

Share a story today!

World Read Aloud Day

with Na'ibali

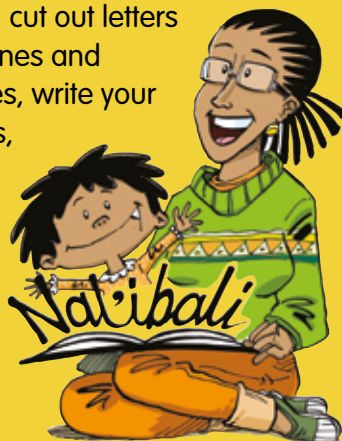


Stories are powerful! *The final minute*, is written by award-winning author, Zukiswa Wanner, and illustrated by popular South African cartoonist, Rico. Read it to the children in your life this World Read Aloud Day, 1 February 2018.



5 World Read Aloud Day activities

1. Read the story, *The final minute*, on pages 2 and 3 to your children and others. Practise reading it aloud a few times before you read it to the children and remember to put lots of expression into your voice as you read.
2. Before you read the story, ask the children if they have played soccer before, been to a live soccer match or seen one on TV. Encourage them to share their experiences with you.
3. After you have read the story, encourage your children to interpret it by asking them to draw or paint a picture of their favourite part.
4. Arrange a Meet-a-Story-Morning on World Read Aloud Day or over a weekend. Invite the children to attend with their parents. Introduce them all to books that you know make good read-aloud stories by reading to them from these books.
5. Make your own World Read Aloud Day 2018 posters to create awareness about the importance of this day. With the children, cut out letters and pictures from magazines and newspapers, draw pictures, write your own words and sentences, and use pictures from the Na'ibali website (go to "Story supplies" at www.nalibali.org). Make up your own slogans, or use ours – Share a story today!



8 benefits of reading aloud

Reading aloud to your children:

- shows them that you value books and reading.
- gives you things to talk about together.
- builds a bond between you.
- allows them to experience reading as a satisfying activity.
- motivates them to learn to read for themselves and then to keep reading.
- shows them how we read and how books work.
- lets them enjoy stories that are beyond their current reading ability.
- develops their vocabulary and language abilities.



How to get involved

Go to www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi to sign up your family, reading club or school and help make this the biggest World Read Aloud Day event in South Africa!

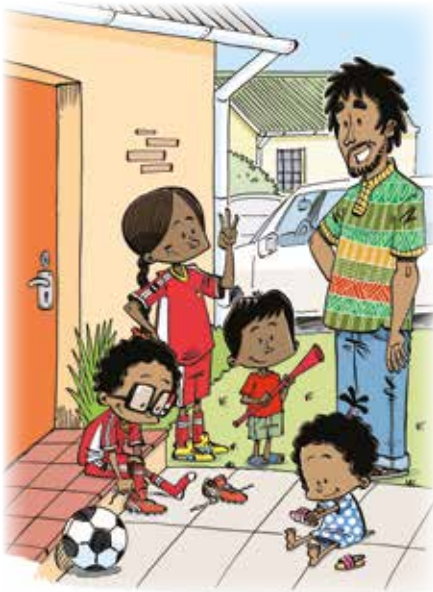
The final minute

Story by Zukiswa Wanner

Illustrations by Rico

"I am going to score two goals today, Dad," said Neo as he put on his soccer boots.

"And I'll help by adding three goals to that, Uncle," said Priya who had just arrived at Neo's house with her little brother, Rahul. Rahul was carrying his bright red vuvuzela.



Neo's Dad laughed. "Well, I look forward to cheering five times then!"

"And me, Uncle! Can I also cheer?" asked Rahul.

"Of course, my boy," said Neo's dad as he helped Mbali put on her shoes. "Now, let's get going!"

They all got in the car. Neo sat in front. He had sat there many times before. He was sure that if his dad would allow him, as soon as his legs were long enough, he'd be able to drive the car. It looked easy. Rahul and Priya sat at the back on either side of Mbali. They tickled her and she giggled.

Before everyone knew it, they were at the soccer field. They were just in time for Priya and Neo to join their teammates from the Maqhawe Football Club for their warm up. They were playing against the Diamond Football Club today.

"Remember to make sure that you dull the shine of those Diamonds so much, that after the match they have to change their name to the Coal Football Club," said their coach.

Then it was time for the players to run out onto the field. The referee blew his whistle and the match began.

Things started slowly, but they soon picked up. There was a lot of noise as the families of the children in both teams cheered. The ball would be on Maqhawe's side of the field for a bit, then just as it looked as if they were going to move it into the Diamond's half, one of those players would steal the ball away! The match went on like this until half-time.



"I'm bored! You promised you were going to score goals," Rahul told Neo and Priya when they came to the sideline.

"Ja. Mbali wants goals, Mbali wants goals," repeated Mbali. "Mbali is sleepy," she added yawning. Neo and Priya just laughed and ran back to join their teammates.



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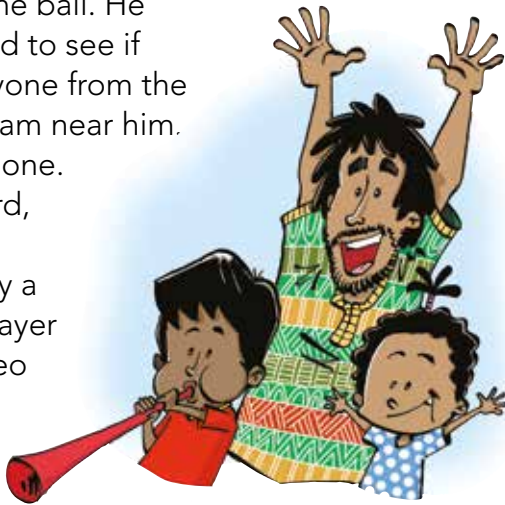
The whistle blew and the players ran onto the field for the second half. The match continued in the same way as things had gone in the first half ... until there was only one minute left!

Neo had the ball. He looked around to see if there was anyone from the Diamond's team near him. No, he was alone.

He ran forward, dribbling the ball. Suddenly a Diamond's player appeared. Neo looked him straight in the eyes as he kicked the ball between the other player's legs. The spectators screamed with excitement.

Another Diamond's player moved towards Neo to tackle him. Quickly, Neo passed the ball to Priya.

Everyone held their breath as Priya took the ball and kicked it hard. *LADUMA!* The Diamond's goalie had not even seen the ball coming! Priya had scored a goal.



And not a second too soon. Just as she turned around to celebrate the goal, the referee blew the final whistle! Maqhwane had won the game!

Neo was so pleased that he ran towards Priya and lifted her up!



Together they ran to their teammates and coach at the side of the field, and they all dabbled. Then Priya and Neo rushed over to Neo's dad. Rahul was blowing his vuvuzela loudly.

"That was an ice-cream deserving performance, Priya and Neo," said Neo's dad. "Would our two heroes like that?"

"Yes! We like ice-cream," Mbali answered for them. They all laughed.

Neo picked up Mbali and carried her as they went to buy ice-cream. He might not have scored the two goals he had wanted to, but he had helped his best friend score the winning goal! And Priya? She was happy because that was her first-ever goal for Maqhwane. The sound of Rahul's vuvuzela was like sweet music being played just for her.





Make a badge!

1. Cut along the red dotted line to cut out the badge.
2. Colour in the picture.
3. Cut a circle the same size as the badge from some thin cardboard, for example, a cereal box.
4. Use glue to paste the badge onto the cardboard.
5. Use sticky tape or masking tape to attach a safety pin to the back of the badge. Or make a hole at the top and thread some wool or string through it so that you can hang it around your neck.
6. Enjoy wearing your badge as you read and listen to stories on World Read Aloud Day.

Send us pictures of your children with their World Read Aloud Day badges. Email them to info@nalibali.org or share them on our Facebook page!

About Nal'ibali

Nal'ibali (isiXhosa for "here's the story") is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign. It seeks to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa, so that reading, writing and sharing stories – in all South African languages – is part of everyday life.



Children who are surrounded by print and immersed in great stories in languages they understand, are more curious, confident and motivated to learn. They are more likely

to become readers, and to do well at school in all subjects. Stories develop vocabulary, strengthen memory and nurture children's imaginations.

Since 2012, Nal'ibali has worked with various state, civil society and business partners to make sure every South African child has opportunities to fall in love with books and stories. Our founding partners include: the DG Murry Trust, PRAESA (Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa) and Tiso Blackstar (formerly, Times Media). Through advocacy, training and high-quality reading materials, Nal'ibali is helping to nurture a nation of readers.

Nal'ibali is here to motivate and support you. **Contact us** by calling our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80**, or in any of these ways: