Tshivenḓa
Nzudzanyo 207

Vhokhotsi
vhita
mushumo wa
ndeme!

What about dads who aren’t comfortable reading?

Dads who don’t feel comfortable reading can still contribute to improving literacy in the home.

Knowing that you care about literacy will encourage your children to practice and grow their reading and writing skills. How can you do that?

- Tell stories about when you were young.
- Recite nursery rhymes or sing simple tunes.
- Ask your children about their day. When children have conversations with adults, they learn new words and how language works.
- Explain what you are doing when doing chores with your child, like washing the car.
- Read the print around you, like road signs, the names of products you buy, and so on.

Drawing

Drawing and painting allow young children to express their ideas and feelings. Talk about their pictures and ask what they would like you to write about their pictures. Writing underneath the picture helps them to understand that written language has meaning.

What about writing?

Writing becomes more meaningful to children when they write because they want to rather than because an adult told them what to write about.

Research has consistently shown that children benefit greatly when fathers (or father figures) are actively involved with their children every day. They tend to do better at school, are happier, can build positive relationships with others and have fewer negative behaviours. An important and natural way for fathers to bond with their children is to tell or read them stories and to show interest in their play, drawing and writing activities.

Drawing.

Later, children start to use the names of products they see, as they develop recognition and spelling skills.

Conventional writing.

Besides drawing and writing, children also enjoy using conventional writing. They usually choose letters and shapes they like and arrange them in the order they choose. It’s a way for them to express their ideas and feelings.

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Drawing.
Vhukoni ha u vhala na u ŋwala vhuhlo o sitshamini - nhlobo ilo ilo

Musi ri thi lugiselela Duvha ja Lifhasi ja u Vhalela Nthja nga ja 7 Luhuhi 2024, ro bveledza tsh总局tso thsọ khetheshehle thsọ tsh总局p tsh总局p ka kumanga kwa selo, thsọ thamela nga Ntshayeni Fru nga u dzwefumisa zwa hono omwo olo nga Rico. Thsọ na vhahulwanelela kwa funeswaho kwa Nal'ibali, Neo, Bella na Noodle.

Vhane vho swikelelelela va nga vundu / Children reached per province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Vhane vho swikelelelela / Children reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kapa Vhubwadi / Eastern Cape</td>
<td>174 513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free State / Free State</td>
<td>165 858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gauteng / Gauteng</td>
<td>671 789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KwaZulu-Natal / KwaZulu-Natal</td>
<td>1 094 517</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limpopo / Limpopo</td>
<td>671 598</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mpumalanga / Mpumalanga</td>
<td>583 128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denvhul Vhukovhela / North West</td>
<td>267 856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapa Denvhul / Northern Cape</td>
<td>38 608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapa Vhukovhela / Western Cape</td>
<td>221 899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THANGANYELO / TOTAL</td>
<td>3 889 766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We did it – together!

Each year on World Read Aloud Day, Nal’ibali leads literacy change in South Africa by motivating adults to read with their children. We have reached out to families, caregivers, community organisations and learning institutions to remind everyone in South Africa about the benefits of reading aloud to children. This year you helped us spread the love of stories and reading to more than 3.8 million children. What a success!

Literacy starts at home - in the home language

In preparation for World Read Aloud Day on 7 February 2024, we produced a special story, The lost kitten, written by Stacey Fru and illustrated by Rico. It featured the well-loved Nal’ibali characters, Neo, Bella and Noodle.


Nhingwadi thsọ Nal’ibali Kapa Vhubwadi thsọ pembelela #WRAD2024 na nhagudiswa thsọ kwa Khulwana, ka KwaButterworth kwa pembelela. Thsọ thamela neNkosi kwa Khulwana, kwa Pfunzo ya Mutheo, Naftikana, Amathole Vhubwadi.

Nhingwadi thsọ Nal’ibali Eastern Cape team celebrated #WRAD2024 with learners from various primary schools in Butterworth at the Department of Basic Education, Amathole East District offices.
3 million people reached via social media

4.5% social media engagement rate (benchmark is 1.5%)

15,892 visitors on the WRAD website

24,300 WRAD story downloads via the website and WhatsApp platform

© Ashraf Hendricks / GroundUp

The story was made available in the 11 official South African written languages as well as in South African Sign Language, thanks to a partnership with SLED (Sign Language Education and Development) and the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Social Development, Volkswagen South Africa, the City of Cape Town, Standard Bank South Africa and libraries throughout the country.

Every read-aloud session, whether it is with one child or a thousand children, helps to kick-start a culture of reading in South Africa.

Read-aloud sessions – big and small – were planned nationally.

Some community sessions were led by Nal’ibali, and others were organised by members of the public, schools, libraries, fellow literacy organisations and other nonprofit organisations.

Partners who lent a hand to ensure that more children than ever before were read to included the Department of Basic Education, Department of Social Development, Volkswagen South Africa, the City of Cape Town, Standard Bank South Africa and libraries throughout the country.

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The Nal’ibali-WV Literacy Project enjoyed a highly successful book launch as children from seven WV-sponsored schools gathered at the Khazimla Story Festival to celebrate the launch of lingqondi zeQhagqiwa (which means Critical Thinkers and Doers). This is a collection of stories, letters, poems and illustrations by children from Melumzi, Hombakazi Combined, Phakamile, Mthonjeni, Sikhothina, Alex Jayiya and Stephen Momo Primary Schools. The enthusiasm of the children, their parents and their teachers was clearly visible; the jam-packed VW PeoplePavilion in Gqeberha on 14 September last year.

The programme started with panel discussions by literacy activists on literacy activism and the importance of mother language. Some of the key points discussed were the importance of literacy programmes, keeping learners involved with education and challenging them to read regularly. The benefits of reading from a young age were described as an investment that would help learners succeed academically and build their futures, as well as leave a legacy of reading for generations to come.

The Nal’ibali-WV Literacy Project is a joint initiative of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Solidarity Fund of South Africa, with support from UNICEF. It is a multi-year initiative that provides incentives and tools for learners to read and write.

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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.

What point is there in trying when you can’t win a race? Wendy and Joel will have to finish the race to find out.

Ideas to talk about: Have you ever been pushed in a waentjie? Do you think it is a fun game to play? What do you think this story is about?

Get story active!
- Draw a picture of yourself and a friend or family member playing with a waentjie. Would you push the waentjie or sit in it?
- Make a list of the things you would need to build a waentjie. Tell someone how you would build it.
- Draw a starting line and a finish line on the ground. Hold hands with one other person and run from start to finish. Next, hop from start to finish while holding hands.

Itani uri tshiitori tshi nyangule!
- Olani tshifanyiso tshahu na tsho khowani yase khowa mu mundu ni tshi khatho tamba nga gariki. Naa ni do sukumedza gariki kana ni do dzuda ngamun hayo?
- Nhwalimi mutseve wa zwithu zwiṅwe kana ni do zwi shumisa u ita gariki. Vhuchani mu mwe mu mutho njila ine na do ni tafinyiso.
- Talani mutalo fhazo hune na do thoma hune na hune na do gume hune. Pfananini nga zwiṅwe mu mwe mu mutho ni gudimo u bva mathomoni u swika magumoni. Nga murahu ha zwiṅwe, itani khoi-khoi u bva mathomoni u swika magumoni.

Wendy and Joel will have to finish the race to find out.

This story was specially created for Nal’ibali to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading for enjoyment.

Ideas to talk about: Have you ever been pushed in a waentjie? Do you think it is a fun game to play? What do you think this story is about?

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All the neighbourhood children were gathering for the race of the waentjies!

“Enjoy the race, Wendy,” said her mother. “Have fun.”

“Vhana vhothe vha mudzanani vho vha kuvhangana unu vha talele mbambe ya garikil

“Difhelwani nga mbambe, Wendy,” ndi mme awe vha no ralo.

“Ndi mphine!”
Ideas to talk about: Look at the picture on the cover of this booklet. What do you think this booklet is about? If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Hidden places

Ilse Badenhorst • Georgia Demertzis

Get story active!

★ Have you heard about any of these places before? Which place seemed most exciting to you?
★ Draw a picture of an interesting place you have visited before. Write a sentence or two about that place.
★ Now imagine that you found a hidden place near your home. What would you find there? Write a paragraph about the place you found.

Itani uri tšiṱori tshi nyanyule!

★ Naa no no vhuva na pfa nga ha hurwe ha henefha fhethu? Ndi ngafhi he ha ni takadza vhukuma?
★ Olani tšifanyiso tshi fhethu hu takadzaho he na vhuva na ha dalela. Nwalani mutaladzi muthihi kana mivhili nga ha henefho fhethu.
★ Zwino kha ri ri no wana fhethu ho dzumbamaho tsiini na ha haru. No vha ni tsho do wana mini henefho? Nwalani phara nga ha fhethu he na hu wana.

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Na’libali nidi fulo ja lushaka ja u vahela u dphipha u tšela u kanusa na u tšhulela ndowelo ya u vhla kha šotheidla. U wana mfikhungo nga vhudalo, dalelani www.nalibali.org.
On the west bank of the Nile river in Egypt, lies the ancient Dendera Temple complex. The complex is massive and the buildings were built thousands of years ago. However, the main temple, called the Temple of Hathor, has been well preserved and parts of it have been carefully restored.

The Terracotta Army

Many ancient places stay hidden underground for thousands of years. One of these is the Terracotta Army in Xi’an, China. In 1974, farmers were digging a well when they found some very old and very interesting pottery. Soon, archaeologists arrived and started carefully digging up the area. Over many decades they found a whole empire that had been built more than 2 200 years ago. Everything was made of terracotta, which is clay that has been baked in special ovens.

In the mountains in Ethiopia, near the town of Lalibela, stand 11 churches that were built more than 800 years ago during the reign of King Lalibela. What is unusual about these churches is that each one is carved out of a single large block of stone. No bricks, concrete or mortar was used in creating these churches, and each one looks different. One is in the shape of a cross.

Workers first carved the shape of the church in the top of the rock. Then they carved deep trenches around the shape of the church. Then they carved out of a single large block of stone the block that fits the church. Workers first carved the shape of the church in the top of the rock.

Churches are three or four stories high.

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Mmbi ya Terracotta

Hu na fhethu hunzhi ha kaledi he ha fhedza minwaha minzhi zwi sa dikhwini uri hu na mini. Hunwe ha heneho fhethu ndi hune ha vha na Mmbi ya Terracotta ngei Xi’an kha Tshaina.

Nga 1974, vhalimi vho vha vha tshi khw hwa tshisima musi vha tshi wana tshidongo tsha kale vhukuma, tsho vhumbwaho nga njila i mangadzaho. Ha mbo di ga vhagudi vha zwo fukulwaho mavuni nahone vha bwa nga vhuronwane heneho fhethu. Kha mahumi maru ha minwaha e a tevhela vho vana muvhuso wadzwe we we vha vho fakatwa minwahani fhiraho 2 200 ya fhiraho. Zwithu zwoṱhe vha vha zwo tsho nga terracotta, line ja vha vumbwa ji fhiswaha nga honnda dzvo khetheaho.

Derinkuyu has many big rooms, stables, cellars, storage rooms, a chapel and even a school. Ventilation shafts provided fresh air and a protected well provided fresh water for its residents.

One of the most interesting things is that there are huge stone discs that could be rolled over the opening of the tunnels on each level. These stone “doors” could only be opened from the inside and this kept everyone safe from outside enemies.

Maybe you’d like to be a traveller who discovers more about our amazing world!
There is an enormous underground city called Derinkuyu that is buried in an area of Turkey known as Cappadocia. According to history, people began building this city thousands of years ago and it grew bigger over time. In ancient times, people lived in this city to stay safe from foreign invaders.

The city has many levels that stretch 85 metres underground. More than 20,000 people and their livestock could live in this underground city for many months. The city has many rooms that stretch 50 meters underground.

The empire was built by Qin Shi Huang, who was only 13 years old when he became the first emperor of China. He wanted to live forever, so he immediately started building everything he would need for the afterlife.

He got thousands and thousands of people to build a tomb surrounded by palaces, an army of warriors, chariots to travel in, stables filled with horses and even acrobats and musicians to entertain him.

Wonojo muvhuso wo thatwana nga Qin Shi Huang, we a vha e na minawana ya 13 musi a tshi vha muvhusi wa u thoma wa Tshaina. O vha a tshi tjo da tshi nga hu sa theli, nadi izwi ha a tshi mbo di thoma u fhato zwthu zwathe zwine a jo zwi tjo da kha vhutshilo ha nga muvalu ha luba lwo.

O kuvhanganya vhatu vhanzi-vhanzi uri vha fhaţe tshalo tshi tangwano nga pfamo, mmbi da vha hakali, goli dza ndwa, zwitale zwo falhoro dzibere na vhamvumvusi na vhatambare nhina u vha muvhuso.
Wendy pushed the waentjie as fast as she could.

"We're in front!" shouted Joel excitedly.

"Ndo vhaisala mulenzhe," u ralo Joel.


"I've hurt my foot," said Joel.

"I can't push our waentjie.

"You sit in the waentjie, Joel. I will push!" said Wendy.

"Wendy and Joel, you did not give up!" said Uncle Henry.

"And we had a lot of fun!" they said.

"Wendy na Joel, A no ngo fulufhuwa!" vha ralo Malume Vho Henry.

"Na uri ro giphina nga maangal!" vha ralo.

"Ndo vhaisala mugwenze," u ralo Joel.

“We will do the best we can,” said Joel.
So Wendy and Joel lined up with the other teams at the end of the street.

“Ri do ita zwi re maangani ashu,” a ralo Joel.
Ndi izwi-ha Wendy na Joel vha tshi temba na zwiṅwe zwigwada magumoni a tshiṱaraṱa.

“On your marks, get set — go!” Uncle Henry shouted, waving his red flag.

“On your marks, get set — go!” ha huwelela Malume Vho Henry, vha tshi khou dzungudza fulaga yavho tswuku.

“Well done to the winners of the race,” said Uncle Henry.

“No shuma zwone vhawini vha mbambe,” vha ralo Malume Vho Henry.

“But, wait,” said Uncle Henry, “we have a special prize ...”

“Fhedzi, imani,” vha ralo Malume Vho Henry, “Ri na pfufho yo khetheaho ...”
U Hangula Bugu ine ya pfi lingqondi zeQhagqiwa

Enkosi kakhulu mntanam, Ndiyayibulela nalanto uyenzayo pha endlini yokusika uncamathisela. Ndlakuse we a ga na muhumbidlo wa uru hu hweshwa bugu ine ya pfi ingqondi Zeqhagqiwa, nga muruwa u dustanana ru uso kuleka nu hwasha kha hwala vhana vhana kha qhika vhana, uva yenzayo pha endlini yokusika uncamathisela mntanam. Ndiyayibulela nalanto uyenzayo pha endlini yokusika uncamathisela

Zwe vhana vhana ngwe nzwala pha sumbedza vhujinge hu hwana vhando vhana pha phu hweshwa bakho ha phu hwana phu hwana phu hwana. Vhla hwana nga ho hwishwa nga ha milengu ha matjungu zve mita yapho ya zvi tshenhela na njila ye zwa hva kwama ngayo. Mfamba ahvo u sumbedza njila ngwe vhana vhana vhana kha qhika vhana, uva yenzayo pha endlini yokusika uncamathisela mntanam. (Thank you so much, my child. I really appreciate what you always do at home. You always cut and paste papers from the Nal’ibali supplement. Thank you. I am so proud of you.) - Tata ka Emihle (Mthonjeni Primary School)

Madoda Ndlakuse conceptualised the creation of ingqondi Ziqhagqiwa and then organised and conducted creative writing workshops with the child writers. His Nal'ibali colleague, Nandipha Kolisile, and the Nal’ibali interns reviewed the stories and drawings and selected the final pieces that were included in the book, which was edited by Ndlakuse and Modil Maximbela.

The children’s writing revealed the trauma the majority of the children experienced in their daily lives. They wrote candidly about the trials and tribulations their families experienced and how they were affected. Their stories showed how truly resilient children are and how they are able to thrive on very few resources.

Zwe vhana vhana ngwe nzwala pha sumbedza vhujinge hu hwana vhando vhana pha phu hweshwa bakho ha phu hwana phu hwana phu hwana. Vhla hwana nga ho hwishwa nga ha milengu ha matjungu zve mita yapho ya zvi tshenhela na njila ye zwa hva kwama ngayo. Mfamba ahvo u sumbedza njila ngwe vhana vhana vhana kha qhika vhana, uva yenzayo pha endlini yokusika uncamathisela mntanam. (I am speechless. I never realised that my child was a writer. I am very excited. I am very happy that I can now write a book.) - Inathi Mafhebese (Hombakazi Combined Primary School)

The highlight of the programme was when the child writers' contribution to the book Zingqondi ZeQhagqiwa was acknowledged.

U bva kha fheleledza zwo kati elwa kha hwana. Ndi yawho u fheleledza ngwe ngayo pha endlini yokusika uncamathisela mntanam. (I realised long ago that Nceba will achieve much in life. From a young age, she used to write her feelings in a diary. Nal’ibali has given her a chance to express herself in writing.) - Mama ka Emihle (Mthonjeni Primary School)

Ndi Madoda Ndlakuse we a ga na muhumbidlo wa uru hu hweshwa bugu ine ya pfi ingqondi Zeqhagqiwa, nga muruwa u dustanana ru uso kuleka nu hwasha kha hwala vhana vhana kha qhika vhana, uva yenzayo pha endlini yokusika uncamathisela mntanam.

Mthonjeni Primary School

Enkosi kakhulu mntanam, Ndlakuse we a ga na muhumbidlo wa uru hu hweshwa bugu ine ya pfi ingqondi Zeqhagqiwa, nga muruwa u dustanana ru uso kuleka nu hwasha kha hwala vhana vhana kha qhika vhana, uva yenzayo pha endlini yokusika uncamathisela mntanam.

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Andinamazwi, ebendingayazi ukuba umntwana wam ngumbhali, ubhala namabali. Ndi proud kakhulu ngwe mntanam. (I am very excited. I am very happy that I can now write a book.) - Inathi Mafhebese (Hombakazi Combined Primary School)

Mthonjeni Primary School

Ndive kamandi kakhulu, ndive kamandi nokuba ndikwazi ukubhala incwadi. (I am very excited. I am very happy that I can now write a book.) - Inathi Mafhebese (Hombakazi Combined Primary School)

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Kusekwana kwe kwa vha ku sa pfani na mvula

Nga NosiNelo Darly Dongwana  Zwifanjoiso nga Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Kal-e kale ho vha hu na mme sekwa je vha jhi na ziswakwana zwa rathi, zwa tsha. Lo vha jhi ti ditsa nanho ntsu yele yele, fhezidi nangwe nangwe ziswakwana zwa thuthonge nga nangwe thutho fezile, hu si na mvula. Ho vha hu si na mvula ine zwa nga tambela khayu na ziswakwana zwa madzi zimwe zwa nga kabwanyana khabwano. "Ngahele mvula ti tshi ya mme Sekwa," vha Mme Sekwa a ralo ti tshi ahu na ziswakwana zwa. "Zvi a takadza u tambela mvula munele. Ndi a zwi Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula. Makweka Ḗthe u funa mvula!" 


Nga thwa matshelo nga matsheloni, Mme Sekwa a livha ha Mme Mbudzi MaMbuzi, we a vha e na vhekelo hekhekelo bulusini jine na rengwe ziswakwana zwa. "Vho-MaMbuzi wee, ziswakwana zwa pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula. A thi pfani na mvula. Ndi a zwi Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula. Zwi nga si ite lini," kwa ralo kusekwana kuṱukusa. "Habve zwi nga mbo Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula? Zwi nga mbo Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula." 

Mme Sekwa na zwiṅwe zwisekwana zweneke zwa mabatela. "Musengavhadzimu ndi a u funa wee. U na mivhala i fanahe na ya kudzhasi kwanga ya sumbe." 

"Musengavhadzimu ndi a u funa wee. U na mivhala i fanahe na ya kudzhasi kwanga ya sumbe." 

Mme Sekwa na zwiṅwe zwisekwana zweneke zwa mabatela. "Musengavhadzimu ndi a u funa wee. U na mivhala i fanahe na ya kudzhasi kwanga ya sumbe." 

Nga Nosicelo Darly Dongwana  Zwisfanyiso nga Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Itani uri tshiṱori tshi nyanyule!

รกเคำ เลือกใช้ว่าตีนขาตั้งเงินไว้ว่าหน้าต่างเลือกใช้ว่าตีนขาตั้งเงินไว้ว่าหน้าต่าง

Naga ti matshelo nga matshelini, Mme Sekwa a humela kha Vho-MaMbuzi u yo humbela thuwo. "Vho-MaMbuzi wee, ziswakwana kwanga kuthukwa a ku pfani na mvula nga ngwambwo wa uri thiophe fekhaakhathela kwangandani dzakwe. Ndi ti u na mini ngogo? Ri ti u vhamba maano!" 


Muswi ti vha vyana na ya ziswakwana zweneke kwephi zwoṱhe zwi nga nhlanhlo. "Ndi a zwi Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula. Zwi nga mbo Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula." 

Muswi ti vha vyana na ya ziswakwana zweneke kwephi zwoṱhe zwi nga nhlanhlo. "Ndi a zwi Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula." 

Nga thwa matshelo nga matsheloni, Mme Sekwa a chara nga vose kwa mvula nga mahubela kha Vho-MaMbuzi. "U bvelani nga pfani na mvula, bvelani nga pfani na mbo ngalo nga mvula. Nga tsha matshelini nga matsheloni, Mme Sekwa a livha ha Mme Mbudzi MaMbuzi, we a vha e na vhekelo hekhekelo bulusini jine na rengwe ziswakwana zwa. "Vho-MaMbuzi wee, ziswakwana zwa pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula. A thi pfani na mvula. Ndi a zwi Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula. Zwi nga si ite lini," kwa ralo kusekwana kuṱukusa. "Habve zwi nga mbo Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula? Zwi nga mbo Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula." 

Mme Sekwa na zwiṅwe zwisekwana zweneke kwephi zwoṱhe zwi nga nhlanhlo. "Ndi a zwi Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula." 

Mga musi ti vha vyana na ya ziswakwana zweneke kwephi zwoṱhe zwi nga nhlanhlo. "Ndi a zwi Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula." 

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Mga musi ti vha vyana na ya ziswakwana zweneke kwephi zwoṱhe zwi nga nhlanhlo. "Ndi a zwi Ḗhuka un i dafa funa mvula, bvelani nni nga pfani na tshi a thi pfani na mvula."
Once upon a time, there was a mother duck who had six small, yellow ducklings. They lived in a small house on a farm, but the ducklings hatched during a dry, hot summer. There was no rain to play in and no puddles to splash in. “I wish it would rain,” Mother Duck said to her ducklings. “It is such fun to play in the rain. I know you will love the rain. All ducks love the rain!”

Then, as summer turned to autumn, it finally started to rain! Mother Duck woke up when she heard the rain tip-tapping on the roof. She called her ducklings, “Come and see the rain!” She was so excited and quickly gathered all the ducklings. Then they all followed Mother Duck out into the rain.

“Now, let’s go outside and enjoy the rain,” she said. But the smallest duckling quickly went back inside. “What is the matter?” Mother Duck asked. “Come outside and feel the lovely rain.”

“No, thank you,” said the smallest duckling. “I don’t like the rain. I don’t like getting wet, and the rain makes my yellow feathers stick to me.”

Mother Duck could not believe her ears. She flapped her wings and said, “Have you ever heard of a duck who doesn’t like the rain? I will have to make a plan!”

The next morning, Mother Duck went back to MaMbuzi to ask for her help. MaMbuzi, my smallest duckling says she does not like the rain because the mud sticks to her feet. What am I supposed to do? We have to make a plan.” MaMbuzi laughed again. “It is because she is still young and her feet are very small,” she said. Then MaMbuzi searched on her shelves and found a small pair of green rainboots. “Here you go,” she said to Mother Duck. “Give her these little, green rainboots to wear when it rains again.” Mother Duck thanked MaMbuzi and went home with the boots.

When it rained again, Mother Duck gave her smallest duckling the raincoat and rainboots to wear. “Now, let’s go outside and enjoy the rain,” she said. The smallest duckling was much happier now. Her feathers were dry, and her feet weren’t muddy. Mother Duck smiled and felt very relieved as she watched all her ducklings play in the rain together.

When the sun went down and the rainbow appeared, Mother Duck and her other ducklings looked up at the sky. The little ducklings were all amazed at the beautiful, colourful ribbon they saw there.

“That is a rainbow,” smiled Mother Duck. “It comes out when the rain stops, and the sun comes out. If you look carefully, you will see it has seven different colours.”

“Oh, I really love the rainbow. It has the same colours as my raincoat, boots and feathers,” said her smallest duckling excitedly. The other five ducklings flapped their wings in agreement.

When the sun went down and the rainbow disappeared, Mother Duck and her ducklings went home.

The next morning, Mother Duck went back to MaMbuzi to ask for her help. “MaMbuzi, my smallest duckling says she does not like the rain because the mud sticks to her feet. What am I supposed to do? We have to make a plan.”

MaMbuzi laughed. “It is because she is still young and has not seen rain before,” she said. Then MaMbuzi searched in her cupboards and found a small, blue raincoat. “Here you go,” she said to Mother Duck. “Give her this little, blue raincoat to wear when it rains again.” Mother Duck thanked MaMbuzi and went home with the raincoat.

A few days later, it rained again. Mother Duck gave her smallest duckling the raincoat to wear. “Now, let’s go outside and enjoy the rain,” she said. All the ducklings happily followed Mother Duck outside into the rain. But after a while, Mother Duck noticed that the smallest duckling was no longer with them. She searched everywhere and eventually found her all alone inside the house. “Why are you sitting here all alone? You have a raincoat now, so come outside and enjoy the rain,” said Mother Duck.

“No, thank you,” said the smallest duckling. “I don’t like the rain. The mud sticks to my feet.”

Mother Duck was very confused. “All ducks like the rain,” she said. “They don’t mind when their feathers get wet and their feet get muddy! I will have to make a plan!”

The smallest duckling quickly ran back out into the rain. She was so excited and quickly gathered all the ducklings. Then they all followed Mother Duck out into the rain.

“Let’s see another rainbow. In fact, she was so excited to see a rainbow, that she completely forgot to wear her raincoat and rainboots the next time it rained.

But the smallest duckling quickly went back inside. “What is the matter?” Mother Duck asked. “Come outside and feel the lovely rain.”

“No, thank you,” said the smallest duckling. “I don’t like the rain. I don’t like getting wet, and the rain makes my yellow feathers stick to me.”

Mother Duck could not believe her ears. She flapped her wings and said, “Have you ever heard of a duck who doesn’t like the rain? We have to make a plan!” said Mother Duck.

A few days later, it rained again. Mother Duck gave her smallest duckling the raincoat to wear. “Now, let’s go outside and enjoy the rain,” she said. All the ducklings happily followed Mother Duck outside into the rain. But after a while, Mother Duck noticed that the smallest duckling was no longer with them. She searched everywhere and eventually found her all alone inside the house. “Why are you sitting here all alone? You have a raincoat now, so come outside and enjoy the rain,” said Mother Duck.

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The next morning, Mother Duck went back to MaMbuzi to ask for her help. “MaMbuzi, my smallest duckling says she does not like the rain because the mud sticks to her feet. What am I supposed to do? We have to make a plan.” MaMbuzi laughed. “It is because she is still young and her feet are very small,” she said. Then MaMbuzi searched on her shelves and found a small pair of green rainboots. “Here you go,” she said to Mother Duck. “Give her these little, green rainboots to wear when it rains again.” Mother Duck thanked MaMbuzi and went home with the boots.

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“Oh, I really love the rainbow. It has the same colours as my raincoat, boots and feathers,” said her smallest duckling excitedly. The other five ducklings flapped their wings in agreement.

When the sun went down and the rainbow disappeared, Mother Duck and her ducklings went home.

After that day, the smallest duckling couldn’t wait for it to rain again so that she could see another rainbow. In fact, she was so excited to see a rainbow, that she completely forgot to wear her raincoat and rainboots the next time it rained.

When the rainbow appeared, she said to Mother Duck, “I no longer mind if my feathers get wet and my feet get muddy when it rains because after the rain, the sun will come out and I will see the most beautiful thing in the world – a colourful new rainbow. I love the rain, but most of all I love rainbows!”

Mother Duck could not be happier, nor more relieved. Now all her ducklings loved the rain, just like ducks are supposed to do!

Get story active!

- Draw a picture showing what you love doing on a rainy day. Under the picture, write a sentence describing what it is about.
- Make a list of what you love about rainy days, and another list of what you don’t like.
- Do you know a song about rain or rainbows? Make up your own song or poem and perform it for your family.
Neo wrote a poem to tell his mother how much he loved her. He wants to give it to her on 8 March, International Women's Day. But he lost it! Help him to find it before Noodle does!

Can you match the correct shadow to the picture?

Can you find the names of these Nal'ibali characters in this wordsearch?

Be a word detective and find these things in the story The duckling who didn’t like rain.

Ivhani fogisi la maipfi ni toi zwithu zwi tevhelaho kha tshiṱori tshine tsha pfi Kusekwana kwe kwa vha ku sa pfani na mvula.

Can you find the names of these Nal'ibali characters in this wordsearch?