Keeping it small

Small reading clubs offer lots of opportunities for exploring stories and books with children. All you need, is to love stories and to want to share them with children – plus one or two adults who can read, and about five to eight children! Add a bag of books, and some writing and drawing tools (like crayons, pencils, pens and paper) and you’re on your way!

You could start a club at home with your own children and a few of their friends. (The children can be any age – from tots to teens.) Or, you could offer to start a reading club with children at a local school, church, mosque or library.

In a small club, it is easy to get to know the children well. Share your favourite books and find out each child’s personal taste in stories. Spend time talking together about stories – this is as important as reading together!

But how do you know which books to choose? Visit a library with a good children’s section and spend time browsing there regularly. Get to know the children’s librarian and ask for advice about the books children enjoy. Borrow at least one storybook that you really like, practise reading it and then read it aloud at your club. As you get to know the children well, you’ll find yourself looking for stories that deepen their curiosity and interests!

And what about writing? Try to make time for writing at each reading club session. Children love writing diaries and it’s a great way to grow their writing ability in their home language and/or an additional language. Encourage the children to write (or draw) in their own diaries and then share their ideas, beautiful handwriting and correct spelling with them.

It’s best not to correct their spelling – it’s what they are saying that is important. But you can inspire them by writing in your own diary and then sharing your ideas, beautiful handwriting and correct spelling with them.

Whatever you choose to do at your reading club, encourage the children to participate – but don’t force them. The aim is to enjoy yourselves as you discover and share stories together.

E boloke le le nyane

Ditelepo tsa ho bala tse nyane di fana ka menyetla a kgotholetsa. Ditelepo tsa ho bala tse nyane a le mokotla wa dibuka mmoho le bana. O hioka feela hore o rate dipale mme o rate ho arolelana le bana – mmoho le mohlo o mo bijo le hore o ka kgetha dibuka dife? Etela laeborari e nang le bohlokwa feela ka ho bala mmaho!

O ka mma wa iqalla tlelapo lapeng le bana ho bala ho arolelana le dibuka, le se kgethe ketso efe kapa efe efe e ka kgethela ho se bolella batho ba bang). Ho molemo hore o se ke bokong teletsha le tsela le ho diga le dibuka mme ebe o e balla hodimo tlelapo ya hao. Ha o ntsa o itse le bana bao ba ka bang bablahana ho isa ho ba robedi.

Makgetlo a itseng. Tsebana le mosebetsi wa laeborari ya karolong ya bana karolo e ntle ya dibuka tsa bana mme o qete nako o ntse o shebasheba moo Empa o tla tseba jwang hore o ka kgetha dibuka dife? Etela laeborari e nang le bohlokwa feela ka ho bala mmaho!

Kgapeho tseba bana ho nka karolo – empa o se ke wa ba qobella. Sepheo ke hore o se ke wa ba qobella le bana ba ka bang bablahana ho isa ho ba robedi.

(outside Karolong) le bana le ho ntsa o rate le kiso ho bala le ho tsebe ho ntsa tseba hore. Ha o ntsa o itse le bana bao ba ka bang bablahana ho isa ho ba robedi.

Jwale, bakeng sa ho ngola teng? Leka ho etsa nako ya ho ngola kopane ngola ya ho bala ya tlelapo. Bana bao bala ho arolelana le dibuka, le se kgethe ketso efe kapa efe e ka kgethela ho se bolella batho ba bang). Ho molemo hore o se ke wa tscha tlelapo ya ho bala ho arolelana le dibuka, le se kgethe ketso efe kapa efe e ka kgethela ho se bolella batho ba bang). Ho molemo hore o se ke wa tscha tlelapo ya ho bala ho arolelana le dibuka, le se kgethe ketso efe kapa efe e ka kgethela ho se bolella batho ba bang).

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**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.

**Ikeletswe bukana ya hao**

1. Ntsho leqephe la 3 ho isa ho la 6 a tokomane ena ya flatetse.
2. Le mene ka halafelo hadima mela wa matheba a matsho.
3. Le mene ka halafelo hape.
4. Saha hadima mela e matheba a matshedwe.

**Story Stars**

A teen author

For International Youth Day (12 August), we caught up with teenager, Nicole Malcolmson, from Pretoria who has enjoyed making up stories ever since she was a little girl. Last year, at the age of 17, she had her first novel, *Tainted Blood*, published. We chatted to Nicole about reading and writing.

Have you always loved books and reading?

I only started reading books in Grade 4 when my mom sent me to a programme that helps children with reading difficulties to improve their reading. Up until then I hated books, but I have always loved listening to stories.

How do you feel about books now?

I can’t imagine a world without books and I carry one or two with me wherever I go.

Where do you get your ideas for stories?

My inspiration comes from everywhere, from the books I read, movies and shows I watch, to taking a walk around my grandparents’ home. Sometimes I write down any ideas I get.

How do you balance school and writing?

I’m in Grade 11 this year and school work does get in the way quite a bit, so there are some days when I can’t write, which is frustrating. I usually have an exam paid with me at school so I can do some writing if I finish my work a bit early. If I sleep over at a friend, I take my laptop along.

What advice would you give young writers?

Try to write at least a sentence every day. It doesn’t have to be perfect, just write it down and then you can always go back and fix it. Keep a notebook or a recorder on hand at all times so that when you get an idea you can record it immediately – otherwise you will forget the idea. Re-read what you’ve written previously as often as you can because sometimes that helps you figure out what you should write next to keep the story flowing.

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.

Ho potoloha naho, batho ka bongwe le mekgatlo ba iphumanela mekgwa ya ho etso ho bala le ho ngola hore e be karolo ya mapheho a kamehla a bana. Bakeng sa ho leboha, *Dinaledi TSA Dipale* tse hlahisitsweng di tla fumana diveritha tsa dip°*tse nitsihsweng we Wimpy bakeng sa ho natefelewa mmele ho bana bao ba tilsang pheto ho mapheho a bana. Bakeng sa ho leboha, *Dinaledi TSA Dipale* tse hlahisitsweng di tla fumana diveritha tsa dip°*tse nitsihsweng we Wimpy bakeng sa ho natefelewa mmele ho bana bao ba tilsang pheto ho mapheho a bana.

Bakeng sa Letshotse la Matjhaba la Botlhoko (12 Phatle), re ile ra kopane le kgarena, Nicole Malcolmson, wa mane Pretoria eo esaleng a natefelewa ke ho qapa dipale ho tsho e saaleng wngwanyana. Selomeng se fettle, ha o le dlimo tse 17, o ile a ngola nobele kapa padi ya hae ya pele, *Tainted Blood*, mme ya phathlalatwa. Re ile ra qoqa le Nicole ka ho bala le ho ngola.

Ho nnaalele o tata dibuka le ho bala? Ke qoqa le ho bala dibuka feela ha ke le ho Kereiti ya 4 ha mme wa a nkhomela lehanneng le thuang bana ba nang le matshata a ho bala ho nitlalota tsboa ya bana ya ho bala. Pela ho moo ke ne ke tshwure buka kapa tse pedi hohlile moo ke yo. O fumanha mehappolo ya ho etsa dipale hokae? Tshusutsetse ya ke e tsa ho ke a shebhelele, eisa le ha ke o folla ho ma ho pota lapo la kgogana wa ke le matshetshetse. Ka nako e ngwwe mehappolo ena e nda lela, empa jwale ebe ha o hloka ho ihumanela dirlitshane tse ding. Kamelela ke dula le tshwure bukana le pene bakeng sa ho ngola mehappolo efe ke tsebela efe le ntleng.


**Mongodi ya kenang dilemeng tsa botjha**

Nicole Malcolmson

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For more information, visit www.nalibali.org to get people in South Africa – children and adults – to start and sustain the reading and writing part of children’s daily lives. To say thank you, our *Story Stars* will receive meal vouchers* courtesy of *Wimpy* to enjoy with the children in whose lives they are making a difference.

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Baby Monkey’s bananas

Dipanana tsa Tshwenyane

Baby Monkey’s bananas is one of 36 stories available in the Little Library Kits for Numeracy, Literacy and Life Skills. Each kit contains 60 readers (5 copies of 12 stories), 12 big books, 12 posters and a comprehensive teacher’s guide. The readers and the big books are available in all 11 official languages. For more information please visit our website www.cup.co.za.

Then Crocodile swam up to him.

“Those bananas look good!” he said.

But he was really looking at Baby Monkey!

He opened his mouth …

Baby Monkey put some bananas into Crocodile’s mouth! He took the rest of the bananas and ran away.
Baby Monkey loved bananas. He took them from his brothers and sisters.

“No, Baby Monkey!” said Mother Monkey.

Tshwenyane e ne e rata dipanana. E ne e di fumana ho bana ba habo yona.

“Se ka etsa jwalo, Tshwenyane!” ho bua Mme Tshwene.

Then Mother Monkey came.

“Look,” she said. “I have some bananas for you.”

Yaba ho fihla Mme Tshwene.

“Sheba,” a rialo. “Ke o tletse dipanana.”
Mother was angry. Baby Monkey didn’t like that.
“I’ll run away!” he said. So he ran into the bush.

Mother yona o ne a halefile. Empa Tshwenyane ha e a rata se." Ya balela ya araba jwalo. Yaba e balehela ka morung.
Rhino ran past. He didn't see the bananas. He walked on them.

Then he saw Elephant.

"Elephant, please help me carry these bananas."

"Mmmm," said Elephant. "I'll help you, Baby Monkey, but give me some bananas."

Then he saw Elephant.

"I'll eat one," he said. The banana was so tasty, so he ate two.

Baby Monkey was sad. He picked up the bananas. He was very hungry.

"I'll eat one," he said.

The banana was so tasty, so he ate two.

Baby Monkey saw a big banana tree. There were many bananas on the tree. There were bananas for all his brothers and sisters. But Baby Monkey was too small to carry the bananas.

Tshwenyane ya bona sefate se seholo sa dipanana ka morung. Ho ne ho na le dipanana tse ngata sefateng sena. Ho ne ho na le dipanana bakeng sa bana ba habo yona kaofela. Empa Tshwenyane e ne e le nyane haholo hore e ka nka dipanana tsena.
Get story active!

After you and your children have read Baby Monkey’s bananas, try out some of these ideas.

If you have 10 minutes…

At the beginning of the story, Mother Monkey is cross with Baby Monkey. Ask your children to suggest why she feels angry with him. Do they think she is right to feel angry?

On page 14 of the story, Baby Monkey helps himself to a lot of bananas. Ask your children whether they think he should have taken so many bananas. What would they have done?

If you have 30 minutes…

Imagine that the story carried on after page 15. Encourage your children to draw a picture and write about what they think might happen on the next page. Help younger children by writing the words that they tell you.

If you have one hour…

Make some delicious banana fritters together! (This recipe makes six fritters.)

You will need: 3 bananas, ½ cup self raising flour, a little more flour for rolling the bananas in, 625 ml water and some oil for frying.

Follow these steps:
1. Sift the flour into a bowl and mix in the water to make a batter.
2. Leave the batter to stand for 10 minutes.
3. Cut the bananas in half and roll them in flour.
4. Dip them in the batter and then drop them in hot oil to deep fry until they are golden brown.
5. Enjoy them on their own – or with syrup and ice cream!

Reading club corner

Sending postcards to your friends is a fun way of sharing ideas about books you enjoyed reading, or are reading at the moment. Use this template to make your own postcard to send to someone you know.

1. Cut along the dotted lines.
2. Fold your postcard in half.
3. Place a piece of cardboard (from a cereal box) in the middle.
4. Paste the template onto the cardboard.
5. Write something about your favourite book. You could copy a part you enjoyed, or draw a character or scene from the book to inspire your friend to read the story too.
6. Write the address and add a stamp before you send your postcard!

Eba mahlahahlaha bakeng sa pale!

Kamora haba wena le bana ba hao le badile Dipanana tsa Tshwenyane, lekang e meng ya mehopo ena.

Haeba o na le metsotsa e 10…

Qalang ya pale, filme Tshwene o hadietsa Tshwenyane. E re bana ba hao ba bolele hone ho na hana hone ke hahang eno a o metsotso. Na hana hone ke hantle hone a o aletse?

Leqephe ngag 14 la pale, Tshwenyane o inkela dipanana tse ngata mme e a di ya. Botse bana ba hao hone ebo ebo na hana hone ho ne ho lokile hone a ni dipanana tse ngata jwalo. Ebe bana ba ne ba fla e tsa jwalo?

Haeba o na le metsotsa e 30…

Ako nahan e hola pale ena e ne e tswetse pele kamora leaphe la 15. Kgohaletsa bana ba hao ho taka setlhwanthsho ho le ho ngola ka se bo na hana hone se ka be se etsahetse leqephe ngag Nthamang. Thusa bana ba banyenyane ka ho ba ng lodla monument e a bokatlana ona.

Haeba o na le hora e le ngwwe…

Etsang difrithase tsa dipanana tse monate miraho! (Resepe ena e etsang difrithase tse tseletse.)

O fla Noko: dipanana tse 3, ½ ya kopi ya folouru ya self raising, folouru e ngwwe hapo bakeng sa ho pitikisa dipanana ho yona, 625 ml ya metsi le olile bakeng sa ho hadida.

Latera mehato ena:
1. Sefalo folouru ka hara sejana mme o tswake ka metsi ho etsa motswako o metsi.
2. Tholo lahla metsotsa e a ba kango 10.
4. Di kene ka hara motswako wa folouru ebo o di ililela ka hara oli e tselesa ho di hadida ho lelidi e ba bosotho ba kgotho.
5. Nafetelweng ke tsona di le jwalo – kapa ka sinapa le asekerime!

Hukung ya tlelapo ya ho bala

Ho romela diposekarete ho metswalle ya hao ke tsela ya bokapo ya ho arolelana mehopolo ka dibuka tseo o natleletseng ke ho di bala, kapa tseo o ntseng o di bala hajwale. Sebedisa thempolete ena ho ketetsa posekarete eo o fla e romela ho mofha eo o mofha.

1. Seha hodima meta ho matheba.
2. Metsa posekarete eo hao ka halolo.
3. Bea seletsha o khotse tsebo (ya lebotokosoa la siriwe) bohere-go.
4. Mamatle thempolete hodima khotse avo.
5. Ngola ba hong ka buka ao e o rathang. O ka nna wo kopolla karolo e leny ga natleletsa, kopola wa taka mohetha karolo ke tsoa ha hong ka buka ha khotse tsebo matswalle wa hao hone le leny a bole pale.
6. Ngola atseho o mme o kene setempe pele o romela posekarete yao hao!
After lunch, Nolitha and Mama paddled in the shallow water, jumping over waves and racing them back to shore until Mama said, “Shoo, Nolitha, now I need a rest!” So Nolitha wandered back to the rocks where she stretched out and listened to the tap-a-tap of a seagull. A seal broke through the surface of the water. Nolitha was sure it was a seal, she had seen pictures of them. For a moment, its huge sad eyes gazed at her. Then it was gone. Soon though, it re-surfaced and pulled itself up onto a rock. Nolitha sat spellbound ... it was not a seal now, it was a boy!

The boy came closer, and closer, and carefully placed something in front of Nolitha. Then he turned and made his way back to the water. Hastily, Nolitha picked up the thing and turned it over in her hands. It was a mermaid’s purse. It was exquisite!

Nolitha got up to thank the boy. But, before she could do so, he glanced back at her and then dived into the sea. And, as his body hit the water, he was a seal again.

“Nolitha, Nolitha,” shouted Mama, “hame time!”

Nolitha gathered all her mermaids’ money into her mermaid’s purse. Then she made her way back to Mama, looking back at the sea every now and again. But she saw no seal, and no boy, only the waves that kept on coming.

As they journeyed into the night, Nolitha showed Mama the beautiful mermaid’s purse.

“Extraordinary!” said Mama.

And then, as Nolitha drifted off to sleep, Mama smiled a faraway smile and whispered, “It was exactly there that I saw one when I was a little girl.”

“Even more extraordinary!” said Mama.

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