

Nalibali

It starts with a story...



Edition 43
Afrikaans, English

Motivated to read

We know that reading lots of books helps to make children better readers. We also know that to spend a lot of time reading and to keep reading throughout your life, you've got to want to read!

If we want to get our children reading and then keep them reading, it's really helpful to understand what motivates them to read. To find this out, researchers most often observe children's reading behaviour and/or talk to their teachers. Surprisingly, very few researchers actually speak to children themselves, but here is what the children (aged 9 and 10) in one study conducted by Kathryn Edmunds and Kathryn Bauseman said about books and reading. The children said that:

- they were more likely to read a book that they had chosen, than a book chosen for them by a teacher or parent.
- they liked books that matched their personal interests.
- they were more likely to choose books that have exciting covers and action-packed plots, as well as books that are funny or scary, and have great illustrations.
- their interest in reading was sparked and encouraged by their family members (especially their mothers), teachers and friends.
- most of the books they read came from a library.
- libraries gave them the opportunity to look at lots of different books before choosing the ones they wanted to read.
- they often found out about books they might want to read by talking to their friends.
- they motivated themselves to read – once they'd caught the reading bug, they just wanted to keep reading!
- they enjoyed being read to by family members and teachers, even though they could already read!

So, what does this mean we need to do?

- Make sure that our children have access to lots of different books. Children who can get books more easily, read more. Take your children to the library and, when you can, buy books for them.

- Let them choose their own books.
- Speak to your children about books and read to them, no matter their age.
- Encourage them to speak to other children about books. Let them join an existing reading club or start one of your own!

Looking for stories to share anywhere, anytime? Visit www.nalibali.mobi for stories in six South African languages to enjoy with the children in your life.



Gemotiveer om te lees

Ons weet almal dat kinders beter lesers word as hulle baie boeke lees. Ons weet ook dat om genoeg tyd te hê om te lees, en om lewenslank 'n leser te bly, moet 'n mens regtig wil lees!

As ons ons kinders aan die lees wil kry, en wil seker maak dat hulle aanhou lees, help dit om te verstaan wat hulle motiveer om te lees. Om dit vas te stel, neem navorsers meestal kinders se leesgedrag waar en/of praat met hulle onderwysers. Verrassend genoeg praat baie min navorsers in werklikheid met die kinders self, maar in een studie deur Kathryn Edmunds en Kathryn Bauseman, het die kinders (tussen die ouderdomme van 9 en 10), die volgende oor boeke en lees te sê gehad. Die kinders het gesê dat:

- hulle meer geneig is om 'n boek te lees wat hulle self gekies het as 'n boek wat 'n onderwyser of ouer vir hulle gekies het.
- hulle van boeke hou wat ooreenstem met hulle persoonlike belangstellings.
- hulle meer geneig is om boeke met opwindende omslag- en aksiebelaaide stories te kies, asook boeke wat snaaks is of hulle bang maak, en mooi illustrasies het.
- hulle belangstelling in lees aangewakker en aangemoedig is deur familieledede (veral hulle ma's), onderwysers en maats.
- die meeste van die boeke wat hulle gekies het, by die biblioteek uitgeleem is.

Is jy op soek na stories om te deel – enige plek, enige tyd? Besoek www.nalibali.mobi vir stories in ses Suid-Afrikaanse tale om saam met die kinders in jou lewens te geniet.

- biblioteke hulle die geleentheid bied om na baie verskillende boeke te kyk voordat hulle die boeke hoef te lees wat hulle wil lees.
- hulle dikwels uitgevind het van boeke wat hulle graag wou lees deur met hulle maats te praat.
- hulle hulself gemotiveer het om te lees – toe die leesgogga hulle eers gebyt het, wou hulle net aanhou lees!
- hulle dit geniet wanneer familieledede en onderwysers vir hulle lees, al kan hulle al self lees!

Wat moet jy dus doen?

- Maak seker jou kinders het toegang tot baie verskillende boeke. Kinders wat maklik boeke in die hande kan kry, lees meer. Neem jou kind biblioteek toe, en koop vir hulle boeke wanneer jy kan.
- Laat hulle hul eie boeke kies.
- Praat met jou kinders oor boeke en lees vir hulle, ongeag hulle ouderdom.
- Moedig hulle aan om met ander kinders oor boeke te praat. Laat hulle by 'n bestaande leesklub aansluit of begin jou eie!



Drive your imagination

Read to me. Never too early.
Never too late.
Lees vir my. Dis nooit te vroeg of te laat nie.





Drive your imagination

Story stars

A passion for books



Righardt le Roux is the Programme Librarian at Westonaria Library Information Services. He is passionate about the important role literacy can play in people's lives. Nal'ibali spoke to him about his enthusiasm for reading and books.

Where did your passion for books start?

When I was little, my mom made a scrap book with the most interesting and beautiful pictures she could find. This book went along on long road trips. During the trip my mom would use the pictures to make up the most amazing stories. This is where I fell in love with stories and books.

Why are libraries important?

Libraries provide books and information to the community, but they also play an important role in developing communities. That's why I started the Simunye reading club at the Simunye library three months ago. At first there were only 14 children, but now we have 82 members!

How do you make story time at your club fun?

Once I have chosen a story to share with the children, I first research and rehearse the story. Then I make the story interactive and draw the children in. We create lots of noise and laughter. The children have so much fun that they really want to take part in creating the story.

Why are stories important?

We need to tell and read stories because stories are such an important part of all cultures. Through stories we can help children make sense of their world and their life experiences.

What stories do you like?

Even now, I enjoy stories from my childhood. I love fairytales and I still read those old Grimm stories – although I could tell them all by heart!

What tips do you have for parents?

If you want your children to become readers, read to them for at least 15 minutes a day. Once a child has entered through the magic door of reading, they will become lifelong readers!

Storiesterre

'n Passie vir boeke



Righardt le Roux is die Programbibliotekaris by Westonaria Biblioteekinligtingsdienste. Hy is passievol oor die belangrike rol wat geletertheid in mense se lewens kan speel. Nal'ibali het met hom gesels oor sy entoesiasme vir lees en boeke.

Waar kom jou passie vir boeke vandaan?

Toe ek klein was, het my ma 'n plakboek gemaak met die interessantste en mooiste prente wat sy in die hande kon kry. Sy het hierdie boek saamgeneem wanneer ons op lang reise gegaan het. Tydens die reis het my ma die prente gebruik om die wonderlikste stories te versin. Dit is waar ek verlief geraak het op stories en boeke.

Waarom is biblioteke belangrik?

Biblioteke verskaf boeke en inligting aan die gemeenskap, maar hulle speel ook 'n belangrike rol om gemeenskappe te ontwikkel. Dit is waarom ek drie maande gelede die leesklub by die Simunye-biblioteek begin het. Eers was daar net 14 kinders, maar nou het ons 82 lede!

Hoe maak jy storytyd by jou leesklub pret?

Wanneer ek 'n storie gekies het om met die kinders te deel, doen ek eers navorsing daaroor en dan oefen ek om dit hardop te lees. Dan maak ek die storie interaktief en betrek die kinders. Ons maak baie geraas en ons lag baie. Die kinders het soveel pret dat hulle regtig deel wil wees daarvan om die storie te sê.

Waarom is stories belangrik?

Ons moet almal stories vertel en lees, want stories is so 'n belangrike deel van alle kulture. Deur middel van stories kan ons kinders help om sin te maak van hulle wêreld en lewenservarings.

Van watter stories hou jy?

Ek hou selfs nou nog van die stories uit my kinderjare. Ek is gek oor sprokies en ek lees steeds daardie ou Grimm-sprokies – al ken ek hulle al uit my kop uit!

Watter wenke het jy vir ouers?

As julle wil hê julle kinders moet lesers word, lees elke dag ten minste 15 minute vir hulle. Sodra 'n kind die wonderlike wêreld van lees betree, sal hulle lewenslang lesers bly!

Ph. Moselemu Mubeye



Righardt le Roux



Across the country, individuals and organisations are finding ways to make reading and writing part of children's daily lives. To say thank you, our featured **Story Stars** will receive meal vouchers* courtesy of **Wimpy** to enjoy with the children in whose lives they are making a difference.

* For terms and conditions that apply, go to www.nalibali.org/story-stars.



Oor die hele land heen vind individue en organisasies maniere om lees en skryf deel te maak van kinders se doaglikse lewens. Om dankie te sê sal ons **Storiesterre** wat in die bylae verskyn maaltydbewyse* met vergunning van **Wimpy** ontvang sodat hulle dit kan geniet saam met die kinders in wie se lewens hulle 'n verskil maak.

* Vir die bepalinge en voorwaardes wat geld, gaan na www.nalibali.org/story-stars.

Create your own mini-book

1. Take out pages 3 to 6 of this supplement
2. Fold it in half along the black dotted line
3. Fold it in half again
4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

Maak jou eie boekie

1. Haal bladsye 3 tot 6 van hierdie bylae uit.
2. Vou dit op die swart stippelyn.
3. Vou dit weer in die helfte.
4. Sny dit uit op die rooi stippelyne.



I shouted, but it was too late. Shumba had run up the hill, past the gate of Mma Raphane's house, along a thin path, and in through the front door.

"Oh no! Shumba went into the witch's house!" Gabriel cried. "He's dead for sure."

"Shumba!" I shouted again. Tears began to form in my eyes. I knew Shumba was doomed! The witch would kill him and cut him up into little pieces for her potions. I stood at the gate trying to think what I could do.

Ek skree, maar dis te laat. Shumba het teen die heuwel opgehardloop, verby die hek van Mma Raphane se huis, met 'n smal paadjie langs en by die voordeur in.

"O, nee! Shumba hardloop by die heks se huis in!" skree Gabriel. "Dis klaarpraat met hom."

"Shumba!" skree ek weer. Trane wel in my oë op. Ek weet dis verby met Shumba! Die heks sal hom doodmaak en in klein stukkie opsny vir haar towertrouesels. Ek staan by die hek en wonder wat om te doen.

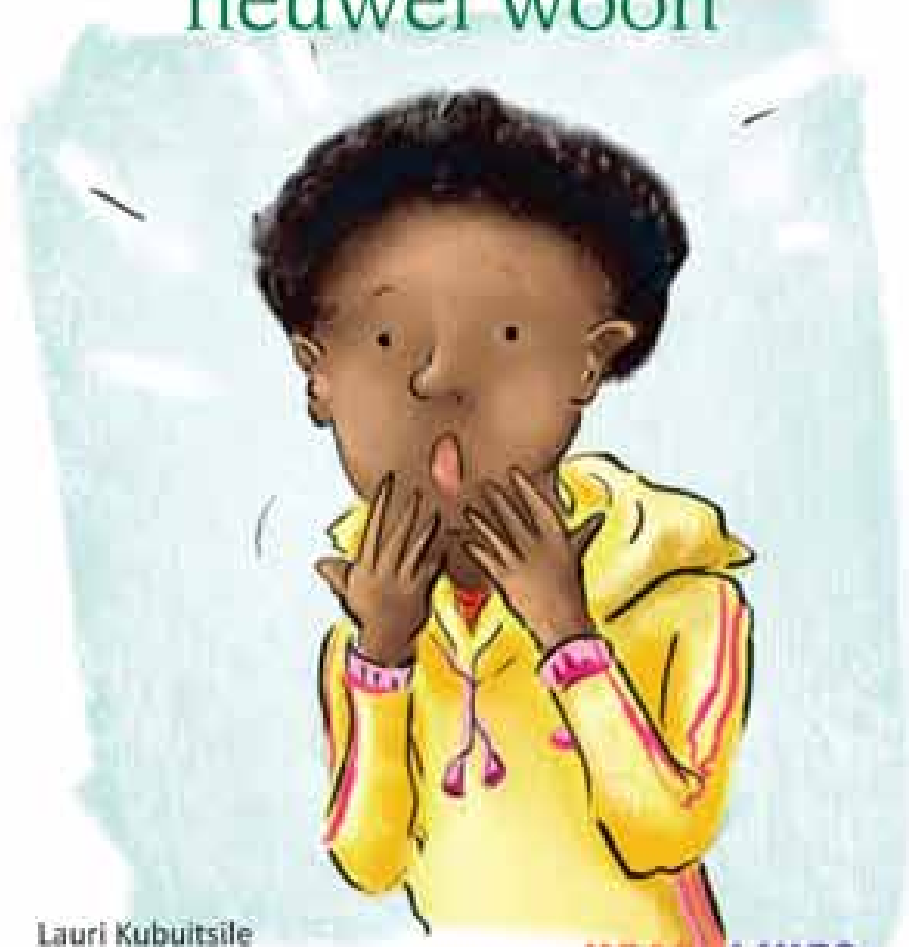


The witch who lives on the hill
Die heks wat op die heuwel woon

This is a story about facing your fears, accepting differences and having compassion.

HEARTLINES

For copies of Heartlines' Stories that Talk (in all 11 languages), and Stories that Talk 2 (English only) please email orders@heartlines.org.za or phone (011) 771 2540.



Lauri Kubuitsile
Vian Oelofsen

HEARTLINES

Nalibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi



Nalibali is 'n nasionale lees- vir- genot veldtog wat kinders se potensiaal help ontwikkel deur middel van lees en die vertel van stories. Vir meer inligting, besoek www.nalibali.org of www.nalibali.mobi.





Die volgende dag vat ek en my beste vriend, Gabriel, ons boe en pylie en kies koers na die bos agter die heuwel om te gaan jag. "Kom Shumba saam met ons!" van Gabriel en kyk na my groot swart hond. "Ja, hoekom nie? Hy hou van jag," sê ek. "Maar hy jaag altyd die diere weg." Ek ignoreer vir Gabriel. Hy weet ons boe kan in elk geval niks doodmaak nie, selfs al is Shumba nie by nie. Terwyl ons die heuwel uitklim, dink ek nie oor die heks se huis nie. Maar Shumba doen wel ...

We hid behind the hedge, Peloyame, Kitso and me, all breathing hard. "Did you see her?" Peloyame asked breathless.

"Yeah, she's scary," I said, though I hadn't really seen her. But I didn't need to. Everyone knew what Mma Raphane looked like. She had wild grey hair and was tall and bony-thin, with elbows that could cut straight through a person. If you looked into her eyes, you would be turned into a zombie. Many children had. We all knew that.

"She poked her head out of the door when I threw the stone, did you see?" Kitso said excitedly. "My cousin said she ate his cat."

"Yeah, she does that sometimes," Peloyame said nodding her head. Peloyame knew everything there was to know about Mma Raphane, the witch.



"I think I know what we can do to make things better!" I had been treating Mma Raphane for so long. I felt bad that I'd had been part of it too. Just then a plan began to form in my head. Now I felt really bad about the way the children in the village the others made it up," I said. "Yes, I know. I don't think she's a witch. I think Peloyame and Gabriel said."



Gabriel and I headed home down the hill. We'd forgotten about hunting. "She doesn't look anything like a witch," she smiled sadly, but said nothing more. She turned and made her way back into the house. "Sorry he troubled you," I said for a small girl like you." "That dog seems a handful for a small girl like you." Mma Raphane smiled at me. "Thank you," I said. When I looked up, an old woman stood on the small stoep in front of the house. She was bent over and leaning hard on a cane. Her grey hair was tucked away tidily. I looked into her eyes and I was surprised nothing changed inside of me. Just then I saw someone push the door open and my heart pounded! Then Shumba came running out. I grabbed him and hugged him. He was safe!



Ons sê vir haar dankie en gaan sit om te drink. Die ander kinders hou ons 'n rakkie dop, en dan kom hulle een vir een ook in die erf in. Hulle tel ons gereedskap op en begin werk waar ons opgehou het.

Peloyame staan langs die heining. "Hei? Wat doen julle ouens? Sy's 'n heks! Het julle vergeet?" Almal ignoreer vir Peloyame. Sy staan daar en skop die grond en stap dan baie kwaad weg.

Mma Raphane kyk na die kinders wat so lank vir haar weggehardloop het. Sy draai na my en Gabriel. Haar oë is vol tranes. "Dankie," fluister sy heserig. Sy glimlag vir ons terwyl ons op haar stoep sit en water drink.

Net toe sien ek hoe iemand die deur oopstoot en my hart klop doet-doeft in my ore! Toe kom Shumba uitgedraai, Ek gryp hom en druk hom vas. Hy is vellig!

Toe ek opkyk, staan 'n ou vrou op die smal stoep voor die huis. Sy is kroon en leun swaar op haar kaerle. Haar grys hare is regies weggebund. Ek kyk in haar oë en is verbaas dat niks in my verander nie. "Dankie," sê ek.

Mma Raphane glimlag vir my. "Dit lyk of daardie hond 'n handvol is vir 'n klein dogterfje soos jy."

"Ek is jammer by 'n gepia," sê ek.

Sy glimlag hartseer, maar sê niks verder nie. Sy draai om en stap terug in die huis in.

Ek en Gabriel stap teen die heuwel af huis toe. Ons het vergeet van jagg. "Sy lyk nie soos 'n heks nie," sê Gabriel.

"Ja, ek weet. Ek dink nie sy is 'n heks nie. Ek dink Peloyame en die ander het dit opgemak," sê ek.

Nou voel ek regtig sieg oor die manier waarop die kinders in die dorpie Mma Raphane so lank al behandel. Ek voel sieg dat ek ook deel was daarvan. Net toe begin 'n plan in my kop vorm. "Ek dink ek weet wat ons kan doen om dinge sommer baie beter te maak!"

We thanked her and sat down to drink. The other children watched us for some time, and then they came into the yard, one by one. They picked up our tools and got to work where we had left off.

Peloyame stood at the fence alone. "Hey? What are you guys doing? She's a witch! Have you forgotten?" Everyone ignored Peloyame. So she kicked the ground and walked away angrily.

Mma Raphane looked at the children who had run from her for so long. She turned to Gabriel and me. There were tears in her eyes. "Thank you," she said in a scratchy whisper. She smiled down at us as we sat drinking water on her stoep.



The next day, my best friend, Gabriel, and I took our bows and arrows and headed up to the bush behind the hill to go hunting. "Is Shumba coming with us?" Gabriel asked looking down at my big black dog.

"Sure, why not? He likes hunting," I said.

"But he always scares the animals away."

I ignored Gabriel. He knew that our bows couldn't kill anything anyway, even without Shumba.

As we climbed the hill, I wasn't thinking about the witch's house. But Shumba was...



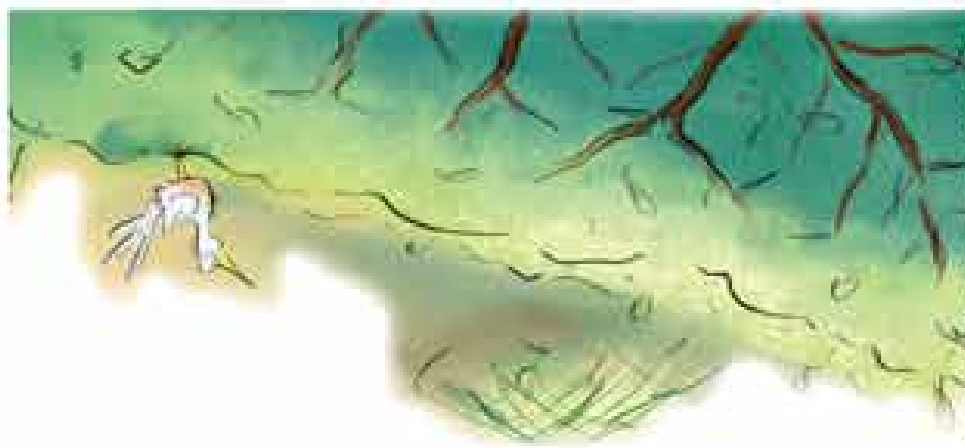
Ons kruip agter die heining weg, ek, Peloyame, en Kitso. Ons haal almal hard asem. "Het jy haar gesien?" vra Peloyame uitasem.

"Ja, sy's vreesaanjaend," sê ek, al het ek haar nie regtig gesien nie. Maar ek hoef ook nie. Almal weet hoe Mma Raphane lyk. Sy het wilde grys hare en is lank en brandmaer, met elmboë wat regdeur 'n mens sal sny. As jy in haar oë kyk, verander jy in 'n zombie. Dit het al met baie kinders gebeur. Almal weet dit.

"Sy het haar kop by die deur uitgesteek toe ek die klip gooi. Het julle gesien?" sê Kitso opgewonde. "My nefie sê sy het sy kat opgeëet."

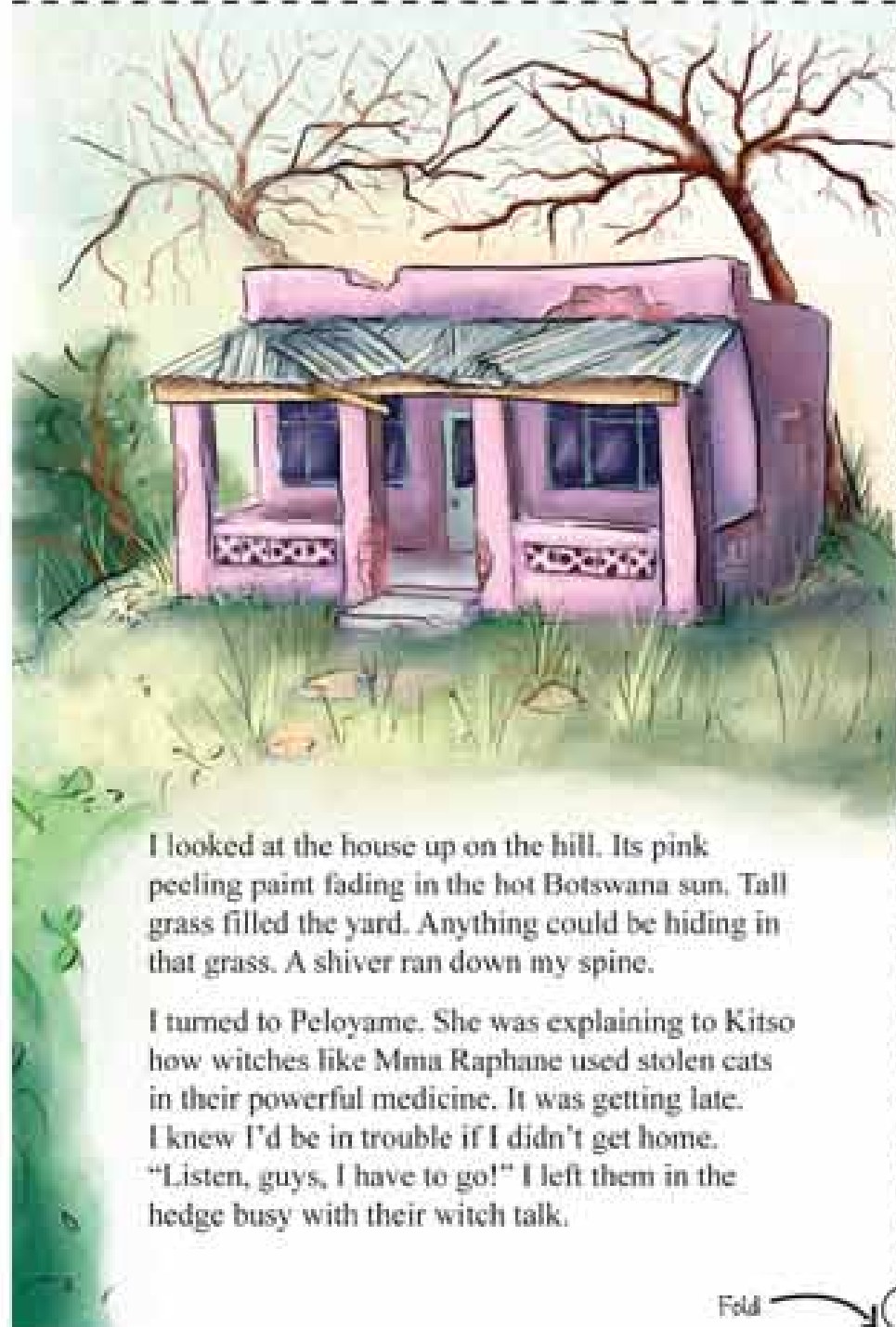
"Ja, sy doen dit partykeer," sê Peloyame en knik haar kop. Peloyame weet alles wat daar oor die heks, Mma Raphane, te wete is.





Ek draai na Peloyame. Sy verduidelik vir Kitso hoe hekse, soos Mma Raphane, kante wat hulle steel in hulle kragtige medisyne gebruik. Dit maak laat. Ek weet ek gaan in die moeilikheid beland as ek nie by die huis kom nie. "Luister, julle, ek moet gaan!" Ek los hulle in die heining met hulle heksepraatjies.

Ek kyk na die huis op die heuwel. Die pienk verf verbleek in die warm Botswana-sun. Die erf is toe onder die lang gras. Enigiets kan in daardie gras wegruip. 'n Killing loop teen my ruggraat af.



I looked at the house up on the hill. Its pink peeling paint fading in the hot Botswana sun. Tall grass filled the yard. Anything could be hiding in that grass. A shiver ran down my spine.

I turned to Peloyame. She was explaining to Kitso how witches like Mma Raphane used stolen cats in their powerful medicine. It was getting late. I knew I'd be in trouble if I didn't get home. "Listen, guys, I have to go!" I left them in the hedge busy with their witch talk.



We collected spades and rakes and headed back up the hill. Gabriel and I knocked quietly on the door. We had a short talk with Mma Raphane. Then we started clearing the long, dried grass in the yard. As we worked, other children came to stand along the fence. They stared at us, but kept silent.

Peloyame came too. She saw me and shouted, "Tebogo, are you crazy? Aren't you afraid of the witch?"

"She's not a witch!" Gabriel shouted back angrily.

Just then Mma Raphane came out with two glasses of cool water.

Ons maak grawe en harke bymekaar en kies weer koers teen die heuwel op. Ek en Gabriel klop saggies aan die deur. Ons praat vinnig met Mma Raphane. Toe begin ons die lang, droë gras in die erf skoonmaak. Terwyl ons werk, kom die ander kinders ook langs die heining staan. Hulle staar ons aan, maar sê nie 'n woord nie.

Peloyame kom ook. Sy sien my en skree: "Tebogo, is jy mal? Is jy nie bang vir die heks nie?"

"Sy is nie 'n heks nie!" skree Gabriel kwaai terug.

Net toe kom Mma Raphane uit met twee groot glase koue water.



Get story active!

After you and your children have read *The witch who lives on the hill*, try out some of these ideas.

- As a way of starting a conversation with your children about how labelling people is harmful, ask them, "Do you think Mma Raphane is a witch?" "Do any of you know what it feels like to be labelled unfunny?"
- Discuss the ways that Tebogo and Pelayame behaved towards Mma Raphane at different places in the story. Is it acceptable to behave like that? Why do you think the children behaved in those ways? How did their behaviour make Mma Raphane feel?
- Let your children choose a part of the story to illustrate.
- Encourage them to think about things they might do to try to change Pelayame's opinion of Mma Raphane. They could draw a picture of themselves talking to Pelayame and then write what they would like to say to her in a speech bubble, or act out the scene.



Raak doenig met stories!

Probeer 'n paar van hierdie idees nadat jy en jou kinders *Die heks wat op die heuwel* woorde klaar gelees het.

- As 'n manier om 'n gesprek met jou kinders te begin oor hoe dit skadelik is om mense te brandmerk, vra vir hulle: "Dink julle Mma Raphane is 'n heks?" "Weet enigean van julle hoe dit voel om onregverdig iets genoem te word?"
- Bespreek die maniere waarop Tebogo en Pelayame op verskillende plekke in die storie teenoor Mma Raphane opgetree het. Is dit aanvaarbaar om so op te tree? Waarom dink jy het die kinders so opgetree? Hoe het hulle optrede Mma Raphane laat voel?
- Laat jou kinders 'n deel van die storie kies om te illustreer.
- Moedig hulle aan om oor dinge te dink wat hulle kan doen om Pelayame se opinie van Mma Raphane te verander. Hulle kan 'n prent van hulleself teken wat met Pelayame praat en dan kan hulle dit wat hulle vir haar wil sê in 'n praatbommel skryf, of die toneel opvoer.

Do your children like writing book reviews? Or, is there a book they really loved that they would like to tell other children about? Encourage them to send Nalibali their reviews by visiting the Book Reviews section on our website (<http://nalibali.org/book-box/reviews/>) and clicking on "Submit a review now".

Hou jou kinders daarvan om boekresensies te skryf? Of is daar 'n boek waarvan hulle regtig baie hou en waarvan hulle vir ander kinders wil vertel? Moedig hulle aan om hulle resensie aan Nalibali te stuur. Hulle kan na ons afdeling vir boekresensies op ons webwerf gaan (<http://nalibali.org/book-box/reviews/>) en op "Submit a review now" klik.

Reading club corner

When you ask children to write book reviews, it is a great way to get them to connect with what they read, think critically about it and express their opinions. What's more, writing and sharing book reviews encourages children to communicate with each other about what they are reading.

Here are some ideas of how to use book reviews at your club.

- Encourage children to write their opinion of a book they have read. Remind them that not everybody enjoys reading the same type of book or the same author.
- Good book reviews help people decide whether they want to read the book or not. In their reviews they should therefore give the basic story outline, but not give too much away about the story!
- Reviews can be long or short, and can also

include drawings of parts of the book by the reviewer.

- You can use the children's book reviews to start conversations about books at your club. Keep the reviews in a special folder that the children can refer to, or display them on a notice board or wall where your club meets. You could also attach a plastic pocket to the inside of your club's books for children to place their reviews in.
- Remind the children to always write the title of the book, the author's name and their name on their review.
- Sometimes children need a little help with what to put in a book review. Try giving them some of these sentences to complete.

This story is about ...

The main characters are ...

My favourite part of this book was ...

When ... I felt ...

I really liked/I really didn't like ... because ...

My favourite character was ...

You should read this book because ...

I think you would enjoy this book if you like stories that ...

My rating for this book is:



Title: *The mermaid's purse*
Author: Jude Daly
Reviewer's name: Siphokazi Nali

Leesklubhoekie

Wanneer jy kinders vra om boekresensies te skryf, help dit hulle om aansluiting te vind by dit wat hulle lees, asook om krities daaroor te dink en hulle opinies uit te druk. Verder moedig die skryf en deel van boekresensies kinders aan om met mekaar te kommunikeer oor wat hulle lees.

Hier volg 'n paar idees oor hoe om boekresensies by jou leesklub te gebruik.

- Moedig jou kinders aan om hulle opinie van 'n boek wat hulle gelees het, te skryf. Herinner hulle dat nie almal daarvan hou om dieselfde soort boek, of boeke van dieselfde skrywer, te lees nie.
- Goede boekresensies help mense om te besluit of hulle die boek wil lees of nie. In hulle resensies moet hulle dus die basiese storielyn weergee, maar nie te veel van die storie self verloop nie!
- Resensies kan lank of kort wees, en kan ook jou eie tekeninge van dele van die boek insluit.

- Jy kan die kinders se boekresensies gebruik om gesprekke oor boeke by jou klub te begin. Hou die resensies in 'n spesiale lêer waar die kinders kan gaan kyk, of stel dit teen 'n kennisgewingbord of muur uit waar jou klub bymekaarkom. Jy kan ook 'n plastieksakkie aan die binnekant van jou klub se boeke plak sodat die kinders hulle resensies daarin kan plaas.
- Herinner die kinders daaraan om altyd die titel van die boek, die skrywer se naam en hulle naam op hulle resensie te skryf.
- Soms het kinders 'n bietjie hulp nodig met dit wat hulle in 'n boekresensie wil skryf. Probeer vir hulle 'n paar van hierdie sinne gee om te voltooi.

Hierdie storie gaan oor ...

Die hoofkarakters is ...

My gunstelingdeel van hierdie boek was ...

Toe ... het ek gevoel ...

Ek het regtig gehou/nie gehou van ... omdat ...

My gunstelingkarakter was ...

Jy behoort hierdie boek te lees, want ...

Ek dink jy sal hierdie boek geniet as jy hou van stories wat ...

My gradering vir hierdie boek is:



Titel: *Die meerminbeursie*
Skrywer: Jude Daly
Resensent se naam: Siphokazi Nali

Story corner

Here is a story for you to read aloud or tell. It is about a clever, young boy who always tried to help others.

The magic paintbrush

(Part 1) retold by Wendy Hartmann

There is a land far, far away called China. Once upon a time, in this far-away land there lived a young boy named Ho. Ho was poor, but very kind. He worked hard to earn enough money to buy food. Even though Ho was poor, he helped other people whenever he could. Ho also loved to paint and he painted whenever he had time.

One night, he dreamed that an old man gave him a magic paintbrush.

"You have a kind heart," said the old man in his dream. "I see that you love to paint. Here is a magic paintbrush. I want you to promise to use it to help people."

When Ho woke up, he found the magic paintbrush next to him.

"Oh," he said, "I thought it was only a dream."

From that day on, he used the paintbrush whenever people needed help.

"Ho," called the people in the fields. "There is no more water in our well. We need to water our plants."

So Ho painted a river for them. As he painted, the river magically appeared and the people could water their plants.

Then Ho saw that the people were struggling to till the land, so he painted a cow and a plough to help them. Every time he saw that someone needed help, he used his paintbrush. Soon many people knew about Ho and his magic paintbrush.

Some time later, a rich man heard about the paintbrush. "That paintbrush will be mine," he said and planned how he was going to steal it. "I will make so much money that I will be the richest man in the whole land." The next day he sent for Ho.

"I want you to look after my cows today," he said boldly. "This evening I will pay you well."

Ho was happy and looked after the rich man's cows. But in the evening, instead of being paid, he was thrown into prison and his magic paintbrush was taken away.

"He stole one of my cows," lied the rich man. "This brush will pay for what he has done." At last, he thought, the magic paintbrush is mine.

Find out next week whether Ho will ever get his paintbrush back again.

Storiehoekie

Hier is 'n storie wat jy hardop kan lees of vertel. Dit gaan oor 'n slim jong seun wat altyd probeer het om ander te help.

Die betowerde verfkwas

(Deel 1) oorvertel deur Wendy Hartmann

Daar is 'n land ver, ver hiervandaan, wat China genoem word. Eendag het daar in hierdie ver-ver land 'n jong seun gewoon. Sy naam was Ho. Ho was arm, maar hy het 'n baie goeie hart gehad. Hy moes hard werk om genoeg geld te verdien om kos te koop. Maar al was Ho arm, het hy altyd ander mense gehelp waar hy kon. Ho het ook graag geskilder – as hy enige vrye tyd gehad het, het hy geskilder.

Een nag droom Ho dat 'n ou man vir hom 'n betowerde verfkwas gee.

"Jy het 'n goeie hart," sê die ou man in sy droom. "Ek sien jy hou daarvan om te skilder. Hier is 'n betowerde verfkwas. Ek wil hê jy moet my betowerde verfkwas gebruik om mense te help."

Toe Ho wakker word, vind hy die betowerde verfkwas langs hom.

"Spot," sê hy verbas, "ek het gedink dit was maar net 'n droom."

Van daardie dag af gebruik Ho die verfkwas wanneer ander mense hulp nodig het.

"Ho," roep die mense op die lande. "Daar is nie meer water in ons put nie, maar ons moet ons plante natmaak."

Daar skilder Ho vir hulle 'n rivier. Soos hy skilder, word die rivier al langer en die mense kan hulle plante natmaak.

Toe sien Ho dat die mense sukkel om die grond te bewerk, en hy skilder 'n koei en 'n ploeg om hulle te help. Elke keer as hy sien iemand het hulp nodig, gebruik hy sy verfkwas. Gau weet baie mense van Ho en sy betowerde verfkwas.

'n Rukkie later hoor 'n ryk man van die verfkwas. "Daardie verfkwas sal myne wees," sê hy en beplan hoe hy dit gaan steel. "Ek sal so baie geld maak dat ek die rykste man in die hele land sal wees." Die volgende dag laat roep hy vir Ho.

"Ek wil hê jy moet vandag my koeie oppas," sê hy. "Vanaand sal ek jou goed betaal."

Ho is bly en pas die ryk man se koeie op. Maar die aand word hy in die tronk gegooi in plaas daarvan om betaal te word, en sy betowerde verfkwas word weggenem.

"Hy het een van my koeie gesteel," jok die ryk man. "Hierdie verfkwas sal my vergoeding wees vir wat hy gedoen het." Uiteindelik, dink hy, is die betowerde verfkwas myne.

Vind volgende week uit of Ho ooit weer sy verfkwas sal terugkry.

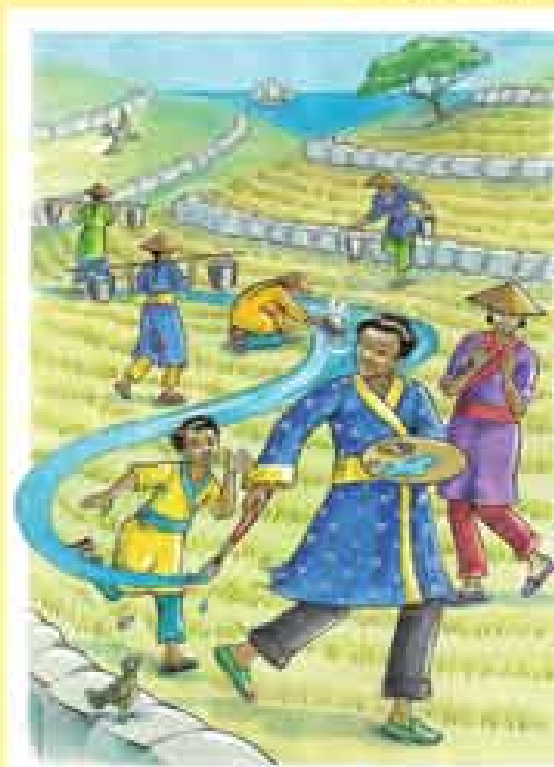


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