Getting the most from stories

Do you enjoy reading with your children and want to make sure that they benefit as much as possible from spending time in this way? Here are some ideas for activities to use before, during and after reading a book. These activities deepen and extend the experience of the books you read together. Some of them are suitable for all ages, while some are better suited to older children—choose the ones that you think are best for your children.

Before

Spend some time looking at the information and illustration or photograph on the front cover of the book. With older children, you might also want to read the blurb on the back cover. This helps children learn that they can use the information provided on a book’s cover to decide whether they want to read the book or not.

Ask your children to use the cover to predict or guess what the book is about. (You can follow this up after reading the book by asking your children to think about how accurate their predictions were!) Ask your children if they know any other stories about similar things to this story. For example, you could say, “This story is called, Thrust and the birds. Do you know any other stories about tortoises or birds?” Also invite them to share their memories, for example, ask, “Have you ever been lost?”

During

As you read, stop briefly once or twice, to ask, “What do you think will happen next?” Thinking about cause and effect deepens children’s understanding about how things work.

Ask your children to comment on the pictures or to find particular people or objects in the pictures.

If your children can already read, take turns to read different parts of the story. Encourage younger children to join in by pretending reading (or reciting) parts of stories that they know well, and to help you make sound effects, like knocking on a door or the wind howling.

After

Many stories focus on how characters deal with challenges that life sends their way. It is powerful for children to relate these things to challenges that they face in their own lives. Encourage them to make strong connections by saying something like, “When I read this story to you, it reminds me of how important good friends are. What does it remind you of?”

Children develop empathy by putting themselves in a character’s situation. Help them to do this by asking them to think about why a character behaved in a particular way in the story.

Invite children to retell the story you have read, or to draw or paint a picture of their favourite part of the story. Or, act out the story with them. These activities help them to deepen their understanding of the story.

Story Power.


Don’t forget to try some of the activities suggested for the stories in each supplement. You will find these on page 4 of the supplements.

Go to le wa lebalo ho leka tse ding tsa diketsaholo tse hlotshwetse bo le hlotshwetse ngwane. Tsana o a di fumana lelangeng la 4 la ditshwetsho.
Dr. Seuss Day!

Have you ever heard people talk about “The Cat in the Hat” or “The Grinch”? Well, these are two of the characters created by the great children’s writer and illustrator, Dr. Seuss.

Dr. Seuss’s real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel – known as “Ted” to his family and friends. He was born in the USA on 2 March 1904. After finishing school and studying for a while afterwards, he started working in advertising when he was 23. He wrote his first children’s book when he was 27, but he couldn’t find a publisher for it. The first book he got published was And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street. He went on to publish 66 books, which are still enjoyed by children all over the world today – and they have been translated into lots of languages too! He said that he created books for children because he wanted to entertain them and teach them to read and think.

Every year Dr. Seuss Day is celebrated on 2 March. Go to www.seussville.com to find out more.

Did you know?
1. Most of Dr. Seuss’s books are written in rhyme – only five are not!
2. Four of his books have been made into movies: The Cat in the Hat, The Lorax, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! and Horton Hears a Who!
3. Green Eggs and Ham was written when Dr. Seuss’s publisher bet him that he could not write a book using 50 or fewer words. This is Dr. Seuss’s best-selling book!
4. The word “nerd” was made up by Dr. Seuss. It first appeared in If I Ran the Zoo.
5. Dr. Seuss created over 50 imaginary animals in his books.
6. There is a statue of Dr. Seuss in a public garden in his hometown of Springfield. It is surrounded by statues of the characters from his books.

Ho keteka Letsatsi la Dr. Seuss!

Na o kile wa utlwa batho ba bua ka “The Cat in the Hat” ka “The Grinch”? Bana he, ke bona baphetwa ba qapilweng ke moyogidi le mothswantshiti eu moholo wa dibuka tsa bana, Dr. Seuss.

Lebatsa la nnete la Dr. Seuss e ne e le Dr. Seuss Geisel – ya neng a bitswa “Ted” ke ba leloko le metswatile. O ne a nchakhele mo e USA ka la 2 Hlakubele 1904. Kamora ho qeta sekolola le ho bula ditlhoo tse tšeng kamora moo, o le le qala ho sebetsa papatsa ho a le dikwe 23. O le a ngola buka ya hae ya pele ya bana ha a le dilemme tse 27, empa ha a ka a tsumana mophafulatsi bakeng sa yona. Buka ya pele eo a le thabisa e a phathalatsha e ne a le And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street. O le a tswela pele ho phathalatsha dibuka tse 66, tse ntseng di natelela bana lefatshego ka bophisthe le kajeno – emme di bile di fetoletswe dipungo tse ngata hahlo! O le a re a ngre dibuka tsa bana hobane o ne a batla ho ba thabisa le ho ba rutla ho bala le ho nahana.

Seleme le seleme Letsatsi la Dr. Seuss le ketekwa ka la 2 Hlakubele. Eya ho www.seussville.com ho utlwa ka tsena hohlwananyane.

NAL’IBALI ON RADIO!

Tune into the following radio stations to enjoy listening to stories on Nal’ibali’s radio show!

DWEEWEEI FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.45 a.m.
Leseedi FM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9.45 a.m.
Ligolagwala FM on Monday to Wednesday at 9.30 a.m.
Mungana Lonene FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.35 a.m.
Phalaphala FM on Monday to Wednesday at 11.15 a.m.
R56 on Monday to Wednesday at 9.10 a.m.
S4FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1.50 p.m.
Thobela 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.
Ulkhozi FM on Wednesday at 9.20 a.m. and on Saturday at 8.50 a.m.
Umhlalo 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 RADIVONG!

Bulela di thathisho tse leshowe tse radyo ho ntefikile ka ho momela dipole le naeng le radyo la Nal’ibali!

DWEEWEEI FM ka Mantsha, Laborabo le Labohlano ka 9.45 hoseng.
Leseedi FM ka Mantsha, Lobobedi le Lebome ka 9.45 hoseng.
Mungana Lonene FM ka Mantsha, Laborabo le Labohlano ka 9.35 hoseng.
Phalaphala FM ka Mantsha ka isoa ha Laborabo ka 11.15 hoseng.
R56 ka Mantsha ho isoa ho Laborabo ka 9.10 hoseng.
S4FM ka Mantsha, Laborabo le Lebome ka 1.50 motsethe.
Thobela FM ka Lobobedi le Lebome ka 2.50 motsethe, ka Moqebelo ka 9.20 hoseng le ka Santsha ka 7.50 hoseng.
Ulkhozi FM ka Laborabo ka 9.20 hoseng le ka Moqebelo ka 8.50 hoseng.
X-K FM ka Mantsha, Laborabo le Labohlano ka 9.00 hoseng.
Dear Nal’ibali

Do you know of any stories about single mothers that I can share with my children?

Clarissa September, Port Alfred

Dear Clarissa

The best way to find stories about particular themes, is to visit a library or bookshop near you and ask the librarian or bookseller for help. You can also tell your children your own stories about the things you have done with them. Start like this, “Once upon a time, there lived a mommy and her children named …” Most young children love hearing simple stories about themselves and the people who care for them. You could even write down these stories to read together again on another day.

Hope you continue to enjoy sharing stories with your children.

The Nal’ibali Team

Nal’ibali ya ratehang

Na ho ne la dipale tseo a di tsebang tse mabapi le bomme ba se nang baletlana tseo rika di baling bana ba ka?

Clarissa September, Port Alfred

Clarissa ya ratehang

Tesla e ntle ya ho lumana dipale tse nang le mokotobwa o itseng, ke ho etla kaeboronya kopao lebekelela le dibuka le hasi le hola le wena mme o kopae kaeboronya kopao morekisi wa dibuka hoko hae o thuse. Hoko o ka phetela bana ba hao ko dipale tsa bophelo ba hoo le dipale le di entseng mmmo. Qala tseka, “Mehleng ya kgale ho ne ho ena le mme ya neng a dula le bana ba hae e lehla le hae e neng e le …” Bana ba tshwara ba nata hoo lufela dipolengena tse mabapi le bana le bapha ba ba hlokomelang. O ka nna wa ngola dipale tsema hore le tle di bale mmmo ho kepatsi le lentswana le tlwaeleheng, leka ho fumana dipale tse ntjha ho tse ka lelanyana le lela.

Re tsehapa hore o tla tswela pele ho natefelwa ke ho abelanana dipale le bana ba hoo.

Sehlopha sa Nal’ibali

Dear Nal’ibali

We enjoyed your Holiday Edition of the supplement at the end of the 2016! Thank you for the stories and fun holiday ideas. We tried all of them!

Mrs V. Dlamini, Pietermaritzburg

Dear Mrs Dlamini

We’re so glad you enjoyed it! Hope you had fun trying out the holiday ideas.

The Nal’ibali Team

Nal’ibali ya ratehang

Re natefetswe ke Kgosi ya Ionana ya Matsatsi a Phomoloho ya fetsatsa ya mafelo a 2016! Re a leboha ka dipale le mopholo ya boithabiso ba matsatsi a phomoloho. Re lekile ho e e tsa kalela ha yona?

Mof. V. Dlamini, Pietermaritzburg

Mof. Dlamani ya ratehang

Re thahlele hahloho ha e le mono le natefetswe ke yona? Re tsehapa hore le le la natefelwa ke ho abelanana mopholo ya matsatsi a phomoloho.

Sehlopha sa Nal’ibali

Dear Nal’ibali

I grew up in a family where we were read to every night, but I never really experienced having stories told to me as a child. Recently, I have been taking my six-year-old daughter to Story Time at our local library. The children’s librarian there either tells or reads a story to the children each week. I’m so inspired by the way she tells stories that I want to give it a try too, but I don’t know how to get started. Can you give me a few tips to get me going?

David Engels, Port Elizabeth

Dear David

It’s always easiest to start with what you know when you first start telling stories. So, start with stories that you know well, like those you have enjoyed reading over the years. Well-told stories will create pictures in the minds of our listeners! Add interesting and expressive words to your story and use different expressions in your voice – for example, a soft, squeaky voice for a mouse and a big, booming voice for a giant. Once you get the hang of telling familiar stories, try finding new stories in books or on the Internet. But mostly, just have fun – the more you enjoy telling your daughter stories, the more she will enjoy listening to them.

Hope you have many hours of storytelling fun!

The Nal’ibali Team

Nal’ibali ya ratehang

Ke holetse lapeng leho Ionana re neng re baling bosiu be bong le bong, empa ha ho ke eso ka ke phetela dipale he ka ne ke sa le ngwana. Matsatso, ke rite ke sa morari wakal a ya dilo di tlheletseng kaeboronya ya mofetse wana baling sa Naka ya Dipale. Mofakatwa ya kaeboronya wa bana re mato, empa ho phetela bana kopao a ba baling dipale e na ngwane le na ngwane. Ke kgetlahetswa ke tesla e a phi teng ditse ka yona ha le mna le baling ho ileka, empa ha ho ke tsebe hore le qale wag. Na a ka mpha dikalelana di se kae tse ka nhumang ho qal a?

David Engels, Port Elizabeth

Dear Nal’ibali

I want to ratheang iona ya Matsatsi a Phomoloho. Ke holetse leho Ionana le bothokwana le tsebang tse mabapi le bana ba hoo, re lehla la dipale ba le mabapi le mha e lehla la dipale ho ihleka. Lepha ya phetelo, lona re baling ho mpha dikalelana di se kae ba baling ho ihleka. Re tsehapa hore o tla ba le dilo sa nhumang ho qala ho tsebang ditse.

Sehlopha sa Nal’ibali
Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the two cut-out-and-keep books, Little Ant's big plan, (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12) and Lifa's "Lost and Found" (pages 7, 8, 9 and 10) as well as the Story Corner story, Tortoise and the birds (pages 13 and 15). Choose the ideas that best suit your children's ages and interests.

Little Ant's big plan

Little Ant loves to read, but the other ants think he should rather be collecting food for the winter. They change their minds when the knowledge Little Ant has gained from reading, helps them with their food supply!

- Invite your children to draw and cut out pictures of Little Ant and the other story characters, and then to use these to retell the story in their own words.

- With your children, find out more about ants from information books and/or the Internet. Look for interesting facts on their colonies and how they gather and store food.

Lifa's “Lost and Found”

This is a story about honesty and doing the right thing. When Lifa finds a lot of money, she has some hard choices to make, but eventually her actions inspire others to do the right thing too!

- Discuss the following questions with your children after you have read the story together.
  - If you saw someone drop something, would you give it back to them?
  - How do you know what the right thing to do is?
  - Who can you ask for help with making decisions?
  - Although Lifa got a reward, you might not always get a reward for doing the right thing. Would you do it anyway?

Tortoise and the birds

There is a terrible drought on earth and the animals and birds are starving. They decide to ask the cloud people for food, but Tortoise eats it all! In the end Tortoise has to pay a very high price for his greed.

- With your children, discuss what you think of Tortoise's trick.

- Ask your children: "How would the story have been different if Tortoise had shared the cloud people's food with the birds?" Then encourage them to retell the story changing it in this way.

- Tortoise feels ashamed at the end of the story, so he must have learnt something from what happened! Invite your children to draw a picture of Tortoise and to then write and complete the following sentence in a speech bubble next to their picture: "I learnt that I …"

Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement.
2. The sheet with pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 on it makes up one book. The sheet with pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 on it makes up the other book.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
   a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
   b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
   c) Cut along the red dotted lines.

Eba mahlahlahla ka pale!

Mehopol e meng ke ena bakeng sa ho sebedisa dibuka tse pedi tse-sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa, Leano le leholo la Bohlwanyana (maqephe ana, 5, 6, 11 le 12) le “Mpatliseng” ka Lifa (maqephe ana, 7, 8, 9 le 10) esitana le pale ya Hukung ya Dipole, Kgudu le dinonyana (maqephe lea 14 le la 15). Kgetha mehopol e loketseng dilemo le thahasello ya bana ba hao hantle.

Leano le leholo la Bohlwanyana

Bohlwanyana o rata ho bala, empaa bohlla bo bang bo nahama hore o lokela ho bokella dijo bakeng sa marina. Bo fetela monahana ho tsaba eo Bohlwanyana a e fumana ho a bala, e ba thusa kile pepele ya dijo tsa boma!

E re bana ba hao ba take le ho ntsa ditlwadiwana tsa Bohlwanyana le baphethwa ba bang bo pale, ebe ba di sebedisa bakeng sa ho pheta pale hape ka mantswe o e teng a bana.

Mmoho le bana ba hao, batlisisa hlahlawana ka bohlla dibukeng tsa "Hlahlaselelela le Kopa ho Fumane." Sebha ditlhae tse kgha kgagakgagha tsa tsona le kameko di bokella dijo le ho di boloka ka teng.

“Mpatliseng” ka Lifa

Ema ke pale e mabapi le ho tsepepeha le ho etsa se nepohetseng. Ha Lifa o thola ka thole e ngota, o lokela ho etsa dikgetho tse boma, empaa qetellong diketso tsa hae di kgothaletsetse ka bang bole le bana ba etse tse lokelinga!

Buisanang ka dipotso tse lateleng mmoho le bana ba hao le qelata ho bana pale mmoho.

- Ha o ka bana mafaya o ditsa ho hong, ho a ka mo la hana hape?
- O tseba jwange hore ke eng o lokelinga o e lokang ho e etsa?
- Ke mang o se ka mo kopang thuakeng sa ho etsa diqe o?

Leha Lifa a le tsuma leholo, ho se kamotho a thong ho tsumana tsetshelo ya leboho bakeng sa ho etsa ninho e nepohetseng. No a kena ma e etsa laho le lejwo!

Kgudu le dinonyana

Ho na le kamotho e kgothabelthang mme dipholofo le dinonyana la bolakwa ke tla. Di etsa qeto ya ho kopa dijo ho batho ba marung, empaa Kgudu o di ja kaolela! Qetellong Kgudu o lokela ho lefela tefa e kgothaletse ho pheta pale hape mme ba e fetela ka tsetse ena.

Mmoho le bana ba hao, buisanang ka seo le se nahanang ka maqiti a Kgudu?

Botsa bana ba hao, “Pale ee e e e fe fapa na jwange hoja Kgudu a ne a aralane dijo tsa batho ba mafu mmoho le dinonyana!” Jwale ba kgothaletsetse ho pheta pale hape mme ba e fetela ka tsetse ena.

Kgudu o ikutswa a swabile qetellong ya pale, kahoo hlahlawana o kuthlhile ho hong ka se etsephetseng! E re bana ba hao ba take setshwanthsing sa Kgudu mme ba ngole le ho qetella palelo e latelang ka haka punakula ya pho pale setshwanthsing sa bana. Ke kuthlhile hore ...

Iketsetse dibuka tse sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa tse PEDI

1. Ntsa leqephe le hoo ia ho a la 12 fetsetseng ena.
2. Leqephehadi le nang le maqephe ana, 5, 6, 11 le 12 ho tana le etsa buka e le ringwe. Leqephehadi le nang le maqephe ana, 7, 8, 9 le 10 ho tana le etsa buka e ringwe.
3. Sebedisa leqephehadi ka tse tana le etsa buka. Lokaletse ditse tsa fise ho etsa buka, e ringwe:
   a) Mena leqephehadi ka hatlo ho sa hatla ho dina ho matsha.
   b) Le mene ka hatlo ho sa hatla ho dina ho matsha.
   c) Seha hatla ho dina ho maqephe a mafudue.
“Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five.”

Find out more at bookdash.org. Read our books for free, in all 11 languages, on the Android app. Search for “Book Dash” in the Google Play store. All Book Dash books are open-licensed and are created by volunteer professionals at Book Dash events.

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

Candice Dingwall
Steven McKimnie
Telri Stoop
Little Ant loved to read.
Little Ant was often teased.
“Ants don’t read. Ants must feed.
Ants collect the food they need.”

Bohlwanyakana o ne a nata ho bale.
Hangata o ne a swaswiswa.
“Bohlwa ha bo bale. Bo lokela ho iphepa.
Bo bokella dijo tseb bo tla di bloka.”
This story comes from Stories that Talk 2, Heartlines' second collection of stories about values.

For more information please email orders@heartlines.org.za or phone (011) 771 2540.

Empa Mong Mzi ha a ka a kgutla. Ha a ntse a eme moo, Lifa a nahana ka seo a se tshwereng ka matsohong a hae. Pelo ya hae e ne e otlela hodimo le ho feta moropa wa letlalo la kgomo. A tshwara sephuthelwana seo ka thata sefubeng sa hae mme a mathela hae. A kena ka tlung ka potlako, a ba a kwala le ho notlela lemati. O bolokehile!

Empa lapeng ha a ka a ikutlwa a bolokehile jwale. Eseng a ntse a ena le sephuthelwana sa Mong Mzi. O ne a ikutlwa eka o shebilwe. Esitana le mabota a ne a utlwahala eka a na le mahlo!

MAHLO – A BONANG. A TSEBANG!

The day crawled by. Lifa could not eat or play or take a nap. She could not watch TV, read a book, or sweep the floor. Oh, when would Ma come home? Finally, just as the sun dipped down behind the far buildings, Ma opened the front door.

W hat a dead, dull day, Lifa thought. Everybody’s gone to work with their mother, but the old woman my mother works for won’t let me come. I am so bored. And this is only the first day of the holidays!

Lifa carried on looking through the TV guide. Then she heard a door creak open and quickly bang shut again. Her heart skipped a beat. Maybe? She leapt to her feet and ran to the window to take a peak. But it was only grumpy old Mr Mzi who lives two houses away.

A letsatsi le bodutu e le ka nnete, Lifa a nahana jwalo. Batho bohle ba ile mosebetsing le bomme ha bona, empa mosadimoholo co mme wa ka a mo sebeletsang ha a bate le tle le yena. Ke shwerwe ke bodutu haholo. Mme kajeno ke letsatsi la pele feela la matsatsi a phomolo!

"O-oh!" Lifa bent down to pick up the parcel. The paper on the side had ripped open. "OH, MY!" Lifa nearly fell over with shock. So-ooo much money!

For a long moment, Lifa stood rooted to the spot. She was sure Mr Mzi would soon be back. "Surely," she said, "he'll realise. He'll turn round and come back for his parcel."

But Mr Mzi did not come back. As she stood there, Lifa thought about what she held in her hands. Her heart was thudding louder than a cowhide drum. She clutched the parcel tightly against her chest and ran home. She raced inside, and closed and bolted the door. Safe!

But home did not feel very safe anymore. Not with Mr Mzi's parcel there. It was as though she was being watched. Even the walls seemed to have eyes! EYES – THAT SAW . AND KNEW!

But the story does not end there! When Lifa's story was published in the newspaper, people were amazed. The editor wrote another article encouraging others to turn in things they had found. The paper was flooded. Pets, belts, wallets, cellphones and sometimes even children were brought to Vukani.

Soon, the newspaper could not cope with all the items and asked Lifa to help out.

Today, if you read Vukani, you will see a column called "Lifa's Lost and Found". And above the column is a photo of a smiling girl. Of course, that is Lifa!

Mr Mzi walked down the steps clutching an armful of parcels in one arm, and a briefcase, a bunch of keys and some papers in the other. He kicked the gate open and walked towards the black Mazda parked just outside his gate. Lifa watched as Mr Mzi put one parcel on the roof of the car, opened the back door and flung the briefcase and all the other things onto the back seat.

"O-oh, forgot something," Lifa said aloud when she saw Mr Mzi run back into the house.

Mong Mzi a theoha ditepisi a tshwere diphuthelwana tse tsetseng sephakeng sa hae, le kephakeng le dubuka, dinotholo le dipampiri ka lekgeng le leng. A raha heke mme ya bulela ya baleo lekolog e nsho ya Mazda e nge e mme e ke mme ho heke ya hae. Lifa a mme shebella ha Mong Mzi a bea sephakeng se le se mme ka hodima kolo, a bula lesho ka le maoro mme la lebela le dubuka le dintho tse ding setulong se ka maoro sa kolo.

"Jowee-e, o lebetse ho hong," Lifa a hodeleta ha a bona Mong Mzi a mathela ka thant hape.
In seconds, he was out again. He slid into the car, started the engine . . . and the car sped away.

“Oh, no!” Lifa gasped. Lifa quickly undid the lock of her door and ran out of the house shouting, “Wait, Mr Mzi, wait!” waving her arms wildly. But the car disappeared around the corner as the parcel skidded across the roof of the black car and fell off! Into the road!

Mr Mzi was overjoyed. He was so relieved. He bought a huge supper for Lifa and her mother that night. And he gave Lifa a handsome reward for her honesty – five percent of the full amount. He called the reward amehlw’akaboni – finder’s fee.

Mr Mzi told the story of Lifa, the Good Samaritan, to Vukani, the local community newspaper. A story and Lifa’s picture was on the front page of the newspaper, and she was called onto the stage at school and given an award for honesty.

Mong Mzi o ne a nyakaletse haholo. O ne a kgotsofetse haholo. A rekela Lifa le mme wa hae dijo tse ngata tsa mantsiboya bossing boo. Mme a fela Lifa moputso o mora bakeng sa ho tshephala ha hae – dipersente tse hlano tsa tjhelete e neng e le kamoo. O ile a bitse moputso oo amehlw’akaboni – ntlhatswe mahlo.

Mong Mzi o ile a pheta pale ya Lifa, Mosamaria ya Molemo, ho Vukani, koranta ya motseng oo. Pale le setshwantsho sa Lifa di ne di hlale le ka pele koranteng eo, mme o ile a bietswatsa kalane mane sekeloning yaha o fuwa moputso wa botshepheli.
Little Ant would read all day,  
he’d read and read the day away.  
The other ants took what they found  
to store for winter underground.

His baby sister takes his hand,  
“Now I think I understand.  
The way you love to read a book …  
Makes me want to take a look.”

Kgaitsedinyana ya hae a mo shwara ka letsho,  
“Jwale ke nathana hore ke a utwissisa.  
Mokgwa oo o ratang ho bala dibuka ka teng …  
O etsa hore ke nathane ho di leka.”

Bohlwanyana o ne a bala letsatsi kaofela,  
a bale, a bale, letsatsi le be le dikele.  
Bohlwa bo bong bona bo ne bo bokella dijo tseo bo  
di fumanang mme bo di bolokele nako ya mantha ka  
 tsla mobu.
His mum and dad got really mad,
and Little Ant felt really bad.
In autumn when the leaves fall down,
the ants must take food underground.

The queen wants food to fill the store,
so all the ants must work some more.

When they returned, the queen is glad.
The stores are full. They cheer like mad.

His mum and dad got really mad,
and Little Ant felt really bad.
In autumn when the leaves fall down,
the ants must take food underground.

Mme wa hae le ntate wa hae ba ne ba sa rate ntho ena,
mme bohlwanyana o ne a utwa boholoko ke sena.
Hwetla ha mahlaku a difate a ewa,
bohlwa bo lokela ho isa dijo ka tlaa mobu.

Bohlwanyana a hakwa ke Mme wa hae le
Ntate wa hae.

Little Ant gets hugs from Mum and Dad.
A long time ago, when a bird died on earth, its spirit would leave its body and float up to the clouds where it lived as a cloud person, watching over and caring for the birds and animals on earth.

The birds and animals knew about these cloud people.

There came a time when there had been no rain for a whole year. The grass died, the water holes dried up and the animals were starving. The animals and birds came together to decide what to do about the terrible drought.

“I think we should eat the ostrich,” said Lion licking his lips.

“No!” gulped Ostrich.

“I think we should look for somewhere else to live,” said Monkey.

“There’s nowhere else to live,” yelped Wild dog. “The drought is everywhere.”

“We need to speak to the cloud people,” said Owl. “They will know what to do.”

The birds and animals agreed that the birds would fly up to the clouds and speak to the cloud people. Maybe they would send food down to earth to feed the starving birds and animals.

Tortoise and his wife were also at the meeting. Tortoise was very worried. He knew that if the cloud people delivered food to earth, he might be too slow to reach it in time. He was hungry and didn’t want to miss out.

“Ahem,” he said. “Do you really think that the cloud people will pay attention to a flock of birds? They need a king to go with them. Somebody to give importance to our request. I shall be their king. I shall speak for all of us.”

The birds twittered amongst themselves. Eventually the birds agreed to take Tortoise along as their king.

Suddenly Hornbill scratched his head. “How do we get Tortoise up to the clouds?” he asked. Hyena laughed, and Monkey chattered. No one had thought of this problem. There were many ideas. Eventually Owl suggested that the birds could stick feathers onto Tortoise’s legs. If he had enough feathers he might be able to fly.

Tortoise looked ridiculous once all the feathers were stuck to his legs. Many of the animals wanted to laugh, but they knew that Tortoise was their last hope for survival.

Everybody held their breath as Tortoise flapped his legs. Slowly he lifted off the ground and rose into the sky. The animals cheered and the birds sang as Tortoise rose higher and higher towards the clouds.

When Tortoise and the birds arrived in the clouds, the cloud people were happy to see the birds, and proud that they had chosen to bring their king with them. The cloud people prepared a feast – juicy fruits and tasty vegetables that the birds hadn’t seen for a long time.

“Who is this food for?” asked one of the birds excitedly.

“Why, it’s for all of you,” said the cloud people.

Tortoise wasted no time. He rushed forward greedily and ate every last morsel of food, while the birds watched him. The cloud people were amazed that the birds were not eating, but they thought that it was the birds’ custom to allow their king to eat first.

The birds were very angry and very hungry! They rushed towards Tortoise and pulled out all of his feathers. Then they flew back to earth to tell the other animals about Tortoise’s trick.

Tortoise’s feathers fluttered down to earth and he found himself stranded in the clouds. He looked around in desperation. If he jumped down to earth he would surely die. Suddenly he noticed Parrot scratching around looking to see if he could find a morsel of food that Tortoise had missed.
Kgudu le dinonyana

E phetwa hape ke Nicky Webb

Ditshwantsho ka Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Mehleng ya boholoholo, ha nonyana e ne e eshwa lefatshe, moya wa yona o ne o tswe mmelelang wa yona mme ebe o paphalla hodimo marung moo e tleng ho phela jwaloka motho wa marung, ya shебieng le ho hiломелe dinonyana le diphoofolo tse lefatsheng.

Dinonyana le diphoofolo di ne di tsheba ka batho bana ba marung.

Ho ile ha tla nako e o ka yona ho neng ho se na pula seleimo sohle. Jwango bo ile ba tjha, dididi tsa epsha phši mme diphoofolo tsa bolawo le tšiša. Diphoofolo le dinonyana di ile tsq kopana mnacho hore di etše qeto ya se di ka se etsang mabapi le komello e kanakana.

"Ke nahana hore re lokela ho ja mpshe," ha rialo Tau a itatswa melomo.

"Tjhe bo!" ha hoeletsa Mpshe.

"Ke nahana hore re lokela he ho bata lebaka se seng moo re ka phelang teng," ha rialo Tšwene.

"Ha ho sebaka se seng moo re ka yang teng," ha omana Ntšja ya naheng.

"Komello e hohle."  

"Re lokela ho bua le batho ba marung," ha rialo Sephoko. "Bona ba tla tseba se lokelang ho etwawa."

Dinonyana le diphoofolo tsa dumellana hore dinonyana di tša fofela hodimo marung mme di bue le batho ba marung. Mohlomong ba ne ba tla romella di tša fofela hodimo marung ho tla fepa dinonyana le diphoofolo tse lapang.

Kgudu le mosadi wa hae le bona ba ne ba le kopanong e. Kgudu o ne a kgatlhathshile haholo. O ne a tsheba hore ho batho ba marung ba romella di tša fofela hodimo lefatsheng, a ka nna a ba lenama haholo ho di fihlela ka nako. O ne a lapile mme a sa tsele ho foswa ke dijo.


Dinonyana tsa sebasele di le notshi. Qetelleng dinonyana tsa dumela ho tsamayang le Kgudu jwaloka morena wa tsena.

Hanghang Hornbill a ingwele hlahlohlo. "Jwale re tla fihlo sa Kgud tswa marung kwato?" a botsa. Lekanyane la tšahe, mme Tšwene a hohloha. Ha ho motho ya neng a nahane ka bothata bona. Ho ne ho ena le mehopolo e mengata.

Bohle ba ne ba phahamisitse matshwafo ha Kgudu a phukalatsa maqo a hae. Butiebutie a phahama fatšhe mme a fofela hodimo sepatlapaeng. Diphoofolo tsa mo opele ditšatše mme dinonyana tša bina ha Kgudu a rite a nqotšela hodimo le hodimo ho ya marung.

Ha Kgudu le dinonyana ba fihlo marung, batho ba marung ba ne ba thebatho ho hae dinonyana, mme ba le mokhotlho hore di ile tsuna ha hle le morena wa tšona. Batho ba marung ba ile ba phesa dijo tše ngata – ditšolwana tše tšetseng maro le meroho e latswehang e ho dinonyana di qetseng qagale ho ho bona.

"Dijo tše ke tsa mang?" ha botsa e nnga ya dinonyana e thaheleng haholo.

"Hobaneng, ke tša lona kaofela," ha araba batho ba marung.

Kgudu a se ke a senya nako. A potlakela kapele ka mehargo mme a ja a dijo tse kaofela, ha dinonyana di rite di me shebelletshe. Batho ba marung ba ne ba makaletse hore dinonyana tsena ha di je, empa ba ile ba nahane hore ho mehopelo wa dinonyana ho dumella morena wa tšona ho ja pele.

Dinonyana di ne di qennene haholo mme di lapile! Tsa mathela ho Kgudu mme tša fihlo marung ka rite tša bolela diphoofolo tse ding ka maqheka ao Kgudu a entseng.

Masiba a Kgudu a fofo hore thebela lefatsheng mme a qithumana a tshewareli marung kwana. O ile a sheba kwana le kwana a tšatšuwone. Ha a ne a ka tšošošo tša fofela lefatsheng o ne a tša shwe. Hanghang ha tšošošo Phakote e rite e rwagwagwapa mma leholo ho bona hore ke keke ya famana dijonyana tše salletseng tseo Kgudu a neng a sa di bona.
“Please, Parrot,” begged Tortoise, “tell my wife to build a big pile of leaves for me so that I can jump down from the clouds and not be smashed to death when I land on the hard ground.”

Parrot was angry with Tortoise for eating all the food. When he got back to earth he told Tortoise’s wife that her husband had asked her to build a pile of rocks for him to land on.

Tortoise’s wife built the pile of rocks. Tortoise looked down from the sky and saw his wife standing next to something. He guessed it was a pile of leaves, so he closed his eyes, held his breath and jumped.

His little round body fell down to earth and landed heavily on the rocks. He cried out as his shell was smashed.

Meanwhile, the cloud people were sad when they saw how the birds had been tricked. They wailed and they cried, and their tears fell down from the sky and watered the earth like rain. The grass and the trees grew again and once again the birds and animals had food. But the birds never trusted any of the tortoises again, and to this day, tortoises hide their heads inside their shells in shame when they see a bird.

Tortoise’s wife rushed to his side and stared in horror at the damage to her husband’s beautiful shell. She nursed him and cared for him until eventually he healed, but the cracks in his shell remained as scars forever – a sign of what he had done to the poor birds.

Meanwhile, the cloud people were sad when they saw how the birds had been tricked. They wailed and they cried, and their tears fell down from the sky and watered the earth like rain. The grass and the trees grew again and once again the birds and animals had food. But the birds never trusted any of the tortoises again, and to this day, tortoises hide their heads inside their shells in shame when they see a bird.
Nal’ibali fun
Monate wa Nal’ibali

1. Cut out this picture and paste it in the centre of a large sheet of paper. Then draw a thought bubble for each character in the picture. In the thought bubble, draw the front cover of the book you think each of them is reading. (Don’t forget to write the book’s title on its cover!)

2. Can you help? The lines have got mixed up. Work out which snack each of these ants likes to eat.

3. Can you find and write down the names of all the animals and birds in the story, Tortoise and the birds?

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Answers:
1 = C, 2 = A, 3 = B; (3) Ostrich, Lion, Monkey, Wild dog, Owl, Tortoise and his wife, Hornbill, Hyena, Parrot

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Seha le ho nsha setswana setshwanta sena se ka fane mme o se manomise bohoeng ba leephe le lehlo la pampiri. Jwale taka pululana ya monahano bakeng sa mophetha ka mong ya setswana setshwanta. Ko hara pululana, taka bokapele ba buka eo o nanang hore e mong le e mong a a e bala. (O se ke wa lebala ho ngola seholo ho sa buka ho bokantle ba yona!)