Learning through song, rhyme and play

Do you remember playing games with other children when you were a child? Did you love to sing songs or say rhymes? You likely had a lot of fun, and without realising it, you learnt new ideas and skills. All children need plenty of opportunities to play. Playing feeds their imaginations and develops their problem-solving, social and language skills. These skills help children become resilient, well-adjusted problem-solvers.

Why use songs, rhymes and games?

- Children learn when they play and have fun.
- Songs, rhymes and games develop children’s home language skills and are a natural way to learn a second language.
- They reinforce children’s knowledge and experiences and build self-esteem, which is very important for learning.
- When adults participate in songs and games with children, it builds a sense of trust and strengthens the bond between them.
- Songs and games relax children. Children struggle to learn when they are anxious, under pressure or scared.

How to use songs, rhymes and games

- Use body movements and actions that fit the words of the song or rhyme.
- Print or write the words of the songs for the children to read. If the children cannot read or write yet, you can do this even if they sing or say them. You can do this even if they sing. Then point to the words as you sing. This reinforces children’s knowledge and helps them learn new words.
- Use body movements and actions that fit the words of the song or rhyme.
- When adults participate in songs and games with children, it builds a sense of trust and strengthens the bond between them.
- They reinforce children’s knowledge and experiences and build self-esteem, which is very important for learning.
- When adults participate in songs and games with children, it builds a sense of trust and strengthens the bond between them.
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Where to find songs and rhymes

- Visit our website at https://nalibali.org/stories for examples of games, songs and rhymes that you can use.
- Visit https://www.youtube.com/@TheNalibaliChannel/videos for examples of songs and rhymes that you can use.
- Use songs everyone knows and change the words to reflect your children’s experiences.
- Make up your own songs or rhymes based on the stories you read.
- Ask children to teach you the songs and rhymes they know and let them make up their own songs and rhymes.
- Borrow illustrated books of rhymes from your library.
- Visit https://www.youtube.com/@TheNalibaliChannel/videos for examples of games, songs and rhymes that you can use.

Dudzimwane: VC

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Some children can happily sit still during a long bedtime story, while others start to fidget and lose interest quickly. Some children love books, and others need a bit of encouragement. This is normal and can change as they grow older.

Children who don’t like to read are sometimes thought of as “less able” readers. This is not true. They may not be interested in reading because they have never connected with the books around them, don’t have books in their preferred language or haven’t grown up in a reading culture.

Parents, reading to your children regularly should be an enjoyable time together. Your children will then connect reading with enjoyment and be more likely to read on their own later on. It takes time to develop the habit of reading regularly, but the most important thing is to start!

1. Livhisani ṭhogomelo kha zwine vhana vhano u diphina ngazwo

Nga lwa nzulele vhathu vha takadzwa nga zwitiro na u diphina vhe na vhujumani nazwo – hu sa londwi uri ndi muhervi, zwitiro zwa mufalira kana u vhudza muhervi muthu uri no pha hani. Todzani zwitiro zwine vhana vhano u diphina vhe na zwitiro zwi, zwi nga kha gi vha bugu dzina misawaso, dzipopayi kana zwitiro zwi re na zwifanyiso.

2. Zwibuli zwihulwane

Iyani laiburari ni litshe vhana vhano u khethe bugu dzine vha pha u dzhi vhala. U tshifhinga zwine vhana vhano u diphina vho u zwitiro zwi u vhala zwi u thusa u vhala u diphina u vha vhala.

3. Itani uri zwi vhe zwithu zwaṋu

Kanzhi vhana vho tsumbino u vhala na musihumo wa bishikolo. Itani uri vhana vha takalela u vhala, sa londwi, nga u u vhala ko zwi tsumbino u vhala na dzinheza kana zwitiro zwi u vhala.

4. Musumbedzo wa zwitiro

Thomani u lita uri vhana vha re na zwitiro muthihi u ya kha mitano vha fume zwitiro nga u vha vhala. Itani uri mubhumbulo va vhana zwitiro na mbaanga u u fudzine zwitiro u vhala zwi u aluwe nga u lita nozwilwa musumbedzo wa zwitiro na u ambisa nga u vhala muphezana.

1. Focus on what your children enjoy

Humans are naturally fascinated and connected to stories – whether it’s movies, family stories, or telling someone about your day. Find stories that your children like, whether it’s comic books or cartoons, or even information books.

2. Greater exposure

Visit the library and let your children choose books that they want to read. Respecting what your children want to read helps them to grow as readers.

3. Make it personal

Most of the time, children associate reading with schoolwork. Make reading fun by leaving little notes or poems in your child’s lunch box, for example, or on their bed. Once you start making reading and stories a regular personal activity, children will start developing a positive relationship with reading.

4. Storyplay

Start a love of stories in one- to five-year-olds by reading to them. Stimulate your child’s imagination and cognitive development by acting out parts of the story together and talking about the characters.
Ngwenza dza zviughty

Sithembiso Nhlapo – NGWENA ya Nal’ibali!

Sithembiso Nhlapo ndi mudzudzanyi wa Nal’ibali wa vanu vhine o no shumaho mifwaha minzhi. Hu shumiswa shiyanisiko ipi jwe kwe Nal’ibali kweja Gauteng na Free State, hune a dzudzanya zwotjwe zwine zwa itwa nga vhushimisani on Riphe na mbekanyamushumo.

1. No so sikelwelele mini nga musumho wapu u swika zwinu?

Ndo no vhumba vhushaka havihungu kweva mavana he ha thuwa jene dzangano ulitshizwa biyana Shoja kweja kwe shihereza tsha mveledziso ya vhukoni ha u vhala na u vhala.

2. Ni dzhila hani musumho une wa itwa nga zviughty na dzibugu vhutshikhoni hashu na khe tshithavha?

Ngwila nea hu randula ngayo no u ite zwengu vhutshihoni i tshibwedza nga zwine ra zwi vhala na zviughty zwine ra zwi pfhi. Dzikhawakalekwa ya tshithavha tshishu i i twiwa kana anetshelana uri i diphwe na u diphwe vhulubve hashu. Vhuma shihera hashu vhutshihwa nga mihambule ya zwe ra zwi vhala kana zwi ra vhudzwa zwone.

3. Ndi zwa ndeme u va na dzibugu nga nyambo dzwo ntho dza Afurika Tshipembere?

Uri i le melaphanga na uri tshithavha tshishu tshi dwele u vhala, ri tea u ita uri vhuna vhembele na vhunzhi vhaho u vhala, nhone u vhala zviughty nga luambo lwa dlamuni ndi njila yavhu njila dha dlamoni. Musi vhana u tshi vhalela nga luambo lwevho lwa dlamuni, vha kona u pfesesa na u shela mulenze khe tshijoro.

4. Ni vhona u nga ndi ngani vhunzhi ha vhutsho u tvori u tshihembere?

Nanga u zwi u nango nweiwa ka tshithavha tshishu. A ri khou ita zwi zwino ha tshihambise i nthi Neo ya vhana Vhutshilo (ECD), zwiṱori nkuva u vhala zwiṱori zwine nga vhashumisani. U vhala zwi u u tshiṱula tsha tshishu.

5. Hu na muthu we a ni anetshela tshiṱori musi ni taheh rezwana?

Makhulu wanga vho u tshi tshiṱori, feli Shu si tshifhamula tshoṱhe.

6. Hu na muthu we a ni vhalela musi ni tshihembere?

Mashudu mawhi ndi uri u ha muthu we a mmbalela. U theja hanga u diphwe zwi dwo ntho Ita uri ndi vhala u nga u guda u diphena nga dzibugu.

7. Ndi ngani rwanwane muwa na muwe a tshi tea u vhala?

U vhala u nga u tshi isa lethele lwevho u nga sa alhu vhuya u nga vho. Hu nga u va vhala u nga u tshi, vha kona u pfesesa u vhala u vhulubve. "U tshiṱula tsha tshishu dha nthi Neo ya vhana Vhutshilo (ECD), zwiṱori, dzhidzira kweja ka tshiṱula zwiṱori.

Nghila ya u shumisa zviughty zwashu nga Nghila dza fasani


2. Vhalela rwanwane wapu tshijori. Ambani nga ha zhiyanisiko. Vhunzhiuri, "Nhu randula ngu ho dina mini nga mambila?" Kana "Nhuna nga ndi ngani mambila enzwe o akha zwenzwo kana o ita zwenzwo?"


5. Itani mishumo ya Itani uri tshijori tshi nyanye? Lita zwemekela kweka zwi vhara zwi faneke u inakadza ntho.

How to use our stories in different ways

1. Tell the story to your child. Read and practise telling the story. Then use your voice, face and body to bring the story to life.

2. Read the story to your child. Talk about the pictures. Ask, “What do you think happens next?” or “Why do you think the character said or did that?”

3. Read the story with your child. Take turns to read the story together. Don’t correct their mistakes, and only help if they ask for it.

4. Listen to your child read. Listen without interrupting. Say that you enjoy hearing them read aloud to you.

5. Do the Get story active! activities. This should be fun for you and your child.

Story stars

Sithembiso Nhlapo – Nal’ibali SUPERSTAR!

Sithembiso Nhlapo is Nal’ibali’s longest-serving provincial coordinator. He is the face and voice of Nal’ibali in Gauteng and the Free State, where he coordinates all partnership activities and programmes.

1. What have you achieved through your work so far?

I have built good partnerships in the provinces that have helped the organisation to grow its reputation in the literacy development sector.

2. What is your take on the role of stories and books in our lives and in society?

How we think and approach life is influenced by what we read and the stories we hear. The history of our society is written or narrated orally so that we know who we are and where we are from. Our future is shaped by ideas that we can have read or have been told about.

3. Is it important that we have books in all South African languages?

In order for us to advance and build a culture of reading in our society, we need more children and their parents reading, and there’s no better way of reading stories than in one’s mother tongue. When children are read to in their mother tongue, they are able to understand and engage with the story.

4. Why do you think South Africa’s literacy rates are so low?

We don’t have an embedded culture of reading in our society. We are not doing the fundamentals correctly; we need to have reading activities at home, ECD centres, schools, libraries and in our communities. Reading should be part of our everyday life.

5. Did someone tell you stories when you were a child?

My grandmother used to do it but it was not consistent.

6. Did someone read to you when you were a child?

Unfortunately, I was not read to. It was through my inquisitiveness that I delved into reading and learnt to enjoy books.

7. Why should every child read?

Reading can take them to things they have never been. It can help them develop better decisions, build their characters and allow them to have more confidence so that they can go anywhere.

Nal’ibali SUPERSTAR!

Sithembiso Nhlapo – our literacy champion!

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This year, Mother’s Day will be celebrated on Sunday, 14 May. Join us in celebrating our mothers, as well as the women who are like mothers to us, on this day. Follow the instructions to make a card for your mother or the mother figure in your life!

Make a Mother’s Day card
1. Cut out the card along the red dotted line.
2. Fold the card along the black dotted line.
3. Glue the two parts together.
4. On the side with the picture, write a message to the person you will give the card to. Colour in the picture.
5. On the other side, draw a picture of you and this person together. Or, write a poem or a paragraph on why you think mothers are important.

Grow your own library.
Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

The story of the golden rhino
1. Tear off page 9 of this supplement.
2. Fold the sheet 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.

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

Itani bugu MBILI dza tumula u vhulunge
Mathungo NGOHO nga ha tshugulu ya musuku
1. Gerani siaṱari 9 ḽa yeneyi bugu, shumisani masiaṱari 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 na 12.
2. Vheani masiaṱari 7 na 8 ngomu ha mafwe masiaṱari.
3. Gerani kha mitalo mitswuku i re na zwithoma uri ni fhandekanye masiaṱari.

Muri wa khumbudzo
1. Uri ni ite yeneyi bugu, shumisani masiaṱari 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 na 12.
2. Vheani masiaṱari 7 na 8 ngomu ha mafwe masiaṱari.
3. Gerani kha mitalo mitswuku i re na zwithoma uri ni fhandekanye masiaṱari.

Uno ſhuvha ḽa Vhomme ḽa Vhomme
1. Gerani garaṱa kha mitalo mitswuku i re na zwithoma.
2. Petani garaṱa kha mutalo mutswu u re na zwithoma.
3. Vheani masiaṱari 7 na 8 ngomu ha mafwe masiaṱari.
4. Gerani kha mitalo mitswuku i re na zwithoma uri ni fhandekanye masiaṱari.

Mafhungo ngoho nga ha tshugulu ya musuku

1. Gerani garaṱa ya ſhuvha ſha Vhomme ḽa vhomme ngi lo pembelelwana Swondaha ya ſha 14 Shundunthule. Tanganelani na ripe musi ri tshi pembelele vhomme ashu, kathihi na vhahumakadzi vhane vha nga vhomme kha ripe nga nenenji ſhuvha. Tvehelani nyelethshedzo dza u ita garata u itela mme anu kana muthu ane na mu dzha e mme vhutshiloni haŋu!
Thembi is angry and throws her doll. “Why did Grandpa Nathi have to die!”

Mommy pulls Thembi close on her lap. “It’s okay to be angry,” says Mommy. “I miss Grandpa Nathi too.”

Thembi o sinyuwa nahone u posela fhasi mupopi wawe. “Ndi ngani Makhulu Vho-Nathi vho lovha!”


Get story active!

★ What do you enjoy doing with your grandpa or grandma? Draw a picture of you and your special grandparent doing your favourite things together.

★ Write a short note or a letter to your special grandparent to tell them how much you love them.

★ Thembi and Thulani were very sad when Grandpa Nathi died. Have you lost someone special? How did you feel, and what made you feel better?

Muri wa khumbudzo

Savnola Goldridge • Agrippa Mncedisi Hlophe • Jason Given

The memory tree

Ideas to talk about: What can you see on the memory tree? Who do you think is in the photos? Who do you think the tree is called a memory tree?

Itani uri tshitori tshi nyanyule!

★ Ndi mini zwine na takalela u zwi ita na makhulu shinna kana makhulu shisadzi? Olani tshifanyiso tshaŋu na tsha makhulu vhane na vha funesa ni tshi khou ila zwi thu zwine na zwi funesa navho.

★ Ñwalelani makhulu vhane na vha funesa mulaedza mupfuňi kana vhurifhi ni vha vhudze njifila ine na vha funa ngayo.

★ Thembi na Thulani vho vha vho ĥungufhala vhukuma Musi Makhulu Vho-Nathi vha tshi lovha. Naa hu na muthu o lovhaho we na vha ni tshi mu funesa? No dipfa hari, ndi mini zwo itaho uri ni dipfe ni khwine?
Today Mommy, Daddy, Thulani and Thembi are wearing their best clothes to go to church for Grandpa Nathi’s funeral. Everyone is coming to remember Grandpa.

Mommy holds Thembi's hand as they sing Grandpa Nathi’s favourite songs. Everybody sings and dances too.

Thembi and Thulani like to visit the park with Grandpa Nathi. They love their Grandpa Nathi.
Thulani is sitting outside under Grandpa Nathi’s favourite tree.

He doesn’t feel like playing with Thembi.

He wishes Grandpa Nathi could read him a story.

Thulani o dzula nnḓa tsini fhasi ha muri une Makhulu Vho-Nathi vha u funesa. U pfa a sa ṱoḓi u tamba na Thembi. U tama u nga Makhulu Vho-Nathi vha nga mu thulela tshiṱori.

Daddy smiles. “Now, anytime we want to remember Grandpa Nathi, we can come to our memory tree.”

“We will never forget Grandpa Nathi. He will always be in our hearts.”

Baba vha ńwethuwa. “Ee, tshifhinga tshiṅwe na tshiṅwe musi ri tshi humbula Makhulu Vho-Nathi, ri nga ḓa kha hoyu muri washu wa khumbudzo.”

“Ri nga si vhuye ra hangwa Makhulu Vho-Nathi. Vha doctrine vhe mbiluni dzashu.”
Mommy and Daddy are very sad. “What’s wrong?” asks Thembi. Her tummy feels sore. Mommy’s voice is very quiet. “Grandpa Nathi was old and sick. The doctors couldn’t make him better.” Her eyes fill with tears. “We won’t be seeing Grandpa Nathi again.”

Together they all stick pictures of Grandpa Nathi onto the tree. They remember the fun times they had. Thembi claps excitedly. “This is my new favourite tree!”

The story of the golden rhino

Griffin Shea • Elizabeth Sparg

Get story active!

⭐ Draw a picture of a king and queen in the royal court at the top of the hill.

⭐ Which five facts from the story do you find the most interesting?

⭐ What questions do you have after reading the story? Write these down.

⭐ Use clay to make a rhinoceros small enough to fit into your hand.

⭐ Imagine finding a secret staircase. Where do you think it might lead? Climb to the top and when you get there, describe what you see.

Ideas to talk about:

Were the kings and queens of Mapungubwe richer than other people living there? Is that fair? Why/why not? What is your understanding of the role of kings and queens in communities?

Mafhungo ngohe ha tshugulu ya musuku

Griffin Shea • Elizabeth Sparg

This story is an adapted version of The story of the golden rhino, published by Cadbury in partnership with Nal’ibali as part of the Cadbury Dairy Milk #InOurOwnWords initiative. Each story is available in the eleven official South African languages. To find out more about the Cadbury Dairy Milk #InOurOwnWords initiative titles go to https://cadbury.one/library.html.

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org
Did you know that 1 000 years ago, the most powerful kings and queens in South Africa lived on top of a hill?

Today we call the hill Mapungubwe. That means “hill of the jackal”. It is a very big hill, large enough for the kings and queens to have lived with all of their royal families, their guards, and their servants. All of these people together were called the royal court.

On the ground, at the bottom of the hill, lived the rest of the city. Thousands of people lived there. Some farmed the land to grow food. Some made clothing. Some carved wood. And some melted gold to create beautiful jewellery.

The kings and queens were very rich. They mined gold and gathered ivory from elephant tusks. They were also very clever. They created a secret staircase to reach the royal court. The stairs were hidden so that people on the ground couldn’t see who was going up and down.

The goldsmiths had to build very hot fires to melt the gold. The fire needed to heat the gold to more than 1 000 degrees Celsius to melt it.

Then the goldsmiths might pour out the melted gold and beat it with a hammer to make a very thin foil. Or they might make gold drops into beads, or stretch out pieces into coils for jewellery.

After the goldsmiths made the gold foil, the woodworkers helped them. The woodworkers carved wood into shapes, and then the goldsmiths put the gold foil on the wood. They glued the gold foil onto the wood, and then the woodworkers could make a new piece of gold and put it on a mount to make a very thin gold sheet. They could then put this gold sheet into a mould to make a new piece of gold jewellery.

This way they could shape the gold into animals, bowls, or sceptres.

That’s how the goldsmiths made the famous golden rhino.

The kings and queens didn’t leave any writing behind. They left behind their gold. Like the pharaohs in Egypt, they were buried with their gold treasures.
Thembi can’t sleep. She calls out to Mommy.

“Mommy, I miss Grandpa. My heart is so sore!”

But Grandpa Nathi is very sick in the hospital. His eyes are closed.

The machine next to Grandpa Nathi goes beep, beep, beep.

“Mommy, why won’t Grandpa Nathi sing with me?” asks Thembi.

Mommy says, “Grandpa Nathi can still hear you. His heart is singing with you.”
Thembi and Thulani are eating breakfast when Daddy walks in with a big, big, big cardboard tree. “This is a memory tree,” says Daddy. He sticks the cardboard tree on the wall. Mommy has a box of photos. “Take your favourite pictures of Grandpa Nathi and stick them on the tree.”

At home, Thembi and Thulani are waiting at the window. Mommy and Daddy are taking so long at the hospital. Then Thembi sees Mommy and Daddy walk up the driveway. “They are back!”

The largest migration of wildlife takes place in Africa! Every year more than 750,000 zebras and 1.2 million wildebeest trek across the Serengeti in Tanzania.

Africa is well known for its beautiful landscapes and abundant wildlife. It is the home of the world’s oldest civilisations and is rich in vibrant cultures and diverse peoples. Let’s explore some facts about the second-largest continent in the world!

**Nyambo dziri thiraho phesenthe dza 25 dai ambwa kha ja Afurika fhedzi. Kha ja Nigeria hu ambwa nyambo dza 502, ndi jone shango jire na nyambo nnzhi vhukuma kha ja Afurika!**

Over 25% of the world’s languages are spoken only in Africa. Nigeria, with 502 spoken languages, has the most living languages in Africa!

**Vhathu vha u thoma vha bva kha ja Afurika. Nga tshirwe tshifhinga Afurika li vhizwa Vhuvbo hu Vhathu nga kwambo wa masakela manzhi ane a sumbedza uri vhutshilo hu Vhathu vha u thoma ho tumbuka henetha.**

The Blyde River Canyon in Mpumalanga is the world’s biggest green canyon.

The earliest humans originated from Africa. Africa is sometimes called The Cradle of Humankind because of the many fossils that suggest that early human life originated here.

**Nawa dza cocoa dzia phesenthe dza 70 dzizine dza hvudzidza shangoni dzia bva kha ja Afurika. Nawa dza cocoa dzia shumiswa u ita tshoko.**

Africa produces 70% of the world’s cocoa beans. Cocoa beans are used to make chocolate.

25 May is Africa Day!

Contact us in any of these ways: • Ri kwameni nga ihwe ya dzenedzi ndi:

- [www.netball.org](http://www.netball.org)
- [www.netball.mobi](http://www.netball.mobi)
- [netballSA](http://netballSA)
- [omakholoSA](http://omakholoSA)
- [info@netball.org](mailto:info@netball.org)
Nari Ṣhukhu na mibvumo ya u kuma na u unga
Nga Marilize de Wet    Zwifanyiso nga deur Heidel Dedekind

Nari Ṣhukhu yo vuva nga thungo hu sili kha tshipiṱa tshi re na hatisi eneo matsheloni. A yo ngo edjela zawavhu ngadweke. Vhuṣiku hoṱhe yo pfa mibvumo va tshuwisahwe zwiṱuku ḓakani.

U thomani yeneyo mibvumo yo vha i tshi pfaletal me kule, fhedzi ya gisendela nga zwiṱuku nga zwiṱuku. Yo pfala u nga ndi u kuma na u unga ha thumbu ya Makhulu Vho-Ndou musi vho farwa nga nṱala! Ano matsheloni zwi tou nga a hu ya ṫari na nṱihhi yo pfalo mibvumo. Nako Nari Ṣhukhu yo vha i Ṣhukhu zwiṱuka nga sambti ya ṫari, a yo ngo vhudzisa dziṅwe ṫari Ṣhukhu arali dzo pfa wonoyo mibvumo! Yo vha i tshi gis zwi mini arali dza humbula u nga ndi goswi nhonone dza i sea?

Nari Ṣhukhu yo tsa matsheloni oṱhe i tshi khou ḓihudzisa uri wonoyo mibvumo wa u kuma na u unga nga vha vho u nga vha va u mini.

Makhulu Vho-Ndou vho vha vha tshi khou ḓiṱafunela ṫari ya ṫari, a musi Nari Ṣhukhu i tshi vha pfuka yo livha tshichani hune ha nwiwa honone mądĩ. “Makhulu Vho-Ndou, n霸道 ndi thumbo yavho ye ya vha i tshi khou kuma na u unga madawe kwe lwe zwa pfała u buja na ḓaka?” hu vhudziza Nari Ṣhukhu.


Nari Ṣhukhu ya ṫwa masiari oṱhe i tshi khou ḓihudzisa uri wonoyo mibvumo wa u kuma na u unga nga vha vho u wa mini. Ya vhudzisa vhoko ḓe ya ṫangana navho arali vho pfa wonoyo mibvumo; fhedzi zwi ḓiṱuka nga nga vha vho si na na muṱihhi we a pfa.


Musı ḓuvha li tshi vho khowe, tsha vha ḓi swika tshihisinga tsha uri Nari Ṣhukhu nga ḓinwe ṫari ḓiṱhe dze ḓiṱule u edjela those qwe eneo makedwana.

Nari Ṣhukhu yo vha i tshi kha ḓi tau bva u fana ḓihofhe musi tshi tshi mbo dži vukuluku. A hu na na ḓiṱhwe, yo dovha ya pfa u kuma na u unga! U thomani wonoyo mibvumo wa u kuma na u unga nga vha vho pfala u kule, fhedzi wa gis sendela nga zwiṱuku nga zwiṱuku. Wa bvela phandha u tshi engedza! Kubifuluka kwa Nari Ṣhukhu kwa džiṱhwe nga luṱhelo sa ngoma. Ya ḓinga-ṱinga u vhona arali ḓinwe ṫari dzo pfa wonoyo mibvumo; fhedzi ḓiṱhe dzo vha ḓi dzo fa nga ḓihofhe. Na Mma Vho-Nari vho vha farwa nga ḓihofhe ḓhulu, vha sa tsukunyeni na luṱhhi.

Nari Ṣhukhu yo vha yo tshi tshwuwa. Ya ḓi endela u pfa mibvumo wa u kuma na u unga ḓiṱhe hune ya vha honen. Ndi izwi-ha i tshi pfala, … THOO! Nari Ṣhukhu ya rothela nga tshihuthu tsha luṱhu nga ngauri! Thoo, thoo, thoo! Ha rotha mashotha manzhi a mvula.

Nari Ṣhukhu ya lila. Ha rotha mashotha mahulwane u bva makoleni. Nari Ṣhukhu ya ḓisea nga iphi ḓihuwane ... hu na ḓiṱhwe lirī ... heyi ndi mvula. Lwo vha lu lwa u thoma i tshi ḓiṱuka mvula! U kuma na u unga zwi ya zwi pfa ho vha vho mibvumo wa mvula! Yo vha i soko tea u ofha.

Zwenezwedza zwa ita uri Nari Ṣhukhu i dzike, ya džikuhadzisa tsini u mfuווa u dudelaho wa Mma Vho-Nari. Ya theshelesa musi mashotha a mvula a tshi nela ṫari na hatsi, ya mbo dži ġara ḓihofhe.

Itani uri tshiṱori tshi nyanyule!

★ Naa ni kha gi zwi humbula musi ni tshi pfa mibvumo u tshuwisahwe? No ita mini? Wo vha u mibvumo wa mini?
★ Olani tshifanyiso tsha Nari Ṣhukhu na Makhazidzi Vho-Mvuru. Olani maṱipfani a re kha pulo o ambiwaho nga Nari Ṣhukhu na maṱwe o ambiwaho nga Makhazidzi Vho-Mvuru. Kopani maṱipfani a tshipiṱa ane a ambiwaho nga mubvumbedzwa mufwe u mufwe kha tshipilithi tshwe tshi re kha mapululwa.
★ Humbula nga ha mvula. Ngalari tshihendo tshinie tsha talusa njila ine mibvumo wa mvula wa vha ngayo, munukho na njila ine ya vha ngayo kha lukanda.
Little Buffalo woke up on the wrong side of the grassy patch that morning. He had not slept well last night. All night long he had heard the most frightful sounds in the bushveld.

At first the sounds were far away, but then they came closer and closer. It sounded just like the rumble-grumble of Grandpa Elephant’s stomach when he is hungry! This morning it seemed as if none of the other buffaloes had heard it. And even though Little Buffalo was the youngest in the buffalo herd, he was not about to ask the other young buffaloes about the sound! What if they thought he was a coward and teased him?

All morning Little Buffalo wondered what the rumble-grumble sound could have been.

Grandpa Elephant was peacefully chewing some mopane leaves when Little Buffalo walked past him on his way to the waterhole. “Grandpa Elephant, was it your stomach that rumble-grumbled so loudly last night that I could hear it all the way across the bushveld?” asked Little Buffalo.

“No, Little Buffalo. It wasn’t me. My stomach only started rumble-grumbling after sunrise this morning,” answered Grandpa Elephant. Then he turned around and walked towards the tall trees.

At the waterhole, Little Buffalo found Aunt Hippo basking in the sun.

“Aunt Hippo, did you perhaps hear the rumble-grumble sound last night?” asked Little Buffalo.

“No, Little Buffalo. My ears where under the water. I heard nothing,” answered Aunt Hippo. Then she gave a big hippo yawn and closed her eyes for an afternoon nap.

All afternoon Little Buffalo wondered what the rumble-grumble sound could have been. He asked everyone he met if they had heard the sound, but no one else seemed to have heard it.

Perhaps it was only a dream, Little Buffalo,” answered Mama Buffalo when he asked her. And surely Mama would know because Little Buffalo had slept right next to her.

When the last sunbeams had disappeared, it was time for Little Buffalo and all the other buffaloes to settle down on the soft grass for the night.

Little Buffalo had just fallen asleep when he woke up with a jolt. Without a doubt, he heard the rumble-grumble again! At first the rumble-grumble sounded far away, but then it came closer and closer. And it got louder and louder! Little Buffalo’s heart beat like a drum. He looked around to see if the other buffaloes heard the sound too, but they were all fast asleep. Even Mama Buffalo was not stirring.

Little Buffalo felt scared. It rumbled and grumbled and rumble-grumbled all around him. And then … SPLASH! something wet landed on Little Buffalo’s nose! Splash, splash, splash! More and more waterdrops appeared.

Little Buffalo looked up. Big drops of water fell in sheets from the sky. Little Buffalo laughed out loud at himself … of course … this had to be rain. His very first rain shower! And the rumble-grumble he had heard, was only thunder! There was nothing to be scared of.

With a peaceful heart Little Buffalo snuggled up close to Mama Buffalo’s warm body. He listened to the sound of the rain falling on the leaves and grass for a little longer, and then he fell fast asleep without a care in the world.
Nal’ibali fun

1. Wanani zwithu zwa malo zwi sa fani kha hezwí zwifanyiso zwívhili.

Find eight differences between these two pictures.

2. Itani Phostara Wanalani ni tshi khou vhala nga Shundunthule!
   - Gerani ni khlhari tshifanyiso tsho Neo nga muzimbu ni tshi nambudzwa hko barmmbi jhukwane.
   - Nwalani dzina ja bugu ine Neo a khou i vhala ni olle tshifanyiso kha gwali ja nga phanda.
   - Thaphezani tshifanyiso a sumbedza he Neo a dzula hone musi a tshi khou vhala!
   - Itani phostara i re na mapfiri Wanalani ni tshi khou vhala tshifanyiso a khou i vhala ni phanwa a nga phanda.
   - Itani phostara i re na mpfiri Wanalani ni tshi khou vhala tshifanyiso a khou vhala nga phanda a tshi khou vhala!

Make a Get caught reading in May! poster
   - Cut out and colour in the picture of Neo and then paste it on a large sheet of paper.
   - Write in the name of the book Neo is reading and draw a picture on the front cover.
   - Complete the picture to show where Neo is sitting and reading!
   - Make a poster with the heading Get caught reading every day!