Tshifhinga tsha u vhala na u ſwala nothe!

Arali ni taňi tendu uri vhana vhqo u nga kona ni vhala na u ſwala zavhuďi, nañone na vha vhudza zwenæzi, zwi do ḓita uri na vhone vha tendu uri vha nga kona u vhala na u ſwala zavhuďi. Kha tshino tshifhinga tsha holode, ḓiṋeeni tshifhinga tsha u va anetshele zwiṱori, u vhala na u ſwala navho nañone vha do vhona ndlja ine u vhala na u ſwala zwa fusha na u vhuyedza ngayo.

Time to read and write together!

If you believe that your children will become successful readers and writers, and you let them know this, they will also believe that they can be successful readers and writers. This holiday season, take the time to tell them stories and to read and write with them, and they will experience the ways in which literacy can be satisfying and useful.

Making literacy part of your home

1. **Create a story routine.** Set aside time every day to read and/or tell stories.
2. **Tell stories.** Tell your children stories, sing songs and recite poems you know. This stimulates their imagination and develops their language. Listen to their stories too, and remember to show your appreciation.
3. **Use your home language.** First stories should be in your children’s home language. A strong foundation in their home language is the key to all successful learning – including learning to read and write – because to learn well, they need to understand well.
4. **Be a role model.** Let your children see you reading for pleasure and to find information.

Everyone has a role to play

1. **Create story times that the whole family can enjoy together.** Once a week, let a different family member tell a story during supper time.
2. **Visit the library together.** Allow plenty of time to browse, then chat to your children about their choices before they make their final decision about which books to borrow.
3. **Develop children’s confidence.** Value your children’s attempts to read and write – because to read and write successfully, they need to understand well. If you believe that your children will become successful readers and writers, and you let them know this, they will also believe that they can be successful readers and writers, and you let them know this, they will also believe that they can be successful readers and writers.

Get your children writing

1. **Make sure that you have a supply of paper, crayons, pens and pencils at home.** Keep them in a place that is easy for your children to reach on their own so that they can draw and write whenever they choose to do so.
2. **Make books by stapling blank sheets of paper together and writing stories with your children.** Younger children can draw the pictures.

Annually, the primary objective of this publication is to promote reading for pleasure and to develop children’s confidence. It further aims to encourage children to develop their home language. The publication is intended for parents, teachers and librarians and is designed to inspire a love of reading in children. It is also an attempt to encourage parents to read aloud to their children and to encourage children to read for pleasure.

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Happy holidays with your young ones

Dear parents and caregivers of young children, many families look forward to travelling to different parts of the country to visit family and friends over the December holiday period. With a bit of planning, you and your young children will enjoy the trip and the time away from home even more!

Make sure the place that you stay at is safe for children

- Make sure your baby has a set place to sleep that is quiet and has fresh air. The bed or cot should have sides to stop your baby from rolling off the bed.
- If there are stairs, find a gate or other barrier to keep your baby or toddler away from the steps.
- Check that play areas do not have sharp or broken objects lying around.
- An adult needs to watch children when they play near buckets of water or dams. A baby can drown in even a few centimetres of water.
- Keep children at a safe distance from cooking and braai areas.
- Know how and where to find medical help quickly.

(Adapted from Planning holidays with children; https://raisingchildren.net.au)

Pack a small activity bag for each child. Include some paper for drawing or writing, colouring-in pages, coloured pencils and pens. Also include a favourite picture book to read. Visit our website at www.nalibali.org for printable activity pages and story cards.

- Plan for more stops and snacks.
  - Young children cannot sit still for as long as adults. They also need healthy snacks like fruit to feed their growing bodies.
- When you stop for fuel and toilet breaks, find a safe place for the young ones to run around and get rid of pent-up energy.

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Itani vhungo ho uri fhethu hune ha tambelwa hone a hu na zwithu zwine na nga wana hone thuso ya zwa ngalafho nga u jayani.

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Mitambo i takadzaho na vhana vhaṱuku

Dzholo diei zvibwilizvavhu zwa u twa u vhana vhanyu u twa tshilimba tshapi. Ni songo hangwa u nhumubela muhwene u tshibuli tsha u anethshela kana u sika tshifhinga? U tamba hu dohva ha ta ıt u vhana vhaṱuku u humbule.

1. **U vheva zwilikhveli njilani.** Shumisani dzikhusheni, misiamelo, nguvho na mirifikidzwa ni zwi vheva njilani u zwi vheva nhumubela u takadzaho u twa nhana wanyu kana lusibhethi lwevhu u zwi gongwe a kone u phuku phanga. Vha do takakela u "vair" ngumvu ma maboningi u mbelesele phanga na muhungu kana u dzhena kha thandele dzo twa nhana nga nguvho dzo fukedzaho zviidulo. Svendani ni phuku kha njilila ne na zwilikhveli u twa nhana wanyu a kone u vhona njilila ine zwa twa ngavo.

2. **Bikazi zwiljweli ntho.** Vhana na dzikhusheni vha nga kha gi thehetha zwiljweli vha sa athu u zwi ja anali vha futhu u zwi lugiselela. Analili vho futhu u vanganyira, u shela na u dzhita zwiljweli, vhulubela havo ha u shumisa zwangwa na majato uku vu vu kha phukela pho. Musi ni tshi khou lugiselela zwiljweli, sikani tshifondela, lumbu kana ni anethshela tshifondela nga ha thifondela. Sa tsumbo, tlili twa musi ni tshi atmama u tsho ja tshifondela ti ntho.

3. **Itini zwitambiswa zwangu.** Shumisani zwilwolo zwo gowekezha zwine zwangi wasana hayani, zwilwolo zwangi ngako zwipinda zwa melambo, uzhiva kwakho ku shumisa zwangwa na mafungo kana u phukela pho, u zwi u shumisa zwangwa na mafungo kana u shumisa zwangwa. Musi ni tshi khou lugiselela zwiljweli, sikani tshifondela, lumbu kana ni anethshela tshifondela nga ha thifondela. Sa tsumbo, tlili twa musi ni tshi atmama u tsho ja tshifondela ti ntho.

4. **Itini yano.** Vhana vha funa u tamba mitambo ine vha giila zwine vha sa pho zwi zwi pho; U tsho yano mirajo ya mutu na dzikhoni zwi ngwe vha vhonisa ethi kha phalii pha nthu. Musi ni tshi ita pikini ni tsho u zwitambiswa zwine vhana vha pho zwine funesa.

5. **Gammbani.** Iti tshongi tsho nga u sho u zwangwa ezi u zwi phalii kana imba tshifondela zwangwa. Musi ni tshi khou lugiselela zwiljweli, sikani tshifondela, lumbu kana ni anethshela tshifondela nga ha thifondela. Sa tsumbo, tlili twa musi ni tshi atmama u tsho ja tshifondela ti ntho.

6. **Itini tshihubha.** Ivhani na tshipinda tshihubha ngadzidzidzidzwa u vhona nhana vha pho nga giila ngadzidzidzwa nga yao na u zwi vhona kana u zwi vhona nthu. Musi ni tshi atmama u tsho ja tshifondela zwangwa. Musi ni tshi khou lugiselela zwiljweli, sikani tshifondela, lumbu kana ni anethshela tshifondela nga ha thifondela. Sa tsumbo, tlili twa musi ni tshi atmama u tsho ja tshifondela ti ntho.

7. **Itini tshihubha.** Ivhani na tshipinda tshihubha ngadzidzidzwa u vhona nhana vha pho nga giila ngadzidzidzwa nga yao na u zwi vhona kana u zwi vhona nthu. Musi ni tshi atmama u tsho ja tshifondela zwangwa. Musi ni tshi khou lugiselela zwiljweli, sikani tshifondela, lumbu kana ni anethshela tshifondela nga ha thifondela. Sa tsumbo, tlili twa musi ni tshi atmama u tsho ja tshifondela ti ntho.

Fun activities with young children

Holidays are wonderful opportunities to spend more time with our children. Remember that almost every activity is an opportunity to tell or make up a story! Play also builds the imaginations of young children.

1. **An obstacle course.** Use cushions, pillows, soft blankets and mats to make an exciting obstacle course for your baby or toddler to move through. They will love going “through” boxes that open at each end or tunnels that are made with blankets draped over chairs. Crawl through the obstacle course to show your little one what to do.

2. **Make a meal together.** Toddlers are more likely to try new foods if they have helped to prepare them. When they help you to mix, pour and handle ingredients, their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination will also be strengthened. Make up a rhyme, song or story about food while you make the meal. For example, pretend to be a hippopotamus when you open your mouth wide to eat a snack.

3. **Put on a show.** Children love playing make believe! Putting on a show for their family members and friends gives young children the perfect reason to dress up, say or sing their favourite rhymes and songs, and dance. And children of all ages love nothing more than to see and hear their loved ones cheering and clapping for them.

4. **More fun things to do.** Go on a picnic. Pack your lunch and enjoy it at the park or in your garden. Bring your children’s favourite toys to the picnic.

5. **Make a garden patch.** Mark out a small patch in the garden where your children can create an outdoor play garden. Plant flowers, herbs, spinach, or any other plant that grows quickly. Place old spoons for digging, containers for planting and plastic animal toys in the garden.

(Mathungo o shandulwa u bva kha Ideas on keeping your kids stimulated & entertained this holiday! Things to do in Cape Town With Kids Magazine; https://thingstodowithkids.co.za)
1. Choose which bug puppet you want to make.

2. Paint the toilet roll tube in the colour you want or wrap it with coloured paper.

3. Cut two small circles of white paper and draw big dots for eyes, or use googly eye stickers. Paste the eyes near the top of your puppet.

4. Cut two antennae from black paper and paste them inside the top of the paper roll.

5. Cut, colour and paste wings on your bug puppets.
   - For ladybirds, cut a big circle in half.
   - For bees, cut medium-sized circles.
   - For butterflies, cut triangles with curvy sides.
   - Decorate your bugs with glitter, buttons, beads and wool.

You will need: toilet roll tubes, scissors, plain or coloured paper, kokis, glue, glitter, wool, buttons or beads.
Get story active!

★ What special drink would you make on a hot day? Write your list of ingredients and your method. Give your special drink a name.

★ If you could make a magical potion, what would happen to someone who drank it? What would you use to make the potion?

★ Make toilet roll puppets of Ntate Pidipidi, Ntate Segwagwa and Ntate Hlogo (see page 4). With your friends and family, take turns to use the puppets to role play each character as you sing your favourite songs!

This story is an adapted version of Christmas elixir 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.

Mushonwa wa Khrisimusi
Bandile Sikwane • Elizabeth Sparg

Ideas to talk about: A special drink can make people feel better. In this story the special drink is supposed to be magical. Do you think that a drink can be magical? If you could make a magical drink, what would it do?

Zwino ha nga ambika ha hawo: Tshinwiwa tsho khetheha tshi nga nudza mbulu dza vhathu. Kha hethi tshiţhorì, tshinwiwa tsho khetheha tshi tea u vha na manditì. Ni vhona u tshiţhorì tshi nga vha na manditì? Arali na nga ita tshinwiwa tsha manditì, tshi tea tshi tshi go tša mini?
“This is the best Festive Show, and the best Christmas Day, ever. Season’s greetings and congratulations to you,” Kwena told Mme Morubisi.

Ramošwe, Mmutla, Tshoswane and Kgabo turned and stared at Mme Morubisi. “You planned the show?”

“Yes, but not the weather, dears. Not the weather. But do enjoy the elixir, and season’s greetings to you too, Ntate Kwena,” she said with a relieved smile.

Mme Morubisi watched and worried over the preparations for the Festive Show. It was the day before Christmas and forest folk were arriving from far and wide. Unaware of the crisis, they brought with them the excitement of the silly season.

Seeing Kgabo glide up the enormous lemon tree was a sight to behold. He moved with such speed that even the heat stopped as if to marvel. His hands, feet and tail were perfectly choreographed.

Tshoswane was equally impressive with his climb. His six legs and strong body kept pace with the monkey. He was even more impressive descending effortlessly, carrying what appeared to be enormous lemons.

The ginger and mint collection went well too. Ramošwe and Mmutla high-fived each other. Everyone waited eagerly for Mme Morubisi to mix all the ingredients together and say the incantation that they hoped would make everyone not notice the terrible singing.

“Love and light quench our thirst and make this Christmas Day one of light and love,” she chanted.
Get story active!

What would you prefer eating, fish or sausages? Why?

Imagine that you are going to prepare a feast for your family. Make a list of the food you would make.

Now draw a picture of a festive table.

Tshimima

Jude Daly • Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Ideas to talk about: Have you ever had a feast at home or at someone else's house? What did you eat? Does there have to be lots of expensive food for a meal to be a feast? What do you think?

Zwine ha nga ambwa nga haziwo: Naa no no vhuya na ita tshimima hayani ha haṱu kana ha muṱwe muthu? No ja mini henehfo? Naa tshimima ndi tshimima nghe ha vha na zwiliwa zwunzi zwi dzuraho? N nga ri mini?
Papa Smuts was a fisherman. But, fish were not as plentiful as they used to be and some days he came home empty-handed. Then poor Papa Smuts would feel really downhearted.

Maria wasgetitema a ri: “Vha nga ri mini arali nda vha ṋea tshiṅwe tshisevho, khamusi hedzi sosedzhi? Naa vha nga si ḓiphine ngadzo, vha ḓiṋanzwa na minwe?”

“What if,” asked Maria, “you took something different home, something like these sausages? Now wouldn’t that be a real treat?”

But then she thought, “Sausages for breakfast. What a treat!”

Baba Vho-Smuts vho vha vha vha vha vha khovhe. Fhedzi khovhe dzo vha dze si tsha vha mnzi u fana na u thomani nahone nga maṅwe maļuva vho vha vha tshi vhuya hayani vho nembeledza zwanda. Baba Vho-Smuts vha khovhe, vho vha vha tshi ḓipfa vho tsikeledzea vhukuma.
Mama Smuts went quietly over to the kitchen cupboard. She covered up the plump, pink sausages and wondered how she could possibly have forgotten them.

Mma Vho-Smuts vha takuwa vho difhumutshela vha ya vho livha khabodoni i re khishini. Vha tibula sosedzhi ndenya, dza pinnki nahone vha dzhudzisa uri zwo da hani uri vha dze hangwe.

That’s when Mama Smuts would give him a big hug and say, “We’ll make ends meet.” And Sannie and Frikkie would add, “We always do, Papa.” And somehow they always did because ...

Nga tshenetsho tshifhinga Mma Vho-Smuts vho vha takukanwa vho dzhudzisa uri zwo da hani uri vha dze hangwe.
Mama Smuts said nothing. But, if Papa Smuts, Sannie and Frikkie had not been so busy tucking into seconds, they might have heard her let out a little gasp.

And no one, absolutely no one, could turn the reddest tomatoes, the greenest peppers, the crunchiest carrots and the crispiest cabbage into a more scrumptious meal than Mama Smuts, with the help of Sannie and Frikkie!

... no one could grow redder tomatoes, greener peppers, crunchier carrots and crispier cabbage than Papa Smuts, with the help of Sannie and Frikkie.

Mama Smuts said nothing. But, if Papa Smuts, Sannie and Frikkie had not been so busy tucking into seconds, they might have heard her let out a little gasp.

The scorching sun had been relentless. It beat down hard on the enchanted swamp. It had been a while since the waters came down from the clouds up above. Everything in Kgakala-Kgakala, the magical land far-far away, yearned for a sip of rain.

The owl knew if it didn’t rain by nightfall, it would be a disaster for the Christmas festivities.

Guests chattered among themselves about this year’s entertainment. “I heard they’ve secured a trio whose sweet serenade is going to blow us all away!” said Kwena the gruff and giddy crocodile.

“I heard it’s going to be epic, out of this world,” Kubu the hippo replied with a knowing chuckle.

Ramošwe, Mmutla and Tshoswane were very confused.

The three were convinced the elixir had failed and that Mme Morubisi had lost her touch. But it soon dawned on them that sometimes ‘tis the season to be jolly and be silly with friends and family. And when that happens, you don’t care about the quality of the singing. The owl was quite wise, after all.

Ramošwe, Mmutla and Tshoswane zwo vha zwo kganganyisea.

Izwi zwinaru zwo vha zwi na falutshelo la uri mushonga wo kundelwa na uri Mma Vho-Morubisi a vha tshe na manditi. Zwa konaha u swika khawzo uri shirwe shihinga rodi khalatiwa ine ya ita uri vhatu va takale vha ita zwothe na khonani na mita. Musi izwo zwi tshi tere, vhatu a vha na ndavha na u vhitsho ha u imba. Gwitha jone lo vha lo tshiha.

"Hello, you three, what's the hurry?" Mme Morubisi asked in her cheeky but gentle way.

"Christmas will be completely ruined!" blurted out Tshoswane, hunched over and panting from his run.

"Oh dear," said the seemingly all-knowing Mme Morubisi, not concerned at all.

"Ntate Pidipidi, Segwagwa and Hlogo have formed a trio called Killing Them Softly and they're going to perform at tomorrow's Festive Show," explained Ramošwe. "We don't know who organised this thing, what they were thinking, or if they were thinking at all, when they booked these three. Think of the audience's ears! It must be stopped."

"Hurini, iwe vhararu, ndi ngani ni tshi khou tou ṱavhanyedza?" Mme Vho-Morubisi vho vhudzisa vha sa sumbedzi u ṱhonifha fhedzi nga nḓila ya vhulenda.

"Khrisimusi i ḓo tshinyadzwa tshoṱhe!" Tshoswane ḽa sokou amba zwi songo lavhelela, ḽo kotamela phanḓa ḽo isa na mahaḓa phanḓa ḽi tshi femeleka nga murahu ha u gidima.

“Don’t you think the name is trying to tell us something?” Mmutla, a clever rabbit, asked with a wry smile.

“I really think they intend on killing people softly with their so-called singing,” retorted Ramošwe, a pretty squirrel with an enormous bushy tail.

“We need to put an end to this. Immediately!” declared Tshoswane, the immensely strong ant. “Christmas will be ruined!”

“Agreed,” said Ramošwe. “Look at all of them. They are so excited. They have no idea what a terrible thing they are about to hear.”

“I say we run to Mme Morubisi. She’ll know what to do,” suggested Tshoswane.

“Mhunepo ngekudzisa ihalifahoko yose iwe ungabudzidwa? Ngu nthwalo urukudzidwa mhandisi mwaro?” Mmutla, muvhuḓa wo ṱalifhaho u a vhudzisa nga u mwemwela hu sumbedzaho miswaswo.

“Ndikudzidza u tshipikwa tshavho ndi u tou vhulaha vhathu nga zwine vha zwi vhidza uri ndi u imba havho,” hu ḓadzisa Ramošwe, luṱurwa lwo nakaho lu re na mutshila muhulu wa vhukuse vhunzhi.

Ri fanela u zwi fhelisa hezwi zwithu. Nga u ṱavhanya!” hu khwaṱhisedza Tshoswane, sunzi ḽa maanḓa mahulu. “Khrisimusi i nga tshinyiwa!”


“I say we run to Mme Vho-Morubisi. She’ll know what to do,” suggested Tshoswane.

Last year, Mme Thaha had sung so beautifully, everyone decided the Festive Show should be held every year. But this year the heatwave gave her heatstroke, and she had to pull out at the last minute.

Ntate Pidipidi and Ntate Segwagwa pounced at the opportunity to fill in as replacements.

It’s just that Ntate Pidipidi’s singing was truly terribly atrocious in every way. It was matched only by that of Ntate Segwagwa. Together they were the worst singing duo in the entire universe. However, for this year’s soiree, they had outdone themselves. They found an even worse singer, Ntate Hlogo – a gigantic shoebill. Together they formed a trio aptly called Killing Them Softly.

When Christmas Day arrived, it brought with it unbearable heat. The parched crowds drank Mme Morubisi’s refreshing elixir.

But by the start of the show, the clouds suddenly started rolling in. They gently let go of their water, cooling the crowds below, who were busy marveling at the most horrible singing they’d ever heard.

They stayed enthralled by the monstrosity they were hearing. They even laughed and cheered.

Ntate Pidipidi, Segwagwa and Hlogo were still bowing, enjoying the applause.
How to play:
1. Each player must toss a coin or small stone onto number 6 of the wheel to start.
2. Then take turns to toss the coin or stone onto the wheel. Move your button that number of squares.
3. Follow the instructions in the square you land on.
4. The first player to reach Finish is the winner.

This game is ideal for four or five to play together. It is best for children aged 7 to 12 years old. Cut out the game board and number wheel above. Paste it on some cardboard and cover it with plastic to keep it clean.
Nga Luyanda Sikhakhane  Zwifanyiso nga Natalie na Tamsin Hinrichsen

Nobukhwebezane, mukololo wa mači

Nga Kwanzaa – u ṕuwa nga u Ṙavhanya, “ndi Lubo a tshi khou amba o zwenezwo tshedza tsha ngalangala, ha sala masana a ḓuvha e a vha a tshi khou Nga khathihi fhedzi, ha penya tshedza tshihulu tshe tsha vha swingisa maṱo. Nga Musi vha tshi swika mulamboni, Nobukhwebezane e nangi tshoṱe no mulamboni. Musi vha tshi khou sendela tshi, vha pla a tshi khou imba nga iphi ēavhudi.

“Kha ri takutshedze vhuṱu vha Afurika … Kwanzaa yo swika! Ri peana zwifhiwa zwo nomako … ri sumbedzana tshopane!”

Nobukhwebezane e nangi tshoṱe no mulamboni. Musi vha tshi khou sendela tshi, vha pla a tshi khou imba nga iphi ēavhudi. Vhenevho vhasidzana vha vho vha tshi dzula phihiphi nyi mulamboni, vha tshi khou sendela tshi, vha pla a tshi khou imba nga iphi ēavhudi.

“Kha ri takutshedze vhuṱu vha Afurika … Kwanzaa yo swika! Ri peana zwifhiwa zwo nomako … ri sumbedzana tshopane!”

Nobukhwebezane e nangi tshoṱe no mulamboni. Musi vha tshi khou sendela tshi, vha pla a tshi khou imba nga iphi ēavhudi.

“Kha ri takutshedze vhuṱu vha Afurika … Kwanzaa yo swika! Ri peana zwifhiwa zwo nomako … ri sumbedzana tshopane!”

Nobukhwebezane e nangi tshoṱe no mulamboni. Musi vha tshi khou sendela tshi, vha pla a tshi khou imba nga iphi ēavhudi.
Every year, in December, it was time for the Kwanzaa festival – a time when families met and shared food and gifts. And every year, before dawn, Khwezi, Lubo and Malaika would get up and go down to the river. On their way, they would sing beautiful songs and pick blackberries.

The three girls were always very excited, because on this day, they would find the water princess, Nobukhwebezane, waiting for them at the river. As they got closer, they could hear her beautiful voice singing:

“Africans arise … Kwanzaa has come!
We give each other beautiful gifts … we show each other love!
Bring fruit, meat and amahewu.
Let’s eat, celebrate together … show each other love!”

The girls would sit on the riverbank and listen to the song. Then, at sunrise, Nobukhwebezane would give them baskets full of vegetables and fruits to take home to their village.

“Stay well, Water Princess!” they would call as they ran home so that the villagers could prepare a feast for the Kwanzaa celebrations.

But something always troubled Nobukhwebezane. “I wonder why those girls don’t thank me when they take the baskets of fruits and vegetables?” she asked herself as she sat alone.

Back at the village, everyone would gather at the chief’s home, wearing bright, colourful clothes. Besides the fruits and vegetables from the water princess, the villagers would bring grain and meat, and they would cook together while the children played.

After the villagers had feasted, they exchanged gifts, and sang and danced. The older people took turns telling their favourite folktales.

One year, when Kwanzaa arrived, Khwezi, Lubo and Malaika woke up and rushed to the river as usual, singing and picking blackberries along the way. As they neared the river, they realised that something was wrong. They couldn’t hear Nobukhwebezane singing.

“Could Nobukhwebezane still be asleep?” wondered Malaika.

“Maybe she’s not well,” suggested Khwezi.

“Perhaps she forgot that today is the start of Kwanzaa,” said Lubo.

When they reached the river, Nobukhwebezane was nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly, a bright light blinded their eyes. Then, a loud and frightening voice said, “Whoever is given something must say thank you! That is good manners!”

The girls froze, feeling terrible. They did not even know what to say.

Then the light disappeared, and only the rising sun behind the hills in the distance remained. The girls felt terrible when they realised what they had forgotten to do.

“We never thank Nobukhwebezane for the Kwanzaa gifts! We always leave in a hurry,” said Lubo sadly.

With heavy hearts, they slowly started walking back home.

“What are we going to say when we arrive back at the village empty-handed?” asked Malaika.

Khwezi turned to her friends and said, “Friends, … we must go back and apologise to the water princess.”

“But Nobukhwebezane doesn’t want anything to do with us. She doesn’t want to see us!” said Lubo, feeling hopeless.

“I agree with Khwezi,” said Malaika. “We have to go back and apologise. Even if we don’t find Nobukhwebezane there, we can leave a message for her with the fish.”

“Good idea,” said Lubo, starting to feel better. “I know, on our way back to the river, we can pick blackberries as a gift for Nobukhwebezane.”

The three girls picked a bag full of blackberries. Their faces were smiling again as they ran back down to the river. As they got closer, they heard the sweet song they knew so well:

“Africans arise … Kwanzaa has come!
We give each other beautiful gifts … we show each other love!
Bring fruit, meat and amahewu.
Let’s eat, celebrate together … show each other love!”

“Nobukhwebezane is back! The water princess is back!” they shouted, running to the edge of the river.

Nobukhwebezane was sitting on a rock close to the riverbank, smiling.

“Princess, we are really sorry for never saying thank you for your gifts of fruits and vegetables!” said Malaika.

“Yes, Nobukhwebezane, we apologise. Please forgive us,” begged Khwezi.

“Kwanzaa is a time for giving gifts. Today we have a gift for you!” said Lubo, reaching out to give Nobukhwebezane the bag full of blackberries.

Nobukhwebezane looked inside the bag and smiled. “These blackberries look delicious. Thank you, friends!”

“We are also thankful to you, Princess, for the gifts that you have given us year after year at Kwanzaa. Thank you,” Malaka said shyly.

“My friends, … Kwanzaa is a time of giving, joy, peace and love! Come close, I want to teach you a new song!” Then Nobukhwebezane sang:

“Always be thankful, always love and you will receive in return!
Always be thankful, always love and you will receive in return!
Always be thankful, always love! These are always good!”

“Now, hurry home,” she said. “It’s getting late! Here are the baskets of fruits and vegetables. They are waiting for you.”

“Thank you, Water Princess. Thank you, Nobukhwebezane!” said the girls.

“Go well! Happy Kwanzaa!” shouted Nobukhwebezane.

“To you too, Princess! Thank you!” shouted the girls.

When the girls arrived home, the villagers were already waiting for them. “Thank you, girls. It looks like you brought more fruit and vegetables than ever before. Thank you!” said the chief of the village.

When the girls heard this, they looked at each other … and smiled. They knew that Nobukhwebezane had forgiven them. “Thank you, Princess,” they whispered.
1. **Crack the code!**

What are Neo and his friends going to spend time doing during the holidays? Use the blue code-breaker table to help you find out.

| Neo is going on a (19, 15, 3, 5, 18) ____________ tour for the first week of the holidays. |
| Mbali is going on an outing to a (6, 1, 18, 13) ____________ with the other children at Gogo’s educare centre. |
| Bella is going to (18, 5, 1, 4) ____________ to Noodle and take him to play with the other dogs at the (16, 1, 18) ____________ competition. |

2. **Shumisani muhumbulo waŋu u ḟephudzweni tshibikini tshawanu.**

Muñwe o vha miṅwe muṱhannga ane a pfi George we a humbula uri ndi khwine u vhona nhone a ya u tamba na dziṅwe mmbwa ____________. Noodle na vhaṅwe vhana vha sentharani ya pfunzo ya Gugu. Mbali u ḓo ṱuwa a ya ngwenze muhumbulo waṋu u ṱuwa a ya u tamba na dziṅwe mmbwa ____________. Hope u ḓo shela mulenzhe kha muṱaṱisano wa ____________ Hope u ḓo shela mulenzhe kha muṱaṱisano wa ____________.

3. **Use your imagination to complete the story. Tell a friend or parent your story.**

Everyone thought Mama Esther was a witch. She lived alone in a small house and only went to town to buy food she could not grow in her garden. No one spoke to her, and she spoke to no one. So when Mama Esther’s roof blew off during a storm, no one came to help her. The townspople pulled their coat collars up high and their hats down low so they would not have to look at her broken little house when they walked by. But there was one young man named George who thought it was time to do something about Mama Esther…

4. **Nal’ibali fun**

Neo na khonani dazwe vha ḓo ḇita mini nga dziholode! Shumisani bogisi ja muvhala wa lutombo uri Ļ i ni these u wana khoudu.

Afrika na Dintle vha ḓo thusa mme avho u ____________. Bella is going to ____________ competition. Mbali is going on an outing to a ____________ with the other children at Gogo’s educare centre. Priya is going with her sister to a story workshop at the ____________ competition. Josh is helping to run a ____________ competition.

5. **Ni songo hangwa urit o ḓo vala u swika nga vhege ya u thoma ya Luhuhi 2024.**

Ni songo hangwa urit o ḓo vala u swika nga vhege ya u thoma ya Luhuhi 2024. Enjoy the holidays and join us in the new year for more Nal’ibali reading magic! In the meantime, visit www.nalibali.org or WhatsApp “stories” to 0600 44 22 54 to keep reading for enjoyment!

6. **Tell a friend or parent your story.**

Don’t forget that we will be taking a break until the first week of February 2024. Enjoy the holidays and join us in the new year for more Nal’ibali reading magic! In the meantime, visit www.nalibali.org or WhatsApp “stories” to 0600 44 22 54 to keep reading for enjoyment!