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, few researchers actually speak to children themselves, but here is what the children said.

Kathryn Edmunds and Kathryn Bauserman 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.

Ukuba nogqozi lokufunda

Siyazi luntu ukufundana izincwadi ezinhloko kusiza ukevenza izingane ukuhliza zibe ngebufundu abangcensa. Siyazi futsho ukuthi ukuse ukuthi ukuze uchiwiso izinkhatho ezikhungo ezinye ukuze ufunde impilo yakho yokwenzeka, kumelwe ufunye ukufundana?

Umu sifuna ukuvenza izingane zithethu zifunda nokukwazi zidubeka nokufundana, kuwusizwa kakhulu ukuthi siphendule ukuthi yini ezenza zikhathule ukufunda. Ukuze bathale lokhu, abenza ukuwanjalo baziwele ukubeka indlela izingane ezikhathu ngayo futhi nenzima izikhwele ngayo nethetha bazo. Kuyenzona ukuthi kubona kakhulu ubhaweni oboke bakhulu nezingane uqabha, kwakhe nokhu kuqhubeka izingane izikhulu izikhwele yakho yokwenzeka, kodwa nokhu ukusixisa izingane izikhulu izikhwele yakho yokwenzeka. Lwazi yokuzi weku sifuna ukuvenza izingane zithethu izikhwele yakho yokwenzeka, kodwa nokhu ukusixe izingane izikhwele yakho yokwenzeka, kuyenzona nce iyethu izikhwele yakho yokwenzeka, kodwa nokhu ukusixe izingane izikhwele yakho yokwenzeka, kodwa nokhu ukusixe izingane izikhwele yakho yokwenzeka, kodwa nokhu ukusixe izingane izikhwele yakho yokwenzeka.

- Iningi izinkwazi ezikhundele ezine ngenxa ezikwanise ezikhulu izingane izikhwele ngesi zikhwele ngesi izikhwele.
- Iningi izinkwazi ezikhundele ezine ngenxa ezikwanise ezikhulu izingane izikhwele ngesi zikhwele ngesi izikhwele.
- Iningi izinkwazi ezikhundele ezine ngenxa ezikwanise ezikhulu izingane izikhwele ngesi zikhwele ngesi izikhwele.
- Iningi izinkwazi ezikhundele ezine ngenxa ezikwanise ezikhulu izingane izikhwele ngesi zikhwele ngesi izikhwele.

Phe lokhu kuchaza ukuthi ukumise senezeni?

- Seneza sisekhelo sokuthi izingane zethi ziyambelele. Ukukeni izingane zethi ziyambelele. Ukukeni izingane zethi ziyambelele. Ukukeni izingane zethi ziyambelele.
- Seneza sisekhelo sokuthi izingane zethi ziyambelele. Ukukeni izingane zethi ziyambelele. Ukukeni izingane zethi ziyambelele.
- Seneza sisekhelo sokuthi izingane zethi ziyambelele. Ukukeni izingane zethi ziyambelele.
- Seneza sisekhelo sokuthi izingane zethi ziyambelele.

Ngabe utfuna izindaba enzakwamalwini ngamulo noma kuyaphila, noma nini? Vakakhe ku- www.nalibali.mobi ukuphila ukuze ukuze sithanda ngasekunzi zasekunjisimafu kakhulu noncedwele kakhulu na nezimingane ophila nazo.
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. Nt’boli 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!

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.nt’boli.org/story-stars.

WIMPY
feed
your
Mind

Ezweni lonke, umuntu ngamunye kanye nabezinthlanganwa patho izindlela zokwenza unufunda nokubhala kube yingxenye yempilo yezingane yansi ukone. Ukuze sibonenge, Abavelele Ezindabeni okubhalwe nqaba bazothola amawaswasa okudla* ngelokhotho ezhinkle zokwaWimpy ukuze bawathokozele nezingane abenza umhlabho ezimpiweni zazo.

* Ukuze uhole impilo nembankela esenzayo, lyaphila www.nt’boli.org/story-stars.
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.
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.

---


UMma Raphane wabuka izingane ezase zimbalekele isikhathi eside kanguka. Waphendukela kimi noGabriel.

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 stoop.


"Walunguza emnyango ngesikhathi ngiphonsa itshe, nimbonile?" kusho uKitso ngesasasa. "Umsiza wami wathi wadla ikati lakhe."

"Yebo, uyakwenza lokho ngesine isikhathi," kusho uPeloyame evuma ngekhanda. UPeloyame wayazi konke umuntu ayengakwazi ngomthathathi onguMma Raphane."
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.


Kweza noPeloyame. Wangibona wamezeza wathi, “Tebogo, usangene yini? Aumaseabi umthakathi?”

“Akayena umthakathi!” kuthetha uGabriel ngolaka.

Ngaleso sikhathi kwaphuma uMma Raphane nezingilazi ezimbili zamanzi abandayo.

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.
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 Raphene is a witch?” “Do any of you know what it feels like to be labelled unfairly?”
- Discuss the ways that Tsebo and Peloayemi behaved towards Mma Raphene at different places in the story. Is it acceptable to behave like this? Why do you think the children behaved in those ways? How did their behaviour make Mma Raphene 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 Peloayemi’s opinion of Mma Raphene. They could draw a picture of themselves talking to Peloayemi and then write what they would like to say to her in a speech bubble, or act out the scene.

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 their reviews by visiting the Book Reviews section on our website http://nailball.org/book-box/reviews/ and clicking on “Submit a review now”.

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 really liked or 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: ★★★★★

Tale: The mermaid’s purse

Author: Jude Daily
Reviewers’ names: Sipokazi Nali

Ngentise kakulu nama angithandla ngaba ... Umlengwa engimhanda kakulu ... Kusimela ukufanele le nowadi ngaba ... Ngicabanga ukufanele usithathakalisa le ndaba le nowadi ngaba ...

Ishikho: Isigawo senziqamelo yaphumunjane

Umlambu: Jude Daily
Isgama ikuhla indaba Sipokazi 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. He was poor, but very kind. He worked hard to earn enough money to buy food. Even though He was poor, he helped other people whenever he could. He 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 others.”

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 those who 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 fill 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 give you what you will pay me.”

He 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.

“Ho stole one of my cows,” lied the rich man. “This brush will pay for what he has done.” All he had thought, the magic paintbrush is mine.

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

---

**Ikhona lezindaba**

*Nans indaba osoyutula kakhulu nomu osoyoxoxa, Imayeleni nomifana omncane, olakaniphiel owayehla ezama ukuze abanye.*

**Ibuhlashi lokupenda lomlingo** *(Ingenyere yoku-1)*


Nobunye uzukuse, wayaphumelela kakhulu kuchelele emnikanda ibuhlashi lokupenda lomlingo.


Ngesicathathi esiphikhuma waphumelela ibuhlashi lokupenda lomlingo iiseaseri kwakhiwa.


Thola ngesonto elazayo ukuthi ngabe uzophindelela zitho yiufuthi uho ibuhlashi lapho lokupenda emilomlingo.

---

**In your next Nal’ibali supplement:**

- Creating writing opportunities for children
  - Story Stars: A teacher leading the way with literacy
  - Reading club corner: Days and dates to remember
  - A mini-book, A long way to Baba
  - The final part of the story: The magic paintbrush

Need help coming up with ideas to help your children’s literacy grow? Visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi for our growing collection of reading and writing tips!