi benganakile. Kanti kwesinye isikhathi bazosizakala ngokuthi awushongo lutho.

Uma ungayivikeli imingcele yakho, uzwa emzimbeni ngaphambi kokuba wazi ukuthi konakelephi. Imizwa yenzondo, ukukhathala ukushintsha ngoba ufuna ukugcina ukuthula, umzwangedwa ongajwayelekile wokuphila nabantu abangakwazi kahle ngoba awubatshele ukuthi uzizwa kanjani.

Ukuba nomusa nokwamukela izimo kuhle kodwa hhayi uma kuzokwephuca ukuthula kwakho, ukuzihlonipha noma ubuwena.

Ukubeka umngcele akusho ukuthi uyalwa, kusho ukuba neqiniso, ukuhlala uzolile nokuqonda lokho okushoyo. Khuluma ngokucacile futhi ungaxolisi. Awukweleti muntu incazelo ende ngezidingo zakho.

Sebenzisa u-“mina” kuno-“wena”, kugcina inkulumbo iqondile futhi ingenazinsolo. Uma umuntu ekulwisa, uvumelekile ukuma ephuzwini lakho, ukungaphatheki kahle kwakhe akusho ukuthi wonile.

U-cha uwodwa ungumusho ophелеle, akuphoqi ukuba ulandelwe isizathu.

Uma uzijwayeza ukusho lezi zinto, zizoyeka ukuzwakala njengokulwa, zizogcina sezizwakala njengeqiniso.

Nansi imisho ongazijwayeza yona ngokuyiphimisa, ingangajwayeleka uma usaqala kodwa qhubeka uyisho.

- “Angikhululekile ngalokho.”
- “Cha, ngiyabonga.”
- “Lokho akungisebenzeli.”
- “Ngidinga isikhathi sokucabanga ngakho.”
- “Ngicela ungakhulumi nami kanjalo.”
- “Ngiyaluhlonipha uvo lwakho kodwa ngiyaphikisana nalo.”
- “Ngikhetha okungisebenzelayo.”

- “Ngingakujabulela ukusiza, kodwa ngeke ngikwazi namhlanje.”
- “Imizwa yami ibalulekile nayo.”

Abantu abakukhathalelayo ngempela bazoshintsha. Kungenzeka bangayithandi yonke imingcele oyibekayo kodwa bazoyihlonipha. Abangakwenzi lokho, uzobazi ukuthi bamiphi. Ukubeka imingcele akukho mayelana nokuqhelisa abantu, kumayelana nokuvula isikhala sezinto ezibalulekile: isikhathi sakho, izimiso zakho, impilonhle yakho, injabulo yakho. Indlela abantu abakuphatha ngayo yenziwa imigomo ozibekela yona. Yilapho kuqala khona.



AI BEYOND HOMEWORK

AI Tools You Can Actually Have Fun With!

When most people think about AI, they think about using it to finish homework or write an essay. AI can do so much more. Today, it can help you make music, create videos, design artwork, learn new skills and even start a small business. You don't need expensive equipment or years of experience, just your imagination.



ChatGPT: A general-purpose AI assistant. Good for explaining school subjects, brainstorming, writing speeches, practising for interviews, or planning a study timetable.



Grammarly: Checks spelling, grammar, and tone in your writing. Useful for emails, essays, and CVs.



Suno: Turns a text description into a full song, with vocals and instruments, in under a minute. Type something like "upbeat amapiano song about finishing exams" and it builds the track. Useful for musicians, content creators, or school projects.



ElevenLabs: Creates realistic AI voice-overs. Useful for YouTube videos, podcasts, or presentations.



Base44: Builds websites and apps from a plain description, no coding needed. You explain what you want, and it handles the layout, backend, and hosting. A few teens are already using tools like this to launch their first small business idea.



GitHub Copilot: Helps programmers write code faster, and explains what the code is doing as it goes. Useful if you're learning to code.



Nano Banana: An image generator for realistic pictures, cartoon characters, posters, and social graphics, made just by describing what you want. Useful for design, presentations, and marketing.



Notion AI: Helps you plan assignments, take notes, organise projects, and manage goals in one place.



Canva Magic Studio: Canva's AI tools inside the design platform most teens already use. Designs posters, removes backgrounds, generates images, writes presentation content, and edits video.

AI is powerful, but it should be used wisely. Always check important facts, respect copyright rules and never use AI to copy someone else's work or create fake content that could harm others. Use AI to support your creativity, not replace your own ideas.



Real Places That Look Like They're From Another Planet



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

1. SALAR DE UYUNI - BOLIVIA

The world's largest salt flat transforms into the biggest natural mirror on Earth after it rains. The sky reflects so perfectly that it becomes almost impossible to tell where the ground ends and the sky begins.

Did you know? It covers more than 10,000 km².

2. THE "DOOR TO HELL" - TURKMENISTAN

A giant crater has been burning continuously for over 50 years.

Scientists accidentally created it in 1971 while drilling for natural gas. They set it on fire expecting it to burn out in a few days—but it's still burning today.

3. LAKE HILLIER - AUSTRALIA

This lake is naturally bright pink.

Even when you scoop the water into a bottle, it stays pink! Scientists believe tiny microorganisms and algae are responsible for its unusual colour.

4. WAITOMO GLOWWORM CAVES - NEW ZEALAND

Thousands of tiny glowworms light up the cave ceiling, making it look like a sky full of stars. Visitors travel through the caves by boat beneath this magical blue glow.

5. SOCOTRA ISLAND - YEMEN

This island is home to plants found almost nowhere else on Earth.

Its famous Dragon's Blood Trees look like giant upside-down umbrellas, making the landscape resemble an alien planet.

6. ZHANGJIAJIE NATIONAL FOREST - CHINA

Massive sandstone pillars rise high into the clouds. These incredible rock formations inspired the floating mountains in the movie Avatar.

7. FLY GEYSER - NEVADA, USA

This colourful geyser wasn't created by nature alone. It formed after a well was accidentally drilled, and over time, colourful minerals created a rainbow-like landscape.

8. MARBLE CAVES - CHILE

These caves have smooth blue marble walls carved by water over thousands of years. The colour changes depending on the sunlight and the season.



Photo Credit: Bafana Bafana Facebook Page

MORE THAN FOOTBALL: Lessons We Can Learn from Bafana Bafana

Bafana Bafana may not have lifted the FIFA World Cup trophy, but they won something just as important, the respect and admiration of millions of South Africans. By reaching the knockout stage for the first time in our history, they showed what can happen when a team refuses to give up.

Against Canada in the Round of 32, South Africa faced one of the tournament's strongest teams. Canada had more possession (58%), twice as many shots (12 compared to 6) and kept the pressure on for most of the match. Yet Bafana Bafana defended with courage and determination, refusing to give in.

Success doesn't always mean lifting a trophy. Sometimes success is about proving to yourself and to the world that you belong on the biggest stage. Every training session, every setback and every difficult match prepared this team for a moment that inspired an entire nation.

Their journey reminds us that determination, discipline and hard work matter. There will always be obstacles and disappointments, but those who keep believing and keep working are the ones who make history. Bafana Bafana could have accepted being underdogs. Instead, they fought for every ball, every tackle and every minute.

They also reminded us why national pride is so important. For a few weeks, South Africans from every race, language and background stood together behind one team. We celebrated together, we believed together and, even in defeat, we stood together. Moments like these remind us that our greatest strength is our unity.

To every player, coach and member of the support staff: thank you for wearing the South African badge with pride. You represented the country with courage, humility and determination. You gave young people someone to believe in and showed that South Africans can compete with the very best.

Well done, Bafana Bafana! You may not have brought the trophy home, but you brought something just as valuable: hope.. You reminded us that dreams are worth chasing, that hard work pays off, and that no matter the final score, a nation that never gives up can always hold its head high.

Bafana Bafana WORLD CUP 2026 memes.

Thank you, South Africa. You gave us some of the best memes of this World Cup so far 🙏



Rajeev
@Raj_Tha_King

Bafana Bafana after they qualified from the group



Twilight 🌟
@the_marcoiboy

He has more teeth than South Africa's goals at the World Cup 🦷



Matric Dance

Drip Check

Yoh, Class of 2026... you definitely understood the assignment! From clean suits to stunning gowns, the drip was on another level. Here are some of our favourite Matric Dance looks from schools across KZN. Big vibes, unforgettable memories, and fits that deserve their own spotlight.



Precious Ngcobo
Inanda Seminary



The gents - Mgezeni
Technical School



Siphokazi Dlamini
St Henry's Marist College



Bongumenzi Mkhize
Umlazi Comtech High School



Sisa Ngongoma
Pinetown Girls' High School



Sanelisiwe Mkhungo
Grosvenor Girls' High School



Wamkelwe Mdletshe
Hoërskool Richardsbaai



Angel Bungane
Grosvenor Girls' High School

Want Your Matric Dance Look Featured?

Send us your best high-quality Matric Dance photos for a chance to appear in the next issue of Ulwazi Magazine and on our social media pages. Include your full name, school, grade and contact details. Send your best Matric Dance pics to: info@ulwazimag.co.za or WhatsApp 084 231 4317. Don't forget to include your full name and school name.

Matric Dance Checklist: Start Planning Early for a Stress-Free Night



Whether you're in matric this year or your matric dance is still a few years away, it's never too early to start planning. A little preparation can make the experience far less stressful and help you avoid last-minute expenses.

One of the most important things to remember is to be realistic about your family's budget. Your matric dance is a special milestone, but it doesn't have to leave your parents under financial pressure. A memorable evening isn't about spending the most money—it's about celebrating with friends and creating lasting memories.

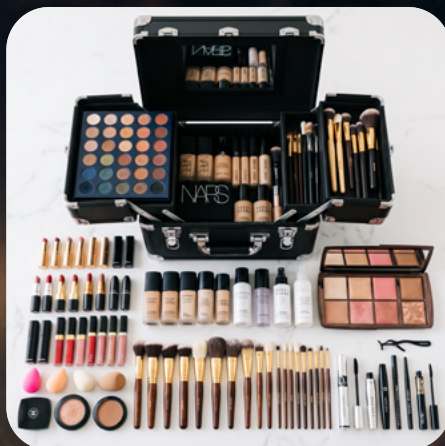
Your Matric Dance Planning Checklist

Set a Budget

Before booking or buying anything, have an honest conversation with your parents or guardians about what they are comfortable spending. Knowing your budget from the start will help you make smarter decisions and avoid disappointment later.

Choose Your Outfit

Whether you're buying or hiring a dress or suit, start shopping early. This gives you more options, better prices, and enough time for any alterations if needed.



Hair and Makeup

Book your hairstylist and makeup artist well in advance, especially if your matric dance falls during a busy season. If you're doing your own makeup, practise your look beforehand so you're confident on the day.

Shoes and Accessories

Don't forget the finishing touches. Shoes, jewellery, handbags, ties, cufflinks, belts, and other accessories should complement your outfit. Make sure your shoes are comfortable enough to wear for the evening.

Transportation

Decide how you'll be getting to and from the venue. Whether it's a family car, limousine, classic car, or a lift with friends, book early if you need to hire transport.

Your Date

If you're planning to take a date, ask them well in advance. Discuss outfits, transport, and any costs together so everyone knows what to expect.

Beauty Appointments

If you plan on getting your nails, eyebrows, lashes, haircut, or grooming done professionally, schedule these appointments ahead of time. Beauty salons often get fully booked during matric dance season.



Photos

Think about where you'd like to take your photos before heading to the venue. Many families arrange a photo session at home, a park, or another scenic location before the event.

Confirm Everything

A week before the dance, double-check all your bookings, appointments, transport arrangements, and collection times for hired items. Having everything confirmed will give you peace of mind. Start planning early, spend wisely, and make it a night you'll always remember.

HA
HA



LOL

Funny Corner

Why don't skeletons fight each other?

Because they don't have the guts.

Why did the maths book look so sad?

Because it had too many problems.

Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself?

Because it was two-tired!

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

Nacho cheese!

Why did the student eat his homework?

Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake!

What do you call a fish wearing a bowtie?

Sofishticated!

Why did the scarecrow win an award?

Because he was outstanding in his field.

Why don't eggs tell jokes?

They'd crack each other up.

What did one wall say to the other wall?

I'll meet you at the corner!

Why can't your nose be 30 cm long?

Because then it would be a foot!



Let's be honest, we all know a Bobby.

He's that friendly dog from ekasi who seems to belong to everyone and no one at the same time. You'll spot him chilling outside the spaza shop, following kids home from school, taking an afternoon nap in the middle of the street, or somehow turning up at every braai and soccer match. Bobby knows the whole neighbourhood, and the whole neighbourhood knows Bobby! But did you know that South Africa is home to some incredible dog breeds with fascinating stories? From powerful protectors and fearless farm dogs to one of Africa's oldest indigenous breeds, there's a whole world of dogs beyond the famous township Bobby. So, while Bobby will always be a local legend, let's meet other cute and furry dog breeds.



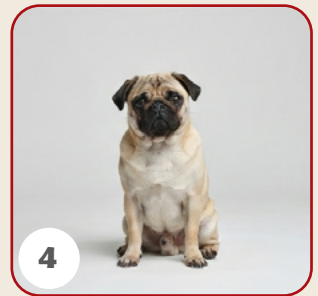
1. Africanis: Intelligent, loyal, healthy and highly adaptable. The Africanis developed naturally over thousands of years and is one of Africa's oldest landrace dogs.



2. Boerboel: Powerful guardian and family protector. Despite its size, a well-trained Boerboel is known for being calm and affectionate with its family.



3. Basenji: Quiet, energetic and intelligent. Often called the "barkless dog," the Basenji makes unique yodelling sounds instead of barking.



4. Pug: Playful, affectionate and full of personality. Pugs were once the favourite companions of Chinese emperors and are famous for their wrinkled faces and curly tails.



5. Pit Bull: Strong, energetic and loyal. With proper training and socialisation, Pit Bulls can be gentle, loving family dogs and often excel in dog sports.

6. Chihuahua: Tiny, alert and confident. The Chihuahua is one of the world's smallest dog breeds but has a surprisingly big personality.

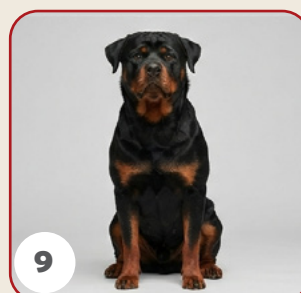
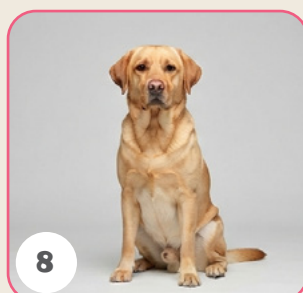


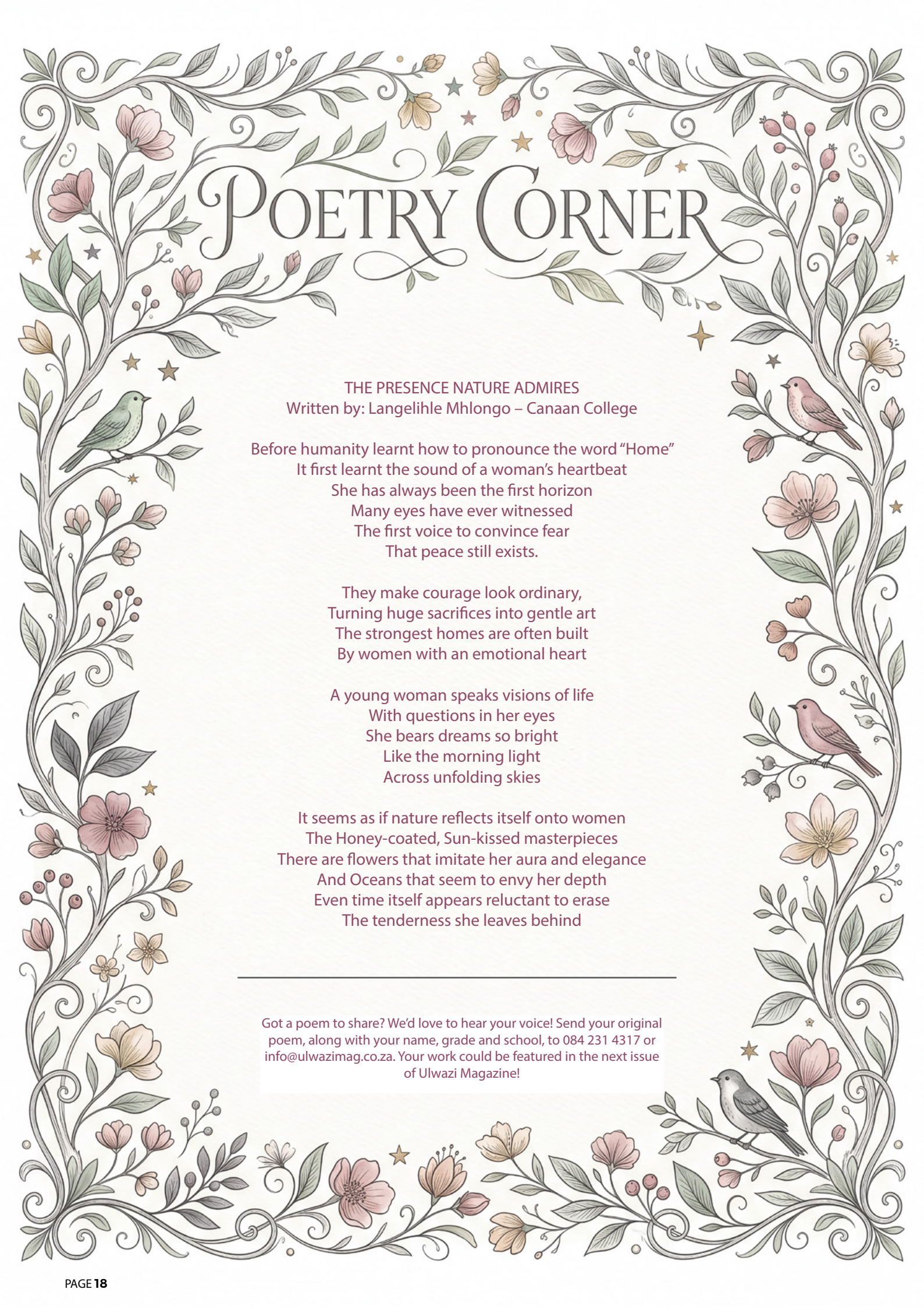
7. German Shepherd: Intelligent, courageous and highly trainable. German Shepherds are widely used as police, military, search-and-rescue and guide dogs around the world.

8. Labrador Retriever: Friendly, gentle and eager to please. Labradors are one of the world's most popular family dogs and are often trained as guide and therapy dogs.

9. Rottweiler: Loyal, protective and confident. Originally bred to herd cattle, Rottweilers are now popular as family guardians and working dogs.

10. Pomeranian: Fluffy, lively and intelligent. Despite weighing only a few kilograms, Pomeranians descended from much larger sled dogs from the Arctic.





POETRY CORNER

THE PRESENCE NATURE ADMIRES
Written by: Langelihle Mhlongo – Canaan College

Before humanity learnt how to pronounce the word "Home"
It first learnt the sound of a woman's heartbeat
She has always been the first horizon
Many eyes have ever witnessed
The first voice to convince fear
That peace still exists.

They make courage look ordinary,
Turning huge sacrifices into gentle art
The strongest homes are often built
By women with an emotional heart

A young woman speaks visions of life
With questions in her eyes
She bears dreams so bright
Like the morning light
Across unfolding skies

It seems as if nature reflects itself onto women
The Honey-coated, Sun-kissed masterpieces
There are flowers that imitate her aura and elegance
And Oceans that seem to envy her depth
Even time itself appears reluctant to erase
The tenderness she leaves behind

Got a poem to share? We'd love to hear your voice! Send your original poem, along with your name, grade and school, to 084 231 4317 or info@ulwazimag.co.za. Your work could be featured in the next issue of Ulwazi Magazine!

FRESH CUT.

FRESH CONFIDENCE

Ukubukeka kahle akugcini emantombazaneni kuphela. Nabo abafana bangakwazi ukugqama ngezinwele ezinhle. Kungaba i-fade ehlanzekile, ama-twist, ama-braids, ama-curls noma i-afro enhle egcwele, izinwele zakho ziyingxenywe yesitayela sakho nobuwena.

Nakuba amaholide esabonakala ekude, azofika ngokushesha. Okwamanje, bekezela uvumele izinwele zakho zikhule. Uma amaholide efika, uzoba nezitayela ezintsha ongakhetha kuzo.

Ukwenza izinwele akukuguquuli ube omunye umuntu, kodwa kungakunika ukuzethemba futhi kukusize uveze isitayela sakho. Ngakho-ke, khulisa izinwele zakho, ujabulele ukuzama izitayela ezahlukene, futhi uzenze lezi zitayela ngokuzethemba. Ukwenza izinwele kuhlale kukwenza ubukeke kahle.



YIQINISO NOMA AMANGA

Yimuphi umusho ONGELONA IQINISO?

A. Amabhele ohlobo lwama-Koala alala amahora afinyelela ku-20 ngosuku.
B. Ama-octopus anezinhliziyi ezintathu.
C. Ama-penguin akwazi ukundiza amabanga amafushane.
D. Isibalo samathambo entamo yendlumathi silingana nawomuntu.

A. Ilanga liyinkanyezi.
B. I-Venus iyashisa kune-Mercury.
C. Inyanga izikhiqizela okwayo ukukhanya.
D. I-Saturn inezindilinga.

A. INingizimu Afrika inezilimi ezingu-11 ezisemthethweni.
B. I-Table Mountain ingenye yezintaba ezindala kunazo zonke emhlabeni.
C. INingizimu Afrika inezinhlokodolobha ezintathu.
D. I-Springbok yisilwane sezwe iNingizimu Afrika.

A. Uju aluboli.
B. Ubhanana uyijikijolo.
C. Ushokoleli ukhula ezihlahleni.
D. Amakinati akhula ezihlahleni.

A. Ibhola lezinyawo lidlalwa ngebhola eliyindilinga.
B. I-try ebholeni lombhoxo ingamaphuzu amahlanu.
C. Imidlalo ye-cricket ingathatha izinsuku ezinhlanu.
D. Amaqembu e-basketball anabadlali abayisithupha enkundleni.

A. Isikhumba siyisitho somzimba esikhulu kunazo zonke.
B. Abantu banamaphaphu amahlanu.
C. Inhliziyo yomuntu ishaya ka-100 000 ngosuku.
D. Izingane zinathambo amaningi kunabantu abadala.

A. Amafilimu opopayi angathatha iminyaka ukuwenza.
B. Ukuqhuma okuningi kumafilimu kwenziwa nge-CGI.
C. Zonke izigaba zefilimu zishuthwa ngendlela ezilandelana ngayo uma ebukwa.
D. Abalingisi bavame ukushutha izingxenye zefilimu kaningi.

A. I-unicorn isilwane sezwe i-Scotland.
B. Indle yama-wombat imise okwezikwele.
C. I-ostrich iyalihlula ihhashi ngejubane emabangeni amafushane.
D. Izingwenya ziyakwazi ukukhipha ulimi ngaphandle.

Impendulo: C – Ama-penguin awakwazi ukundiza.

Impendulo: C – Inyanga ikhombisa ukukhanya kwelanga.

Impendulo: A – INingizimu Afrika inezilimi ezingu-12 ezisemthethweni uma sibala i-South African Sign Language eyafakwa emthethweni ngo-2023.

Impendulo: D – Amakinati akhula ngaphansi komhlaba.

Impendulo: D – Amaqembu e-basketball anabadlali abahlanu enkundleni.

Impendulo: B – Abantu banamaphaphu amabili.

Impendulo: C – Amafilimu awavamile ukushuthwa ngendlela avela ngayo uma siwabuka.

Impendulo: D – Izingwenya azikwazi ukukhipha ulimi ngaphandle.

IQINISO

AMANGA

MATCH THE SLANG

HOW WELL DO YOU SPEAK GEN Z?
Match the slang to its meaning, write down your answers and check your total score below.

SLANG	MEANING
1. Delulu	A. Suspicious
2. Rizz	B. Cool vibe or presence
3. Mid	C. Average or disappointing
4. Low-key	D. Unrealistic or delusional
5. Ghosting	E. Openly or strongly
6. Sus	F. Attractive charm
7. Cooked	G. Stopped replying without explanation
8. NPC	H. Quietly or secretly
9. Aura	I. Completely finished or in trouble
10. High-key	J. Someone who follows the crowd

Your Score

0-3 correct
Boomer Energy! Time to spend less time with adults and more time on TikTok (or ask your younger cousin for help!).

4-6 correct

You're Getting There. You know some slang, but Gen Z changes the rules every week!

7-9 correct

Certified Gen Z. You speak the language and know what's trending.

10/10 correct

Slang Legend! Your rizz is high, your aura is strong, and you're definitely not delulu... or are you?

Answers
1-D, 2-F, 3-C, 4-H, 5-G, 6-A, 7-I, 8-J, 9-B, 10-E

THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU FINISH SCHOOL

YOUR ULTIMATE TEEN BUCKET LIST:

Have you ever heard someone say, “It’s on my bucket list”? A bucket list is a collection of dreams, goals and experiences you want to achieve during your lifetime. It doesn’t have to include skydiving or travelling the world. In fact, some of the best bucket list moments are simple, meaningful and can happen right where you are.



As a teenager, this is the perfect time to step outside your comfort zone, learn new skills and make memories that you’ll talk about for years to come.

Here’s some inspiration to help you create your own bucket list.

Learn Something New

- Cook an entire meal by yourself.
- Speak a few phrases in a new language.
- Master a new computer skill or AI tool.

Give Back

- Volunteer at a community project.
- Donate books or clothes you no longer use.
- Support a local charity.

Build Your Future

- Create your first CV.
- Start a small side hustle.

Challenge Yourself

- Read 12 books in one year.
- Complete a 30-day fitness challenge.

Make Memories

- Write a letter to your future self.
- Watch a live sports match or concert.

Dream Big

- Start writing a book or comic.
- Launch a YouTube channel, podcast or blog.
- Design your own clothing or sneaker.
- Learn basic coding.

Your Bucket List, Your Rules

A bucket list isn’t about showing off on social media or competing with others. It’s about collecting experiences that help you grow, discover who you are and create memories that matter. Some goals might take a few days, while others could take years—and that’s perfectly okay.

The important thing is to keep dreaming, keep learning and keep saying “yes” to opportunities that help you become the best version of yourself.

We’ve created a bucket list just for you on the next page. Fill it in, add your own dreams and stick it somewhere you’ll see it. Dream big. Write it down. Make it happen. Turn the page and start your bucket list!

MY BUCKET LIST

20 things I want to do
before I leave high school

1.

11.

2.

12.

3.

13.

4.

14.

5.

15.

6.

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8.

18.

9.

19.

10.

20.

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OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



WANT TO WORK WITH US?

At ULWAZI Magazine, we're more than just a publication - we're a community. A community of young people who are curious, creative, and passionate about making a difference in the world. So, join us on this journey of discovery and growth, and let's make the most of our teenage years together.

We're constantly updating our content, so be sure to check back regularly for the latest articles and features. And if there's something you want to see more of, let us know! We're always open to feedback and suggestions from our readers.

We also encourage you to get involved in our community. Follow us on social media to join the conversation, share your thoughts, and connect with other teenagers who share your interests. And if you have a story to tell or an idea for an article, we'd love to hear from you!



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