



It starts with a story...



FUNDA LEADER

KICK-OFF KIT

JOIN NAL'IBALI AND SHARE THE POWER
OF STORIES AND READING!

THE POWER OF STORIES & READING TO SPARK CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL

We are all born to tell stories, memorise and make sense of life in story form. Nalibali uses the power of stories - oral and written, and in many languages - to inspire children to want to read and write.



75% OF WHAT CHILDREN WILL LEARN IN THEIR LIFETIME IS LEARNT BY THE AGE OF TWO.

— EARLY MOMENTS



15 MINUTES OF READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN EACH DAY CAN EXPOSE THEM TO 1 MILLION WRITTEN WORDS IN A YEAR.

— ANDERSON, WILSON AND FIELDING, 1988



6-8 YEAR OLDS' COMPREHENSION HAS BEEN SHOWN TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE WHEN ASKED TO RETELL A STORY THAT HAS BEEN TOLD TO THEM.

— ZIMILES AND KUHN, 1976



BOOKS CONTAIN MANY WORDS THAT CHILDREN ARE UNLIKELY TO ENCOUNTER FREQUENTLY IN SPOKEN LANGUAGE. CHILDREN'S BOOKS ACTUALLY CONTAIN 50% MORE RARE WORDS THAN PRIMETIME TELEVISION.

— REACH OUT AND READ

"Storytelling and reading expose children to a special form of language which is holistic, rich and complex. This allows them to tune into the rhythms and structures of language and broadens their conceptual worlds and their vocabulary to express themselves."

— CAROLE BLOCH, PRAESA

CHILDREN WHO ARE TOLD STORIES ARE THE ONES WHO FIRST FORM ABSTRACT CONCEPTS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM — IN OTHER WORDS, BEING READ TO MAKES YOU BRAINY.

PIE CORBIETT IN THE GUARDIAN, 30 APRIL 2010



READING ALoud WITH CHILDREN IS KNOWN TO BE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY FOR BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THEY WILL EVENTUALLY REQUIRE FOR LEARNING TO READ.

WADSWORTH, JESSIE KEARS

PARENTS WHO BELIEVE THAT READING IS A SOURCE OF ENTERTAINMENT HAVE CHILDREN WITH MORE POSITIVE VIEWS ABOUT READING THAN PARENTS WHO ONLY EMPHASISE THE SKILLS ASPECT OF READING.

DAWSON-GREENE ET AL., 2006



It starts with a story...

Nalibali (isiXhosa for "here's the story") is a national reading-for-enjoyment initiative to get children and adults passionate about telling and reading stories.

For more info visit www.nalibali.org or email info@nalibali.org

Find us at www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA or on www.twitter.com/nalibaliSA

Infographic by Terry Adams (terry@pixel-ninja.co.za)

READING IS SUPPOSED TO FEEL GOOD TO THE CHILD. WHEN IT DOES, THEY'LL BECOME READERS. WE ALL REPEAT THINGS THAT ARE PLEASURABLE.

JOHN DEWEEY





WELCOME!

You have chosen to join a wave of passionate and powerful people across the country. You have chosen to stand up and do your part. You have chosen to help ensure that all of South Africa's children are given a better chance to succeed through the power of stories and reading.

You are a *word walker*, a *story slayer*, a *fundi* of all things *funda*.

You are *story woke*, awakened and impassioned by the literacy needs of your society.

South Africa needs you – proud, diverse and engaged. Individuals who are out there *being* the change they want to see in the world. People who have stood up and said "Enough" ... People who are changing lives with books and stories.

Nal'ibali is here to celebrate and support these individuals. We have a network of over 800 reading clubs in seven provinces across South Africa. Men and women of all ages and backgrounds, speaking various languages, impact the lives of over 25 000 children each week. We're sending out a call to ALL South Africans to support this rising wave of change, and become part of this reading revolution!

In this guide, you'll find everything you need to join our FUNda Leader family and spark change in your community. With ideas, advice, resources and direct assistance, we're here to support you in any way that we can.

Welcome to the FUNda Leader Network!

Actively yours,

The Nal'ibali team



CONTENT:

Nal'ibali, PRAESA (the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa)

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Nal'ibali

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WHAT IS NAL'IBALI?



Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign that was initiated in 2012 by the DG Murray Trust and PRAESA (the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa). It continues to operate with the support of these anchor partners and many others.

We strive to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. Children who are immersed in imaginative and well-told stories – in languages they understand – become inspired and motivated to read for themselves. Such personally rewarding learning is a recipe for successful literacy development.

Vision

A literate society in which children and adults enjoy stories and books together as part of daily life, and use writing and reading in meaningful ways.

Mission

To create the conditions across South Africa that inspire and sustain a culture of reading!

Goals

- To create awareness of the important link between reading for enjoyment and educational achievement.
- To inform and guide individuals and organisations on how to use reading for enjoyment for children's literacy development.
- To initiate, support and help sustain reading clubs as a literacy promotion strategy.
- To supply and connect people in South Africa with a range of high-quality, exciting material for children in all South African languages.

What we believe about literacy

Any child learning to read and write needs recognition, opportunities to engage with printed materials and interaction with role models. We believe that there is no such thing as a child who hates reading. All children engage with activities that are fun and meaningful for them. For children and adults alike, stories – oral, written and in various languages – provide a great way to make reading and writing a profound and personally relevant part of daily life!

By using a language children understand (their home language/s), their existing knowledge and skills, their love of and need for story and play, and their capacity and enthusiasm for learning, we have the power to bring books and stories to life for any child.

THE POWER OF STORIES

Stories can do amazing things!

- They help to create feelings of connection and belonging among children and their parents or caregivers.
- They encourage children to think about their own lives, and in this way help them to develop a sense of self-worth.
- They also stretch the imagination, weaving their magic by introducing children to the lives of others, to fantasy worlds and to new ways of thinking.
- When adults and children are deep in a story, they often don't notice its rich language. But it is there – full of new vocabulary, expressions, images and ideas, which they readily absorb.





WHAT IS A FUNDA LEADER?

Nal'ibali works with many partners to strengthen multilingual literacy through advocacy, training and support of reading clubs.

Moreover, we are continually inspired by everyday people across the country who have made stories and books a part of children's lives – from teachers and parents to librarians, volunteers and all book-loving individuals. These are the FUNda Leaders who have started a wave of change in South Africa! We celebrate each and every one of them as literacy heroes, and call on YOU to join us to create a better life for all children.

FUNda Leaders:

- are adults who care about and respect children
- want to help children learn and become literate through fun and relaxed interaction with stories
- are willing to be reading role models in their communities
- are eager to share their storytelling and reading know-how with others, or to learn how it's done.

Are you able to volunteer some of your time?

Are you self-driven and motivated? And can you be playful and considerate?

Do you want to help get South Africa reading?

If so, you have what it takes!

What support do we offer FUNda Leaders?

As a FUNda Leader, you're signed up to the Nal'ibali network. Nal'ibali will follow your journey, and aim to assist you with the training and support you may need for your literacy activities. We are here to help and guide you as you create change in your community!

We will also feature your work via our media network. We encourage you to share your experiences on social media or through direct communication with us. For example, you can post pictures of your reading club or literacy activities on the Nal'ibali Facebook page, so everyone can see the difference you're making. Or you can invite local Nal'ibali representatives to visit your literacy activities. We'll also aim to connect you with other FUNda Leaders around the country so that you can collaborate, share ideas, join bigger events or just grow your network of literacy activists. With your help, we will create a far-ranging and powerful band of change-makers!

From time to time, Nal'ibali will present exclusive offers and competitions to active FUNda Leaders. Through these events, you can benefit from further resources like new books, promotional materials, gift vouchers and visits by well-known authors.

The most active FUNda Leaders from across the country will also gather once a year for a celebratory event. Here, your efforts and contributions will be recognised and rewarded in front of your peers and other industry role players!



FIFTEEN WAYS TO BE A FUNDA LEADER

Whether you have a few hours or just 30 minutes a week, there are things you can do to lead reading in your community. Here are 15 ideas to inspire you as you get going.

1. Start a reading club, or join an existing reading club. At Nal'ibali reading clubs, children of all ages have a safe and relaxed environment where they can read and talk about what they are reading, and tell stories themselves. Sometimes they also do other fun and relevant activities, such as singing songs and rhymes and acting out stories.

By committing to attending club sessions each week, you'll be able to share stories and other fun reading-related activities with children. Your club doesn't need to take up much time or space. It can be just you, your children and their friends. The main aim is to have regular and enjoyable times with stories and books.

See the 'How-to' section of our website for a guide to starting and running a reading club: <http://nalibali.org/how-to>. Don't forget to register your reading club at <http://nalibali.org/register>

If you are unable to lead activities or cannot commit to coming each week, but still want to help out, you could volunteer to attend a reading club once or twice a month. Here, you can join in the activities and help the children and facilitators. You might read with children during a shared reading time, for example, or help a child to choose a story to read. Contact our call centre or email us to be connected to your nearest club.

2. Start a parent-and-tots group. Babies and toddlers love rhymes, songs, books and stories. Get together with others who are caring for tiny tots and sing songs, say rhymes and enjoy looking at books together. You can find information on sharing books and stories with young children on our web- and mobisites: <http://nalibali.org/how-to> <http://nalibali.mobi/how-to>

You can also find rhymes for children in all South African languages here:

<http://nalibali.org/rhyme-library>
<http://nalibali.mobi/rhyme-library>

3. Share stories at a clinic. Often, adults and children wait a long time for their appointments. Why not bring storybooks that they can read while they wait? You can also read a story to the children. With the adults, you can discuss the importance and power of reading and sharing stories with children in their home language. The tip sheets in the 'Story supplies' section of our website will help you: <http://nalibali.org/story-supplies>

Let your listeners know that they can also access free multilingual stories on the Nal'ibali web- and mobisites: <http://nalibali.org/story-library/multilingual-stories> <http://nalibali.mobi/story-library/multilingual-stories>

4. Lead a story flashmob! Use the element of surprise! Find a place in the community where there are many parents and children. Gather some friends and surprise the passers-by with a pop-up storytelling or reading. You can include some performance, and afterwards engage your audience with tips on reading and sharing stories at home. See the 'How-to' guides on the Nal'ibali web- and mobisites, mentioned above, for more information and ideas on how to read and share stories with children.

Let us know about your flashmob via phone or email at least three weeks in advance and we will make every effort to send you promotional materials you can hand out to passers-by. You can call us at **02 11 80 40 80**, or send us an email at info@nalibali.org

5. Read to children regularly. Show children the joy of books and stories by reading to them whenever and wherever you can. Encourage friends, family, colleagues and others to do the same.

You can find free stories in the language of your choice in the 'Multilingual stories' section on the Nal'ibali web- and mobisites:

<http://nalibali.org/story-library/multilingual-stories>
<http://nalibali.mobi/story-library/multilingual-stories>

6. Review and promote special stories. Other FUNda Leaders may welcome suggestions about appropriate stories that cover specific themes, such as bullying, abuse, love and kindness, or stories that may work particularly well for certain ages. If you send us a review to info@nalibali.org, we'll feature your suggestions in the 'Recommended reads' section of our website: <http://nalibali.org/story-supplies/recommended-reads>

7. Fill hungry tummies. Many reading clubs supply the children with a healthy snack, because it's hard to concentrate if you are hungry! Think about donating food like fruit. Contact our call centre or email us to be connected to your nearest reading club.

8. DIY. You can do small things to make a reading club's venue comfortable and inviting. Make cushions for the children to sit on, provide blankets, help to put up bookshelves or paint the walls. Contact our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org to be connected to your nearest reading club.

9. Help to provide equipment. Many clubs offer drawing and writing activities, so they need equipment like paper, exercise books, pens, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, chalk, crayons, koki pens, scissors, glue and glitter. Collect recycled paper, go through your stationery drawer for things you don't need, or buy some items and drop them off at a club. Dressing-up clothes and other 'story props' are wanted by some reading clubs that support children, especially young children, to explore stories through play and drama. Contact our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org to be connected to your nearest reading club.

10. Help with transport. If you own a car, consider helping to take volunteers and children to and/or from the reading club, where necessary, or on outings. And make yourself available to assist the reading club in case of emergency, such as taking someone to a nearby hospital or clinic. These small acts of kindness make a world of difference! Contact our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org to be connected to your nearest reading club.

11. Donate books and other reading material. Reading clubs, school libraries and classrooms need *lots* of books in African languages and in English, as well as other reading material like newspapers and magazines. How about donating a book to a reading club once a month or on your children's birthdays? Or buy/collect extra copies of the newspaper with the Nal'ibali Supplement in it to donate to a club.

You can also find out what kind of books the reading club you want to support already has and wants, and

which language/s would be most useful. Donating a few books at a time is fine – especially if the books are recommended. See our list of recommended reads in the 'Story supplies' section of our website: <http://nalibali.org/story-supplies>. Contact our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org to be connected to your nearest reading club.

12. Help to organise books. You can help a club, a school library or a classroom to list and catalogue books, and to create systems for displaying books attractively and for lending them out. Contact our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org to be connected to your nearest reading club.

13. Donate money. Money donated to a club, library or school can be used to buy books and equipment, as well as to pay for outings. Every little bit helps! Contact our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org to be connected to your nearest reading club.

14. Celebrate literacy days and spread the love. Each year, various literacy days are celebrated all over the world. Why not keep a note of these days in your diary and plan special events around them? Often, Nal'ibali will plan events that you can take part in. As a signed up FUNda Leader, you'll hear from us about how you can be involved. For example, you can help to arrange events at schools, libraries, community centres, etc, where more people can learn about the importance of reading, writing and storytelling. Some of the dates are provided on page 10.

15. Become a literacy ambassador. You have a network of friends, community members, people on social media, colleagues, people at your children's school and so on. Talk to them about the role of reading aloud, mother tongue stories and reading for enjoyment. You have the power to grow the FUNda Leader network, and start a reading revolution in your own circle!



SIGN UP AS A FUNDA LEADER

STEP 1



You need to sign up to join the network:
Email us at info@nalibali.org, or



Sign up on our web- and mobisites: www.nalibali.org and www.nalibali.mobi, or



Phone us at **02 11 80 40 80**. The Nal'ibali call centre is open 24 hours a day, with an operator standing by to take your calls from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. If you call outside of these hours we will call you back as soon as we re-open. If you don't have airtime to call us, 'one ring' us and we will call you back.



Once you are signed up, you will be registered as part of Nal'ibali's official network. We will then create a personal profile for you on our systems. As you **share your literacy experiences and photographs with us** on social media and via email, we will record all of your activity on your profile. This helps us to get to know you better, so that we can make sure we contact you with information and opportunities that are most relevant to your interests.

Get story active! This Kick-off Kit is full of ideas to get you get started on your literacy activist journey straight away. It is also packed full of links to resources – stories, activities, rhymes, etc – in a variety of South African languages that can help fuel your journey.

For **free, fun and inspirational FUNda Leader training**, call us at **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org. To qualify for this, you need to gather together a group of 10 or more other FUNda Leaders (recruit some friends and family to join you). Then contact us and one of our excellent Literacy Mentors will be in touch. If demand for training is very high, we will reach out first to those in our network who are the most active.

Why not **invite Nal'ibali to join you** at your events, or ask us to send you some promotional materials that you can use in your literacy activations, be it a flashmob, a traffic jam story slam, a storytelling competition or something else? Call us at **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org at least three weeks in advance and we will do our very best to assist you.

When you sign up, you join a network of FUNda Leaders across the country. Passionate and powerful people from all walks of life making positive change for children in their communities. **Ask us to connect you to fellow FUNda Leaders** in your neighbourhood so that together you can collaborate on activities and support each other. You don't have to do this alone!

Remember to **share your photos and experiences with us** on Facebook, Twitter, WeChat and Instagram, and via email, so that we can track your activity, celebrate your efforts, and make sure we respond to you with inspiration, motivation and as much support as possible. And at the end of each year we will bring together the most active and committed of our FUNda Leaders at a national conference where their efforts will be recognised and rewarded.

STEP 2



RESOURCES TO HELP YOU



As a FUNda Leader, you will engage with adults and children in your community around literacy topics, and you will read and share stories. It's important that you have the right resources to help you do this. Building up your library and repertoire of stories is part of your exciting literacy journey!

To get started, you can access a number of high-quality children's stories in a variety of South African languages from various Nal'ibali platforms. There are also tips and ideas on how and why to share stories with children. Have fun exploring these platforms, and see what works best for you:

Nal'ibali website: Visit www.nalibali.org for book ideas, reading tips and children's stories in various South African languages. You can download back copies of the Newspaper Supplement, bookmarks, colouring-in activities, posters, reading club guides and literacy tip sheets. Information is also provided about audio stories that are aired on SABC public radio stations in all the official languages, or you can listen to them online.

Nal'ibali mobisite: If you don't have a computer, go to www.nalibali.mobi on your cellphone for reading and storytelling tips, and to read stories in different South African languages on your phone to your children. You can also visit the 'Audio stories and downloads' section to listen to audio stories on your phone:
<http://nalibali.mobi/story-library/audio-stories>

Nal'ibali eNewsletter: When you join the Nal'ibali network online at www.nalibali.org or on our mobisite at www.nalibali.mobi, our regular eNewsletter will be sent directly to you. All you need is an email address.

WeChat: You can also connect with us on WeChat by following these three simple steps:

1. Download WeChat from the app store on your phone or from www.wechat.com.
2. Create your personal WeChat profile.
3. Scan our Nal'ibali QR code, on the right, to add us.

Once you've joined, stories and tips will be sent to your phone every week in the language of your choice!





Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: You can follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/nalibalisal/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/nalibaliSA>) for daily tips, updates and literacy news, information and inspiration. It's also a great way for you to speak directly to us about your FUNda Leader experiences!

Radio: Three times a week you can listen to a Nal'ibali children's story in any of the official languages. An award-winning author chooses the stories for their quality and ability to be retold in all languages. The stories are aimed at five- to eight-year-olds, but the whole family can enjoy them together. These stories are broadcast during the day and can be an important resource for use in early childhood development centres. For a full line-up, please visit the Nal'ibali website: <http://nalibali.org/story-library/audio-stories>

Bilingual Newspaper Supplements: In partnership with Times Media, Nal'ibali publishes a bilingual Newspaper Supplement every two weeks during school terms. The Supplement is available in combinations of English and isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho and Afrikaans. It contains stories, literacy activities, and reading and reading club tips. Support is also given to inspire and guide parents, caregivers, teachers, librarians and reading clubs in making reading and storytelling meaningful, fun and accessible.

You can find the Supplement in these newspapers:

- **Sunday Times Express** (Western Cape): English and isiXhosa – Sundays.
- **Sunday World** (KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng): English and isiZulu – Sundays.
- **Sunday World** (Free State): English and Sesotho – Sundays.
- **Sunday World** (Limpopo): English and Sepedi – Sundays.
- **The Herald** (Eastern Cape): English and isiXhosa – Thursdays.
- **Daily Dispatch** (Eastern Cape): English and isiXhosa – Tuesdays.

You can download previous editions of the Supplement from the Nal'ibali website at:

<http://nalibali.org/story-supplies/multilingual-supplement-archive>

To be able to apply for Nal'ibali Newspaper Supplements, you must be located in one of the participating provinces: Eastern Cape, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Free State and Limpopo. We deliver to clubs and programmes that can receive 30 or more Supplements each week during term time.

All recipients must be able to receive the Supplements at a physical address. Kindly send us your physical address (a postal address will not be accepted) and the contact details, including a cellphone number, of the person who will receive the Supplements.

If our distribution list is full, your request will be put on our waiting list until a place becomes available.

Inspirational training: This is a one-day package designed to orientate, equip and inspire you to carry out reading-for-enjoyment activities.

If you are interested in signing up for this training, please email your name and location to info@nalibali.org and we will contact you when there is training in your area. You can also gather together a group of at least 10 adults and we will arrange for a Nal'ibali trainer to visit you.



Motivational gatherings: These three-hour monthly sessions are made up of informal conversations and literacy learning spaces for FUNda Leaders. They are designed to encourage participation and keep up motivation. You can contact our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80** or email us at info@nalibali.org to help organise a session.

Onsite mentorship: If you show on the media network that you are making a lot of effort as a FUNda Leader, we'll try to visit you to keep inspiring you and helping you to grow on your journey. Please share information about your activities with us, so that we can identify the most active FUNda Leaders and offer onsite support.

Digital conversation: Because FUNda Leaders are spread far and wide across South Africa, we may not be able to meet all of you face to face. But we would love to hear about what you're doing, and support you in your efforts. By logging on to the Nal'ibali WeChat platform (see the instructions on page 7), you can message about ideas, issues and concerns with a trained Nal'ibali literacy expert.

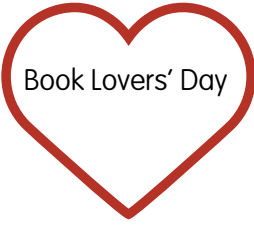
Year-end conference: At the end of each year, Nal'ibali holds a national conference. FUNda Leaders who have been active throughout the year, or have shown genuine commitment and involvement, will be invited to attend this awards and recognition ceremony. This is our commitment to celebrate YOU and your literacy efforts! The event is a large, powerfully charged gathering of like-minded individuals who are working together to change South Africa. You will have the opportunity to meet and hear from other FUNda Leaders and industry experts, and to share your own experiences.

Remember to let us know about your involvement in Nal'ibali as a FUNda Leader by signing up with us and staying in touch via any of the social media channels that you can access. Whether you post your events and activities on the Nal'ibali Facebook page, connect with us via WeChat, Instagram or Twitter, email details and pictures of your literacy activities to Nal'ibali, or invite our literacy mentors to visit your reading club, we want to hear from you and see what's happening in your community. If we know what you are doing, we'll be able to better support and assist you!




SPECIAL LITERACY DATES

Each day offers moments for reading, writing and sharing stories with children. Here are some special literacy days which Nal'ibali and people all around the world join together in celebrating.

<p>JANUARY</p> <p>Creativity Month</p> <p>4 World Braille Day</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>21 International Mother Language Day</p> <p>24 World Read Aloud Day **</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>14–21 South African Library Week **</p> <p>20 Storytelling Day</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>23 World Book Day (SA)</p> <p>27 Tell a Story Day</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>Get Caught Reading Month</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>Diary Month</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>18 Mandela Day</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>9  Book Lovers' Day</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>7–13 National Book Week **</p> <p>8 International Literacy Day (UNESCO)</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>International School Library Month</p> <p>22 Make a Difference Day</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>International Picture Book Month</p> <p>15 I Love to Write Day</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>5 International Volunteers Day</p> <p>7 Letter Writing Day</p>

Note: Some of the dates change from year to year. Confirm the dates each year online. These dates have been indicated with two stars: **.



IT STARTS WITH A STORY ...

We have chosen one of our favourite stories for you! *Tselane and the Giant* is a traditional South African story about a horrible giant who tricks a young girl. You can share the story with children and adults of different ages in various ways. However you share it, be sure to read through it a few times first. We have also included some ideas on activities you can do with children after the story has been told!

But first, let's look at the benefits and process of reading aloud to children.

Five good reasons to read aloud

1. Reading aloud to children helps to develop the bond between a parent or caregiver and a child.
2. When children enjoy the story, they see reading as a satisfying activity, and this helps to motivate them to read for themselves.
3. Reading aloud to young children shows them how we read and how books work. This knowledge makes it much easier for them to learn to read later on.
4. Children can understand and enjoy stories that are beyond their own reading ability when they hear these stories read aloud.
5. Hearing new words in a story develops children's vocabulary. It gives them a rich language to draw from when they write their own stories.

Nal'ibali's top five reading-aloud tips

1. Choose books to read that you enjoy and that match your children's changing interests.
2. Reading aloud is always a performance. Put lots of expression in your voice to create the mood!
3. Start by reading the name of the author, and the illustrator, so that children appreciate that books are created by people just like them.
4. When you read a picture book, allow time for children to look at the pictures and comment if they want to.
5. Books with rhyme, rhythm and repetition make good read-aloud books for young children and can help you to introduce a new language. Once children get to know the story, encourage them to join in as you read.

Now here's the story ...

Tselane and the Giant

Retold by Joanne Bloch

Illustrations by Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

A long, long time ago, when giants roamed about and chickens talked, a poor woman lived with her daughter, Tselane, in a little house. Since she had nobody to look after Tselane, the woman was forced to leave the child alone when she went to plough her fields each day.

Of course, Tselane's mother wanted her to be safe, so every morning when she left home, she reminded Tselane *never* to open the door for *anyone*. And every time she came home, she sang this song to her, "Tselane, my child, Tselane, my child, come and open the door!"

Then Tselane, who was waiting to hear her mother's sweet voice, answered with her own little song. "Yes, Mama, I hear you! Yes, Mama, here I come!" she sang, unlocking the door with a big smile and hugging her mother tightly.

One day, a horrible, greedy giant who lived close by heard the two singing to each other. "Mmmm," he said, drooling and licking his lips, "that child sounds like a delicious, tender snack!"

A few days later, when the giant was particularly hungry, he trundled off to Tselane's house. At the front door he took a deep breath, opened his mouth and sang, "Tselane, my child, Tselane, my child, come and open the door!"

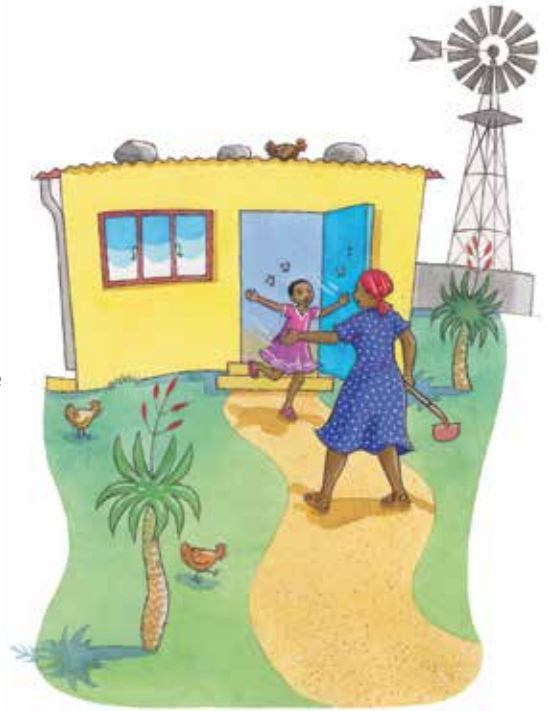
But Tselane just laughed. "Go away!" she said. "Your rough, ugly voice is nothing like my mama's beautiful voice!"



The giant felt very angry. He decided to go to the sangoma for help. "Eat this," said the sangoma, giving him a piece of hot metal. "It will change the sound of your voice."

The next day, when the giant sang to Tselane, his voice sounded sweet and beautiful. Thinking that her mother was home, the girl sang her song and joyfully opened the door. As quick as lightning, the evil giant seized her and threw her into a sack. Then he slung the wriggling sack over his shoulder and stomped off. He was so pleased with himself that when he passed a party being held in a neighbour's house, he decided to take a break to celebrate.

"Give me some beer!" he boomed at the hostess, placing his sack carefully next to him.



"Certainly," she said, but while he was guzzling the drink down, she heard a sweet, sad voice coming from his sack. "There's someone in there!" the hostess said to herself. "We must help her!"

Turning to the giant, she said, "Please go and fetch me some water at the stream. In return I'll give you a whole bucket of beer."

"Ho ho!" said the greedy giant, grabbing the calabash she gave him. How could he know it had a little hole in it? At the stream, he tried again and again to fill it with water – but somehow, it never quite filled up.

Back at the house, the woman and her husband quickly helped Tselane out of the sack, and hid her in their house. Then they filled the sack with snakes, bees, lizards, wasps, crickets and frogs.



After a long time, the giant came back with a little bit of water. He flung the leaking calabash down, glared at the woman, grabbed his beer and the sack and stormed off, grumbling and rumbling. At his house, he dropped the sack and went inside.

"Bring my sack inside!" he barked at his son, but when the boy picked the sack up, a wasp flew out and stung him on the nose. "WAAAA!" he wailed, running inside. "WAAAA! WAAAA!"

"WHERE'S MY SACK?" shouted the giant. "Bring it immediately!"

Now, his wife rushed outside, but a snake darted out and bit her hand. "YAAAA!" she howled, running indoors. "YAAAA!"

By now the giant was fuming. "Get out!" he shouted at his family. He jumped up, grabbed the sack and locked the door.

"Let me see you!" he growled, peering into the sack. But guess what? All the horrible creatures shot out and started stinging and biting him at the same time! Roaring, the giant leapt up and ran to the door, but it was locked. When he finally unlocked it, he ran screaming to the river and plunged his head into the muddy river bank. There he got stuck, and turned into a tree.

Look out for a tree with two trunks on the river bank – it is still there to this day. And as for Tselane, she was soon safely back home with her mother.



GET STORY ACTIVE!

1. After you have read the story, **talk** about some of these things:

- The story says that the giant was horrible and greedy. Do you think he was born that way, or did he become that way? If you think he became like that, what do you think might have happened to make him like that?
- Do you think the sangoma should have helped the giant? Why or why not? What would *you* have said to the giant if he had asked for your help?
- What do you think of the plan the party hostess made to help Tselane? Are there other ways she could have helped Tselane?
- What do you think of the way the giant treated his family?
- Do you think the giant deserved what happened to him in the end? Why or why not?

2. **Act** out the story. Think about what kind of voices to use for the giant's words when he is trying to trick Tselane, when he speaks to the sangoma and when he is angry.

3. **Circle** the words below that you think best describe the giant in the story. Then add another two words of your own to describe him.

clever greedy evil sweet horrible joyful angry cruel

_____ and _____

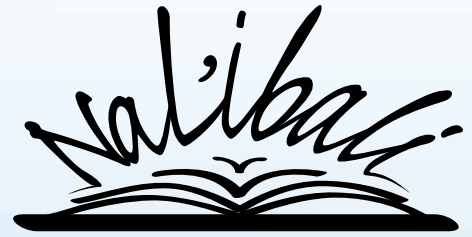
4. **Draw** a picture to go with the part of the story where the giant is shouting for his son to bring his sack inside the house. Use the following words in a speech bubble for the giant: "WHERE'S MY SACK?" Add other words to the speech bubble if you would like to.





FUNDA

LEADER



It starts with a story...

Ewe, konke kuqala ngebali.
Yebo, kuqala ngendaba exoxwayo.
Ja, dit begin met 'n storie.

Cut out and keep

Nal'ibali FUNda Leader Pledge

Name

I am committed to playing my part in the wave of literacy change that is sweeping across South Africa.

I will stand up for literacy, and will contribute in ways that help to build a culture of reading and writing in my community.

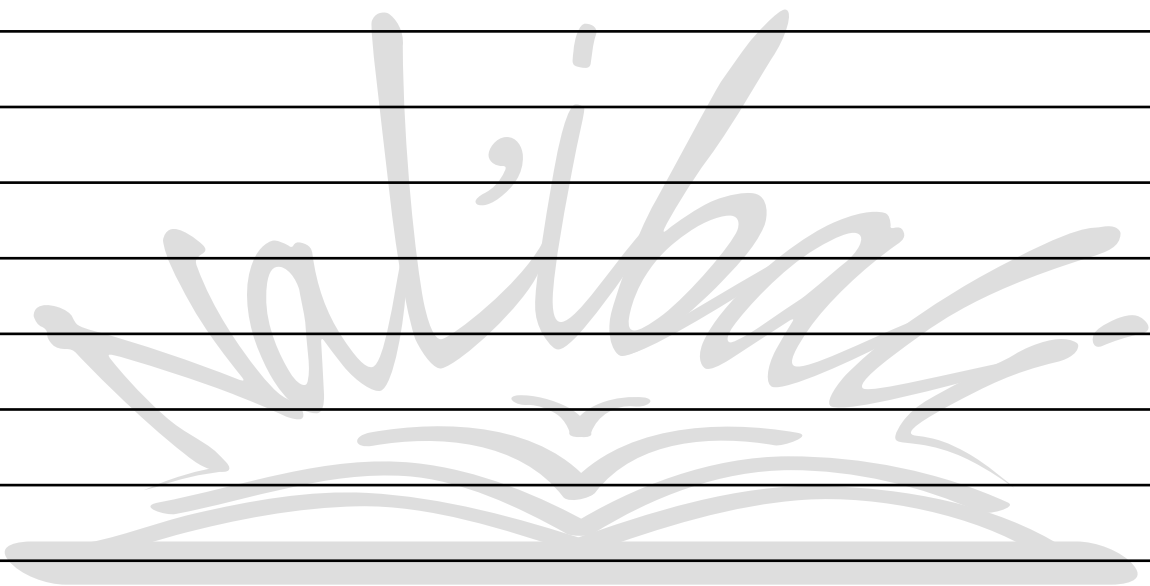
I will share my knowledge and literacy resources with those in need, and use every opportunity to read or share stories with the children in my life as we build a nation of strong and powerful readers together.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____



Notes



It starts with a story...



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FUNDA LEADER



STORIES TAKE
YOU PLACES!