This is a very special edition of the Nal’ibali Supplement – it’s the 200th edition and we’re celebrating Literacy Month! Literacy Month is celebrated by people from all over the world who are passionate about reading and writing. Every year, during this month, Nal’ibali makes a special effort in our country to raise awareness of how reading to and writing with children supports their literacy development.

The importance of literacy
Reading and writing play an incredibly important role in our lives. They help us to do simple but important tasks, like fill in a form or read the instructions on a medicine bottle. But being literate is not only about being able to use basic reading and writing skills. It is about having the power to use reading and writing to learn; to discover different ways of seeing the world; and to explore the world and communicate what we think, feel and know.

Barriers to literacy
There are many reasons why people don’t learn to read and write. The main reasons are that they don’t have what they need to learn these skills. To encourage literacy development, people need good, free and easy-to-find resources in their language.

How are we doing?
Fa e sa le go tloga ka Kgatiso 196, tlaleletso ya Nal’ibali ya dipuo tse pedi e nnile gone ka dipuo di le 11 tsa semolao tsa Aforika Borwa! Since 2012, Nal’ibali has been making books and stories – and our bilingual supplement – available free of charge in many of South Africa’s official languages. Our website, www.nalibali.org, also offers multilingual stories, activities and tips for reading to children.

As from Edition 196, the Nal’ibali bilingual supplement has been available in 11 official South African languages!

Please visit us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to let us know what you think about the literacy work that Nal’ibali has been doing so far!

It starts with a story
Go simolola ka Leinane

This supplement is available in the following newspapers: Eyethu Umlazi and Polokwane Observer.
Dear parents and caregivers of young children, in this edition we will look at the importance of playing with your children and allowing the children to “direct” the play activities.

When you play with your children, it is good to let them take the lead in the play activity. You can do this by watching what they say or do and following their lead by saying or doing things to keep the game going. This will keep your children interested in the activity, and when children are interested in something, it makes it more likely that they will learn new words and skills.

Taking the lead in an activity will also help to build their communication skills and confidence in how to influence things around them.

Even babies can take the lead during play.

Notice what they look at and move the object closer to them. Let them try to hold or shake it.

Talk to your baby. Use normal but simple language. Speak slowly, repeat words and use exaggerated facial expressions.1

Playing in a group

Playgroups are usually arranged once a week for children who haven’t yet started school and their parents or caregivers. The children can:

- enjoy looking at books and listening to music.
- try out new activities and toys.
- play with children of different ages.
- learn how to interact with adults that are not their parents or caregivers.
- learn to share, take turns and make friends.


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Kafa o ka latelang ketelopele ya ngwana wa gago mo motshamekong

- Ela thoko gore ngwana wa gago o kgathiegela eng, gore o tshameka ka eng, kgotsa o nne go dina eng.
- Botso gore o ka kapanela no go se a se dirang.
- Esa ngwana wa gago mo go se a se dirang. Fa ngwana wa gago a go kgoromeletsu bole, bose ka go e kgoromeletsu gope kwa go e nee.
- Botso ditapotsa kgotsa algaka se ka go se dirang.
- Fa ngwana wa gago a simoloko go dirang sengwe se sesho, le wena feta ka se o se dirang mme e dire sela se sesho.

Tota le masea a ka etelele pele ka nako ya motshameko.

- Ela thoko gore ba lebleleng mme o o boe sela sa sele sau felele la bone le se tshwara kgotsa go se tshikinya.
- Bua le lesaa ka gago. Dirisa puo e e tswaakgelieng mme e le e e mothloho. Bua ka bonya, boleetla mafoko mme e dirisa ditebego tse di feteleditsweng tsa felaelfela.1

How to follow your child’s lead in play

- Notice what your child is interested in, what they play with, or like doing.
- Ask if you can join in the activity.
- Copy what your child is doing. If your child rolls a ball to you, roll it back.
- Ask questions about or comment on what the two of you are doing.
- If your child starts doing something new, change to doing the new activity too.

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Go tshameka lo le setlhopha

Gantsi bana ba ba iseng ba simolole sekolo le batsadi le bathokomedi ba bone ba rulaganyedwa ditshopa tsa metshameko gangwe ka beke. Bana ba ka:

- itumelela go lebilela dibuka le go reetsa mmino.
- lekeletsu di le dithamekisi tse disha.
- tshameke le bana ba dingwaga tse di farolagangeng.
- ithuta go dirisana le batho ba go digieng ba e seng batsadi ba bone kgotsa bathokomedi ba bone.
- ithuta go abelana, go refoana le ba bangwe le go dina ditsala.

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- learn to share, take turns and make friends.
Dithopho tsa Metshekele di siametsi botsadi le bathokomedi.
Lo ka kgona go:
* kopane le batho ba bongwe le go dira ditsoela
* abelana dikokoanktsa, megopolgo le malemalodela.
* ihutla mo botsading le bathokomedi ba bongwe.
* ihutla ka ditheo tsa go ithokomela bana, dikolo le ditlirelo tse dingwe tse di mo tikoilagong ya lona.

Metshekele ya mahala le e sa jeng madi a mantsi
Go tshameka ga go ihoke go ja madi a mantsi. Dilo tse di molemolemo tse bana ba banny ba ka tshamekang ka tsone ke dilo tse di ka dirisiwang ka ditsoela tse dintsi tse di farologang le ke bana ba dingwaga tse di farologang.

Matomoro, molthare le dithupana, santa le metsi di gongwe le gongwe e bile di bonwa mahala! Mme thupana, ka sekai, e ka nna tšhaka, garawe kgotsa lerumo la bosoelamose. E ka nna sengwe sa go ago ka sone, se o ka se tšolang kgotsa go lekanya ka sone.

Fa bana ba nna ba tshwanelwa ke go dirisa lefihlo la bone la mopogolo ftha, bo randoloka malolaka mo go oketsegilele, e bile ba dirisa mebele le dithologangyo tse bone ftha la e bafutheka tse di entsa ka di fihla.

Masea le bana ba ba santseng ba gagaba ke nngwe ya dilo tse di itumedisang thata tse o ka di dirang.

Ditlhopha di metshamekedi se e e sa jeng madi a mantsi.

**Dilo tse ba ka tshamekang ka tsone**

* Bana ba banny ba thaka go nna le kamane e e lelana le vena go na le kafo ba tshamekang di ghesha le ka xone. Ba rata go lebela sekaenake sa gago, go reetsa lentswe la gago le go nna fela le vena.

* Masea a rata dithshekelesele tse di nang le mebala e e galoleng le tse di dirang modumo, jaaka seleutsela se se bidwong rattle. Mme gape ba rata dithshekelesele tse di nang le ditaforoeng kgotsa mebalala le tse di utfutlaang jaaka boboa fa o di tshwara, jaaka se le tse di boleta, tse di jaaka di teddy bear le dibuka tsa letselela.

* Masea le bana ba ba santseng ba gagaba ba rata go reetsa mminno a ga kwla tšase kgotsa medumo la o dipolotse ya leleka ya bana.

* Dipitsa, dipane, dikhonteina tsa pola, tse dietsa le tse dietsi a sone ya bana. Dilo tse dietsi tse di tšaletša le tse dietsi a sone ya bana, dipela le tse dietsi a sone ya bana, dipela le tse dietsi a sone ya bana.

* Go busa le masea le bana ba ba santseng ba gagaba ke ningwe ya dilo tse di itumedisang ftha tse o ka di dirang. Tšhopa dibuka tse di nang le dithswateka tse meduma e e galoleng le dipina tsa bana.

Things to play with

* Young children need warm interaction with you more than they need toys. They love looking at your face, listening to your voice and just being with you.

* Babies enjoy brightly coloured toys and those that make a sound, like a rattle. They also like toys with faces or patterns and that feel furry, silky or soft, like teddy bears and cloth books.

* Babies and toddlers enjoy listening to soft music or animal sounds that are used in nursery rhymes.

* Your pots, pans, plastic containers and many ordinary things around your home will fascinate your toddler! Remember to check for sharp edges, choking risks and other hazards before you give your child household items to play with.

* Reading with babies and toddlers is one of the most enjoyable things you can do. Choose books with bright illustrations and rhymes.

Playgroups are good for parents and caregivers.
You can:
* meet people and make friends.
* share tips, ideas and experiences.
* learn from other parents and caregivers.
* learn about childcare centres, schools and other services in your community.

Free and low-cost play activities

Play does not have to cost a lot. The best materials for young children to play with are things that can be used in lots of different ways and by children of different ages.

Flowers, leaves and sticks, sand and water are everywhere and are free! But a stick, for example, can be a sword, a spade or a magic wand. It can be something to build with, to jump over or to measure with.

The more children need to use their imagination, solve problems and use their bodies and minds when they’re playing, the more their brains and bodies learn and develop.

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This information is based on information found at https://raisingchildren.net.au.

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Go bophokwa gore bana ba ithuta ka puo ya gabone gore ba lekgone go ithuta go tšelaganya se ba se buisang le go tšwelela ba alaego kwa sekalong. Sene sa rey gore bana ba rona ba tša thoka go nna le dilo tsa go buisa tse ditšologaneng tse di kgatlhang le tse di rutan ka puo ya gabone. Dilo tsa go buisa – dibuka, makwalodikgang, mainane le ditšologo – di tšwelela ba buisa kwa sekologa, ba buisetsa go bona tshedimosetsa le monate!

Learning in their mother tongue is necessary to support children’s success in learning to read with understanding and to experience ongoing success at school. This means that our children need to have access to a variety of interesting and informative reading material in their mother tongue. The reading materials – books, newspapers, stories and articles – should cover many different topics that would interest children from a very young age and keep them reading for school, for information and for enjoyment!

Nal’ibali e rolloetsa gore go dinise ke puo a e builekwa kwa kga jaka lele ka kgalagadi a ba bopho(me) ya go bisietsa monate. Ka dingwaga tse di fetsang leseme, Nal’ibali e le ya amanaka ditšelutele tse dipuo tse pedi tla tša hlopo. Tša hlopo ba e batlang mo ditšologo tse di puo ya buisa le bana ba bone ka le go rekgsegile ka le bana ba bone ka le go buisa ka dipuo tse ditšologaneng:

1. Ntsha ditsebe 5 go fitlha ka 12 tsa tlaleletso e.
2. Lethare ka ditsebe 5, 6, 11 le 12 le dira buka e le ngwae. Lethare ka ditsebe 7, 8, 9 le 10 le dira buka e le ngwae.
3. Diriso lengwe le lengwe le motorle ka go dira buka. Lotela ditse tse di fa tsoe go dira buka ngwae le ngwae.
   a) Mena lethare ka bogare go lebogana le mola wa dikhutlo tse ditsho.
   b) Le mene ka bogare go lebogana le mola wa dikhutlo tse ditsho.
   c) Segs go lebogana le mola ya dikhutlo tse dikhiditu.

According to the National Reading Survey conducted by Nal’ibali Trust and the National Library of South Africa, about 8 out of every 10 South Africans would read more with the children in their African language if they had reading materials that were:

- free
- based on interesting topics, stories or information that was meaningful to them
- in their preferred language

Nal’ibali promotes the use of the mother tongue as an essential part of reading for enjoyment. For more than ten years, Nal’ibali has distributed bilingual reading-for-enjoyment supplements free of charge to reading clubs, community organisations, libraries, schools and other partners throughout South Africa. The supplements are also available to download without cost from our website at www.nalibali.org.
Topo chose to leave his tree house for a while so that the dove could nest there. Do you think this was a good choice? What would you have done?

Read the story again. How can you tell that Topo’s father loves him and cares about his feelings?

Draw a picture for a part of the story that does not have an illustration. Write the story’s words under your picture.

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org

Get story active!

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Ntlo ya ga Topo e e mo setlhareng

Topo’s treehouse

Ideas to talk about: Have you ever seen a bird’s nest? Nesting birds do not like to be disturbed. If they are disturbed, they may leave the nest, and the eggs will not hatch.

What do you think will happen if we disturb many nesting birds?

Topo felt sad. He felt angry. He felt selfish. The tree house was his place, and he did not want to move out.

Topo sat still and thoughtful on the back step. Father came to sit next to him. Father knew about the nest and the eggs, and he seemed to know about Topo’s angry and sad feelings.

“Sometimes, Topo,” said his father, “we need to give things up for others who are not as strong as us. Sometimes, we have to let the caring feeling be stronger than our anger. And stronger than our sadness for ourselves.”

Father hugged Topo and went inside. Topo sat still and thought about what he had said.

Ntlo ya ga Topo e e mo setlhareng

Kopano Sechele • Sally MacLarty
Topo always looked forward to going home after school because then he could play in his tree house. Life was always interesting in the tree house. Topo's father had built it high up in the yard's biggest tree. Topo could see many things from the tree house. He could see roofs with different shapes and colours, tall buildings far away, and closer, he could see other trees and lots of small animals and birds.

Just as Topo was getting tired, the little dove flapped its wings harder than ever and flew up higher and higher. This time, it did not come down. Topo stopped running, and watched. He watched as the little bird flew further and further and higher and higher. He was so happy he shouted out loud. It felt like he had just learnt to fly too!

Fa fela Topo a simolala go lapa, lemphorwana le ne la phaphata diphuka tsa lone thata go gaisa mo nakong e fetileng mme la fofole kwa godimo thata. Mo kelegthong leno, ga le a ka la boela fa fatshe. Topo o ne a tloela go taboga mme a leblela. O ne a leblela kafa lemphorwana le neng le fofole kwa godimo le ya kgakala le go feta e bile le ya kwa godimo thata. O ne a itumetse thata jaana mo e leng gore o ne a goela kwa godimo. E ne e kete le ene o ne a sa tswa go ithuta go fofoa!
Oom Dawid had fished on the West Coast since he was a little boy. Over time, the fish became scarce and Oom Dawid became very hungry and skinny. He could no longer catch enough fish to sell at the market and earn a living. Then, one day, he caught an amber-eyed galjoen!

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Oom Dawid had fished since he was a little boy. He caught all kinds of things – yellow-tailed fish, snoek, lobsters that snapped, and sometimes even a seabream or two. But then, suddenly, everything disappeared. Day after day Oom Dawid caught nothing, and he became very hungry.

One day, Oom Dawid rowed out into the sea. There he set out his net and waited. A few hours later, he pulled the net back in, hopeful and hungry. He saw a flash of gold and red. In the net was the most beautiful fish he’d ever seen. It was an amber-eyed galjoen.

Again Oom Dawid caught the amber-eyed galjoen and again he tossed it back into the water when it begged for its life. But this time the amber-eyed galjoen didn’t laugh. Instead, it looked at Oom Dawid for a long time, then swam slowly away.

Soon Oom Dawid got too hungry to leave his little house. One day, as he sat on his stoep, he saw a flash of gold and red in the waves. It was the amber-eyed galjoen. “I’ve been thinking about what you said, Oom Dawid. I don’t know any secrets about catching plenty of fish, but maybe these will help you,” said the galjoen. “I’m an old fisherman. I’ve been thinking about what you said.”

Erile fela go tsena mo metsing, tlhapi e ne ya tshega mme ya re, “Goreng o ka ntshepa gape?”

Again Oom Dawid caught the amber-eyed galjoen and tossed it back into the water when it begged for its life. But this time the amber-eyed galjoen looked at Oom Dawid and asked him what he wanted.

Oom Dawid o ne a tshwara ditlhapi go tloko e le mosimanyana. O tshwere mefutafuta ya ditlhapi – tlhapi ya mogatla o selowane, lobosetara, mme ka dinako dingwe le siborime e le ngwe kapa tse pedi tota. Mme fela sengwe le sengwe se ne sa myelela ka ponyo ya leitlho. Tsatsi le letetsi o Oom Dawid o ne a sa tshware sepe, mme o ne a tshwarwa ke tlala.

Ka letetsi lengwe, Oom Dawid o ne a ya kwa lehatleng. A latlhelha letowa la gagwe mme a leta. Diuranyana morogo ga foo, a gogela letlowa mo mokorong, a na le tsholofelo ebole a le talakgologologolo. O ne a bona go phatshima ga gauta le bohobidu. Mo letohweng, go ne go na le tlhapi e ntle go gaosa tse a kileng a di bona. E ne e le galajune e e matliho mabhidu.
The fish laughed as it swam off. “I lied to you! You really shouldn’t have trusted me.”

Many weeks later, when Oom Dawid was fishing in the sea, he again saw a flash of gold and red in his net. Oom Dawid was now so hungry and skinny, he had to wear his big jacket so that the wind didn’t blow him over.

“Okay,” said the fish, “you’ve caught me again. If you throw me back, I’ll really tell you the secret to catching plenty of fish.”

Oom Dawid thought for a moment, and though his tummy rumbled, he tossed the fish back into the water. As soon as it was in the water again, the fish laughed and said, “Why would you trust me again?”

The next day, Oom Dawid sold the pearls for a lot of money. He bought coffee and food for himself, and a nice loaf of bread to thank the amber-eyed galjoen for the pearls.

That afternoon, Oom Dawid took his little boat out into the sea. He broke the bread into pieces and threw the pieces into the water. He watched as other smaller fish ate them, but he never saw the amber-eyed galjoen again.

Ka letsatsi le le latelang, Oom Dawid a rekisa diperela ka madi a mantsi. A ithekela kofi le dijo, le lofo ya senkgwe se se monate go leboga galejune e e matlho mahibidu ka diperela.

Motshegareng oo, Oom Dawid a tsa ya mokorwana wa gape go ya kwa lelwatlen. A fofo senkgwe mme a latlhela mafora mo metsing. A lebelela fa ditlhabi tse dinnye di a a ja, mme a se tloho a bona galejune e e matlho mahibidu gape.
"Look at you," Oom Dawid said with a whistle.
"Hello," replied the fish.
Oom Dawid blinked. "Did you just talk?" he asked.
"Yes," said the fish. "Please, don't eat me. If you throw me back into the water, I'll tell you the secret to catching plenty of fish."

Oom Dawid was very hungry, but if the fish told him this secret, it would all be worth it. So, he picked up the amber-eyed galjoen and threw it back into the water.

Oom Dawid bent to pick up a small parcel of seaweed tied with amber coral. Inside were three pearls, brilliant and white, and worth a small fortune.

"Thank you, my friend," said Oom Dawid, but the fish was nowhere to be seen.

"Was nowhere to be seen," ga rialo Oom Dawid a letsa molodi.
"Dumela," ga rialo tlhapi.
Oom Dawid a bonya. "A o sa tswa go bua?" a botsa.
"Ee," ga rialo tlhapi. "Tsweetswee, o se ke wa nkeja. Fa o ka ntatlhela gape mo metsing, ke tla go bolelela sephiri sa go tshwara ditlhapi tse dintsi."

Oom Dawid a inama go sela phaselanyana ya bolele bo phuthetswe ka korale e khibidu. Mo teng go na le diperela tse tharo, di le dintle ka bosweu di re twaa! Di ne di tla rekwa ka tilwathlwa e e kwa godimo.
"Ke a leboga, tsala," ga rialo Oom Dawid, mme tlhapi e ne e setse e ile.
The next day after school Topo crept up into the tree house and looked into the nest. He saw two eggs there. The eggs were beautiful; they made Topo happy. He knew that young doves would hatch out of those eggs.

After school each day, Topo sat and watched the nest. The mother dove spent most of her time with her little dove. It grew bigger and bigger. It spent a lot of time flapping, flapping, flapping its wings.

One morning, as Topo was walking out of the kitchen, he stopped suddenly. There was the little dove in front of him on the grass, trying, trying, trying to fly. Topo was very excited, but he stood very still and watched.

The little dove flapped its wings very hard and flew up into the air for a short distance, then came down again. Topo followed the little dove across the yard and over the fence. The little dove tried over and over and over again.

Suddenly a gust of wind blew one of the eggs out of the nest, whooshed it along the planks, and it tumbled over the edge. Topo looked down. There, on the ground below, was the little white egg smashed to bits.

Topo felt horrible. Just then the dove flew back and settled onto the egg that was left in the nest.
Sometimes, Topo would take his books into the tree house and read. It was good to read there because it was quiet, with just the birds singing. Other times, he just sat and watched. He wondered how far the birds flew and what stories they were telling other birds about the distant places they had been to.

One day, Topo noticed a small pile of twigs on one of the branches that grew very near to his tree house. A dove flew into the tree and fluttered about. But it had seen Topo and was afraid. It flew away again. So Topo crept to a branch on the other side of the tree house and sat very still. The dove came back, saw that it was safe, and piled on more twigs.

When the pile was big enough, the dove settled on it. She looked very comfortable.

Each day when Topo came back from school he checked the nest to make sure that the egg was there. One day, as he peeked into the nest, he saw an ugly creature with a big mouth. It was very small and had no feathers. Topo slid down the tree and ran to tell his father.

"Look, it’s a different kind of bird," he said. "It doesn’t look like a dove at all." Topo’s father looked carefully at it, then nodded. "Yes, it is different. It looks like the eggs are going to hatch soon."
Thuto ya me ya go buisa le go kwala, puo ya me, ngwaoboswa jwa me!

My literacy, my language, my heritage!

Contact us in any of these ways:  • Ikgolaganye le rona ka nngwe ya ditsela tse:
Olwethu, e leng okotopase, o ne a ikhutšute kafa tlase ga lengope ka lefika mo phulung e kqoal vau le tshithshis iwa lewatle. O ne a tshogile. O ne a isole o a ka a i ngakaaljalja jaan a go tswa mo phulung ya gagwe e e mo mmatlapeng a a kafa Itsa ga lewatle. O ne a u futhiwa a sielangile a ne mmatlapeng a a kafa Itsa ga lewatle, ao a fitlhengeng kqaloaka le tshithshis iwa lewatle le mo bathong gone. Mme malatshipanya a sekoe a a lethleng, ntsaloa e bong, Oscar, o ne a mo ghettha gore a dire sengwe se sesho a e ne mmle ba ye a go sekaseka diphiti se di keng gaat le tshithshis iwa lewatle.

“Go lemosa tota vako. Ke bafa go bona lefatshe. ‘Tsumaya le nna, Olwethu,’ a nako.”

Olwethu o ne a mo rapela gore a se ka a tsamaya, mme Oscar o ne a se nkisane a mo re a a dira lelo a se a dira lelo a e se rateang. Gore jaanong, e setse a a lebalsetse a sa bonale. Ke ka lebaka leo Olwethu a lengleng a swetsa go ya ga mmatla. Ga mmatla go gagwe go dire gore a fitlhile mo phulung ena e e gaat le tshithshis iwa lewatle mo. Mme mma a goa le lefikeng le lefikeng a sa lewatle tse di ka kqoalang le mmoekela gore ga diragetseng eng ka Oscar. O ne a bafa bafa go bonako gore a lela lelawo a goa a le go lelayo a ga lemathe a leba.

“Mma, okotopase a gana go logela senokole sa mme!” Viwe a rielo, a simo lo go tshoaha.

“Ipo,” Olwethu a akanya ka bonako, “ke simo lo go tseheka ke seke lebale lela gala Oscar? Fa ke se keletloko thata, le nna le lla tshoaha?” A logela se leka ka bonako. Senokole se a se koka bo sa phasangane mo godimo ga metsi, mme Viwe o ne a bafa a go a go tswa mo lefikeng a wela mo metsing ka mokwakwa. Niko o ne a tshega, “A bo o le mosetsana yo o lesego yang ne, Viwe. O boe okotopase a faro a batle gore ga tshoaha!”

“Ee,” Viwe a rielo ka bafiomo, “mme okotopase a bafa gore tsoya senokele sa mme!”

A bo ka lesego yang go falola, Olwethu a akanya jalo fa o simo lo go tsamoya ka phulung ya gagwe e e kqaloaka a a kafa Itsa lewatle. Ka bonako fa a sena go huma metsi le go a gasetsa kwa rifite, o ne a lefikayo sa metsing a o tseheka kotsi. A le kqaloaka, o ne a utlwa noko wo a Viwe a rielo, “Tsaa! Bona kafa okotopase a tseheka ka teng. Viwe! Le lefikayo sa metsing jaana go folokata se lela a le nang gore.”

Wiwe Olwethu ga a ka a ega pa utlwa Gore Viwe a reng. Tota a bila, ga a a flogela go tshoaha go flogela a bafa pa a le matlapeng a a kafa Itsa ga lewatle a babakelo.

“Mama, okotopase a gana go logela senokole sa mme!” Viwe a rielo, a simo lo go tshoaha.

“Dira posetara ya Motho yo o Timetseng. Torowa setshehantsho sa motho yo a tsetseng a o ba o lebako lela kqo ga gagwe, dingwaga tsa gagwe le tshoaha ya ka lebelejane ya teng ka kafa Itsa ga selela.”

Nna le matlhagathamga a leinane!

“A o lele ka dire sengwe se sesho? O ne wa u futhiwa yang? Ka ntho ya?”

Torowa setshehantsho sa okotopase. Okotopase a kqoal a gona go fofo lelela wa vyane? Ka jalo, a ka nna we a tseha lelela wa vyane e o kgatlhisang kgotsa methela.

Kagale Olwethu o ne a rata mbelela e e galolang. Phulu ya gagwe kwa mmatlapeng a lewatle e e ne e o lebelela e e galolang. E ne e fete ka dithantho se tsela lewatle tse dikhiba, di-chithi tse a phatsimang, mmetla e e lewatle le dithansiono di le dits. Olwethu o ne a tloaang gore Oscar o sile a ngokoja yang ke dilo ta mbelela e e galolang tse di e neng di gokeletswe mo lefotswa mo metsing a ni a ledira go mo tshoaha.

Go tswa mo a neng a iphihlihle teng Olwethu o ne a bona sela sa mma a o galolang o pinki se lelogela mo metsing fa thoko ya gagwe. Kwanile ga ga akanya, a o a ntiwa lelweng la matla gore a malele ka kielo a bo la e letholetse a seele a o ngaka a leleweng tse di. Olwethu o ne a tloaang gore Oscar o sile a ngokoja yang ke dilo tsela lewatle e e galolang tse di. Olwethu o ne a tloaang gore Oscar o sile a ngokoja yang ke dilo tsela lewatle e e galolang tse di.
Olwethu, the octopus, rested under the ledge of rock in a large pool near the beach. She was afraid. She had never been this far from her own pool out on the reef. She always felt safe on the reef, tucked away far from the shore and humans. But a few days ago, her cousin, Oscar, had dared her to go on an adventure with him to explore the pools near the beach.

“It’s so boring here. I want to see the world. Swim away with me, Olwethu,” he had said.

Olwethu had begged him not to go, but Oscar never listened to her and always did just what he wanted. Now, he had been gone for some days. That’s why Olwethu had decided to look for him. Her search had brought her to this pool near the beach where, at last, she had found sea creatures who could tell her what had happened to Oscar.

“He was far too curious for his own good,” said the starfish sadly.
The sea anemones waved their tentacles in agreement, “We warned him to be careful of colourful things dangling in the water,” they said.
Olwethu was very sad. She would have to return to her pool on the reef alone. Then, as she floated under the ledge, thinking about how much she missed Oscar, she suddenly heard human voices. When Olwethu peeped out, she saw a little girl, her mother and her granny at the edge of the pool. They were staring down into the water.

As Olwethu ducked back under the ledge, she heard the granny call out, “Viwe, look, there is an octopus! Can you see it under the ledge?”
Olwethu quickly changed colour so that she would blend in with the rocks and sea weeds around her.

But Viwe had seen her. “Yes! Look, I think it’s trying to hide,” she said, pointing to where Olwethu was.

Remembering what had happened to Oscar, Olwethu decided to make a dash for safety. Quick as a flash, she slipped out from under the ledge to hide in the shelter of a bigger rock. But to her horror, the little girl waded through the water and sat on the big rock right above where Olwethu was hiding. The girl was holding something brightly coloured in her hand, but Olwethu didn’t know what it was.

Olwethu had always loved bright colours. Her own pool back on the reef was so colourful. It was filled with red anemones, shiny chitins, green seaweeds and many beautiful starfish. Olwethu could understand how Oscar had been drawn to the brightly coloured float that the fisherman had used to catch him.

From her hiding place Olwethu saw the bright pink object slipping down into the water and past her. Without thinking, she gently slid one of her tentacles around the object and, when nothing happened, she began to wind a second tentacle around it.
Then she heard the little girl call out, “Look, Mama, the octopus has got my snorkel.”
Olwethu got such a fright that she tightened her grip on the object. The little girl reached down and grabbed her snorkel. Feeling the tug on it, the little girl gave it a tug too.

“Mama, the octopus won’t let my snorkel go!” said Viwe, starting to panic.

“Oh no,” thought Olwethu suddenly, “I am being just as silly as Oscar was! If I’m not more careful, I am going to get caught too!” Quickly, she let go of the object. The snorkel popped out of the water with a splash, and Viwe nearly fell off the rock backwards into the water.

Gogo laughed, “What a lucky girl you are, Viwe. You saw an octopus and nearly caught one too!”

“Yes,” said Viwe excitedly, “and the octopus nearly caught my snorkel!”

What a lucky escape I had, thought Olwethu as she started to swim back towards her pool on the reef. Sucking in water and squirting it out, she was soon shooting through the water like an aeroplane flies through the sky.

In the distance, she heard Viwe’s granny say, “Wow! Look at that octopus move, Viwe! It’s speeding through the water like an aeroplane flies through the sky.”

But Olwethu didn’t stop to hear what Viwe said. In fact, she didn’t stop swimming until she got back to the safety of the reef.
Monate wa Nal’ibali

Nal’ibali fun

1.

a) A o ka nyakana karolo ya kwa godimo le ya kwa tlase ya badiroagatsi ba Nal’ibali?

b) Kwala leina la modiragatsi mongwe le mongwe kafata tlase ga setshwantsho sa gagwe.

2.

a) Can you match the top and bottom part of these Nal’ibali characters?

b) Write each character’s name under their picture.

3.

a) Make words with two or more letters in them.

b) Use each of the letters in the wheel only once in each word.

c) Always include the letter in the middle of the wheel in your words.

4. Maina tota ga a letlelela.

Farmers from nearby towns hope to use the Nal’ibali street

bikane to grow vegetables. Nal’ibali character illustrations by Rico.

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