There are so many different stories out there and so many books. It's not surprising that when we are asked to share books with children, we sometimes feel confused and overwhelmed about what to choose.

We all – children and adults – become readers one book at a time. It is only by reading on our own and with others that we come to know what to do and which books to choose. There is no correct place to start, only a correct time – now! Page by page, story by story and book by book we gradually learn more about books and reading, and we become more comfortable in our role as a reader and a reading role model for others. Each time we read a book, we learn something – and this learning never stops! There is so much to get to know and experience – from the look and feel of a book, to its themes, characters, style of writing and illustrations.

It helps to ask others which books they enjoyed and to try their recommendations, like you might try on clothes in a shop – some fit and some don't! But, just like growing our own wardrobe of clothes, in time we come to know which stories suit us best. Each of us gathers a collection of best-loved stories. These can be stories from close to home and from far-away places; some are filled with lessons and messages, some tell of hardship and challenges, and others make us laugh and fill us with joy.

Some of us start to gather stories as babies on the lap of a precious adult. Some of us start at school, when we are read to by a teacher or a librarian. These adults are able to pass on the power and delight of reading because they have experienced it for themselves. So, book by book, we develop as readers, we read to develop this experience to the next generation, who in turn will pass it on to their children one day.

"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home."
Anna Quindlen, How reading changed my life

"Dibuka ke sefofane, ke terene, hope ke tsele. Ke pheletso ya leeto, ke leeto. Dibukule ke lapeng."
Anna Quindlen, How reading changed my life

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

Here is a piece of writing by Sello Phemelo to inspire you in 2014! Sello’s poem received the Best Writing award in our Children’s Day writing competition last year.

Who can I help?
Stretch out your hand
Reach out
To the people’s needs

Open your ears
Here are inspiring words
Open your eyes
And look around

Just ask yourself: what can I do?
You have hands
You have eyes
You have ears
Expose yourself.

If you love, love more
If you sing, sing the best
If you know how to read, read more
If you have anything good,
Show it to the world.
Come out, do not hide
Expose yourself
This year.

Sello Phemelo, 11 years, Dynamite Diamonds Reading Club, Limpopo

Do you enjoy writing and drawing? Are you an adult who writes for children? Or, are you a child who enjoys writing poems or stories, or drawing pictures and then writing about them? We’d love to see what you’ve been doing! If you send us your writing and pictures, you stand a chance of having them published in the Nal’ibali supplement, or on the www.nalibali.mobi website. Remember: it has to be all your own work!

Send your writing and pictures to: info@nalibali.co.za or PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.

Na o natefelwa ke ho ngola le ho taka? Na o motho e maholo ya ngoliang bana? Kapa o ngwana ya natefelwang ke ho ngola ditshokise kapa dipale, kapa ya takang ditshwantsho ebe o ngola ka tsana?
Re ka rata ho bona se a neng o ntse o se etsa! Haeba o ka re romella sengolwa sa hao le ditshwantsho, ho na le monyelka wa hare di phatlakawane flatsetsong ya Nal’ibali, kapa websa seang ya Nal’ibali. Hopola: mosebets oohl e lokelo ho ba wa hao!
Romela sengolwa sa hao le ditshwantsho ho: info@nalibali.co.za kapa PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.

Nal’ibali on radio!

Enjoy listening to stories in Sesotho and in English on Nal’ibali’s radio show:
Lesedi FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.45 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.
SAfm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.50 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Nal’ibali radyiong!

Natefelwa ke ho mamela dipale ka Sesotho le Senyesemane lenaneong ka radiyo la Nal’ibali:
Lesedi FM ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohlana ho tlhoha ka 9.45 a.m. ho fihlela ka 10.00 a.m.
SAfm ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohlana ho tlhoha ka 1.50 p.m. ho fihlela ka 2.00 p.m.

Pale ya hao

Mona ke sekothwana sa sengolwa ka Sello Phemelo bakeng sa ho o tselelela ka 2014! Thotokiso ya Sello e ile ya fumanana kagao ya Bongodi bo Hitwahiti hitshisanong ya rona ya bongodi ya Letsatsi la Bana selemong se felieng.

Ke mang eo nka mo thusaq?
Otlolla letsoho ga hao
Fana ka thusa
Ho batho ka tseo ba di Hlakang.

Bula ditsebe ka hao
Mantsue a lgothatsang ka ana
Bula mahlo a hao
Mme o qamake.

Ako ipotse: ke sefe se ka naka se etsang?
O na le matsoho
O na le mahlo
O na le ditsebe
Ilthatise.

Haeba o rata, rata haholo
Haeba o bina, bina halile ho feta
Haeba o tshebo ho bale, bale haholo
Haeba o ame le se seng se sello,
Se bontise le fatho.
Ho halhele powaneng, se ipatse
Ilthatise
Selemong sena.

Sello Phemelo, dilemo tse 11, Tlelapo ya ho Bala ya Dynamite Diamonds, Limpopo. Thotokiso ena e ngotse sa ka English yaba e fetoleka Sesotho.

Create your own cut-out-and-keep 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

Iketsatse bukana e-sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa
1. Nhlo kepho la 3 ho isa la la 6 bukaneng ena ya flatsetso
2. Le me le hloalo hodima mola wa matheba a matsha
3. Le me le hloalo hape
4. Seha hodima mela ya matheba a matubaedu.
The elders at the door is one of ten stories specially written and illustrated for the new *Sunday Times Storytime* book which was created for South African children.

The first *Sunday Times* storybook was launched three years ago to allow children to experience the magic of stories, especially in their own languages. The *Sunday Times* has distributed two million copies of the first book in all 11 languages free of charge to schools, libraries and reading clubs across the country.

This book is currently available in English with plans to translate it into other languages in the future.
It was early morning and still dark. In the shadows, three figures slowly, slowly made their way along the road, and down into the village. They stopped outside a house and knocked on the door.

Inside the house, the family was wide awake. The children talked and sang with big voices, while their mother cooked the morning meal. When it was ready, the hungry family sat down to eat. Only then did they hear the knocking.

E ne e le hoseng bhalo mme ho ntse ho le lefifi. Mane lefifing, diriti tse thoro tsa kena tseleng butebute, mme tsa leba tse metseng. Tsa ema ka ntle ho ntlo mme tsa kokota monyako.

Ka tlung, ba lelapa ba ne ba shebile. Bana ba ne bo goqa, ba binela hodimo, ha mme wa bona a ne a pheha dijo tsa hoseng. Ha dijo di se di lokile, ba lelapa ba lapileng ba dula fatshe ho ja. Ke hona ba neng ba utlwa mokoko.
The mother went to the window and looked out. By now the shadows had lifted, and she could see the figures waiting outside.

"There are three elders out there," she said to the father. "They are dirty and hungry, and need to be taken care of."

"Then you must open the door and invite them in," said her husband.

So the mother went to the door and invited the elders in.

"Ah thank you, kind woman, but we never enter together," said the elders. "You must choose one of us."

The mother went back to the father and told him what the elders had said.

"Then we must ask them for their names and choose one of them," said the father.

So the woman went back and asked them for their names.

His sister said, "No, no. The REASON your business is not going well is because you need the wisdom to make it grow. We should ask Wisdom to come in, Daddy."

The elders replied, "Ah, now that you have chosen Love, we will all come in, because wherever Love is, there is also both Blessing and Wisdom."

"Eke, haele moo le kgethile Lerato, re tla kena ka tlung kaofela ha rona lebogoe moo Lerato a leng teng, ho boetse ho na le Thohomolokato le Bohale."
Feela e monyenyane, ya neng a tseba mantswe a mmalwa feela, ka ho latella ho hokaalo, a pheta, a ba a nna a pheta hape, “Lerato. Lerato. Lerato.”

Yaba ba lelapa ha ba sa buisana ka taba ena ho ya pele. Ba etsa qeto ya ho memela Lerato ka lelapeng la bona.

But the baby, who knew few words, with great insistence, said over and over again, “Love. Love. Love.”

So the family discussed the matter no further. They decided to invite Love into their home.

For the last time then, the mother went to the door. She stood before the elders and said, “We have chosen Love.”

Lekgetlo la ho qetela joule, rme a ya lematjeng. A ema ka pela mosheku rema a re, “Re kgethile Lenuto.”
In this new regular section in the supplement we give you ideas for storytelling, reading and writing activities that are fun to do with children. In this first one children use pictures from old magazines to tell their own stories!

You will need:
- old magazines
- ruler and koki/crayon
- scissors

What to do:
1. Prepare for the activity by finding pages from the old magazines that have interesting pictures on them. Tear out these pages. Then, on the back of each page, draw a square which is about 15 cm x 15 cm.
2. Lay out all your magazine pages so that they are face-down. In other words, you can’t see the interesting pictures!
3. Ask your child to help you cut along the lines you have drawn without peeping at the pictures on the other side.
4. Put the cut-out squares face-down in a pile.
5. Let your child turn over the first picture and use it to begin to tell a story.
6. When he or she is ready, let them turn over the next picture and use it to continue the story.
7. The story finishes after the last picture has been turned over.

Tips!
- Each person who wants to tell a story will need 10–12 pictures.
- You can make this into a group storytelling activity by doing steps 5 and 6 differently. Let one child begin the story (step 5), but then let another child turn over the next picture and continue the story.
- If you are doing this activity at a reading club and do not have enough scissors, let another child turn over the next picture and continue the story.
- Each person who wants to tell a story will need 10–12 pictures.
- If you are doing this activity at a reading club and do not have enough scissors, let another child turn over the next picture and continue the story.

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 Noodle
Age: 3 years old
Lives with: Bella and her mom
Favourite snack: dog biscuits
Favourite drink: water
Favourite places to visit: places where he can run around and dig holes
Books he likes: books with animal noises in them, especially dogs that bark

Bokella baphetwa ba Nal’ibali
Seha le ho ipolokela baphetwa ba hao bao a ba ratang ba Nal’ibali mme a ba sebedise ho iketsetsa ditshwantsa, diphauketsa, dipale karape le ka khokhobe.

Mahapolo ke ona…
Seha le ho kolokela baphetwa ba Nal’ibali mme a ba sebedise ho iketsetsa ditshwantsa, diphauketsa, dipale karape le ka khokhobe.

Dilema: 3
O dula le: Bella le mme wa hae
Seneke seo a se ratang: dibokisa tsa dina
Sene se o a se ratang: metso
Dibaka tseo a ratang ho ditela: mabo le ka kgonang
Dibaka tseo a di ratang: dibaka tseo nang le medimo le diphiso, thahola ditlha le bocha ngapo e le leboglo.
As Hans walked up the hill towards his home village, a flash of sparks made him look to the side of the road. A knife-grinder was sharpening knives on his grindstone.

“You seem very happy,” called Hans.

“I am happy,” answered the knife-grinder. “Every knife I grind puts money in my pocket. All you need is a good grindstone and everything else is easy.” Then he looked at Hans rather carefully. “Tell you what,” he said, “I’ll exchange my grindstone for your goose. The grindstone’s a little bit worn, but your goose isn’t brand new either.”

“That is very generous of you,” said Hans. “My, what a day I am having!”

It had been a long day and Hans felt very tired and hot. He stopped at the well for a drink of water. He put the grindstone down carefully and started to wind up the bucket full of water. But the bucket swung and knocked the grindstone off the low wall. It fell into the well with a great splash!

“This is the best thing that has happened so far!” said Hans. “I don’t have to carry that heavy thing one more step. My mother will be glad when I tell her what I have done!” And he walked on up the road without a care in the world.

Tell us if you liked the story, Wise Hans – SMS “Bookmark” with your name and your comments to 32545. R1,00 per SMS.