We know that the more our children read, the better they get at it and the more they enjoy it. So, we provide lots of interesting books for children to read from an early age, read to them regularly and offer them gentle encouragement each time they read or look at books.

But what if you’ve done all these things and your child can read, but chooses not to? How do you “switch” them on to reading again or for the first time? Here are a few suggestions – some of them from children who stopped reading for pleasure for a while and then reconnected with it:

• For some children, reading is difficult and so it’s less likely that they will choose to read for pleasure. To help them discover the enjoyment we can get from reading, try to find material on topics that you think will interest them. Books and magazines with more pictures than words can often make reading seem like less of a chore. Read aloud together for as long as your child seems interested – then leave the book or magazine lying around so that they can choose to look at it later.

• Reading aloud to children regularly – no matter what their age – makes books and reading part of daily life. It is a great way to spend time relaxing together and allows your children to experience stories without having to read them themselves. The satisfaction that they get from time spent together sharing stories, is often enough to switch them onto reading for themselves.

• Nagging never helps! Feeling bad about not reading doesn’t encourage children to read – instead, it makes them resent reading. Rather let your children know you see reading as your spare time and leave different kinds of interesting reading material lying around your home in places that they will find them!

• Visit the library or bookshops and let your children choose books that they want to read. Reading something is better than not reading at all, so don’t worry if the books your children choose seem too easy for them, or are on subjects that you don’t think are important. Respecting their reading choices helps them to grow as readers.

For more information on reading with your children, visit “Tips and Topics” on www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

But they don’t want to read...

Re a tseba hore ha bana ba rona ba tswela pele ho bala, ba dula ba ntle ba nthlafela ho bala mme ba natefela le ho feta. Kaoabo, re fana ka dibuka tse ngata tse kgahlang bana bakeng sa ho bala ba sa le banyenyane, ho ba bala ka dinako tsotle le ho fa ba kgothalelo etsetso nako le nako le ho bala kapa ho sheba dibuka.

Empa teng haoba o entse dintho tsena tseholo mme ngwana wa hao a tseba ho bala, empa o kgetha ho se bala? O ka ba “sothele” yaang lehloko le ho ha bala hape kapa ho bala lekgotla la pele? Difhatho tse mmaolwa ke tsena – tse ding tsa tsona di tswa ho bana ba le tloeng ba enisa ho bala bothabiso nakoana e ke ditho mme ba boeka ba kgutlela ho bala ha bale hape.

• Ho bana ba bang, ho bala ba thata khaob ho sa hangata moo ba ka kgathelang ho bala bothabiso. Ho ba thusa ho fihlela monyaka oo re ka ho fumaana ho baling, leka ho fumaana dingolwa le ho nang le dinako leho o nako o nako, le ho ghaatse haiba le ho dia de tse ka kgathela. Dibuka le dimakasine tse nang le ditshwantsho tse ngata ho feta mantswe hangata di ka etsa hore ho bala ho se shebahale eka ke mosebetsi. Baling mmmoho feela haeba ngwana wa hao a shebahale a ya ena le thahasa – ebe o fihlela buka kapa maka isitse e eo etsetso eitsa moo feta ho se bala. Khaob, ho bale la ba feta ba kgathela ho bala e bhole.

• Ho bala bana o bala hollda ka dinako tsotle – ho sa kgathela le hore ba dilemo di kae – ho etsa hore dibuka le ho bala e be karolo ya bophole ho kamehla. Ke tsela e lole baling ka ho felisa ya ho qeta nako e etsetse le phomotse mmmoho mme e dumella bana ba hao ho ukuvela dipate rifle le hore ba ipalle tsona ka babona. Kgotsotseka e sa le fumaana ngakong eo le e nang le le mmmoho le aleloana le dipate, hangata e leka ho sa bo fihlele lehloko re ho ipalle ka babona.

• Ho ba omanye ha ke ke ho thusa! Ho ukuvela bophole ka lebaka la ho se bale ha ha kgathela le bala ha bala – ho feta mmo ho etsa hore ba hiyoe bale ho bala. O ka nqo wa etsa hore bana ba hao ba a bone a kgetha ho bala ka nako ya ha ya ho bokolokho mme o siye dingolwa tse fapaneng tsa ho bala di le hohle ka tlheng dibakeng tseoa ba kha fumaana ho tsona!

• Etelang laeborari kapa mabenkele a dibuka mme o dumella bana ba hoo ho kgathela dibuka tseoa ba baling ho di bala. Ho bala hoo ho e isang ho mmmoho ho feta ho se bale hongho, kahoobo o se ke wa kgathetseho haeba dibuka tseoa bana ba hoo ba di kgathela di shebahale di le bonolo haholo baling sa bana, kapa di bau ka dintho tseoa o nakaneng horo ha di bohloko. Ho hlompho dikgetho tsa bana tsa ho bala ho ba thusa ho holo yardoko babadi.

Visit the library or bookshops and let your children choose books that they want to read. Reading something is better than not reading at all, so don’t worry if the books your children choose seem too easy for them, or are on subjects that you don’t think are important. Respecting their reading choices helps them to grow as readers.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

2. Fold it in half along the black cut-out-and-keep book

Create your own

ikeletswe bukanu e-sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa
1. Ntha lona le ang a shelela a lona le seho.
Mimi’s dancing feet is from the Rainbow Reading series by Cambridge University Press. Rainbow Reading is a graded series for primary schools. It provides a wealth of original stories and factual texts, which will help learners to develop the reading skills and vocabulary they need to meet the requirements of the curriculum – in all learning areas. Rainbow Reading consists of 350 titles which are grouped by level and theme. For further information, visit www.cup.co.za

Cambridge University Press

Nal’ibali 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

Nal’ibali ke le tshelela la na la ho-balla-bothabiso bakeng sa lo seselela bokgoni ba bana ka ho ba bala le ho ba pelela dipale. Bakeng sa lo thaholo lelo e ngwe, etela www.nalibali.org kapa www.nalibali.mobi

Drive your imagination

Nicole Levin
Natalie Hinrichsen
Mimi’s feet always want to dance. Her feet dance away from Gogo. Step, hop, step, leap, skip, turn!

Maoto a Mimi a ne a dula a batla ho tantsha. Maoto a hae a tantshetsa hole le Nkgono. Hata, tlola, hata, tshethema, qhoma, tjeka!

They dance over chairs and under tables. They dance out of the house. They dance across the street. They dance up trees. Mimi’s feet dance everywhere.


But Mimi was gone, dancing all the way home.

Empa Mimi o ne a ile, a tantsha a ntse a leba lapeng.
One day, Gogo and Mimi went to the market.

“Mimi,” said Gogo, “you can’t dance here. It is too busy. Hold my hand and walk with me. I don’t want to lose you.”

And then they danced into a box of melons.

They walked onto the street. Mimi’s feet began to tap. Then her feet danced away. Step, hop, step, leap, skip, leap!

“Come back!” shouted Gogo.

Ba tsamaya seterateng. Maoto a Mimi a qala ho tila-tila. Vaba maoto a hae a qala ho tantsha. Hata, tlola, hata, tshethema, tlola, tlola, tshethema!

“Kgutla wena!” ho kgaruma Nkongo.
“Have you seen a dancing girl?” Gogo asked the fruit seller.

Behind him was a big box of melons. Gogo could see Mimi’s arm sticking out of the box.

Gogo pulled Mimi out.

“Na ha o eso bone ngwanana ya tantshang mo?” Nkgono a botsa morekisi wa ditholwana. Kamoror a ke ho me nga le lebokosoa le leholo la.

Nkgono a mo hula a mo ntsha. 134

“At first, Mimi walked next to Gogo. But soon her feet began to tap. Then they danced. Step, hop, step, hop, step, hop, turn, leap!”

Gogo pulled Mimi out. See Mimi’s arm sticking out of the box.


“I am very angry with you, Mimi. We are going home now!”

Gogo pulled Mimi by the hand. They walked out of the market.

“Ke halefile haholo hona jwale, Mimi. Re ya hae hona jwale!”

Nkgono a hula Mimi ka letsoho. Ba tswa ka mmarakeng.

“Yes, Gogo,” said Mimi.

Mimi looked at her feet, “Did you hear that? No dancing!”

But her feet didn’t reply.

"Eya, Nkgono," ho rialo Mimi.

Mimi a sheba maoto a hae. "Le utlwile? Ha ho tantshwe mona!"

Empa maoto a hae a se ke a araba.
Get story active!

Here are some activities based on Mimi’s dancing feet for you and your children to try.

• As you read the story together, make comments that help your children to explore the story. For example, after reading page 4, you could say, “I wonder why Mimi’s feet didn’t reply. Can you think why?”

• Draw your children’s attention to the illustrations. For example, on page 7 you could say, “Look at Gogo. How do you think she feels?”

• Ask your children whether they think Mimi enjoys dancing – or, is it just her feet that enjoy it?

• Do your children like to dance? Play some music that you all enjoy and dance together. Or, play a dancing game together, like Do the Hokey Pokey.

• The picture alongside comes from the last page of the story. Encourage your children to write what they think Mimi and Gogo are saying as Mimi dances off down the street.

Collect the Nal’ibali characters

Cut out and keep all your favourite Nal’ibali characters and then use them to create your own pictures, posters, stories or anything else you can think of!

About Afrika

Age: 7
Sister: Dintle
Cousins: Neo and Mbali
Favourite snack: watermelon
Favourite places to visit: museums, science centres
Books he likes: “how to” books that give instructions for making interesting things, as well as fact books

Bokella baphetwa ba Nal’ibali

Seha le ho ipolokela baphetwa bohle bao a ba ratang ba Nal’ibali mme o ba sebedise ho iketsetsa ditshwantsho tsa hoo, diphoasetara, dipale kapa nthe efe kapa efe ee o ka e nahanang!

Mabapi le Afrika

Dilema: 7
Kgalitsedi: Dintle
Bomotswalo: Neo le Mbali
Disekeng tseo a di ratang: Lehapu
Dibaka tseo a ratang ho di etela: Dimuseumo, ditso tsa saense
Dibuka tseo a di ratang: Dibuka tsa “mokgwa wa ho” tse fananing ka ditseba ba bale o ba hoo, diphoasetara, dipale kapa nthe efe kapa efe ee o ka e nahanang!

Age: 7
Sister: Dintle
Cousins: Neo and Mbali
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Eba mahlahlahla bakeng sa pale!

Diketsahalo tse itseng ke tsena tse theiwe pigang ya Maaot a tantshang a Mimi tseo o ka di lekang mmoho le bana ba hoo.

• Ha le ntle le bala pale mmoho, e tsa ditshwaela tse tla thusa bana ba hoo ho sibilia pale. Ho e tsa mohtlala, kamora ba bala leqephe ka 4, o ka nna wa re, “Ke a makala hore ebe ke hoboanang ha maso ba Mimi a sa ka a ara ba. Ha le ka nahana lebaka?”

• Etsa hore bana ba hoo ba shebe ditshwantsho. Ho e tsa mohtlala, leqephe ka 7 o ka nna wa re, “Shebang Nikgono. Le nahana hore o kufiwa ywana?”

• Bolsa bana ba hoo hore ebe ba nahana hor bana ba natefeleka ke ho tantsha na – kapa, ba nha ebe ka e leqephe a hae e ntelwa o natefelela?

• Na bana ba hoo ba rata ho tantsha? Papala mmo mo le natefelang bohle mme le tantsha mmoho. Kapa, bapalang papadi ya ho tantsha mmoho, e kung Do the Hokey Pokey!

• Sefetong tsa se ka lehalokeng se tswe leqephe la ho qetela la pale. Kgohutoetsa bana ba hoo ho ngola seo ba nahana hor bana ba leqephe la Nkgono ba o se bua ba Mimi a ntle a tantsha ho theosa ka selela.

Here’s an idea…

Cut out and colour in the picture of Afrika and then paste it on a large sheet of paper.

• Draw a thought bubble and then draw a picture inside it to show how Afrika is thinking of using the object he has made.

• Draw something on the end of the hook that will make this a funny picture!

• Keep the picture in a safe place and when you have collected all the Nal’ibali characters, use them to create your own Nal’ibali poster!

Reading club tip #9

Let older children at your club read the “Story corner” stories on page 8 on their own and/or to the younger children.

Kelelela ya #9 ya Tiela ya ho Bala

E re bana ba bhalwanyane tlepnga ya hoo ba bale dipale tsa “Hukung ya dipale” leqephe ka 8 o ba bale dipale tsa “Mokgwa wa ho” tse fanang ka ditshwantsho sena se qabole! Kapa, bokella baphetwa ba Nal’ibali ba sebedise ho iketsetsa phoasetara ya hoo ya Nal’ibali!
Silly Thukile (Part 1)
Retold by Wendy Hartmann

Once upon a time a young man named Thukile lived with his mother in a tiny house. They were very poor and the only money his mother made was by selling the eggs that her hen laid. Thukile was so lazy that he did nothing. He would lie in the shade in the summer and sit by the fire in the winter.

One Monday morning Thukile’s mother was so upset that she said, “Thukile, if you do not go and work for your food I will make you leave this house forever.”

“I had better do something,” said Thukile. “This time my mother sounds very cross.”

On Tuesday, Thukile asked the farmer across the river for a job. The farmer got Thukile to fix his fence and paid him a few silver coins. Thukile bounced the coins up and down so that he could see them shine in the sun. But before he had crossed the river, he had lost all the coins.

“You silly boy,” said his mother, “you should have put them in your pocket.”

“Oh,” said Thukile, “I’ll do that next time.”

On Wednesday, Thukile asked another farmer, “May I help you with your cows?”

“Yes,” said the farmer, “and I will pay you a jar of milk.”

At the end of the day, the farmer gave Thukile the jar of milk. Thukile put the jar into the pocket of his coat as his mother had said he should. Splish!Splash! Splash! The milk spill out and the jar was empty before he got home.

“Dear me, Thukile!” said his mother. “You should have carried the jar on your head.”

“Oh,” said Thukile, “I’ll do that next time.”

On Thursday, Thukile worked for a woman who made yoghurt. She gave Thukile some yoghurt for helping her. It was in an open plastic container that was wrapped in a cloth. Thukile put the container on his head as his mother had said he should. But by the time he got home, there was very little yoghurt left in the container.

“You silly boy,” said his mother, “you should have carried it in your hands.”

“Oh!” said Thukile. “I’ll do that next time.”

What do think Thukile is going to try next? Find out next week whether he is ever able to do something that is actually helpful to his mother!

In your next Nal’ibali supplement:

- Giving books as gifts
- Find out about International Picture Book Month
- Meet some of South Africa’s picture book authors and illustrators
- A cut-out-and-keep book, Swimming in the sun
- The final part of the story, Silly Thukile

Our tip sheets offer easy ways for caregivers and volunteers to help children become successful readers at any age – and they’re available in six South African languages! Download them for free at: http://nalibali.org/resources/

Thukile ya Sethoto (Karolo ya 1)
E phethwa hepe ke Wendy Hartmann

Kgalekgale mhahlanhlan ya batisang Thukile o ne a dula le mmae flung e nyane. Ba ne ba futsanehile haholo mme tshetlakae e mmae a neng a kigana ho a etso e ne e le ka ho reka maa neng a behelo ke kgomo ya hae.

Thukile o ne a le baitswa hae o na sa etšo lethe. O ne a ke paqamena marlinga ho a le lehlabula mme a dule mlonga ho a le lema. Ka tshi le leng Mantsho hosenga mme wa Thukile o ne a hallele hao a leng a re. Thukile, hasebo o sa tsaamaya ho ya sebeka bakeng sa hore o ishepe ke fla o leleka flung ena ya ka.

“Ke fla tshwanela ho etso ho hong.” Thukile a nna. “Kgetlong lena mme o ulwakahlo a hallele e le ka mma.”

Ka Lobalahle, Thukile a kopa msebethe ho raphola ya mose wane ho noka. Rapolasi a re Thukile a kise lerato ya hae mme ya mma le fela dikholwe tsa mmona tla silerwa. Thukile a mna a rapoladi dikholwe a di fihlaflhadi hore a kigana ho a bina hortle di banya letsetso. Empele pele a lehela kalae o leka na noke, a ne a se a lehlethwetswe ka dikholwe tsa hae kafele.

“Moshwanyana towe ya sethoto,” mmae a nna. “O ne o tshwana hore ebe e le wa a di boloka ka pokhaleng ya hae.”

“Oh!” ho nna Thukile, “ke fla etso jwalo nakong e flung.”

Ka Lobalahle, Thukile a kopa rapoladi e mong. “Na nka o thuwa ka dikholwe tsa hae?”

“Ho leloki,” ho nna noka rapoladi. “Mna nna le fla o leka ka jwalo ya lebelebe.”

Ho leltsha le dikela raphola e a ne Thukile jwalo ya lebelebe. Thukile a kenyana jwalo ya ka pokhaleng ya ace ya hae ka bina e e mmae a mmae a neng a mmae a le ka. Mmae lo hae, “Qhapha! Qhapha! Qhapha! Lebese la tsholoha jwalo mme jeke e ne e se e sena lethe le pele o fihla lapeng.”

“Ao basadi!” ho nna mmae. “O ne o tshwana hore ebe e letheo eke o Ns酿wana ya hae.”

“Ho leloki,” ho nna Thukile, “ke fla etso jwalo nakong e flung.”

Ka Lobalahle, Thukile a sebeletsa mosaal e etlo ya noka. O le o a Thukile yokate bakeng sa ho mo Tsula. E ne a tebapha sehlela ho se neng se phuthetswe ka lasele. Thukile a raphela se Ns냥wna jwalo ho mmae a ne o mmona letheo eke e etso. Empa yare ka ao e o fihla lapeng ka yona, ho ne a se a letheo eke o nyane haholo ho ha e lehela.

“Setheto towe sa moshwanyana,” mmae a nna. “O ne o tshwana hore e e tshwane ka matsuho a mabo.”

“Oh!” ho nna Thukile. “Ke fla etso jwalo nakong e flung.”

O nahana hore Thukile o fla leka ho etso e nhelo nakong e flung? Fumana sena bekgeng e flung le hore o ebe e leka ho hae ho ka thuang mme wa hae ha!