



It starts with a story...

Read in your language!

We all have at least one language that we understand and communicate best in, although some of us may have more! People use different labels for this language – like “mother tongue” or “home language” – but it is the language we learnt first. It’s the language we think and feel in, the one in which it is easiest for us to express ourselves and communicate with others.

From birth, children hear language around them. First they understand it and then they start to use it themselves. In fact, by the time they are five years old, children’s brilliant young brains have helped them learn how to think and communicate in their home language. They do still need plenty of opportunities to hear and use their language so that they know it well enough to learn increasingly difficult concepts and skills.

Being read to in your own language should not be considered a nice optional extra for children. It is really an essential and powerful part of learning language and developing literacy. When you read regularly to children in their home language/s, you give them a strong language foundation that makes all learning easier.

If you don’t understand what you are reading, then you are not really reading – no matter how well you can say the words on the page! So, because understanding is at the heart of reading, children need to listen to stories being read in their home language. They can then concentrate completely on the flow of the story instead of struggling to understand a language they don’t know well yet.

Good stories are full of creative language that stimulates our imaginations and gets us thinking about how to solve problems. Authors carefully pick words and phrases that unlock the worlds they are creating for their readers. Like a hearty soup provides goodness to nourish our bodies, reading great stories provides goodness to nourish our minds. They inspire children to read in their home language and then, later on, to learn to read stories in other languages too.

Funda ngolwimi lwakho!

Sonke sinolwimi esilugqondayo olunye ubuncinane nolulolona siluthetha kakuhle, nangona abanye bethu banganeelwimi ezininzi kunoko! Abantu balubiza ngeendlela ezininzi olo lwimi – “njengolwimi lwenkobe” okanye “ulwimi lwasekhaya” – kodwa lulwimi esiqala ngalo ukulufunda. Lulwimi esicinga ngalo nesivakalelwa ngalo, olona sikuva kulula ukuvakalisa izimvo zethu ngalo nokunxibelelana ngalo nabanye abantu.

Ukusukela ekuzalweni, abantwana beva ulwimi kuyo yonke indawo abakuyo. Kuqala bathi bazame ukululandela ze baqalise ke nabo ukulusebenzisa. Kunjalo nje, bathi xa befikelela kwiminyaka emihlanu, zibe iingqondo zabo ezincinane nezikrelekrele sele zibancede bafunda iindlela zokucinga nokunxibelelana ngolwimi lwasekhaya lwabo. Kodwa ke, babe besadinga amathuba amaninzi kakhulu okuva nokusebenzisa ulwimi lwabo ukuze balwazi ngokwaneleyo khon’ ukuze bafunde iingqikelelo nezakhono ezihamba zibe qatha.

Ukufundelwa ngolwimi lwakho akumele kube yenye nje yezinto ezimnandi ezinokukhethwa ukwenzelwa abantwana. Eneneni le yinxalenye ebalulekileyo nenamandla yokufunda ulwimi nokuphuhlisa ilitheresi. Xa ufundela abantwana rhoqo ngolwimi/ngeelwimi zasekhaya, ubanika isiseko esilugqilima solwimi esiya kwenza konke ukufunda kube lula.

Ukuba awukuqondi okufundayo, eneneni awufundi – nokuba ungawabiza kakuhle kangakanani na amagama akwelo phepha! Ngoko ke, ngenxa yokuba ukuqonda ngundoqo wokufunda, abantwana kufuneka baphulaphule amabali abawafundelwa ngolwimi lwasekhaya. Ngoko ke baya kukwazi ukuzikisa iingqondo zabo ebumnandini bebali endaweni yokusokola bezama ukulandela ulwimi abangekwazi kakuhle.

Amabali angawo ngazele bubuciko bolwimi obuvuselela ingqikelelo nemifanekiso-ngqondweni buze busenze sicinge ngeendlela zokusombulula iingxaki. Ababhali bakhetha ngobunono amagama namabinzana abathi bawasebenzisele ukuvula iingcango zehlabathi abalakhela abafundi babo. Njengoncuthu lwesuphu eyondla neyakha imizimba yethu, ukufunda uncuthu lwamabali kwakha ze kondle iingqondo zethu. Athi avuselele abantwana ukuba bafunde ngolwimi lwasekhaya lwabo, ukuze emva koko, bafunde ukufunda amabali nangezinye iilwimi.

International Mother Tongue Day is celebrated across the world on 21 February every year. Share a story or two with your children on this day using your mother tongue!

USuku loLwimi lwaseKhaya lwaMazwe ngaMazwe lubhiyozelwa kwihlabathi jikelele rhoqo ngonyaka, ngomhla wama-21 kweyoMdumba. Ngolu suku, yabelana ngebali okanye amabali amabini nabantwana bakho usebenzisa ulwimi lwasekhaya!



Drive your imagination

Read to me. In my language.
Ndifundele. Ngolwimi lwam.





Your story

Here is a praise poem originally written in isiXhosa. It is about a pet dog. Enjoy!

Qumezakhe, I am proud of you!

You have long and wide ears
With a long tail.
You are black
Like a night without the moon
Your name is Qumezakhe.
You have fluffy hair.

I'm proud of you.
You are cuddly.
When you walk, you prance
You never disappoint when you are hunting:
Even the jackal's cunning tricks
Do not succeed with you!
You recognise my voice as you approach our homestead.

You help with my father's livestock:
When the goats head off for the fields,
I call you only once, "Qumezakhe, after them!"
You run fast
To round them up.
I am very proud of my dog.

Chuma Sitofu, 9 years, Ihobe Intermediate School, Bloemfontein
This poem was written in isiXhosa and then translated into English.

"Good books acknowledge our existence. They allow us to say what we cannot and give us a feeling of control over our lives. Good books can make you feel better."
Righardt le Roux,
Westonaria
Library Services



Ibali lakho

Nanku umbongo obhalwe ngesiXhosa. Umalunga nenja esisilo-qabane. Zonwabise ngawo!

Qumezakhe, ndiyazingca ngawe!

Yintw' endleb' ezibhakubhaku,
Etsho ngomsila omde.
Ebala limnyama ngathi bubusuku
Obungenanyanga.
Egam' elinguQumezakhe.
Yintw' enoboya obufukufuku.

Ndiyazingca ngenja yam.
Libukubuku, xa ihamba iyanyantsula.
Ayisoze ikuphoxe xa uyokuzingela nayo.
Ndiitsho namaqhinga kadyakalashé,
Awathathi nto kweli qhawe.
Indiva ngelizwi ndisathi gqi entla komzi.

Iluncedo kwimfuyo kabawo,
Xa iibhokwe zisiya emasimini,
Ukhwaza kube kanye,
"Qumezakhe, kubo!" Ibaleke kakhulu,
Izirhawule zibuyele ekhaya.
Ndinebhongo kakhulu ngenja yam.

Ubhalwe nguChuma Sitofu, one-9 leminyaka,
weSikolo samaBanga aPhakathi iHobe, eBloemfontein



"Iincwadi ezimnandi zingqina ubukho bethu. Zisivumela ukuba sithethe ngesingakwaziyo ukukuthetha kwaye zisenza sizive sinolawulo lobomi bethu. Iincwadi ezimnandi zingakwenza uzive ngcono."
nguRighardt le Roux,
weWestonaria Library
Services

Do you enjoy writing and drawing? Are you an adult who writes for children? Or, are you a child who enjoys writing poems or stories, or drawing pictures and then writing about them? We'd love to see what you've been doing! If you send us your writing and pictures, you stand a chance of having them published in the Nal'ibali supplement, or on the Nal'ibali website. Remember: it has to be all your own work!

Send your writing and pictures to: info@nalibali.co.za or PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.

Ingaba uyakuthanda ukubhala nokuzoba? Ingaba ungumntu omdala obhalela abantwana? Okanye, ingaba ungumntwana othanda ukubhala imibongo okanye amabali, okanye ozoba imifanekiso ze abhale malunga nayo? Singathanda ukukubona oko ubukwenza! Ukuba usithumelela oko ukubhalileyo kunye nemifanekiso, usethubeni lokubona oko kupapashwe kuhlelo lweNal'ibali okanye kwiwebhusayithi yeNal'ibali. Khumbula: kufuneka konke oku ibe ngumsebenzi wakho ncakasana!

Thumela okubhalileyo nemifanekiso yakho kule dilesi: info@nalibali.co.za okanye ku-PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.



Nal'ibali on radio!

Enjoy listening to stories in isiXhosa and in English on Nal'ibali's radio show:

Umhlobo Wenene FM on Monday to Wednesday from 9.30 a.m. to 9.40 a.m.

SAfm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.50 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.



UNal'ibali kunomathotholo!

Yonwabela ukuphulaphula amabali ngesiXhosa nangesiNgesi kwinkqubo kanomathotholo yeNal'ibali:

Umhlobo Wenene FM ngoMvulo ukuya kuLwesithathu kusasa, ukususela ngo-9.30 ukuya ngo-9.40.

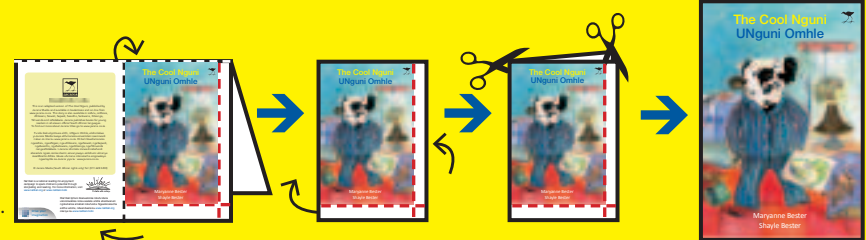
SAfm ngoMvulo, ngoLwesithathu nangoLwesihlanu emini, ukususela ngo-1.50 ukuya ngo-2.00.

Create your own cut-out-and-keep book

1. Take out pages 3 to 6 of this supplement.
2. Fold it in half along the black dotted line.
3. Fold it in half again.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

Zenzele eyakho incwadana onokuyisika-ze-uyigcine

1. Thatha iphepha lesi-3 ukuya kwelesi-6 kolu hlelo.
2. Wasonge esiphakathini kumgca wamachaphaza amnyama.
3. Phinda uwasonge esiphakathini kwakhona.
4. Sika kwimigca yamachaphaza abomvu.





And there is "Sugarbean", skipping in the moonlight. Look at her spots and colours. Isn't that a good name?
 'kananjalo nankuya "uNtunayo", edlala ngqaphu ekhanyiselwe yinyanga. Khangela amachaphaza nemibala yakhe. Awucingi ukuba ligama elihle kusini na eli?'

'Yaye akuphela ngaphandle apha. Khangela nje izikhumba zezizalwane zakho. Zizintlobo ezininzi. Ipatheni nganye nombala ngamnye unegama lawo;
 'khangela, nali "iQonya lomthi weMarula"; khangelisisa kwimigca eyehla ngamagxa alo. Akucingi ukuba lifana nqwa naweQonya elimnyama elityebileyo?'



And that's not all. Just look at the hides of your relatives. There are so many kinds. Each pattern and each colour has its own name;
 'Look, there is "Caterpillars of the Marula Tree". Look closely at the stripes on her shoulders. Don't you think they look like fat black caterpillars?'

Fold

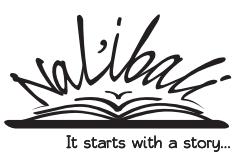
We publish what we like

This is an adapted version of *The Cool Nguni*, published by Jacana Media and available in bookstores and on-line from www.jacana.co.za. This story is also available in isiZulu, isiXhosa, Afrikaans, Siswati, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda and isiNdebele. Jacana publishes books for young readers in all eleven official South African languages. To find out more about Jacana titles go to www.jacana.co.za.

Funda ibali eliyintsusa elithi, *UNguni Omhle*, elishicilelwe yi-Jacana Media kwaye elifumaneka ezivenkileni zeencwadi nakwi on-line ku www.jacana.co.za. Eli bali likwafumaneka ngesiZulu, ngesiNgesi, nge-Afrikaans, ngeSiswati, ngeSepedi, ngeSesotho, ngeSetswana, ngeXitsonga, ngeTshivenda nangesiNdebele. I-Jacana ishicilela iincwadi zabafundi abaselula ngazo zonke iilwimi ezivunyiweyo ezilishumi elinanye zaseMzantsi Afrika. Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha zigcweleyo ngeetayitile ze-Jacana yiya ku: www.jacana.co.za.

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Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi



INal'ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukozonwabisa nokuvuselela umdla ebantwaneni ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda. Ngeenkcukacha ezithe vetshe, ndwendwela ku-www.nalibali.org okanye ku-www.nalibali.mobi



Fold



The Cool Nguni UNguni Omhle

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

'khangela phezulu. khangela kulaa mihlambi kaNguni isesibhakabhakeni. khangela elaa dielo idla kulo le mihlambi, likhanyiswe ngokugqambeleyo. Zininzi inkomo zikaNguni, kangangokuba zinto ezimpuphu zazo zinyathela kuvuleke imingxuma emazulwini, kutshe kuthi gqi inkwenkwezi kuloo mingxuma yazo, zikhanyise isibhakabhaka.'

'Look up. Look up at the Nguni herds of the sky. Look where they graze in the great light. There are so many Nguni cattle that their hooves stamp holes in the heavens and set the sky ablaze with stars.'



Little Nguni Calf was worried. 'I'm not cool enough,' he said to Mama Nguni Cow.

Inkonyane encinane kaNguni yayikhathazekile. 'Andimhle kwaphela,' yatsho kwimazi enguMam' uNguni.

'Ngoku ngubani ela xhego lidiniweyo lihleli esitweni? Kuthiwa "ngukobe". Uze ukhangele embizeni xa uphinda ubllisa umbona uza kukubona oku.'



'Now who is that tired old one resting in his chair? He is called "Boiled Mealie Grains". Look into the pot the next time we cook mealies, and that is what you will see.'

'Ah... Nguni cattle. Star cattle. Strong cattle. ... DESIGNER cattle!' said Mama Nguni Cow.

Nguni Calf smiled.

'COOL NGUNI!' he said.



'Ah... nkomo zikaNguni. Nkomo zeeNkwenkwezi. Nkomo ezinamandla. ... Nkomo EZIHONJISIWEYO!' yatsho le mazi inguMam' uNguni.

Lancuma inkonyane likaNguni.

'WHA NGUNI OMHLE!' livakele lisitsho.



'Those cattle from over the sea – they're cool. The Longhorn cattle from the wild, Wild West. Cowboy cattle. Rodeo cattle. Bucking cattle. YEE-HAH! That's cool!'

'Mmmmm,' said Mama Nguni Cow.



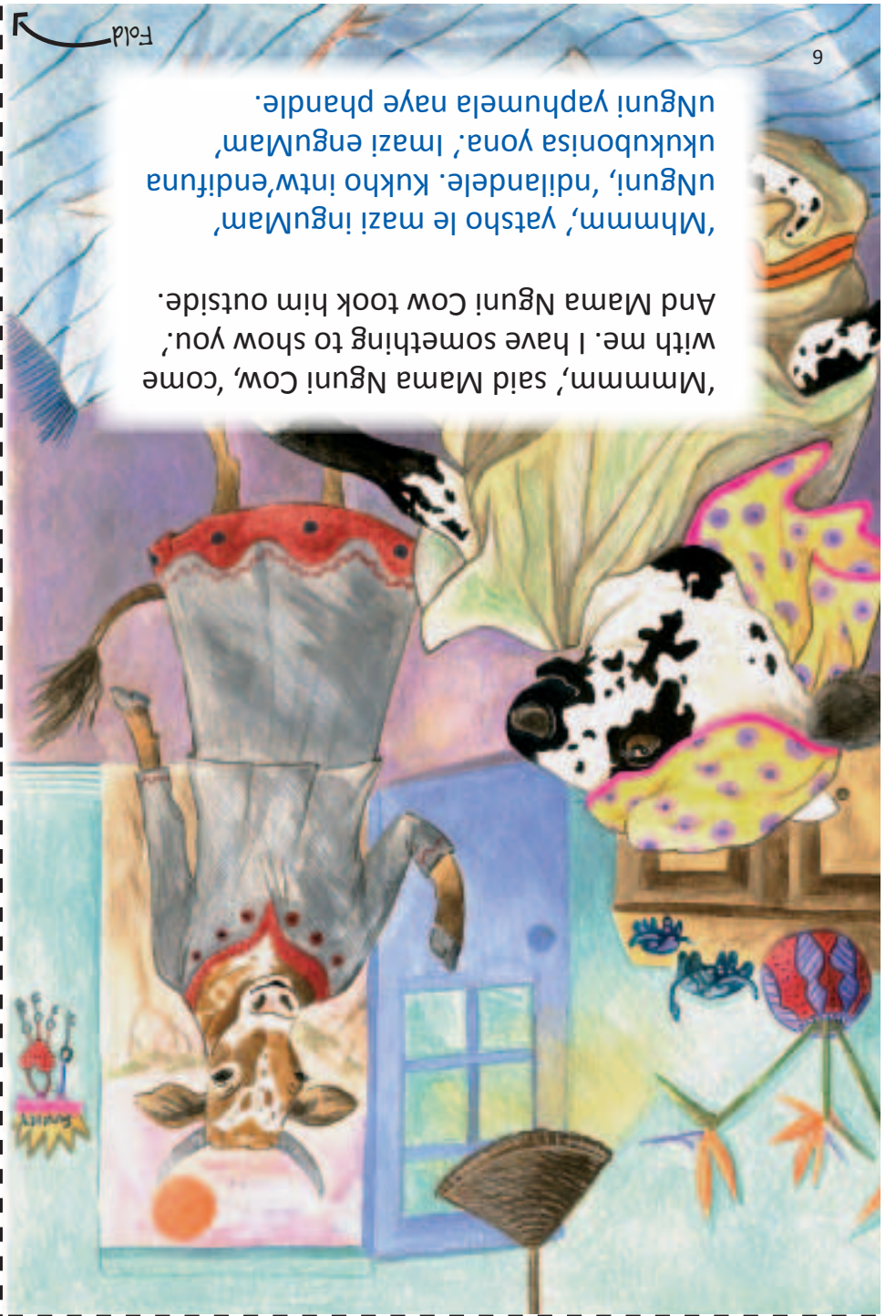
'Ezaa nkomo zathi gqi elwandle zivela phesheya – zona zintle. Zintw'ezimpondo zinde zasendle, endle entshona. Ziinkomo zabelusi. Ziinkomo zogqatso. Ziinkomo zokonwabisa. YEHA-A-A! Zaze zantle!'

'Mhmmm,' yatsho le mazi inguMam' uNguni.

'Khangela lo uzibukabuka esipilini. Ucinga ukuba uyazi ukuba isikhumba sakhe sifana namasi athiwe bhu ziimpukane ngaphezulu? Yena ke kuthiwa "ngumas' aneeMpukane";



'Look at this one admiring himself in the mirror. Do you think he knows that his hide looks like a bowl of sour milk with flies buzzing around it? For he is called "Sour Milk and Flies";



'Mmmmm,' said Mama Nguni Cow, 'come with me. I have something to show you; And Mama Nguni Cow took him outside. 'Mhmmm,' yatsho le mazi inguMam' uNguni, 'ndilandele. Kukho intw'endifuna ukukubonisa yona; Imazi enguMam' uNguni yaphumela naye phandle.

'Ngamabramani iinkomo zaseIndiya. Iinkomo ezisikhumba sigudileyo. Iinkomo ezindlisenkileyo. Iinkomo ezizabula nje. OMMMI! Zaze zantle!' yatsho le nkonyane encinanana kaNguni.

'The Brahman cattle from India. Velvet cattle. Sacred cattle. Street cattle. OMMMI! That's cool!' said Little Nguni Calf.



'The Highland cattle from Scotland. Shaggy cattle. Craggy cattle. OCH-AYE! That's cool!'

'Mmmmm,' said Mama Nguni Cow.



'Ziinkomo ezivela kulaa mhlaba uphakamileyo waseSkotlani. Iinkomo eziboya buvukuvuku. Iinkomo ezinyuka iingxondorha. HO-GA-YI! Zaze zantle!'

'Mhmmm,' yatsho le mazi inguMam' uNguni.



'Now look at you and me. I am "Stones of the Ngoye Forest". You have seen the little stones that lie on the pathways between the trees – see them scattered across my arm!

And you, you are "Gaps Between the Branches". When you rest in the shade of a tree, the sun makes shadows. The gaps between the branches shine brightly and make many interesting shapes. Just look at the shapes on your hide! Aren't you glad we can't wash them off?'



'Ngoku khangele kuwe nakum. "NdinguMaty'eHlathi laseNgoye". Uwabonile la matye mancinanana alaph'endleleni phakathi kwemithi – uyawabona nanga etyalwe ezingalweni zam!'

'Jonga wena, "unguZithuba phakathi kwemithi". Xa uphumle phantsi komthunzi womthi, ilanga lenza izithuba. Izithuba eziphakathi kwamasebe zikhazimla ngokuqaqambileyo kwaye zenza imifanekiso enika umdla. Kha ukhangele nje le mifanekiso ikwesi sakho isikhumba! Awuvuyi njengokuba usazi ukuba asinakuyisusa nokuba singazama ukuyihlamba?'



Get story active!

Here are some activities based on the story, *The Cool Nguni*, for you and your children to try.

As you read the story together

- Make comments and ask open-ended questions that help your children explore the story. For example, after reading page 1, you could say, "I wonder what made Little Nguni Calf think he wasn't cool enough. Can you think what might have happened?"
- Draw your children's attention to the details in the illustrations. For example:
 - talk together about how the cows on pages 3, 4 and 5 look similar in some ways and different in others
 - spend time finding the patterns on the cows on pages 8 to 13 that are described in the words on these pages.

After you have read the story

- Talk together about what it means to be "cool". Ask, "Who decides what is 'cool'? Why do these people get to make this decision? Is that fair?"
- Ask your children to describe some of the things that make them special or "cool". Tell them what you think makes them special.
- Encourage your children to write a list called "10 things that make me cool". Let older children write for themselves – even if they don't always get the spelling and punctuation correct! Help younger children with their lists by writing down the words they tell you. Display your children's list in their bedrooms or on the fridge!



Yenza ibali linike umdla!

Nantsi eminye yemisebenzi esekelwe kwibali elisihloko sithi, *UNguni Omhle*, oyakuthi uyizame kunye nabantwana bakho.

Lo gama nifunda ibali nikunye

- Yenza amagqabantshintshi ze ubuze nemibuzo engenampendulo inye echanekileyo eya kunceda abantwana bakho bachubelane ngebali. Umzekelo, emva kokufunda iphepha loku-1, ungathi, "Kazi ukuba kwakutheni ukuze ithole likaNguni elincinane licinge ukuba alikho lihle. Ucinga ukuba kwenzeka ntoni?"
- Tsalela umdla wabantwana bakho kwiinkcukacha ezisemfanekisweni. Umzekelo;
 - thethani ngendlela iinkomo ezikwiphepha lesi-3, lesi-4 nelesi-5 ezikhangeleka zifana ngayo nendlela ezikhangeleka zohluke ngayo.
 - chithani ixesha nikhangelanga ipatheni ezisezinkomeni kwiphepha lesi-8 ukuya kwele-13, nezithe zachazwa ngamazwi kula maphepha.

Emva kokuba nilifundile ibali

- Thethani malunga nokuba kuthetha ukuthini ukuba "mhle" okanye ukuba "ngumanqanqa". Buza ukuba, "Ngubani ofikelela kwisigqibo sokuba ubani "mhle" okanye "ngumanqanqa"? Kutheni ingaba bantu abathatha eso sigqibo? Ingaba oko kufanelekile?"
- Cela abantwana bakho ukuba bachaze ezinye zezinto ezibenza babe ngabakhethekileyo okanye "babe bahle" okanye "babe ngomanqanqa". Baxebele ukuba zinto zini ocinga ukuba zibenza babe ngabakhethekileyo.
- Khuthaza abantwana bakho ukuba babhale uluhlu olubizwa ngoku, "Izinto ezili-10 ezindenza ndibe mhle okanye ndibe ngumanqanqa". Vumela abantwana abadlala ukuba bazibhalele ngokwabo – nokuba ngamanye amaxesha benza iimpazamo zokupela nakwiziphumlisi! Nceda abantwana abancinane ngezabo izintlu ngokubhala phantsi amagama abakuxelela wona. Xhoma uluhlu lwabantwana bakho kumagumbi okulala okanye kwisibandisi!

Collect the Nal'ibali characters

Cut out and keep all your favourite Nal'ibali characters and then use them to create your own pictures, posters, stories or anything else you can think of!

About Hope

Age: 10

Friends: Neo, Josh

Favourite fruit: bananas

Favourite sport: karate

Books she likes: novels about the daily lives of children her own age, and information books about wild animals or karate

Qokelela abalinganiswa beNal'ibali

Sika uze ugcine bonke abalinganiswa obathandayo beNal'ibali, uze ubasebenzisele ukwenza eyakho imifanekiso, iipowusta, amabali okanye nantoni na onokucinga ngayo!

Okumalunga noHope

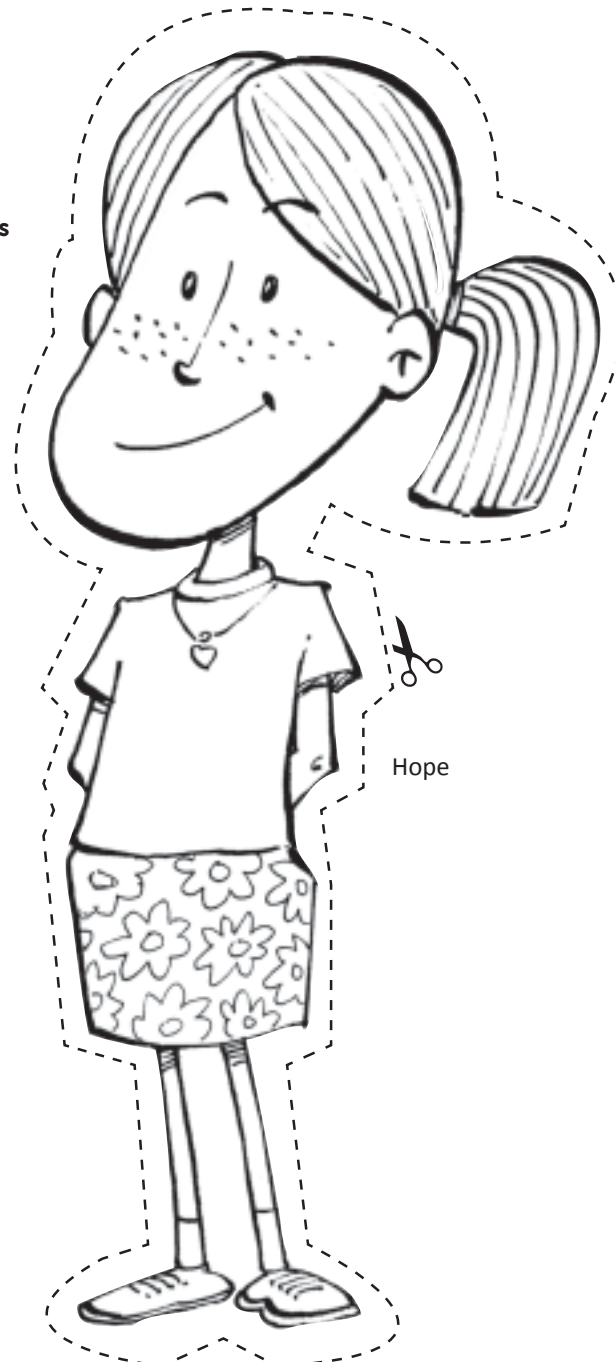
Ubudala: iminyaka ili-10

Abahlobo bakhe: nguNeo, noJosh

Esona siqhamo asithandayo: ziibhanana

Owona mdlalo awuthandayo: yikarati

Iincwadi azithandayo: iinoveli ezimalunga nobomi bemihla ngemihla babantwana abangangaye, kwakunye neencwadi ezinika ulwazi malunga nezilwanyana zasendle okanye ikarati.



Here's an idea...

- Cut out and colour in the picture of Hope and then paste it on a large sheet of paper. Next draw a thought bubble above Hope's head. Then draw a picture inside the thought bubble to show Hope thinking about competing in her next karate competition.
- Or, keep the picture in a safe place and when you have collected all the Nal'ibali characters, use them to create your own Nal'ibali poster!

Nantsi ingcingane...

- Sika uze ufake umbala kumfanekiso kaHope, ze emva koko uwuncamathisele kuxwebhu lwephepha olukhulu. Emva koko ke, zoba iqampu leengcinga phezu kwentloko kaHope. Uya kuthi ke uzobe umfanekiso ngaphakathi kwelo qampu oya kubonisa uHope ecinga ngokhuphiswano olulandelayo lwekarati.
- Okanye, wugcine loo mfanekiso endaweni ekhuselekileyo, uze xa sele ubaqokelele bonke abalinganiswa beNal'ibali, ubasebenzisele ukuzenzela ipowusta yakho!

Story corner

Here is the first part of a story for you to enjoy reading aloud. It is about Malusi and his sister, Zandi ... and monsters!

Malusi and the Bath Monster (Part 1)

by Leo Daly

Every word that follows is true. Cross my heart that I won't lie, and if I do I'll eat a fly!

My older sister, Zandi, and I like to play in the garden. We stamp around in the mud and dig deep holes. Bare feet are best. You get to feel the mud squishing up between your toes!

Mama says, "Ai, you two! Only pigs like mud that much." But it's okay, because there's nothing better than a warm bath after playing in the garden.

Zandi is worse than me – much worse. I just get my hands and feet dirty. Zandi gets everything dirty. She jumps right into the holes and rolls around in the mud. She gets her hair and arms dirty. She even gets her nose dirty.

Mama says, "It's bath time you two!"

But Zandi won't come inside. "Malusi," she says to me, "I'm staying right here – in this hole!"

I tell her that she'll have to come inside for a bath, but Zandi just shakes her head.

But I love all the soapy bubbles. I scrub the dirt off my feet. I scrub and scrub. Next I clean my face. That feels so good.

Then Zandi walks in. She's still dirty all over. "Malusi," she says, "aren't you scared of the Bath Monster?"

"There's no such thing as a Bath Monster," I laugh.

"Oh yes, there is," says Zandi. "It comes up through the plug hole and has three arms and four eyes and it's always hungry." I think Zandi is just trying to scare me.

"And I'll tell you something," says Zandi, "there's nothing the Bath Monster likes more than to eat *clean* children."

Now I'm just a little bit scared. Maybe there really is a Bath Monster.

Zandi gives me a big smile, "Okay, Malusi. Enjoy your bath – but don't get eaten up!" She walks out of the bathroom and goes straight to bed. She's going to make her bed all dirty, but at least she won't be eaten by the Bath Monster.

Do you think there really is a Bath Monster? Find out next week if Malusi ever gets to meet it, or whether Zandi is just teasing him.

Indawo yamabali

Nantsi inxalenye yokuqala yebali oya konwabela ukulifunda ngokuvakalayo. Limalunga noMalusi nosisi wakhe, uZandi ... kunye namagongqongqo!

UMalusi neGongqongqo laseBhafini (Inxalenye 1)

nguLeo Daly

Akukho nalinye igama elingeyonyani kula alandelayo. Ndiyafunga ngenene andisayi kuphosisa, kwaye ukuba ndithe ndaphosisa ndiza kutya impukane ihleli!

Mna kunye nosisi wam omdala kunam, uZandi, siyakuthanda ukudlala egadini. Sigxovuza eludakeni ngeenyawo size sombe nemingxuma enzulu. Ukwenza oku unganxibanga zihlangu kungcono kakhulu. Uyaluva udaka lunamzela kamnandi apha phakathi kweenzwane zakho!

UMama uye athi, "Kowu, nina nobabini! Ziihagu kuphela ezithanda udaka kangaka." Kodwa asibi nangxaki, kuba ayikho into emnandi ukodlula ibhafu yamanzi ashushu emva kokudlala egadini.

UZandi uyandodlula – wowu ude agqithise. Mna zizandla neenyawo kuphela ezibamdaka. Kodwa uZandi yena ubamdaka wonke nje. Uxhumela kuloo mingxuma aze aziqikaqike eludakeni. Kubamdaka zinwele neengalo. Nditsho nempumlo le yembali iba mdaka.

UMama aze athi, "Lixesha lokuhlamba kuni nobabini!"

Kodwa unotshe ukuba uZandi angene endlwini. "Malusi," uye atsho kum, "Ndiza kuhlala kanye apha – kulo mngxuma!"

Ndiye ndimxelele ukuba kufuneka angene endlwini aze kuhlamba, kodwa uZandi uhlunguzela njee intlolo.

Kodwa mna ndithanda kanye loo maqampu esepha ebhafini. Ndilola ukungcola ezinyaweni zam. Ndilola, ndilole. Emva koko ndihlamba ubuso bam. Konke oku kuvakala kamnandi.

Kusenjalo kungena uZandi. Umdaka wonke nje. "Malusi," uye atsho, "akuloyiki iGongqongqo laseBhafini?"

Illustration by Magriet Brink
Umfanekiso nguMagriet Brink



"Akukho nto injalo apha, akukho Gongqongqo laseBhafini," ndivele ndimhleke nje.

"Ewe nangoku, likhona," kutsho uZandi. "Liphuma kulo mngxuma wokuchitha amanzi, lineengalo ezintathu namehlo amane kwaye lisoloko lilambile." Ndinganga ukuba uZandi uzama njee ukundoyikisa.

"Mandikuxelele enye into, kutsho uZandi, "akukho nto ithandwa liGongqongqo laseBhafini njengokutya abantwana *abacocekileyo*."

Ngoku ndinako ukoyikanyana okuncinane. Makube ngokwenene likhona iGongqongqo laseBhafini.

UZandi undincumela ngolubanzi uncumo, "Kulungile ke, Malusi. Ukonwabele ukuzihlamba – kodwa uze ungatyiwa ligongqongqo!" Uphuma apho kwigumbi lokuhlambela esiya ngayo ebhedini, eyokulala. Uza kuyingcolisa ibe yiloo nto ibhedini yakhe, kodwa ke akasayi kutyiwa liGongqongqo laseBhafini.

Ingaba ucinga ukuba ngenene likhona iGongqongqo laseBhafini? Funda kwiveki ezayo ukuze ufumanise ukuba ingaba uMalusi ude wadibana kusini na nalo, okanye nguZandi nje omdlaliso.

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