**Vignette: Dumelang**

It is late in the morning. The conference room has a glass door, and windows covered with blinds. The temperature is mild. The air conditioner is audible in the background and sometimes the footsteps of someone walking by. Eleven early childhood education student educators of different ages and walks-of-life sit in the room big enough for a twelve-seat table and extra chairs. Wendy sits with her colleagues around the table. Sibongile sits across from Wendy. They are seated close to the end of the table. Wendy sits up straight in her chair with her hands pressed in under her legs. The meeting concludes. Some of her colleagues get up and walk to the door to leave the room. Wendy and Sibongile stay seated in conversation. Sarah and Thabo pass behind Wendy towards the door. Sarah stops next to Wendy and bows down. This shortens the distance between them. “Dumelang,” greets Sarah. “Dumelang,” replies Wendy in Sesotho, although it is not her first or second language. It is followed by a short silence before Wendy continues: “Ke teng.” Wendy, Thabo and Sarah laugh. Sarah and Thabo continue to the door. Wendy gets up. She pushes in her chair and leans over the back of the chair to say a few last words to Sibongile before she also exits the room.

*\* Dumelang means “hello” or “good day” in Sesotho; Ke teng means “I am well” in Sesotho*

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