



It starts with a story...

For our children's sake



All children deserve the opportunity to learn to use reading and writing meaningfully in their lives – to become literate! Literacy is a human right, but how do we make sure that all South Africa's children have equal access to this right? What are the literacy experiences all our children should have if we want them to become fully literate citizens?

Last year on International Literacy Day we launched a call to you to help us put together a Children's Literacy Charter – something that would describe the literacy experiences all our children should have. We asked you what you thought our children have the right to expect when it comes to reading and writing.

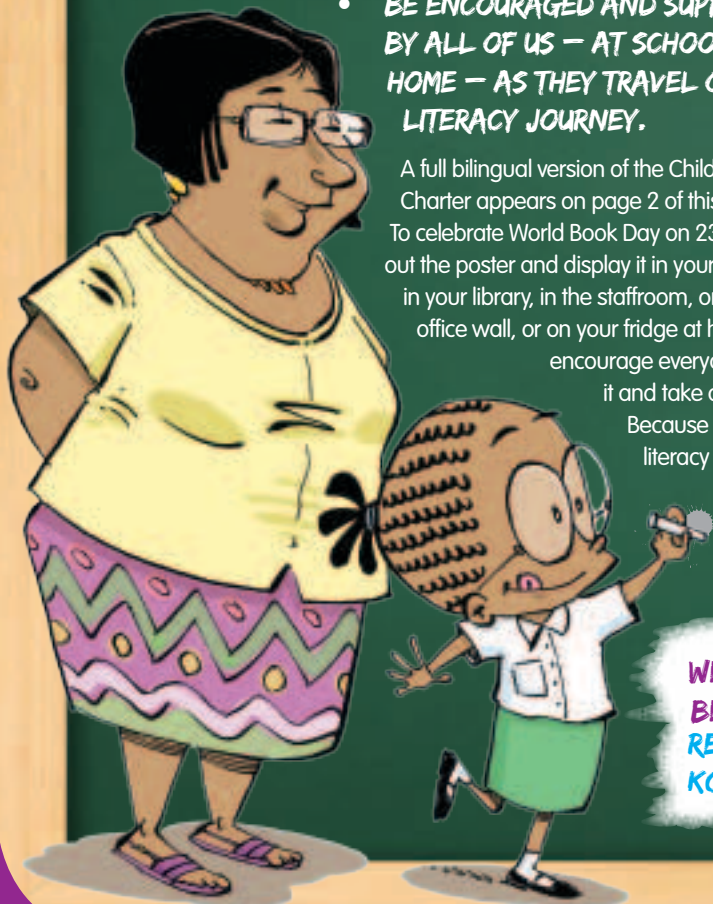
Many of the reading clubs and individuals in the Nalibali network, and our partner organisations sent us emails and letters – we also received some from new friends! Your responses made it quite clear that we all agree that learning to read and write is not just about learning new skills. It is about learning to use reading and writing in real and important ways.

WE ALL AGREED THAT OUR CHILDREN SHOULD:

- REGULARLY READ PURELY FOR ENJOYMENT
- HAVE ACCESS TO A WIDE VARIETY OF BOOKS, FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARE BORN RIGHT THROUGH TO ADULTHOOD
- BE ALLOWED TO USE READING AND WRITING IN WAYS THAT ARE MEANINGFUL TO THEM
- HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME LITERATE IN THEIR HOME LANGUAGE AND ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES
- BE INSPIRED BY THE WAYS IN WHICH THE ADULTS AROUND THEM USE LITERACY ON A DAILY BASIS

- BE ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED BY ALL OF US – AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME – AS THEY TRAVEL ON THEIR LITERACY JOURNEY.

A full bilingual version of the Children's Literacy Charter appears on page 2 of this supplement. To celebrate World Book Day on 23 April, cut out the poster and display it in your classroom, in your library, in the staffroom, on your office wall, or on your fridge at home – and encourage everyone to read it and take action! Why? Because our children's literacy is at stake!



WE WILL BE TAKING A BREAK NEXT WEEK, BUT WILL BE BACK AGAIN IN THE WEEK OF 4 MAY 2014!
RE TLILO KGEFUTSA NAKWANA BEKENG E TLANG, EMPA RE TLA KGUTLA HAPE BEKENG YA LA 4 MOTSHEANONG 2014!

Molemong wa bana ba rona



Bana bohle ba lokelwa ke ho fumantshwa monyetla wa ho ithuta le ho sebedisa ho bala le ho ngola ka tsela e tla ba tswela molemo maphelong a bona – hore ba rutehe! Tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola ke tokelo ya botho, empa re ka netefatsa jwang hore bana bohle ba Afrika Borwa ba fumana tokelo ee ka ho lekana? Ke dintho dife tseo bana bohle ba rona ba lokelang ho kopana le tsona tsebong ya ho bala le ho ngola haeba re batla hore e be baahi ba rutehileng ka ho phehahala?

Selemong se fetileng ka Letsatsi la Matjhaba la Tsebo ya ho Bala le ho Ngola re ile ra thakgola pitsa e yang ho lona hore le re thuse ho kgobokanya Tjhata ya Bana ya Tsebo ya ho Bala le ho Ngola – e leng ntho e neng e tla hlalosa dintho tseo bana bohle ba lokelang ho kopana le tsona tsebong ya ho bala le ho ngola. Re ile ra le botsa hore le nahana hore ke eng eo bana ba rona ba nang le tokelo ya ho e lebella tsebong ya ho bala le ho ngola.

Ditlhapo tse ngata tsa ho bala le batho ka bomong ba netewekeng ya Nalibali, le mekgatlo eo e leng balekane ba rona ba re romeletse di-imeile le mangolo – hape re fumane a mang ho tswa ho metswalle e metjha! Dikarabo tsa lona di hlakisitse hantle hore bohle re a dumellana hore ho ithuta ho bala le ho ngola ha se feela mabapi le ho ithuta bokgoni bo botjha. Ke mabapi le ho ithuta ho sebedisa ho bala le ho ngola ka ditsela tsa nnete le tsa bohlokwa.

BOHLE RE ILE RA DUMELLANA HORE BANA BA RONA BA LOKELA HO:

- DULA BA BALLA FEELA HO NATEFELWA
- KGONA HO FUMANTSHWA MEFUTA E FAPANENG YA DIBUKA, HO TLOHA KA MOTSOOTSO OO BA TSWALWANG KA ONA HO YA FIHLELLA E EBA BATHO BA BAHOLO
- DUMELLWA HO SEBEDISA HO BALA LE HO NGOLA KA TSELA TSE BA TSWELANG MOLEMO
- BA LE MONYETLA WA HO TSEBA HO BALA LE HO NGOLA KA PUO YA LETSWELE ESITANA LE KA DIPUO TSA TLATSETSO
- KGOHATSWA KE DITSELA TSEO BA BONANG BATHO BA BAHOLO BA PHELANG LE BONA BA SEBEDISANG HO BALA LE HO NGOLA KA MATSATSI OHLE KA TENG
- KGOHATSWA LE HO TSHEHETSWA KE RONA BOHLE – SEKOLONG LE LAPENG – HA BA NTSE BA LE LEETONG LA BONA LA HO ITHUTA HO BALA LE HO NGOLA.

Kgatiso e tletseng e temepedi ya Tjhata ya Bana ya Tsebo ya ho Bala le ho Ngola e hlalella leqepheng la 2 la tlatsetso ena. Ho keteka Letsatsi la Lefatshe la Dibuka ka la 23 Mmesa, seha phousetara mme o e manamise ka tlelaseng ya hao, laeaboraring ya heno, ka phaposing ya matijhere, leboteng la ofisi ya hao, kapa sehatsetsing lapeng la hao – mme o kgothaletse bohle ho e bala le ho nka mehato e itseng! Hobaneng? Hobane tsebo ya bana ba rona ya ho bala le ho ngola e kotsing!



Drive your imagination

Read to me. Every day.
Mpalle. Kamehla.



It starts with a story...



Children's Literacy Charter

Literacy is the foundation of education and the gateway to a successful adult life in the modern world. This charter invites adults across South Africa to make sure that the conditions which support children's successful literacy learning, are offered to all our children so that they may have personally-rewarding and educationally-successful literacy learning journeys.



Tshata ya Bana ya Tsebo ya ho Bala le ho Ngola

Tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola ke motheo wa thuto le kgoro e lebisang bophelong ba katleho ba batho ba baholo lefatsheng la kajeno. Tshata ena e mema batho ba baholo ba Afrika Borwa yohle bakeng sa ho netefatsa hore maemo a tshehetsang thuto e atlehileng ya bana ya ho bala le ho ngola, a fumantshwa bana ba rona bohle hore ba tle ba be le maeto a ho ithuta ho bala le ho ngola a atlehileng a bileng a putsang.

1 Reading for pleasure: All children should experience exploring reading and writing purely for their own pleasure and satisfaction in their home and additional languages from early childhood onwards.

Ho balla boithabiso: Bana bohle ba lokela ho ikutlwela ho sibolla ho bala le ho ngola bakeng sa boithabiso le kgotsofalo tsa bona feela ka dipuo tsa bona tsa lapeng le tsa tlatseso ho tlaha ba sa le banyane ho ya pele.

2 Stories: All children should have regular opportunities to listen to, read and talk about stories from South Africa, Africa and around the world.

Dipale: Bana bohle ba lokela ho ba le menyella ka nako tsohle ya ho mamela, ho bala le ho bua ka dipale tsa Afrika Borwa, tsa Afrika le tsa lefatsheng lohle.

3 Exploring the world: All children should have daily opportunities to use reading and writing to help them explore life from both imaginary and realistic perspectives. These opportunities enable them to learn about themselves and others while exploring their changing place in the world and how they can contribute to it.

Ho sibolla lefatsho: Bana bohle ba lokela ho ba le menyella ya kamehla ya ho sebedisa ho bala le ho ngola bakeng sa ho ithusa ho sibolla bophelo ho tswa mahlakoreng ka bobedi a boinahanelo le a nnete. Menyella ena e ba thusa ho ithuta ka bona le batho ba bang ha ba ntse ba sibolla sebaka sa bona se fetohang lefatsheng le hore ba ka ba le seabo jwang ho sona.

4 Inspiration: Children of all ages need people to read to them in ways which inspire them to want to read for themselves. Family members at home, teachers in their classrooms and librarians at local or school libraries should read aloud to children regularly.

Kgothaletso: Bana ba dilemo tsohle ba hloka batho ba ka ba ballang ka tsela e tlang ho ba kgothaletsa hore ba batle ho ipalla ka bobona. Ditho tsa lelapa lapeng, matijhere ka tlaseng le basebetsi ba dilaaboraring dilaaboraring tsa motse le tsa sekolo ba lokela ho balla bana hodimo ka dinako tsohle.

5 Role models: Adults need to model reading and writing for children. Children need to see the adults at home and school, and in their communities using writing and reading to get things done, to learn and for entertainment.

Bao e leng mehlala setjhabeng: Batho ba baholo ba lokela ho bontsha bana mohlala hore ba ka bala le ho ngola jwang. Bana ba hloka ho bona batho ba baholo lapeng, sekolong, le setjhabeng ba sebedisa ho ngola le ho bala ho phetha dintho tse itseng, ho ithuta le bakeng sa boithabiso.

6 Learning to read and write: All children at school have the right to be taught how to read and write by skilled and inspiring teachers who communicate with them in language/s they understand, exposing them to wonderful stories and interesting texts as part of their teaching.

Ho ithuta ho bala le ho ngola: Bana bohle sekolong ba na le tokelo ya ho rutwa ho bala le ho ngola ke matijhere a nang le bokgoni le a kgothatsang, a buisanang le bona ka puo/ dipuo tseo ba di utlwisang, le a ba senolelang dipale tse makatsang le dingolwa tse kgahlisang jwaloka karolo ya thuto ya bona.

7 Time and place: Children need to be given sufficient and regular free time to relax and read. They also need quiet places in which to do this.

Nako le sebaka: Bana ba hloka ho newa nako e lekaneng ka dinako tsohle ya ho phomola le ho bala. Hape ba hloka dibaka tse kgutsitseng moo ba ka etsang sena teng.

8 Access to material: Children need to easily be able to find a variety of reading and writing materials in their immediate environment. They need access to a large selection of story- and other books, whether these are owned, or borrowed from school and public libraries close enough to where they live. They also need to be surrounded by environmental print in languages they know and understand.

Phumantsho ya disebediswa: Bana ba hloka ho kgona ho fumana disebediswa tse fapaneng tsa ho bala le ho ngola ha bonolo tikoahong e haufi le bona. Ba hloka phihlelo ya kgetho e batsi ya dibuka tsa dipale le tse ding, ebang tsena e le tsa bona, kapa ba di adima sekolong le dilaaboraring tsa motse tse haufi le moo ba dulang teng. Hape ba hloka ho dula ba potilwe ke dingolwa tsa tikoahong ka dipuo tseo ba di tsebang le ho di utlwisisa.

9 Books to inspire: Children have the right to good quality books with high quality writing and illustrations, exciting storylines and engaging information. Good quality books are the most likely to "switch" children on to reading as a lifelong habit.

Dibuka tse fanang ka tjheseho: Bana ba na le tokelo ya ho bala dibuka tsa boleng bo nepahetseng tse nang le mongolo le ditshwantsho tsa boleng bo hodimo, tse nang le dipale tse thabisang le tlhahisoleseding e hohelang. Dibuka tsa boleng bo hodimo di kgona ho "fetola" bana hore ba be le tlwaelo ya ho bala bophelo ba bona bohle.

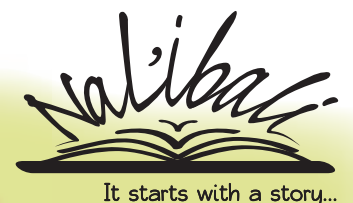
10 Selection: Children need to be given opportunities to choose what they want to read sometimes and at other times be offered guidance by adults. Self-selection helps children to mature as readers because it allows them to develop criteria for the types of books that interest them.

Kgetho: Bana ba hloka ho newa menyella ya ho kgetha seo ba batlang ho se bala ka dinako tse ding mme ka tse ding ba tataiswe ke batho ba baholo. Ho ikgethela dibuka ho thusa bana ho hola jwalo ka babadi hobane ho ba dumella ho ba le makgetha ao e leng a bona a mefuta ya dibuka tse ba kgahlang.



11 Encouragement: Children deserve to have all their attempts at reading and writing celebrated by the adults in their lives and to be encouraged to continue to extend their use of written and oral language. On their journey to becoming literate, children will sometimes get things wrong and sometimes get them right. This, together with encouragement, is how we all learn.

Kgothaletso: Bana ba lokelwa ke hore diteko tsohle tsa bona tsa ho bala le ho ngola di ketekwe ke batho ba baholo ba maphelong a bona le ho kgothaletswa ho tswela pele ho atisa tsebediso ya bona ya puo e ngolwang le e buuwang. Leetong la bona la ho tseba ho bala le ho ngola, bana ka dinako tse ding ba tla fosa dintho mme ka nako tse ding ba di nepe. Tsena he, mmoho le kgothaletso, ke tsela tseo bohle re ithutang ka tsona.





“We will find them for you,” said the girls.
 “Thank you,” said Mrs Smit.
 “Re tla le fumanela bona,” ha rialo banana.
 “Ke a leboha,” ha araba Mof Smit.



“NUUUUUHHAAAAA!” screamed Mrs Allie.
 “Skye, Skye, can you hear me?” Mrs Smit shouted.
 “Zweli, Lonke!” called Gogo.
 “NUUUUUHHAAAAA!” ha hoeletsa Mof Allie.
 “Skye, Skye, na o a nkutlwa?” ha hoeletsa Mof Smit.
 “Zweli! Lonke!” Nkgomo le yena a hoeletsa.

CAMBRIDGE

Raj keeps a secret

Raj o boloka sephiri



Ian Lusted

Raj keeps a secret is from the Rainbow Reading series by Cambridge University Press. Rainbow Reading is a graded series for primary schools. It provides a wealth of original stories and factual texts, which will help learners to develop the reading skills and vocabulary they need to meet the requirements of the curriculum – in all learning areas. Rainbow Reading consists of 350 titles which are grouped by level and theme. For further information, visit www.cup.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



Nal'ibali ke letsholo la naha la ho-balla-boithabiso bakeng sa ho tsoseletsa bokgoni ba bana ka ho ba balla le ho ba phetela dipale. Bakeng sa tlhahisoleseding e nngwe, etela www.nalibali.org kapa www.nalibali.mobi



Gogo looked everywhere.
Nkgomo a sheba hohle.



Fold

Layla, Neesha and Lindi went to the shop.
"Good morning Mrs Patel," said Lindi. "Have you
seen the twins?"
Layla, Neesha le Lindiwe ba ya lebenkeleng.
"Dumela, Mof Patel," ho rialo Lindi. "Na ha o eso
bone mafahla?"



"Have you seen Nuha?" asked Mrs Allie.
"No, we haven't, Mrs Allie," said the girls.
"Na le bone Nuha?" ho botsa Mof Allie.
"Tjhe, ha re eso mmone, Mof Allie," ha araba banana.



Fold

"Go away!" the boys shouted. "Nuha is reading
us stories."
"Tsamayang!" ha omana bashanyana. "Nuha o re
balla dipale."



Raj a se ke a re letho.

Mof Patel.

“Tjhe, ngwanaka, ha ke eso ba bone,” ha araba

Raj said nothing.

“No dear, I haven’t,” said Mrs Patel.



“Na ha le eso bone mafahla?” ha botsa Nkgono.

“Tjhe, ha re eso ba bone, Nkgono,” ha araba banana.

“No, we haven’t, Gogo,” said the girls.

“Have you seen the twins?” asked Gogo.



“Raj, have you seen the boys?” they asked.

“Maybe,” said Raj.

“Come on Raj, where are they?”

“I promised not to tell,” he said. But he pointed.



“Raj, na o kile wa bona bashanyana bao?” ba mmotsa.

“Mohlomong,” ha araba Raj.

“Ako bue hle, Raj, ba hokae?”

“Ke tshepitsitse hore nke ke ka bolela,” a rialo. Empa a supa.



Mrs Allie looked everywhere.

Mof Allie a sheba hohle.



Susan Smit looked everywhere.
Susan Smit a sheba hohle.

“Have you seen Skye?” asked Mrs Smit.
The girls giggled. “You mean Sam? No, we haven’t,” they said.
“Na ha le eso bone Skye?” ha botsa Mof Smit.
Banana ba kekete ha, “Na o bolela Sam? Tjhe, ha re eso mmone,” ba rialo.



“Maybe they’re at the river,” said Layla.
“Mohlomong ba ile ka nokeng.” Ha rialo Layla.



“There’s no one here – just the old man,” said Neesha.
“Where can they be?” asked Lindi.
“Ha ho motho ka mona – ke monnamoholo feela,” ha rialo Neesha.
“Ebe ba ka ba hokae?” ha botsa Lindi.



Reading club corner

There are lots of days to celebrate in May. Rather than trying to focus on all of them, you could choose one or two and then plan reading club activities around them. Here are some ideas.

- **World Laughter Day (4 May):** In the week before World Laughter Day, encourage the children to find or make-up their own jokes. Then, at the reading club meeting closest to World Laughter Day, invite them to tell their jokes to the group. Provide paper and crayons or pencil crayons, and let them write down their joke and draw a picture to go with it. Display all the jokes and encourage the children to read them over the next few weeks.
- **Mother's Day (11 May):** Invite the mothers of the reading club children (or people who are like mothers to them) to join you at the reading club session closest to Mother's Day. Read a story about a mother-child relationship to everyone and then invite the mothers and their children to spend time reading stories and looking at books together. Let the children make Mother's Day cards to give to their mothers. (Look out for our special **Nal'ibali Mother's Day card template** in your next supplement.)



Dates to celebrate in May

1 May	Worker's Day
4 May	World Laughter Day
5 May	Leo Lionni's birthday (find out more about him in The Nal'ibali bookshelf below)
11 May	Mother's Day
15 May	International Day of Families
25 May	Africa Day

Hukung ya Tlelapo ya ho Bala

Ho na le matsatsi a mangata a ketekwang ka kgwedi ya Motsheanong. Ho ena le ho leka ho shebana le ona kaofela, o ka nna wa kgetha le le leng kapa a mabedi mme wa hlophisa diketsahalo tsa ho bala tsa tlelapo bakeng sa matsatsi ao. Mehopollo e meng ke ena.

- **Letsatsi la Ditsheho la Lefatshe (4 Motsheanong):** Bekeng e tlang pele ho Letsatsi la Ditsheho la Lefatshe, kgothaletsa bana ho batlana le metlae kapa ho iqapela ya bona. Ebe, kopanong ya tlelapo ya ho bala e atametseng ho Letsatsi la Ditsheho la Lefatshe, o ba memela ho tla etsa metlae ya bona ka pela sehlopha. Ba fe dipampiri le dikerayone kapa dikerayone tsa pentshele, mme o re ba ngole metlae ya bona mme ba take setshwantsho se tsamayang le ona. Manamisa metlae yohle pontsheng mme o kgothaletse bana ho e bala dibekeng tse mmalwa tse latelang.
- **Letsatsi la Bomme (11 Motsheanong):** Mema bomme ba bana ba tlelapo ya ho bala (kapa batho bao ekang bomme ho bona) ho tla ba le lona kopanong ya tlelapo ya ho bala e atametseng ho Letsatsi la Bomme. Balla bohle pale e mabapi le kamano pakeng tsa mme le ngwana mme ebe o memela bomme le bana ba bona ho nka nako e itseng ba bala dipale le ho sheba dibuka mmoho. E re bana ba etse dikarete tsa Letsatsi la Bomme tseo ba tlang ho di fa bomme ba bona. (Sheba thempoleite e ikgethang ya rona ya Nal'ibali ya karete ya Letsatsi la Bomme tlatsetsong ya hao e latelang.)

Matsatsi a ketekwang ka kgwedi ya Motsheanong

1 Motsheanong	Letsatsi la Basebetsi
4 Motsheanong	Letsatsi la Ditsheho la Lefatshe
5 Motsheanong	Letsatsi la tswalo la Leo Lionni (fumana haholwanyane ka yena ka tlase mona ho Shelofa ya Dibuka ya Nal'ibali)
11 Motsheanong	Letsatsi la Bomme
15 Motsheanong	Letsatsi la Matjhaba la Malapa
25 Motsheanong	Letsatsi la Afrika

The Nal'ibali bookshelf

Have you ever read any books by Leo Lionni? He was an author and illustrator of over 40 picture books, many of which won international awards.

Leo Lionni was born in Holland in 1910, and although he was a painter and sculptor, he studied economics after school and never did any formal art courses! But, as a child, he did spend most of his free time in museums, teaching himself how to draw.

He worked in advertising and design, before starting to write and illustrate children's picture books when he was 49 years old. Today his beautiful and gentle picture books are loved and enjoyed by children all over the world.

The only South African language that Leo Lionni's books are available in is English. Try finding his books at your library. Read them in English and translate the text for your children as you read, if their home language is not English.

Shelofa ya Dibuka ya Nal'ibali

Na ho na le dibuka tseo o kileng wa di bala tse ngotsweng ke Leo Lionni? E ne e le mongodi le motshwantshi wa dibuka tsa ditshwantsho tse ka hodimo ho 40, mme tse ngata tsa tsona di ile tsa hapa dikgau tsa matjhaba.

Leo Lionni o ne a hlalele mane Holland ka 1910, mme leha e ne e le motaki le mmelli, o ile a etsa thuto ya ikhonomiksi kamora sekolo mme hohang ha a ka ya sekolong bakeng sa ho ithuta diithuto tsa bonono! Empa, haesale ngwana, o ne a qeta boholo ba nako ya hae ya boithapallo a le musiamong, a ithuta ho taka.

O ile a sebetsa makaleng a tsa dipapatso le moo ho takwang meralo, pele a qala ho ngola le ho tshwantsha dibuka tsa bana tsa ditshwantsho ha a le dilemo tse 49. Kajeno dibuka tsa hae tsa ditshwantsho tse ntle tse bonolo di ratwa le ho natefela bana lefatsheng ka bophara.

Puo e le nngwe feela ya Afrika Borwa eo dibuka tsa Leo Lionni di fumanehang ka yona ke English. Leka ho fumana dibuka tsa hae laeboraring ya heno. Di bale ka English mme o fetolele tema bakeng sa bana ba hao ha o ntse o bala, haeba puo ya bona ya lapeng e se English.

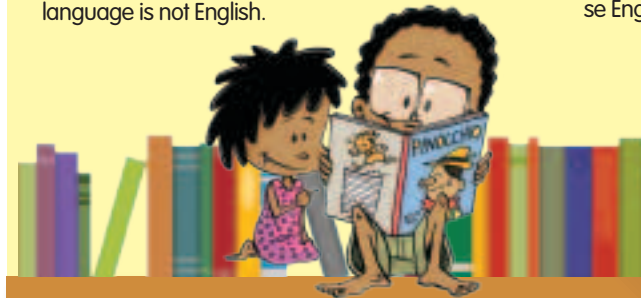
Some of Leo Lionni's books ...
Tse ding tsa dibuka tsa Leo Lionni ...

**0-3 years/
Dilemo tse 0-3**

Where?
Who?
What?
When?

**3 years and older/
Dilemo tse 3 le ka hodimo**

Swimmy
Theodore and the talking mushroom
Fish is fish
Alexander and the wind-up mouse
Inch by inch
Frederick

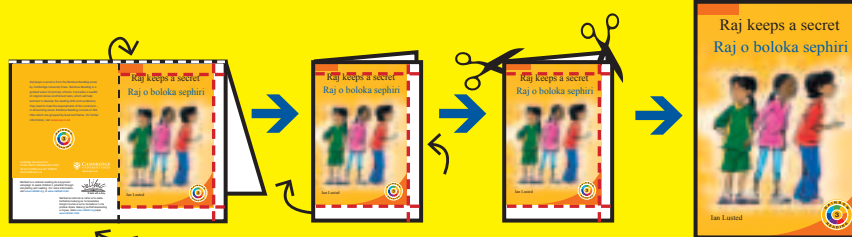


Create your own cut-out-and-keep book

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.

Iketsitse bukana e-sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa

1. Ntsha leqephe la 3 ho isa ho la 6 bukaneng ena ya tlatseso.
2. Le mene ka halofo hodima mola wa matheba a matsho.
3. Le mene ka halofo hape.
4. Seha hodima mela ya matheba a mafubedu.



Story corner

Here is the final part of our story about a talented gardener who needed to learn how to share. Enjoy reading it aloud or telling it.

Mr Shabalala's garden

(Part 2)

by Wendy Hartmann

It did not take long before there were too many apples on the tree. There were too many hens, chickens and eggs. And because there was no vegetable patch, there were no vegetables for Mr Shabalala.

But there was something that was even worse than that. It was now so quiet that Mr Shabalala got a headache. Poor Mr Shabalala, he didn't know what to do with all the quietness. So he opened his front door and shouted the loudest shout that he could, just to make some noise.

Suddenly the people ran up to his house.

"Are you alright?"

"Have you hurt yourself?"

"Can we help you?"

"I ... I ..." Mr Shabalala didn't know what to say. Even though he had been so nasty and unkind, everyone had come to see if he was alright. Mr Shabalala felt so bad he started to cry. "I'm sorry," he said. "I'm so sorry."

"We're sorry for making a noise in the shade of your tree," said someone.

"We're sorry for taking apples," said the children.

"We're sorry about collecting eggs," said a woman.

"Oh no," said Mr Shabalala. "I was so selfish and rude and I am sorry. Please, all of you come inside and I will share everything."

From that day Mr Shabalala did share everything. He also promised to let the branches of the apple tree grow over the wall and to leave a little hole in the fence for the hens and chickens.

When everyone left, he smiled happily because now there were happy noises outside.

Then suddenly Mr Shabalala realised that he still had no vegetable garden. At that moment there was a soft *knock, knock* on his front door. He opened the door and there stood the little boy.

"Aaah," he said, "you are the boy who always asked for seeds."

"Yes," said the boy, "but I know you don't have a vegetable garden now. Can I help you plant one?"

And for the second time that day, Mr Shabalala had tears in his eyes. But this time they were tears of happiness.

Tell us if you liked the story, Mr Shabalala's garden – SMS "Bookmark" with your name and your comments to 32545. R1,00 per SMS.

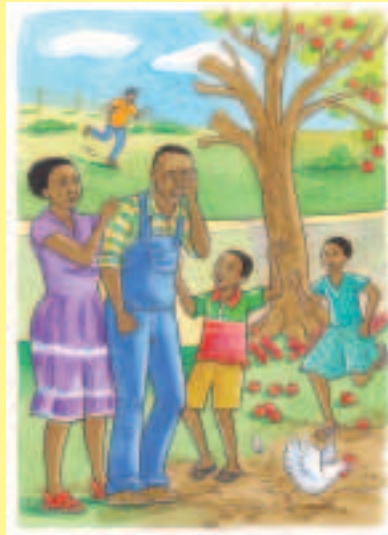


Illustration by Jiggs Snaddon-Wood
Setshwantsho ka Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Hukung ya Dipale

Ena ke karolo ya ho qetela ya pale ya rona e mabapi le molemi ya nang le tsebo ya neng a hloka ho ithuta ho arolelana le ba bang. Natefelwa ke ho e balla hodimo kapa ho e pheta.

Tshimo ya Mong Shabalala

(Karolo ya 2)

ka Wendy Hartmann

Ha ho a ka ha nka nako e telele keha ho eba le diapole tse ngata haholo sefateng. Ho ne ho ena le dikgoho tse ngata, ditsuonyana le mahe a mangata. Kaha ho ne ho sena seratswana, ho ne ho se na meroho bakeng sa Mong Shabalala.

Empa ho ne ho ena le ho hong ho neng ho le hobe ho feta moo. Ho ne ho se ho kgutsitse haholo hoo Mong Shabalala a neng a tshwarwa ke hlooho. Mong Shabalala wa batho, o ne a sa tsebe seo a ka se etsang ka kgutso e kalokalo. Yaba o bula lemati la hae la ka pele mme a hoeletsa haholo ho fetisisa kamoo a ka kgonang, a batla feela ho etsa lerata.

Yaba hanghang batho ba mathela tlung ya hae.

"Na tsohle di lokile?"

"Na o hlahetswe ke kotsi?"

"Na re ka o thusa?"

"Ke ... ke ..." Mong Shabalala o ne a sa tsebe seo a ka se buang. Leha a ne a sa loka bathong mme a se na mosa, batho bohle ba ne ba tlike ho tla sheba hore ebe o phetse hantle na. Mong Shabalala a ikutlwa a swabile hoo a ileng a qala ho lla. "Ke maswabi," a rialo. "Ke maswabi haholo."

"Re maswabi ka ho etsa lerata moriting wa sefate sa hao," ha rialo motho e mong.

"Re maswabi ka ho thonaka diapole," bana ba rialo.

"Re maswabi ka ho bokella mahe," ha rialo mosadi e mong.

"Tjhe bo," ha rialo Mong Shabalala. "Ke ne ke inahanela ke le mong mme ke hloka boikokobetso ho lona, mme ka hoo ke maswabi. Kenang bohle ka hare mme ke tla le arolela dintho tsohle."

Ho tloha tsatsing leo Mong Shabalala a ba arolela dintho tsohle. Hape a tshepisa hore o tla tlohela makala a sefate sa hae sa diapole hore a hole a be a leketlele ka nqane ho lebota, mme o tla siya lesoba le lenyane le bulehile terateng hore dikgoho di kgone ho tswa.

Ha batho bohle ba tsamaile, a sala a bososela ke thabo, e seng feela hobane a ne a fane ka dintho tsohle, empa hobane jwale ho ne ho se ho ena le lerata la batho ba thabileng ka ntle.

Yaba hanghang Mong Shabalala o elellwa hore o ntse a se na seratswana sa meroho. Ka nako eo ho ne ho ena le ho *kokota* ho tlase lemateng le ka pele. A bula lemati mme ka ntle ho ne ho eme moshanyana e monyenane.

"Aaah," a rialo, "ke wena moshanyana ya hlohang a tlo kopa peo mona."

"Ee," ha araba moshemane eo, "empa ke a tseba hore ha o sa na seratswana sa meroho jwale. Na nka o thusa ho lema se seng?"

Mme lekgetlong la bobedi tsatsing leo, Mong Shabalala a seka meokgo mahlong a hae. Empa nakong ena e ne e le meokgo ya thabo.

Re bolelle haeba o ratile pale ena, Tshimo ya Mong Shabalala – SMSa "Bookmark" mmoho le lebitso la hao le diitshwaelo tsa hao ho 32545. R1,00 SMS ka nngwe.

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Supplement produced by The Project for the Study of Education in South Africa (PRAESA) and Times Media Education. Translated by Hilda Mohale. Nal'ibali character illustrations by Rico.



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