The power of literacy

All children deserve the opportunity to learn to use reading and writing meaningfully in their lives - to become literate. A lifelong literacy journey can begin with small but exciting steps as your children experience the thrill of getting lost in a story, or the power of expressing their own ideas in writing.

Learning to read and write is not just about learning new skills. It is about learning to use reading and writing in real and important ways. And, being literate allows us to:

- use books and other forms of writing to learn from - we can learn new things from what other people write.
- explore and communicate what we think, feel and know.
- enjoy the richness of language as we read, and so learn to use language in new and different ways.
- find out about other people’s experiences and learn from them, even when we’ve never met them because they may have lived long ago, or they live in far-away places.
- discover different ways of seeing the world.
- When we help children become readers and writers, we give them the key to a worldwide community. But, this does not happen overnight and we need to help spark their literacy, and then keep it going by inspiring them. Here are some of the ways you can help.

- Be a role model. Your children learn from your example. They need to see you using reading and writing in different ways in your daily life.

- Provide materials. You can’t learn to read if you don’t have anything to read, and you can’t learn to write if you don’t have anything to write with or on! Children need to be able to easily find books that interest them, and also paper, pencils and crayons to write and draw with.

- Take an interest. Every time children read and write, encourage them by showing an interest in what they are doing.

- Read aloud. When children are motivated to read and write, they stand a greater chance of being lifelong readers and writers! Reading aloud to them as often as you can, teaches them the power of print and opens up their minds to facts, fantasy, and much more.

- Enjoy the thrill of getting lost in a story, or the power of expressing your own ideas in writing.

- Drive your imagination. Read to me. Explore a story. Mpalle. Sibolla pale.

In this special International Literacy Day edition, you can:

- read a Nal’ibali story about Noodle and Bella (pages 3 and 5)
- build your own Nal’ibali picture and tell a story (page 2)
- find ideas on how to celebrate International Literacy Day and National Book Week (page 4)
- make a bilingual zigzag book for younger readers (page 8).

Kgatsiong ena e ikgethany Ya Letsatsi la Ho Bala le ho Ngola la Matjhaba, o ka:

- bala pale ya Nal’ibali e mabapi le Noodle le Bella (maphethe a 3 le 5)
- ipopele setshwantsho seo e leng sa hao sa Nal’ibali mme o phete pale (leqephe la 2)
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It starts with a story...

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Create a picture story!

1. Cut out the background and the Nal’ibali characters below.
2. Paste them on cardboard and, if possible, cover them with plastic.
3. Use Prestik to stick the characters onto the background – then move them around to make up your own story.
4. You could also draw thought bubbles for the characters to show what they are thinking. Then, stick your thought bubbles onto your picture.

Bopa pale ya ditshwantsho!

1. Seha bokamorao le baphetwa ba Nal’ibali ka tlase mona.
2. Ba kgomaretsa khatebotong mme, ha ho kgoneha, ba kwahele ka palasetiki.
4. Hape o ka nna wa taka dipudulana tsa menahano ho bonits’ha seo baphetwa ba se nahanang. Jwale ebe o kgomaretsa dipudulana tsa menahano hodima setshwantsho sa hao.
“It started with a puppy”

Illustrations by Rico

"Story, story, please Gogo, tell us a story," begged Neo. Bella smiled and nodded.

“Yes, please,” said Afrika who was sitting on Gogo’s lap.

Gogo laughed. “Okay,” she said, “let me tell you the story of how you became friends. Did you know that it all started with a puppy?”

Neo nodded. Bella smiled and said, “Tell us, tell us.” And so Gogo began to tell the story.

One night, not too long ago, a puppy was wandering around sniffing at each dustbin he came across. He was hungry and he was lost. He didn’t know where he was going, but he did know that his tummy was empty and he needed food!

Then, near the end of the street, he saw a little house that had no big dogs in the garden. He walked up to the door and knocked. The door opened and the girl who lived there invited him to come in. She gave him a plate of warm, yummy noodles to eat.

“Poor puppy,” said Afrika.

But there was no food near the dustbins. The puppy whined softly. He needed to eat and find a warm place to sleep. He walked down the street. There were many houses but some of them had big dogs that barked at him and showed their teeth. He was very scared.

“Supper time,” the puppy heard a soft, friendly voice call. He watched as the girl’s mother put a plate of noodles on the table. “I’ll fetch my plate and the sauce. Wash your hands quickly,” the woman said as she walked back towards the kitchen. The little girl ran to the bathroom.

That was the moment the puppy had been waiting for. He dashed inside, jumped on the chair, buried his face in the plate of warm, yummy noodles and ate every single one of them. Then, just as quickly, he ran out the open door to hide outside.

“MEEEE!” shouted Afrika.

"Yes,” said Gogo. “And do you know who the people in the story were?”

“Bella and her mom,” shouted Afrika.

“MEEEE!” shouted Bella. Neo laughed.

“But that’s not the end of the story,” said Gogo. “Bella had to find out if the puppy belonged to anyone. Only if she could not find the owner, could she keep the puppy. So, the next day Bella and her mom went from door to door asking everyone if the puppy was theirs. But no one had seen it before. On her way Bella met Mme wa Afrika and . . .”

Illustrations by Rico

“It started with a puppy”

Illustrations by Rico
Celebrate literacy!

On 8 September each year, it is International Literacy Day – a day to celebrate our own literacy journey and also to remember that there are 785 million people across the world who are unable to read and write.

In South Africa, we also celebrate National Book Week in the first week of September every year. From 2 to 7 September 2013, everyone involved with books and/or children is encouraged to celebrate reading and the magic of books.

Here are five ideas to do together with children to encourage them on their literacy journey.

1. Read your favourite picture book, or a passage from a novel you are reading, with a family member or friend.
2. Share a story with someone you’ve never told or read stories to before.
3. Create a story chain by writing “Once upon a time…” on a piece of paper, and then getting everyone to add one sentence to the story. If the story is not finished once everyone has written their sentence, give everyone another turn.
4. Reuse cardboard boxes and decorate them to create book boxes to keep your favourite stories in. Or use the cardboard to make a book mark!
5. Create a secret code. Use it to write a message. Ask other family or club members to try to crack the code.

Keteka tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola!

Ka la 8 Loetse selemo se seng le se seng, ke Letsatsi le Tsebo ya ho Bala le ho Ngola la Matjhaba – letsatsi la ho keteka leeto la rona la tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola esitana le ho hopola hore ho na le barho ba dimilyone tse 785 lefatsheng ka bopphara ba sa kgoneng ha bala le ho ngola.

Afrika Bonwa, re boela re keteka le Beke ya Dibuka ya Naha bekeng ya pele ya kwekwe ya Loetse selemo le selemo. Ho tloha ka la 2 ho isa la 7 Loetse 2013, bohle ba nang le sebo dibukeng le/kopa boma la kqhotetswa ho keteka ho bala le mehlolo e fumanwang dibukeng.

Mehopolo e mehlano ke ena eo le ka e etsang mmoho le bana ho ba kgotshasa leetong la boma la tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola.

1. Bala buka ya hoo ya dilthwantsihlo eo o o ratang haholo, kopa seratswana se tswang nobeleng eo o e balang, mmoho le seho sa lelapa kopa maotswalle.
2. Phetela molho e mong eo o eso kango o mo phetela kopa ho mmalla pale nakeng e felieng.
3. Bopa ketane ya pale ka ho ngola “Ba re le ne e re…” sekgeltjaneho sa pampiri, ebe o o re e mong le e mong a fetelelelese pale eo ka polole e le ngwe. Haebsa pale e eso fele ha bohle ba se ba ngote dipolelo tsa bana, nea molho ka mong sebaka sa bobedi sa ho ngola.
4. Sebedisa mabokoso a khateboto hape mme o a kgabise ha eta mabokoso a dibuka ao o la bokolang dipale tsa hoo tseo a di ratang ka hana ona. Kopa o sebedise khateboto ho eta ditshwane tsa maqephe a buka!

Come and Join Us!

Nal’ibali will be at the South African Book Development Council and Department of Arts and Culture’s National Book Week celebrations which are taking place at the Red Location Museum in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth from 5–7 September 2013. We will be hosting reading club demonstrations, as well as reading-for-enjoyment workshops for caregivers. There will also be book debates, live performances, a writing workshop, a spelling bee and a word-a-thon. To find out more, phone 021-9148626/7.

Create your own story cards

1. When you have finished reading the supplement, take out pages 3 and 5.
2. Cut along the dotted lines on each page.
3. Paste each part of the story on either side of an A4 sheet of cardboard. Use a separate sheet of cardboard for each language.
4. If possible, cover the cards with plastic.

Iketsetse dikarete tsa pale

1. Ha o se o qetile ho bala tlatsetsa ena, ntsa leqephhe la 3 le la 5.
2. Seha hodima mela ya matheba leqephhe ka length.
4. Ha ho kgoneha, kwahela dikarete ka poaaseti.
“Eeqadile ka mothwana

Mootlwana ya le kgwama ya talea ka Lebaka. Ha a ho nqoqo ya le mpolana ya ntle ya nako ya phaposing ya. Ha a ho nqoqo ya le mpolana ya ntle ya nako ya phaposing ya.

‘Eeqadile ka mothwana ya Lebaka ya kgwama ya talea ka Lebaka. Ha a ho nqoqo ya le mpolana ya ntle ya nako ya phaposing ya.

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What is the greatest lesson you learnt from a story?
I have learnt to appreciate the important role of the trickster! I’m not talking about people who take advantage of you, but about the characters who actually change the way you look at the world and your place in it.

What do you enjoy most about working with children?
Their freshness and unforgiving response – if you do not hold their interest, they will start speaking and wriggling!

What are your top tips for keeping children interested during storytelling?
(1) Make sure you are having fun yourself. (2) Put music and rhythm into your storytelling. (3) Get the audience to take part in the story.

You also teach African music. What do you enjoy most about this and what do you find challenging?
My favourite thing is to see the joy people feel when they recognise the “Africanness” of the music and experience the creativity it gives them. It’s really challenging though to see the loss of enthusiasm for the teaching profession “Africanness” of the music and experience the creativity it gives them.

Which book do you think every child should read?
The Dark Materials trilogy, by Philip Pullman, for older readers; and Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll for younger readers.

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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 the children in whose lives they are making a difference.

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

What are your thoughts?
We’re putting together a Charter on Children’s Literacy and want to know what you think about children’s right to read and write! Literacy is a human right, but how do we make sure that all South Africa’s children have equal access to this right? What are the literacy experiences all our children should have if we want them to become fully literate citizens?

Send us your ideas by 18 October 2013 by writing to us at Nal’ibali, PRAESA, UCT, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7701, or by emailing us at letters@nalibali.org. Then watch your supplement for the launch of this Charter early next year!

O nahana eng?
Re kgobokanya Tljha e mabapi le Ho Tseba ho Bala le ho Ngola ha Bana mme re batla ho tseba se o se o nahanaang ka ditokelo tsa bana tsa ho bala le ho ngola! Ho bala le ho ngola ka tekele ya botho, empa re ka etsa bonnete hwang hore bana bohle bo Afrika Botswana ha na le philhelo le lekanang tokeleng ee? Ke botemohelo bofetse ho bala le ho ngola boho bana bohle bo bana bala bo lekaleng ho le bana heba le batla hore ba tie ba be ba bha ba bhe le tsebo ya ha bala le ho ngola ka ho phethahala? Re romelle mehopoloto ya ha pele ho la 18 Mphalane 2013 ka ho re ngola ho Nal’ibali, PRAESA, UCT, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7701, kapo ka etsa bonnete hwang hore bana bohle bo bana bala bo lekaleng ho le bana heba le batla hore ba tie ba be ba bha ba bhe le tsebo ya ha bala le ho ngola ka ho phethahala! Re romelle mehopoloto ya ha pele ho la 18 Mphalane 2013 ka ho re ngola ho Nal’ibali, PRAESA, UCT, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7701, kapo ka etsa bonnete hwang hore bana bohle bo bana bala bo lekaleng ho le bana heba le batla hore ba tie ba be ba bha ba bhe le tsebo ya ha bala le ho ngola ka ho phethahala!
Get story active!

Go! on page 8 has been written especially for babies and toddlers. (Younger children can enjoy it in their mother-tongue first and then read it in the other language of the supplement.) Here are some ideas of the kinds of things you can do and say as you share the book with babies and toddlers.

- Page 2: "Hello, Mommy Bunny. Hello, Baby Bunny." (Wave at the picture.)
- Page 3: "What are these?" (Point to the ducklings.) "They are baby ducks. I wonder where the Mommy Duck is? Oh, there she is!" (Point to duck.)
- Page 4: "See how Rhino is driving the truck? Look there is sand on his truck." (Point first to Rhino and then to the sand.)
- Pages 5 and 6: "Look who’s in the taxi. There’s Mommy Elephant and Baby Elephant. There’s Giraffe and the taxi driver is Lion." (Point to the animals.) "Bye, bye, Baby Elephant." (Point to Baby Elephant and wave your hand.)
- Page 7: "Look, Monkey is riding a bicycle. There is the bell. It goes ring, ring!" (Point to bicycle and to bell.)
- Page 8: "There is Zebra. He’s on a pink scooter." (Point to Zebra and the scooter.) "Bye bye, Zebra!" (Wave at picture.)

Tlatsetsong ya hao e tlatelang ya Nal’ibali:

- Leqephe la 2: "Dumela, Mme Bunny. Dumela, Ngwana Bunny." (Tsoka letsogo setswetshweng.)
- Leqephe la 3: "Nhlo tsee ke ding?" (Supa madinyana o matata.) Ke madinyana o matata. Ke a ipotsa hore ebe Mme Letata o kae? Oh, ke yane!" (Supa letata.)
- Leqephe la 4: "Na o a bona kamoo Tshukudu a kgannang lori kateng? Sheba, ho na le sanka ka loring ya hae." (Supa pele ho Tshukudu ebe o supa saneng.)
- Maqephe a 5 le 6: "Sheba hore ke mang ya ka tekising. Mme Tlou le Ngwana Tlou ke bane. Thulho ke yane mme mokgannwi wa tekisi ke Tau." (Supa diphoofofo.) "Tshama hantle Ngwana Tlou." (Supa Ngwana Tlou mme o tsokile letsogo.)
- Leqephe la 7: "Sheba, Tshepo o kganna baetskete. Tshepe ke yane. E re tiring, tiring!" (Supa baetskete le tshepe.)
- Leqephe la 8: "Qwaha ke yane. O palame sekuta se pinki." (Supa qwaha le sekuta.) "Tshama hantle, Qwaha!" (Tsoka letsogo setswetshweng.)

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Eba mahlahlahla bakeng sa pale!

Nal’ibali character illustrations by Rico.

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