10 reasons to use picture books

November is International Picture Book Month – a time to celebrate those special books that capture our imagination with their carefully chosen words and beautiful illustrations. Here are ten reasons to make picture books part of your children’s reading life!

1. Essential resources. Picture books are meant to be read aloud, so this makes them the perfect reading resource for sharing stories with children.

2. Learning how stories work. As we read picture books to children, we can invite them to comment on the story and ask questions about it. This deepens their understanding of the story and also helps them to learn about the way in which stories and books work. This knowledge makes learning to read easier.

3. Talk about the book. Reading a picture book together encourages conversations about what’s happening in the story, what the characters are feeling, the meanings of words, and how what’s happening in the story might relate to your children.

4. Developing children’s language. Picture books offer children a language feast! Through the rhythm and rhyme in many of these books, children experience the sounds of our languages. And, because picture books use fewer words than novels, the words that are chosen and how they are used, is very important. So, the rich use of language in these books develops and extends children’s own use of language.

5. An invitation to join in. The repetition of sentences or phrases in some picture books, allows children to join in by saying those words of the story, even before they are able to actually read them.

6. Learning about picture cues. As you read picture books to children, you learn that the pictures help to tell the story and give clues to what the words are. Understanding this is essential to learning to read.

7. Reading pictures. In a picture book, the illustrations are as important as the text. Reading a picture book means exploring the art in it as well. This gives children practice in interpreting pictures.

8. Developing empathy. Picture books help children to learn how to step into someone else’s shoes and to see life from a different perspective. Developing the ability to do this takes lots of practice, and picture books provide a place to start.

9. Safe spaces to explore. Picture books often explore challenging questions or topics. They offer their readers opportunities to find their own answers to difficult questions, such as, “What is love?” and “Are there situations where it’s okay not to tell the truth?”

10. Messages about reading. In a world where everyone is always busy, the fact that an adult takes the time to read a picture book to you sends a message to children that reading is important. And, when the adult enjoys reading to you, you also learn that reading is fun. These two messages motivate children to want to learn to read for themselves.

1. Melodi ya bohlokwa. Dibuka tsa ditshwantsho batho bohlokwa, lebaka hitse, lebaka le mantswe a bohlokwa, le mantswe a bohlokwa ba hloko le ditshwantsho.

2. Ho ithuta kamoo dipatile se ditshwantsho. Ho re ntere re bala bana ditshwantsho, re ka bana mantswe a ditshwantsho le hloko le bala bana ditshwantsho. Sena se le tshwa re ditshwantsho ka bana.

3. Ho bala ditshwantsho. Dibuka tsa ditshwantsho le hloko le ditshwantsho, ba bana ditshwantsho se ditshwantsho ka bana.

4. Ho bala ditshwantsho. Dibuka tsa ditshwantsho le bana ditshwantsho, ba bana ditshwantsho le bana ditshwantsho.

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Dinaledi tsa dipale

Sethotokisì ka tlung!

FUNdø Leader, Mpho Mofokeng, o le a tsebiswa bothokisì ho tlhoo a sa le monyane ke tiţhure ya hae ya Senyesemane sekolong sa poneari, mme sena se ile sa kgwathata lelato la ditlhotokisì le bo nobono ka hare kae yena. Kenjeno, jwàtaka mołuakanà, Mpho ka sebapadi sa kalaneng, sethokisì ke mongodi ya tswelang pele ho sedibisa ditlhotokisì ho hlóhisa mepho ho maikutlo a hae. Re le ra bua le Mpho kamos lerato la hae la mantswe se susetseng bophelo ba hae ka teng.

Re bokile ka sekhlopa sa hae sa ditlhotokisì sa Facebook?

Ka 2012, ke llo ka qalo sekhlopa sa Facebook se bitshwag “Genesis Poetry” baikeng sa ho hopola e mong wa metswale ya ka eo le yena a neng a rata ditlhotokisì holola. “Sekhlopa” sena jwàle se se ona le ditemo те mme se se se tshwana le makaqibo. Re tshwana dipitšo tsa ditlhotokisì sekbàkeng sa Vaal, e tsgwe mso ke tsawng teng.

Koralo ya dipale le dubukà ke efe mophelelo a rona?

Dipale ke dimmapa mme dubukà ka ditlhotokisì tsa se tsohetse ng Le tsef hi e tsho. Ke ditshwantsi tsa bophelo. 

Hobaneng ho ha bola ho le bohlókwa hokade?

Ke matsete ao a iketsesang ola. Ha ko boka le phumana ke hohetswe ka hara buka mme ebe ke hahlaloa ke kae ka ke le hlohle ebo buka le batleng ho nkisa teng. Ho boka ho mopela bophelo ba bang bo fapanang.

Ke mang ya neng a o bola kapa a ophetle dipale ho a sa le ngwana?

Ho ha no mahto ya neng a mpaka, empe tselemoholo wa ke a o a Hola a mphetela dipale ka Sesotho. 

No o bola bana ba hao? Hobaneng?

Ehile, ke eitsa jwàle. Ke ba bola ka Sesotho le ka Senyesemane. Ho ba bola ba bohlókwa hobane ka bala bore ba rate ho bala ba sa le banyenyane.

Ngwana e mong le e mong a lokela ho bola …

Ngwana e mong le e mong a lokela ho bola boka e a hopotsang bophelo ba hae.

No o rata he bola dipale tsa boiphapelo kopa tseo e sang tsa boiphapelo?

Ke di rata ke babedi mme ke nahanà hepha bana bokela ho di bala ka babedi. Phapaphapane e bohlókwa.

Buka e leqo ya fetola letelatshe ka ke …

… Things Fall Apartika Chinua Achebe. Buka eo e ile ya etsa hore ke rate dingolwa tsa Afrika ka petlo ya ka yola!

Story stars

A poet in the house!

FUNdøa Leader, Mpho Mofokeng, was introduced to poetry at an early age by his primary school English teacher, and this triggered a love of poetry and art in him. Today, as a young man, Mpho is a theatrical performer, poet and a writer who continues to use poetry to express his thoughts and feelings. We chatted to Mpho about how his passion for words influences his life.

Tell us about your Facebook poetry group?

In 2012, I created a Facebook group called “Genesis Poetry” in remembrance of one of my close friends who also loved poetry. This “group” is now four years old and more like a movement. We host poetry shows in the Vaal area, which is where I come from.

What is the role of stories and books in our lives?

Stories are maps and books are accounts of what has happened and what is to come. They are an expression of life.

Why is reading so important?

It is an investment in yourself. When I am reading I get drawn into the book and then things fall apart.

Who read to you or told you stories as a child?

No one read to me, but my grandfather used to tell me stories in Sesotho.

Do you read to your children? Why?

Yes, I do. I read to them in Sesotho and English. Reading to them is whole other life for me.

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Every child should read …

Every child should read a book that’s a reflection of them.

Do you prefer reading fiction or non-fiction?

I like both and I think children should experience both. Variety is important.

The book that changed my world was …

… Things fall apart by Chinua Achebe. That book made me fall in love with African literature!

Find the poetry group, “Genesis Poetry”, on Facebook.

Fumana sekhlopa sa ditlhotokisì, “Genesis Poetry”, ho Facebook.

NALIBALI ON RADIO!

Tune into the following radio stations to enjoy listening to stories on NAL’IBALI’s radio show!

- DineoMasi FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:45 a.m.
- Lesedi FM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:45 a.m.
- Ligwalagwala FM on Monday to Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Munghana Lonene FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:35 a.m.
- Phalaphala FM on Monday to Wednesday at 11:15 a.m.
- RSG on Monday to Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- SAFM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:50 p.m.
- Thebela FM on Tuesday and Thursday at 2:50 p.m., on Saturday at 9:20 a.m. and on Sunday at 7:50 a.m.
- Ukhozi FM on Wednesday at 9:20 a.m. and on Saturday at 8:50 a.m.
- Umhlobo Wenene FM on Monday to Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- X-K FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m.

NAL’IBALI RADIYONG!

Bulela ditshwene tse lalinga tsa radyo ho nateleka ke ho momela dipale leneneeng la radyo la Nal’ibali!

DineoMasi FM ka Mantasha, Laborano le Labophelo ka 9:45 hoseng.

Lesedi FM ka Mantasha, Laborabo le Lesotho ka 9:45 hoseng.

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SAFM ka Mantasha, Laborabo le Labophelo ka 1:50 motsheare.


Ukhozi FM ka Laborabo ka 9:20 hoseng le ka Moqebela ka 8:50 hoseng.

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X-K FM ka Mantasha, Laborabo le Labophelo ka 9:00 hoseng.

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Celebrate reading and writing!

November offers us lots of opportunities to have fun with reading and writing. Choose one or more of the special days below and try out our activity suggestions at home, in your classroom or at your reading club.

13 November International Tongue Twister Day
With your children, write down some tongue twisters and then say them together over and over again, as quickly as you can. Here are some to get you going: She sells sea shells on the seashore. / Flash message, flash message. / A proper copper coffee pot. / I saw Esau sitting on a seashore. Esau, he saw me. / Toy boat, toy boat. / Six thick thistle sticks. / Good blood, bad blood. With your children, write down some tongue twisters and then say them together over and over again, as quickly as you can. Here are some to get you going: She sells sea shells on the seashore. / Flash message, flash message. / A proper copper coffee pot. / I saw Esau sitting on a seashore. Esau, he saw me. / Toy boat, toy boat. / Six thick thistle sticks. / Good blood, bad blood.

15 November I Love to Write Day
Write something that you’ve always wanted to! It can be about anything, and it doesn’t have to be long. You could write a letter, an email, a Facebook post, a poem, or an article on a topic you are passionate about, the first few paragraphs or pages of a story, or you could write to your local newspaper with a point you’ve always wanted to make but never found time for. Just get writing!

15 November Buy Nothing Day
Use different coloured paper, coloured pencils or crayons, glue, fabric scraps and other waste materials that you already have to create your own short storybook. Then share the fun by showing and reading it to someone else.

21 November World Hello Day
This year people from 180 countries around the world will celebrate World Hello Day for the 44th time! World Hello Day was started as a way of showing how important communication and understanding are for peace. Like others around the world, you can celebrate this day by taking the time to greet ten people throughout the day – and try to do this in their mother tongue, even if you have to ask them how to do this first!

21 November Buy Nothing Day
Use different coloured paper, coloured pencils or crayons, glue, fabric scraps and other waste materials that you already have to create your own short storybook. Then share the fun by showing and reading it to someone else.

25 November Letatsi la Se Reke Letho
Sebedisa somotse e mebala e fapaneng, dipentshele tse mebala kopa dikutoro, sekgometsi, dikgethakana tsa masela le dithwana tse ding tseo o seng e a mele tse mmalo ko kha sekelela thwana ka ho bontsha bohlokwa ba puisa le kutlhakwa bontsha ba kgositsa. Jwalo ka bontsha ba bang bontsha lehle, o ka ketele letatsi lemo ka ho naka nako bontsha sa ho dumisa dina bontsha ba lebokaanefatsana naka – mme o leke ho ehla sena ka puo ya bona ya lapeng, esitana le ho a ka flameho ho ba botsa hore ho thweng ka puo ya bona pele!
Nicholas and the Wild Ones

On his first day at school Nicholas is faced with a gang of bullies, but over time he is able to use his creativity to win their admiration and he also makes a surprising new friend. This picture book is a story about bullying, problem solving and friendship.

As you read the book together:
- spend time looking closely at and commenting on the detail in the pictures.
- ask your children what they think about the advice Nicholas's family members give him on pages 9 and 10.
- ask your children what they think is going to happen after page 17, and then after you have read page 18, ask them if they thought Cindy was going to say that.
- Once you have finished reading the story, ask your children:
  - what they think of the way Nicholas behaved in the story, which of the things that he did they would also have done and which things they might have done differently.
  - to share what they know about bullying and how to deal with it. Remind them that it is important to tell an adult they trust if they are ever bullied or if they feel that they want to bully others.
- Suggest that your children write a letter to one of the characters in the story – then let them write this character's reply to the letter.

That's better!

This picture book explores how little Sipho finds comfort in familiar things and by being with those he loves whenever he feels sad, lonely, or scared. The book celebrates the security that families and friends can give to young children.

As you read the book together with very young children point to and talk about the people in the pictures, where they are and what they are doing.

With older children, point out how Sipho has a special blanket with him that makes him feel safe and secure. Let them find the blanket in the pictures. Do they know someone who has a special blanket or something else that helps to comfort them? Or, did they have one when they were younger?

Why monkeys live in trees

In this retelling of a traditional story, we find out why monkeys prefer to live in trees.

Talk about the way in which Lion and Monkey behaved towards each other in the story – How could they have behaved differently? How might this have changed the story?

Invite your children to draw a picture of the part of the story where Monkey is watching the other animals walk past the body of the lion. Suggest that they draw speech bubbles or thought bubbles for Lion, Monkey and the other animals, and then either write words or draw pictures in the bubbles to show what the animals might be thinking or saying.

This is a good story for acting out! Let everyone play the part of a different character and enjoy recreating the story together.

Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

Nicholas and the Wild Ones

1. To make this book use pages 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 and 12.
2. Fold the sheets in half along the black dotted line.
3. Fold it in half again along the green dotted line to make the book.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.

Nicholas le Ba Hlaha

Ka lebata la hae la pale sekotsong Nicholas o stelebele la sebokweba sa bonkwapo, empa ea nako e ni te e basa sa o sebekele ka hae ho babo bo ka hae ho babo. Nicholas le Ba Hlaha, (maqepe 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 le 12) le Ho betere! (laqepe 9 la 10) esitana le pale ya Hukung ya Dipole, Hobaneng ha ditshwenne di dula difa teng (laqepe 15). Kelela me e hae tshwanelo lebotsa hale di le tsa hae le a ba hae ho.

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Nicholas and the Wild Ones
Nicholas le Ba Hlahla


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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

Nicholas and the Wild Ones
Niki Daly

How to beat the bullies
Kamoo o ka hlolang bonkwapo (dibuli) kateng

So in art class, when Miss Pinkerton asked them all to draw something, Nicholas drew a Wild Ones Munching Machine.

Yaba ka tlelaseng ya bonono, ha Mofts Pinkerton a kopa bohle ho taka ho hong, Nicholas a taka Motjhine o Jang Ba Hlahla.

Shakira drew herself on a tightrope balancing on one foot!

Shakira a itaka a eme hodima thapo e tiileng a tsitsitse ka leoto le leng!

Cindy Crocker drew a wobbly pink heart. The rest of the Wild Ones didn’t know what to draw. Instead, they laughed at Cindy’s pink wobbly heart.

Cindy Crocker a taka pelo e pinki e thothomelang. Ba bang kaofela Ba Hlahla ba ne ba sa tsebe hore ba ka taka eng. Bakeng sa ho taka, ba ile ba tsheha pelo e pinki e thothomelang ya Cindy.

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When Nicholas came out of school, Mum was waiting.

“How did you like it?” asked Mum.

“Not one bit,” replied Nicholas.

“Oh dear, why not?” asked Mum.

“See those kids over there?” said Nicholas.

“Yes,” said Mum.

“Well, those are the Wild Ones,” said Nicholas.
Nicholas’s Wild One Convertor

© Nicholas

Nicholas’s sugar + spice

tswekere +
dinoko

IN KA HARE

goes in wild

Nicholas’s Wild One Convertor

Nicholas goes in wild o ba hlahla

Nicholas is an ‘ideas man’. He’ll think of a creative way to handle those Wild Ones. “Tjhe bo,” ha rialo Nkgono. “Nicholas ke ‘monna wa menahano’. O tla nahana ka tsela ya boiqapelo eo ka yona a ka shebanang le Ba Hlaha bano.”

“Cindy, dear,” said Miss Pinkerton, “come and sit next to Nicholas.”

Miss Pinkerton was happy to see Cindy and Nicholas talking to each other. “Come and sit near Nicholas,” Miss Pinkerton said. “That’s a cool pink wobbly heart,” said Nicholas.

“Ee,” ha rialo Mme. “Ke tshepa hore o tla nahana leqheka. Empa o tlamehile ho ya sekolong. Ho seng jwalo, o tla ba moqapi ya tsebahalang jwang?”

“Ha Nicholas a tswa sekolong, Mmae o ne a mo emetse.”

“Na o le wa se rata?” ha bota Mme

“Hohang le hanyane feela,” ha araha Nicholas.

“Ao ngwanaka, hohangjwale?” ha bota Mme.

“O a ba bona bale?” ha bota Nicholas.

“Ee,” ha araha Mme.

“Ke bota he ba Hlaha habolo,” ha rialo Nicholas.
Going home, Nicholas told Mum all about the Wild Ones. “Charlie’s the wildest,” explained Nicholas. “He stands on top of the climbing frame and jumps on anyone who passes below him.”

“That’s dangerous,” said Mum.

“Sheep!” said Nicholas. “But you know who’s really creepy?”

“Tell me,” said Mum.

Ha ba eya hae, Nicholas a phetela Mmee ka ditaba tshole tsa Ba Hlaha.

“Charli ke yena ya hlaha ho feta,” ha Halosa Nicholas.

“O palama hodima foreime mmee a tlelele hodima mang kapa mang ya fetang ka tlaa hae.”

“Noho co e kosti,” ha rialo Mmee.

“E ka mmolaya!” ha rialo Nicholas. “Empe o a tsha ke mang ya tsosang e le ka metse?”

“Mpolile,” ha rialo Mmee.

Shakira could show Nicholas how to balance on one leg, like SO.

Shakira o ne a ka bontsha Nicholas kamoo a ka tshosang ka leoto le le leng ka teng, TJENA,

and Nicholas could show Shakira how to hold her fists like SO, just in case the Wild Ones ever turned wild again, which they hardly ever did … except some days, when they simply HAD to be wild! And that gave Nicholas a new idea …
What a brave boy! Sipho feels worried.

“What a brave boy!” Sipho feels worried.

That’s better!

Ho betere!

That’s better!

It’s playtime! Sipho feels shy.

“Ke nako ya papadi.” Sipho oikutlwa a le dihlong.

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

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This is an adapted version of That’s better! published by Jacana Media and available in bookstores and online from www.jacana.co.za. This story is available in isiZulu, isiXhosa, English, Afrikaans, Setswana, Sesotho, SiSwati, Xitsonga, Tshoivala 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.


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That’s better!

Ho betere!
“Where are you?” Sipho feels scared.

“O hokae? Sipho o ikutlwa a tshohile.”

“See you later!” Sipho feels lonely.

“Ke la o bona hamorao? Sipho o ikutlwa a le bodutu.”

“That’s better!”

“Ho betere!”

“Bye-bye, Sipho.” Sipho feels sad.

“Sala hantle, Sipho.” Sipho o ikutlwa a hloname.

“That’s better!”

“Ho betere!”

“That’s much better!”

“Ho betere haholo!”
“Wedgie Reggie,” said Nicholas. “He thinks it’s very funny to yank kids up by their underpants. And you know what?”

“What?” asked Mum.

“My friend Stephen had to walk around with his underpants up his bottom.”

“That’s not very funny,” said Mum.

“It’s mean,” said Nicholas. “But Big-Mouth Jake’s even worse.”

“After break she read us a book about our rights. And NOBODY has the right to be horrid to us,” said Nicholas.

“Quite right,” said Mum.

“So, I won’t be going to school any more,” said Nicholas.

Big-Mouth Jake ran away with his packet of Space Snacks …

“Keep away from my kids, Nicholas,” warned Mum.

In art class he showed them how to make their own. And that meant that Charlie didn’t jump on anyone, Reggie cut out the wedgies, Big-Mouth Jake didn’t even think of treats, Cindy thought of giving Shakira a push, but didn’t, and this meant …

So in art class he showed them how to make their own. And that meant that Charlie didn’t jump on anyone, Reggie cut out the wedgies, Big-Mouth Jake didn’t even think of treats, Cindy thought of giving Shakira a push, but didn’t, and this meant …
"At break, he snatched Shakira’s snack and stuffed it in his mouth. He didn’t even close his mouth. You could see the goo going round and round like cement in a cement mixer. But now I’m going to tell you about the SCARIEST, WILDEST ONE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!"

"Who’s that?" asked Mum.

"Ka nako ya kgefutso, o ile a phamola dijo tsa Shakira mme a di kometsa. Ha a ka a kwala le molomo wa ba. O ne o kgona ho bona mathe a ntse a fuduwa dijo jwale haeka ke tswakwang. Empa jwale ke tlo o bolella ka YA TSHOSANG HO FETA, YA HLAHA KA HO FETISISA LEFATSHENG LOHLE!"

"Yena ke mang?" ha botsa Mme.

"Cindy Crocker. She’s as big as a wrestler. She pushed me from behind while I was showing Shakira my poo-powered motor-car invention," said Nicholas.

"That’s bullying," said Mum. "Did you tell Miss Pinkerton?"

"Yes," said Nicholas. "And you know what she did?"

"What?" asked Mum.

"Ha botsa "Na nka tla heno ka tlo bapala?"

"Ho lokile," ha rialo Nicholas. "Ha sekolo se etswa, Mme o ne a thabile ho bona hore Nicholas o se a ena le motswalle e motjha.

That afternoon they had a really fun time. Cindy showed Nicholas how to do a powerslam.

Mantsiboyeng ao ba ile ba natefela haholo. Cindy a bontsha Nicholas kamoo ho etswang powerslam ka teng.

And Nicholas demonstrated his latest solar-powered helicopter design in flight. When the rest of the Wild Ones heard about Nicholas’s cool helicopter design they all wanted one.
To celebrate International Picture Book Month, here is some information about one of South Africa's most famous writers and illustrators of picture books – Niki Daly. (He is the author and illustrator of the cut-out-and-keep book in this edition, Nicholas and the Wild Ones.)

Niki was born in Cape Town and spent most of his life there before moving to the small Western Cape town of Kleinmond a few years ago. Although he writes in English, Niki Daly’s books have been translated into many different languages and are enjoyed by children here and all over the world. He won an international award for the very first book he had published – and he has been winning awards ever since, within South Africa and in other countries too.

Some books by Niki Daly

- Creepy Street / The Herd Boy
- Not so fast, Songololo!
- Pretty Salma
- Where’s Jamela? / Jamela o kae?
- Zanzibar Road / Isela ya Zanzibar
- Next stop – Zanzibar Road / Sebaka se Latelang seo re Emang ho Sona – Mmileng wa Zanzibar

Dibuka tse ding ka Niki Daly

Dibuka tse ngata tsa Niki Daly di fumaneha ka dipupa tse mmatlwa tsa Afrika Borwa. Dibuka tse hae di fumaneha difefeseng tse ngata le mabenkeleng a dibuka a mangata. Lenene la tse ding tsa dibuka tsa hae le ngotswe tise mona.

Ideas for stories can come to me in an instant, or they can spend years just written down as an idea in my “Book of Ideas.”

Niki Daly

Some books by Niki Daly

- Creepy Street
- The Herd Boy / Modisana
- Not so fast, Songololo!
- Pretty Salma
- Where’s Jamela? / Jamela o kae?
- Zanzibar Road / Isela ya Zanzibar
- Next stop – Zanzibar Road / Sebaka se Latelang seo re Emang ho Sona – Mmileng wa Zanzibar

Thank you, Jackson

Niki Daly
Lion was the king of the beasts. His loud roar made the leaves on the trees tremble. He spent his days hunting for food and sleeping in the sun. He was proud of his roar, and he was proud of his sharp teeth and claws, but he was most proud of his beautiful golden coat and mane.

One day as he drank from a pond, Lion noticed that his mane was looking rather patchy. "What's this?" he grumbled to himself. He turned around and noticed a patch of hair missing from his golden back. Lion was very unhappy. It would not do for a lion to have no hair and no mane. He ran off to see Dr Tortoise to find out what could be done to save his coat.

"Hmmm," said Dr Tortoise thoughtfully. "This is a terribly serious case of something, but I'm not sure what. Let me think …"

"Oh no! This sounds very bad," gasped Lion, but it wouldn't do for a great big lion to cry. His knees were shaking. "Will … will I live?" he gasped.

"Of course you'll live," laughed Dr Tortoise, "you've just got a serious case of fleas. You need to go and ask Monkey to pick the fleas off for you. Then you'll be right as rain."

"Fleas? Is that all?" said Lion looking relieved. He thanked Dr Tortoise and hurried off to find Monkey.

Monkey was up to mischief as usual. He was sitting in a tree throwing rotten ngwenya berries at a lazy warthog that was sleeping in the sun.

"Monkey!" roared Lion. Monkey jumped and almost fell out of his tree.

"Monkey, please could you come and pick the fleas from my coat for me?" asked Lion.

"Yes, of course, Your Majesty," chattered Monkey dropping his last berry and hurrying off to find Monkey.

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"Monkey!" roared Lion. Monkey jumped and almost fell out of his tree.

"Monkey, please could you come and pick the fleas from my coat for me?" asked Lion.

"Yes, of course, Your Majesty," chattered Monkey dropping his last berry and hurrying down the tree.

Lion lay in the warm sun as Monkey combed and picked through his mane and fur. Monkey combed and picked. He stroked and groomed. The sun was warm and soon Lion fell fast asleep.

When Lion woke up he found that he couldn’t move. He roared with anger when he discovered that Monkey had tied his tail to a tree. The more Lion pulled and wriggled, the tighter the knot in his tail became. A little bushbaby watched with saucer eyes from the tree as Lion struggled and pulled.

“I could help you, Lion," said Bushbaby sweetly, “but you would have to promise not to eat me.”

Lion was tired out from his struggles. “Of course I won’t eat you,” he panted. His tummy was growling. Bushbaby looked nervous. “I promise I won’t eat you!” said Lion.

So Bushbaby climbed down from the tree and started undoing the knot with his long delicate fingers. Finally Lion was free. He thanked Bushbaby and went on his way.

As he walked along, Lion thought about what Monkey had done to him and he felt very cross. He decided to teach Monkey a lesson. He told the other animals to wait five days and to then tell Monkey that Lion had died.

Five days later the animals went to Monkey and told him that, sadly, Lion had died. Warthog even pretended to cry. The animals told Monkey that they had decided to say goodbye to Lion by having a party. Monkey loved parties, and so he said, “I’ll definitely be there!”

That afternoon Monkey watched the animals line up near the great body of the lion and then walk past him one by one, stroking his mane, kissing his head and saying goodbye. Monkey hopped from one leg to the other. He was hoping to say goodbye to Lion quickly so that he could get to the food at the party.

When he reached Lion’s head, he leant over and chattered, “Goodbye you silly old cat. I tricked you properly.”

Lion’s eyes flicked open and he jumped up with a R-O-A-R! Monkey got such a fright that he fell over backwards.

Quickly Monkey scrambled to his feet and raced up the closest tree, where he sat chattering and shivering in fright. Lion roared again and shook his giant paw at Monkey, “You and all the other monkeys better not come down from the trees! If you do, I promise you that I’ll eat you for supper!”

And to this day, monkeys spend all their time in the trees not daring to come down for fear of becoming Lion’s next meal.
Ka tsatsi le llang yare ha a nna metsi qanthaneng, Tau a eleiwa hore moetsa wa hae o shebaha o sena se sebe haholo. Yaba o a matha ho ya bonana le Ngaka Kgudu ho fumana ha seke ho a kgote ho ketsa a dula a isinyehe. O ne a le motlotlo ka ho fetisisa ke lefakane le hale le mmala wa kgatla le moetsa wa hae.

“Hmmm,” Ha rialo Ngaka Kgudu a nahana. “Bona ke bokudi bo bobe haholo bo itseng, empa ha ka ne bonnete ba hore ke eng. E re ke nahane …”

Ha Tau a tsoha a fumana hore ha a kgone ho tsamaya. Ha puruma ha yona ho ne ho baka hore mahlako a difate a sisinyehe. O ne a qeta matsatsi a tsoma dilo mme a robala letsatsing. O ne a le motlotlo ka ho puruma ha hae, mme a le motlotlo ka meno le dinala tsu hae se tso bohalo, empa ha ne a le motlotlo ka ho fetisisa ka lefakane le hale le mmala wa kgatla le moetsa wa hae.

Ha Tau a tsoha a fumana hore ha a kgone ho tsamaya. A puruma ke kgalelo ha a eleiwa hore Tshwene o tlamelletse mothata wa hae sefateng. Ha Tau a leka ho hula le ho itswasaola, lefita la nna la tiya mothwana. Qwabi o nyane e ne e shebelletse ka mahlo a mahelo le sefateng ha Tau a ntle a leka ho itswasaola mme a hula.

“Nka nna ka o thusa, Tau,” ha rialo Qwabi ka bonolo, “empa o tla lokela ho ntshepisa hore o keke wa nita.”

Tau o a kgatheke la lebaka la ho hula haholo. “Ehile nke ke ka o ja,” a rialo a hemela hodimo. Mala a hae a ne a rora. Qwabi ha ne a shebaha a tshoile. “Ke a o tshopilo naka o ke ka o ja!” ha rialo Tau.

Yaba Qwabi o theoha sefeteng mme ya qala ho fosolla lefita ka menwana ya yona e bophako, e meteletse. Qetellong Tau o ne a lokolohile. A leboha Qwabi mme a itsamaela.

Ha a nte a tsamaya, Tau a nahana ka seo Tshwene a mo entseng sona mme a ikutiwa a halelle haholo. Eetsa qeto ya ho ruta Tshwene thuto. E bopello di phoofolo tse ding ho ema matsatsi a mahlano mme ebe di bopella Tshwene hore Tau o shwele.

Matsatsi a mahlano kamora moo di phoofolo tsa ya ho Tshwene mme tsau mma leka le Tshwene hore Tau o shwele. Kolobemorun leka leka le a liketsa eka o a tla. Di phoofolo tsa bopella Tshwene hore di ikemiseditse ho ya dumedisa Tau ka ho ts&wara mokete. Tshwene o ne a rata mekete, kahoo a re, “Ke tla hile ke a teng!”

Thapameng eo Tshwene o theoha a shebella ha di phoofolo di entse mola haufi lesetla sa Tau mme di ntse a leka leka le a ketsa le e tla. Dilo Qwabi leka leka le de a keke le a teng!”

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1. In the story, Nicholas and the Wild Ones, Nicholas is a great inventor. What machine could you invent to make life better for yourself or someone else? Draw a picture of it and write about it here. Remember to include the name of your machine, as well as labels that show how your machine works!

Paleng ena, Nicholas le Ba Hlaha, Nicholas ke mopapi e moholo ya bapang dintho. Ke matjhis efe ao o ka o bapang o ka nifatfatsang bophelo ba hao kapa ba motho e mong? Taka setshwantsho sa ona mme o ngole ho hong ka ona mona. Hopola ho kenelela lebitso la matjhine wa hao, eitana le dilebole tse bontshang kamo matjhine wa hao o sebetsang ka teng!

2. Afrika also enjoys inventing and making things! Can you tell which little picture of him, is exactly the same as the big picture?

Afrika hape o natefelwa ke ho qapa le ho etsa dintho! Na o ka bolela hore ke setshwantsho sefe sa hae se senyane, se tshwanang hantle le setshwantsho se sehloha?

a. b. c.

3. Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA

Remember to get your copy of the next edition of the Nal'ibali Supplement in the week of 20 November 2016. It is our special holiday edition and the last one for 2016!