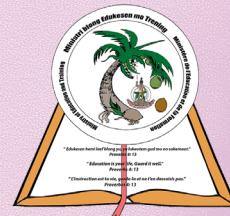
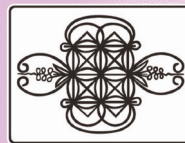


Level 5



# THE SURPRISE LAPLAP

By Lissy Tony

Illustrated by Anamika Gautam









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By Lissy Tony  
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Library For All Ltd.







*Splash! Splash! Splash!*

Nataly sat on some rocks listening to the sea. Tomorrow was her mother's birthday, and she wanted to make a special gift. What would her mum really love?









The sea was at low tide. Nataly got an idea! She would collect some shells for her mother.





Down to the sea she went, excited for  
the big waves crashing against the reef.

*Bang! Bang! Bang!* went the waves,  
crashing on the rocks.













Nataly worked hard, collecting shells from the shore. She kept picking them up, one by one, until her bag was full.





With her bag of shells, she walked back home, following the rough road up the hill. Now, what could she do with all her shells?









When Nataly got home, she saw her mother making dinner. She was working very hard. It smelled so delicious!





Now she knew what to make for  
her mum!





The next day, Nataly told her mum to go outside and sit in the sun. “Today it is my turn to make the food,” she said.









“Hmmm... Yummy! Yummy!” Nataly made a special birthday surprise for her mother: Laplap banana with shells.













The family gathered to enjoy  
the meal together, filled with  
happiness and love.





**You can use these questions  
to talk about this book with  
your family, friends and  
teachers.**



**What does Nataly decide to find for  
her mother?**



**Why did Nataly offer to cook?**

**What were the shells on the dish for?**



**Have you ever made someone food?**



**Plan or draw a present you'd like to  
give to someone for their birthday!**



## About the author

Lissy Tony was born in Port Vila and lives in Farealapa Village, Nguna. She wanted to write a children's story because it was something she hadn't tried before. As a child, her favourite stories were custom stories. Lissy enjoys telling stories to her friends and family, too.





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The Surprise Laplap

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Original illustrations by Anamika Gautam

The Surprise Laplap

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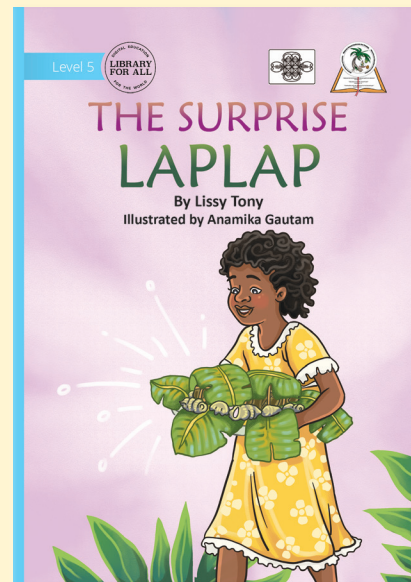






## The Surprise Laplap

Nataly wants to do something special for her mum's birthday. She decides to make her favourite food: laplap. Yum!



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