



Read in your language!

We all have at least one language that we understand and communicate best in, although some of us may have more! People use different labels for this language – like “mother tongue” or “home language” – but it is the language we learnt first. It’s the language we think and feel in, the one in which it is easiest for us to express ourselves and communicate with others.

From birth, children hear language around them. First they understand it and then they start to use it themselves. In fact, by the time they are five years old, children’s brilliant young brains have helped them learn how to think and communicate in their home language. They do still need plenty of opportunities to hear and use their language so that they know it well enough to learn increasingly difficult concepts and skills.

Being read to in your own language should not be considered a nice optional extra for children. It is really an essential and powerful part of learning language and developing literacy. When you read regularly to children in their home language/s, you give them a strong language foundation that makes all learning easier.

If you don’t understand what you are reading, then you are not really reading – no matter how well you can say the words on the page! So, because understanding is at the heart of reading, children need to listen to stories being read in their home language. They can then concentrate completely on the flow of the story instead of struggling to understand a language they don’t know well yet.

Good stories are full of creative language that stimulates our imaginations and gets us thinking about how to solve problems. Authors carefully pick words and phrases that unlock the worlds they are creating for their readers. Like a hearty soup provides goodness to nourish our bodies, reading great stories provides goodness to nourish our minds. They inspire children to read in their home language and then, later on, to learn to read stories in other languages too.

Funda ngolimi lwakho!

Sonke sinalo okungenani ulimi olulodwa esilufundayo nesixhumana kangcono ngalo, noma abanye bethu kungenzeka babe nezingaphezulu kwalokho! Abantu basebenzisa amagama ahlukeni ababiza ngawo lolu limi – afana nalawa: “ulimi lwebele” noma “ulimi lwasekhaya” – kodwa ulimi esilufunda kuqala. Ulimi esicabanga nesizwa imizwa ngalo, lolu okulula ukuthi sizwakalise indlela esizizwa ngayo ngalo futhi nesikwazi nokuxhumana nabanye ngalo.

Kusukela ngesikhathi sokuzalwa, izingane zizwa lolu limi kuyo yonke indawo ezizungezile. Ziqala ngokulufunda bese ziqala ukulusebenzisa nazo. Empeleni, ngesikhathi sezineminyaka emihlanu, imiqondo esemincane ekhaliphile yezingane isuke seyizisize ukuthi zifunde ukuthi zingacabanga kanjani nokuthi zingaxhumana kanjani ngolimi lwazo lwasekhaya. Nokho zisadinga amathuba amaningi okuzwa nokusebenzisa ulimi lwazo ukuze zilwazi ngokwanele ukuthi zingafunda imiqondo kanye namakhono anzima.

Ukufundelwa ngolimi lwakho akumele kube yinto eyengeziwe nje okungakethwa phakathi kwayo nenye ngokuphathelene nezingane. Kuyingxenye ebalulekile nenamandla kakhulu yokufunda nokuthuthukisa ukwazi ukufunda nokubhala. Uma uhlala ufundela izingane ngolimi noma ngezilimi zazo zasekhaya, uzinikeza isisekelo solimi esiqinile esizokwenza ukuthi kube lula konke ukufunda.

Uma ungakuqondi lokho okufundayo, empeleni nje awufundi – noma ngabe ungawasho kahle kanjani amagama asekhasini! Ngakho, ngoba ukuqonda kusemangweni wokufunda, izingane kumele zilalele izindaba ezizifundelwa ngolimi lwazo lwasekhaya. Zingakwazi ukulalela ngokuphelele bese zihambisana nendaba kunokuthi zizame ukuqonda ulimi ezingakalwazi.

Izindaba ezinhle zigcwele ulimi oluveza ubuciko, olukhuthazayo ukuze sizakhele izithombe zokusemqondweni, futhi zisenza sicabange ngokuthi singazisombulula kanjani izinkinga. Ababhali bakhetha ngobuciko amagama namabinzana awo avula umhlaba abawakhela abafundi babo. Ngendlela efanayo isobho eligcwele zonke izakhamzimba elihlinzeka ngayo konke okufanele, nelondla ngayo imizimba yethu, ukufunda izindaba ezinhle kusihlinzeka ngokuhle okuzokondla imiqondo yethu. Zikhuthaza izingane ukuthi zifunde ngolimi lwazo lwasekhaya bese, ekuhambeni kwesikhathi, zifunde ukufunda izindaba ngezinye izilimi futhi.

International Mother Tongue Day is celebrated across the world on 21 February every year. Share a story or two with your children on this day using your mother tongue!

USuku Lomhlaba Wonke Lolimi Lwasekhaya lugujwa emhlabeni wonke ngomhla zingama-21 Febhruwari minyaka yonke. Yabelana ngendaba eyodwa noma ezimbili nezingane zakho ngalolu suku usebenzisa ulimi lwezingane zakho!



Drive your imagination

Read to me. In my language.
Ngifundele. Ngolimi lwami.





Your story

Here is a praise poem originally written in isiXhosa. It is about a pet dog. Enjoy!

Qumezakhe, I am proud of you!

You have long and wide ears
With a long tail.
You are black
Like a night without the moon
Your name is Qumezakhe.
You have fluffy hair.

I'm proud of you.
You are cuddly.
When you walk, you prance
You never disappoint when you are hunting:
Even the jackal's cunning tricks
Do not succeed with you!
You recognise my voice as you approach our homestead.

You help with my father's livestock:
When the goats head off for the fields,
I call you only once, "Qumezakhe, after them!"
You run fast
To round them up.
I am very proud of my dog.

Chuma Sitofu, 9 years, Ihobe Intermediate School, Bloemfontein
This poem was written in isiXhosa and then translated into English.

"Good books acknowledge our existence. They allow us to say what we cannot and give us a feeling of control over our lives. Good books can make you feel better."
Righardt le Roux,
Westonaria
Library Services



Indaba yakho

Nazi izibongo ezaqala zibhalwe ngesiXhosa. Zimayelana nenja engumngani. Zithokozele!

Fihlezakhe, ngiyaziqhenya ngawe!

Usho ngezindleb' ezibhakuzayo,
Usho ngomsila omude.
Unebala elimnyama sengathi ubusuku
Obungenanyanga.
Igama lakho nguFihlezakhe.
Unoboya obumfabamfaba.

Ngiyaziqhenya ngenja yami,
Isibukubuku esihamba sitelebhele.
Angeke ikuphoxe uma uyozingela nayo;
Ngisho namaqhinga empungushe
Ashaya phansi kuleli qhawe.
Ingizwa ngezwi ngisaqhamuka
ngenhla komuzi.

Iwusizo emfuyweni kababa:
Uma izimbuzi ziya emasimini,
Umemeza kube kanye:
"Fihlezakhe, phezu kwabo!" Igijime kakhulu
Izivimbe, zibuyele ekhaya.
Ngiziqhenya kakhulu ngenja yami.

UChuma Sitofu, oneminyaka eyi-9, Ihobe Intermediate School, eBloemfontein
Le nkondo ibibhalwe ngesiXhosa yase ihunyushelwa esiZulwini.



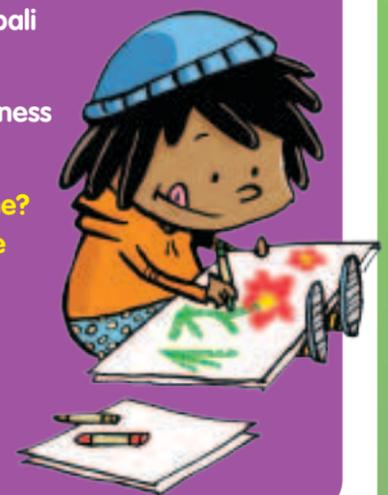
"Izincwadi ezinhle zazisa ngokuphila kwethu. Zisivumela ukuthi sisho lokho esingekke sikwazi ukukusho futhi zisenza sibe nomuzwa wokwazi ukulawula izimpilo zethu. Izincwadi ezinhle zingakwenza uzizwe ungcono."
URighardt le Roux,
eWestonaria Library
Services

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 Nal'ibali 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.

Ngabe uyakuthokozela ukubhala nokudweba? Ngabe ungumuntu omdala obhalela izingane? Noma, ngabe uyingane ekuthokozelayo ukubhala izinkondlo noma izindaba, noma ukudweba izithombe bese ubhala ngazo? Singathanda ukubona ukuthi bewenzani! Uma usithumelela lokho okubhalile nezithombe, ungaba sethubeni lokuthi kushicilelwe esithasiselweni sakwaNal'ibali, noma kusizindalwazi sakwaNal'ibali. Khumbula: ukuthi kumele konke kube umsebenzi wakho!

Thumela okubhalile nezithombe ku-info@nalibali.co.za noma ku-PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.



Nal'ibali on radio!

Enjoy listening to stories in isiZulu and in English on Nal'ibali's radio show:

Ukhozi FM on Monday to Wednesday from 9.20 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

SAfm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.50 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.



UNal'ibali usemsakazweni!

Thokozelani ukulalela izindaba ngesiZulu nesiNgisi ohlelweni lomsakazo lukaNal'ibali:

Ku-Ukhozi FM ngoMsombuluko ukuya kuLwesithathu kusukela ngo-9.20 ekuseni ukuya ku-9.30 ekuseni.

Ku-SAfm ngoMsombuluko, ngoLwesithathu nangoLwesihlanu kusukela ngo-1.50 emini ukuya ku-2.00 emini.

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.

Zakheleni eyenu incwadi enizoyisika niyikhiphe bese niyigcina

1. Khipha amakhasi 3 ukuya ku-6 kulesi sithasiselo.
2. Lisonge libe nguhhafu lapho kunomugqa (ulayini) wamachashaza amnyama khona.
3. Lisonge libe nguhhafu futhi.
4. Sika lapho kunomugqa wamachashaza abomvu khona.





And there is "Sugarbean", skipping in the moonlight. Look at her spots and colours. Isn't that a good name?
 'Awzwake ke! Nangu "uMtshezi", ngxumagxuma ngaphansi konyezi. Awubheke amabala awo nemibala yawo. Uthi akulona igama elihle leli?'



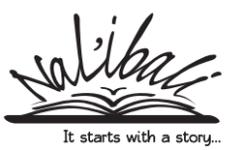

We publish what we like

This is an adapted version of *The Cool Nguni*, published by Jacana Media and available in bookstores and on-line from www.jacana.co.za. This story is also available in isiZulu, isiXhosa, Afrikaans, Siswati, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda and isiNdebele. Jacana publishes books for young readers in all eleven official South African languages. To find out more about Jacana titles go to www.jacana.co.za.

Funda indaba yokuqala, *INguni Elihle*, eyashicilelwa ngabakwa-Jacana Media kanti itholakala ezitolo zamabhuku kanye naku-inthanethiekhelini elithi: www.jacana.co.za. Le ndaba iyatholakala futhi ngesiNgisi, isiXhosa, isiBhunu, isiSotho, isiTswana, isiTsonga, isiVenda nesiNdebele. Abakwa-Jacana bashicilela amabhuku abafundi abasha ngazo zonkeizilimi ezisemthethweni zaseNingizimu Afrika. Ukuthola ulwazingezihloko ze-Jacana ngena ku: www.jacana.co.za.

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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



UNal'ibali umkhankaso wokufundela ukuzithokozisa kazwelonke wokokhela lokho okungenziwa yizingane ngokuxoxa nangokufunda izindaba. Ukuze uthole eminye imininingwane, vakashela ku-www.nalibali.org noma ku-www.nalibali.mobi



Fold  3

The Cool Nguni INguni Elihle

Maryanne Bester
 Shayle Bester

And that's not all. Just look at the hides of your relatives. There are so many kinds. Each pattern and each colour has its own name;
 'Look, there is "Caterpillars of the Marula Tree". Look closely at the stripes on her shoulders. Don't you think they look like fat black caterpillars?'



'Akukhona nje lokhu kuphela. Ake ubheke isikhumba sezinhlobo zakho. Yizinhlobo ngezinhlobo. Iphethini ngayinye nombala ngamunye kunegama lakho;
 'Awubheke, nangu "uMacimbomganu". Bhekisisa kahle imithende esemahlombe akhe. Ayifani nje namacimbi amakhulu amnyama?'

Fold 

'Bhaka laphaya phezulu. Bhaka umhlambi wezinkomo zezulu zesiNguni. Bhaka lapho zidla khona utshani ekukhanyeni okumangalisayo. Izinkomo zesiNguni ziningi yini pho! Zishiya amacashaza ezinselo zawo emkhathini zikhanyise isibhakabhaka ngezinkanyezi;

'Look up. Look up at the Nguni herds of the sky. Look where they graze in the great light. There are so many Nguni cattle that their hooves stamp holes in the heavens and set the sky ablaze with stars;



Little Nguni Calf was worried. 'I'm not cool enough,' he said to Mama Nguni Cow.

Inkonyane uNguni lalikhathazeke kakhulu. 'Angimuhle ngokwanele,' lisho kuMama uNguni, inkomo.

'Manje ngubani lowaya misa omdala okathale ohlezi esihlalweni sakhe? Bambiza bathi "uMasevutshiwé". Ubobheka ibhodwe ngesikhathi esizayo uma sipheke izinkobe, uyokubona lokhu;



'Now who is that tired old one resting in his chair? He is called "Boiled Mealie Grains". Look into the pot the next time we cook mealies, and that is what you will see;

'Ah... Nguni cattle. Star cattle. Strong cattle. ... DESIGNER cattle!' said Mama Nguni Cow.

Nguni Calf smiled.

'COOL NGUNI!' he said.



'Hha ... Izinkomo zesiNguni. Izinkomo eziphuma phambili. Izinkomo eziphile saka. Izinkomo ZEKHETHELO!' kusho umama uNguni, inkomo.

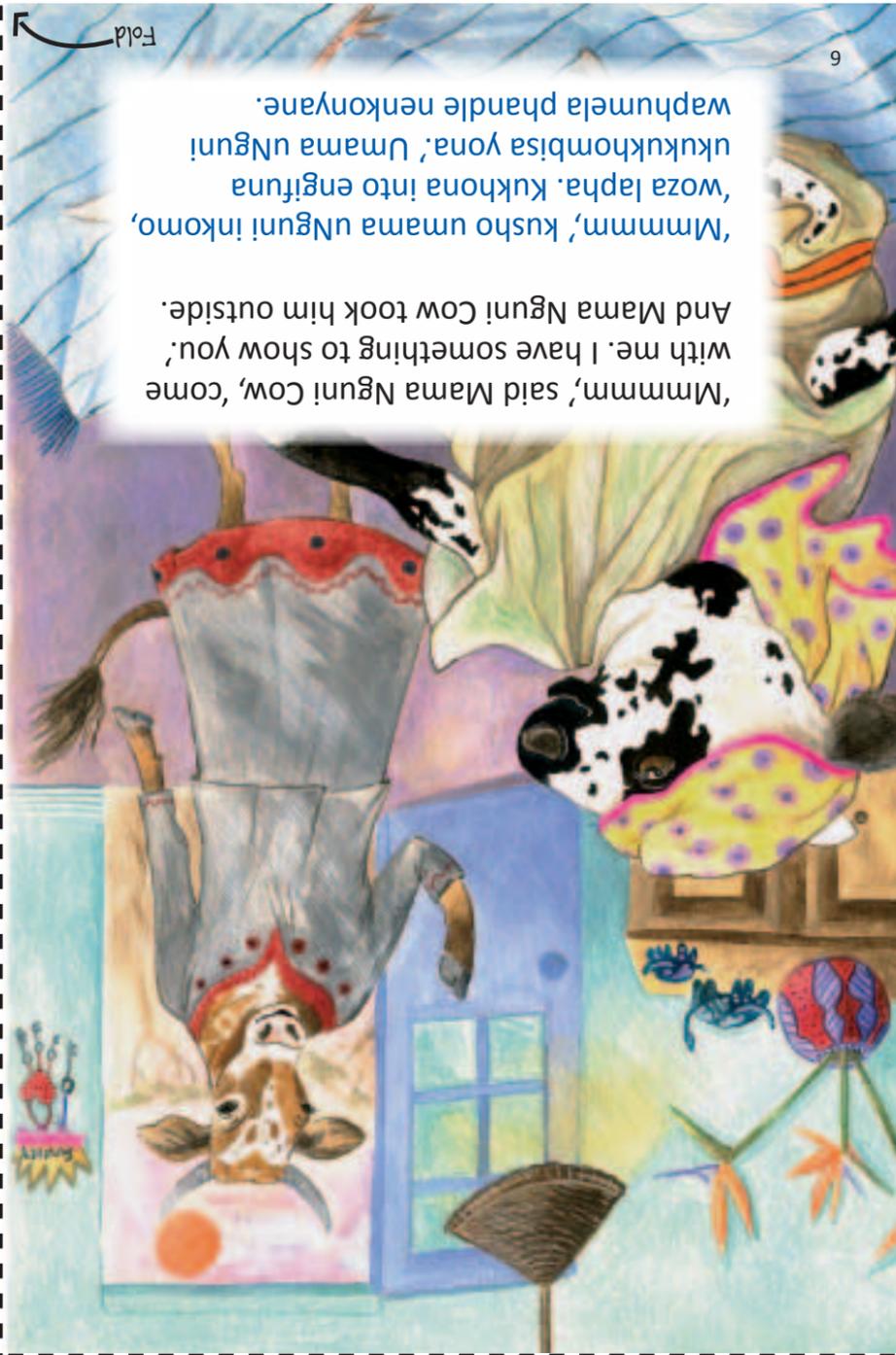
Inkonyane uNguni lamomotheka.

'NGUNI ELIHLE' lasholo phansi.

'Ake ubheke nangu umasikhozi ezibheke esibukweni. Ucabanga ukuthi uyazi ukuthi isikhumba sakhe sifana nesitsha samasi esizungezwe yizimpukane ezibhuzayo? Phele bambiza bathi "uMasenezimpukane";



'Look at this one admiring himself in the mirror. Do you think he knows that his hide looks like a bowl of sour milk with flies buzzing around it? For he is called "Sour Milk and Flies";



'Mmmm,' said Mama Nguni Cow, 'come with me. I have something to show you; And Mama Nguni Cow took him outside. 'Mmmm,' kusho uMama uNguni inkomo, 'woza lapha. kukhona into engifuna ukukhombisa yona; Umama uNguni waphumela phandle nenkonyane.

'Those cattle from over the sea – they're cool. The Longhorn cattle from the wild, Wild West. Cowboy cattle. Rodeo cattle. Bucking cattle. YEE-HAH! That's cool!'

'Mmmmm,' said Mama Nguni Cow.



'Awubheke nje leziya zinkomo ezingaphesheya kolwandle – azive zizinhle. Umpondonde inkomo yaseNtshonalanga. Inkomo yabafana. Inkunzi yokuholobha. Inkunzi yokuqabavula. YE – YE HE! Akuve kukuhle!'

'Mmmm,' kusho uMama uNguni, inkomo.



'The Brahman cattle from India. Velvet cattle. Sacred cattle. Street cattle. OMMMM! That's cool!' said Little Nguni Calf.

'Bramani inkomo yaseNdiya. Isimomondiya senkomo. Inkomo yamadlozi. Inkomo yendlela. OOMMM. Akuve kukuhle!' kusho inkoyane uNguni.



'The Highland cattle from Scotland. Shaggy cattle. Craggy cattle. OCH-AYE! That's cool!' 'Mmmmm,' said Mama Nguni Cow.



'Umavukuvuku waseScotland. Umanikiniki wenkomo. Umahlikihliki wenkomo. O-HE Akuve kukuhle!' 'Mmmmm,' kusho uMama uNguni, inkomo.



'Now look at you and me. I am "Stones of the Ngyoye Forest". You have seen the little stones that lie on the pathways between the trees – see them scattered across my arm!

And you, you are "Gaps Between the Branches". When you rest in the shade of a tree, the sun makes shadows. The gaps between the branches shine brightly and make many interesting shapes. Just look at the shapes on your hide! Aren't you glad we can't wash them off?'



'Manje ake ubheke mina nawe. Mina "nginguMatshongoye". Uke uwabone amatshana amancane atholakala phansi ezindleleni eziphakathi kwezihlahla – wabheke nawa agcwele ingalo yami!

Wena-ke ungu-"Zikhalazemithi". Uma uphumula ngaphansi komthunzi wesihlahla, ilanga lenza izithunzi. Izikhala eziphakathi kwamagatsha ziyakhazimula zakhe izimo ezinhlobonhlobo. Ake uzibheke lezi zimo esikhumbeni sakho! Awujabuli ukwazi ukuthi ngeke sikwazi nhlobo ukuzigeza?'

Get story active!

Here are some activities based on the story, *The Cool Nguni*, for you and your children to try.

As you read the story together

- Make comments and ask open-ended questions that help your children explore the story. For example, after reading page 1, you could say, "I wonder what made Little Nguni Calf think he wasn't cool enough. Can you think what might have happened?"
- Draw your children's attention to the details in the illustrations. For example:
 - talk together about how the cows on pages 3, 4 and 5 look similar in some ways and different in others
 - spend time finding the patterns on the cows on pages 8 to 13 that are described in the words on these pages.

After you have read the story

- Talk together about what it means to be "cool". Ask, "Who decides what is 'cool'? Why do these people get to make this decision? Is that fair?"
- Ask your children to describe some of the things that make them special or "cool". Tell them what you think makes them special.
- Encourage your children to write a list called "10 things that make me cool". Let older children write for themselves – even if they don't always get the spelling and punctuation correct! Help younger children with their lists by writing down the words they tell you. Display your children's list in their bedrooms or on the fridge!



Yenza indaba ihlabe umxhwele!

Nansi eminye imisebenzi esuselwa endabeni ethi, *INGuni Elihle* eningayizama nezingane zakho.

Ngenkathi nifunda indaba ndawonye

- Phawula ubuze imibuzo engaba nezimpendulo eziningi ukuze usize izingane zakho ukuthi zijule nendaba. Isibonelo, ngemva kokufunda ikhasi loku-1, ungathi, "Kazi yini eyayenza uNkonyane uNguni ukuthi acabange ukuthi akamuhle ngokwanele. Ungacabanga ukuthi ngabe kwakwenzekeni?"
- Khombisa izingane zakho yonke imininingwane esemidwebeni. Isibonelo:
 - xoxani ndawonye ngokuthi izinkomo ezisekhasini lesi-3, elesi-4 nelesi-5 zifana kanjani ngezindlela ezithile nokuthi zihluke kanjani ngezinye izindlela.
 - chithani isikhathi niithola amaphethini asezinkomeni ezisekhasini lesi-8 ukuya kwele-13 ezichazwe ngamagama kula makhasi.

Ngemuva kokuba ufunde indaba

- Xoxani ndawonye ngokuthi kuchaza ukuthini ukuba "muhle". Buza ukuthi, "Ubani onquma ukuthi yini 'enhle'? Kungani laba bantu bethatha lesi sinqumo? Ngabe kufanele lokho?"
- Cela izingane zakho ukuthi zichaze ezinye zezinto ezizenza zikhetheke noma zibe "zinhle". Zitshele ukuthi ucabanga ukuthi yini ezenza zikhetheke.
- Khuthaza izingane zakho ukuthi zibhale uhlu olubizwa ngokuthi "izinto eziyi-10 ezikwenza ube muhle". Vumela izingane ezindala ukuthi zizibhalele – noma ngabe zingahlali zipela amagama kahle futhi zingahlali zifaka nezimpawu zenkulumo ezifanele! Siza izingane ezincane ukuthi zenze uhlu lwazo ngokuthi ubhale amagama ezikutshela wona. Phanyeka uhlu lwezingane zakho emakamelweni azo okulala noma efrijini!

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 Hope

Age: 10

Friends: Neo, Josh

Favourite fruit: bananas

Favourite sport: karate

Books she likes: novels about the daily lives of children her own age, and information books about wild animals or karate

Ziqoqele abalingiswa bakwaNal'ibali

Sika bese ugcina bonke abalingiswa bakwaNal'ibali obathandayo, ubasebenzisele ukwenza ezakho izithombe, izindaba noma nanoma yini oyicabangayo!

Okumayelana noHope

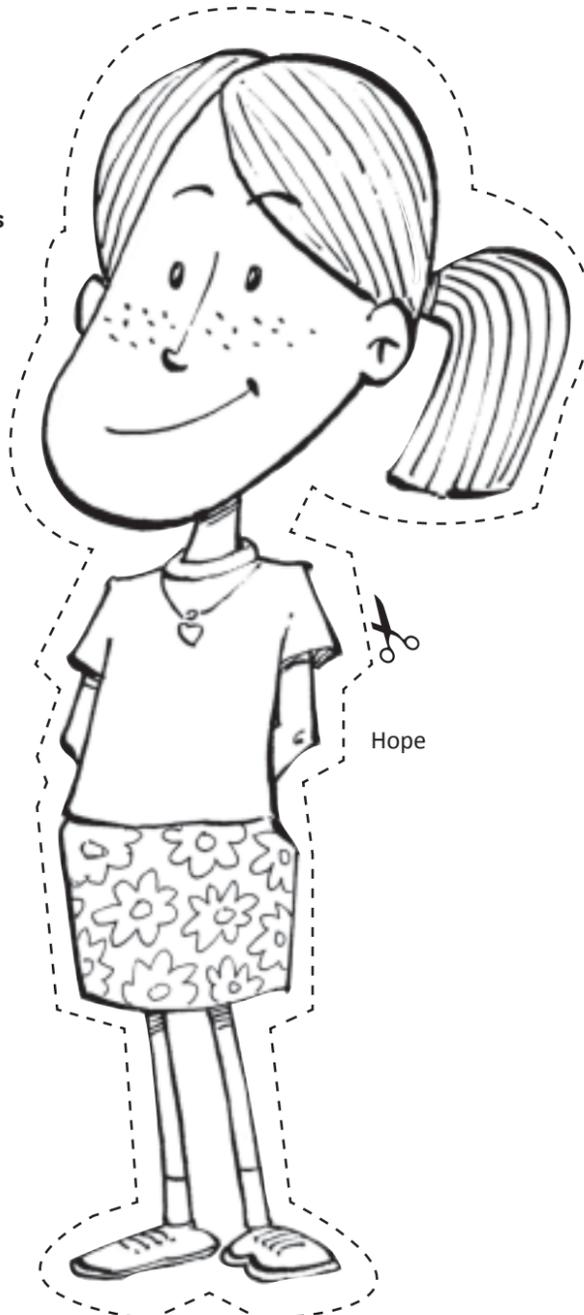
Iminyaka yobudala: 10

Abangani: uNeo, uJosh

Isithelo asithandayo: ubhanana

Ezemidlalo azithandayo: umkhalambazo

Izincwadi azithandayo: amanoveli amayelana nezimpilo zansuku zonke zezingane ezingangaye, nezincwadi ezinikeza ulwazi ngezilwane zasendle noma ezimayelana nomkhalambazo



Here's an idea...

- Cut out and colour in the picture of Hope and then paste it on a large sheet of paper. Next draw a thought bubble above Hope's head. Then draw a picture inside the thought bubble to show Hope thinking about competing in her next karate competition.
- Or, 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!

Nali icebo...

- Sika ukhiphe bese uhlobisa ngombala isithombe sikaHope bese usinamathisela ephapheni elikhulu. Emva kwalokho dweba ibhamuza lokucatshangwayo ngaphezu kwekhanda likaHope. Bese udweba isithombe ngaphakathi kwebhamuza lokucatshangwayo ukhombise uHope ecabanga ngokuqhudelana nabanye emqhudelwaneni olandelayo.
- Noma, ugcine isithombe endaweni ephaphile bese kuthi uma usuthole bonke abalingiswa bakwaNal'ibali, ubasebenzisele ukuzenzela eyakho iphosta yakwaNal'ibali!

Story corner

Here is the first part of a story for you to enjoy reading aloud. It is about Malusi and his sister, Zandi ... and monsters!

Malusi and the Bath Monster (Part 1)

by Leo Daly

Every word that follows is true. Cross my heart that I won't lie, and if I do I'll eat a fly!

My older sister, Zandi, and I like to play in the garden. We stamp around in the mud and dig deep holes. Bare feet are best. You get to feel the mud squishing up between your toes!

Mama says, "Ai, you two! Only pigs like mud that much." But it's okay, because there's nothing better than a warm bath after playing in the garden.

Zandi is worse than me – much worse. I just get my hands and feet dirty. Zandi gets everything dirty. She jumps right into the holes and rolls around in the mud. She gets her hair and arms dirty. She even gets her nose dirty.

Mama says, "It's bath time you two!"

But Zandi won't come inside. "Malusi," she says to me, "I'm staying right here – in this hole!"

I tell her that she'll have to come inside for a bath, but Zandi just shakes her head.

But I love all the soapy bubbles. I scrub the dirt off my feet. I scrub and scrub. Next I clean my face. That feels so good.

Then Zandi walks in. She's still dirty all over. "Malusi," she says, "aren't you scared of the Bath Monster?"

"There's no such thing as a Bath Monster," I laugh.

"Oh yes, there is," says Zandi. "It comes up through the plug hole and has three arms and four eyes and it's always hungry." I think Zandi is just trying to scare me.

"And I'll tell you something," says Zandi, "there's nothing the Bath Monster likes more than to eat *clean* children."

Now I'm just a little bit scared. Maybe there really is a Bath Monster.

Zandi gives me a big smile, "Okay, Malusi. Enjoy your bath – but don't get eaten up!" She walks out of the bathroom and goes straight to bed. She's going to make her bed all dirty, but at least she won't be eaten by the Bath Monster.

Do you think there really is a Bath Monster? Find out next week if Malusi ever gets to meet it, or whether Zandi is just teasing him.

Ikhona lezindaba

Nansi ingxenye yokuqala yendaba ozothokozela ukuyifunda kakhulu. Imayelana noMalusi nodadewabo, uZandi ... nezinunu!

UMalusi neNunu yakuBhavu (Ingxenye yoku-1)

ebhalwe nguLeo Daly

Izwi elilandelayo ngalinye liyiqiniso. Ngiyafunga ngiyagomela ukuthi angeke ngiqambe amanga, uma ngingaqamba amanga ngizodlisa impukane!

Udadewethu omdala, uZandi, nami sithanda ukudlala engadini. Sixova udaka sigubhe nemigodi ejulile. Kungcono kakhulu ukushaya ngoCetshwayo. Uzwa udaka luputshuka phakathi kwezinzwane zakho!

UMama uthi, "Hheyi, nina nobabili! Izingulube kuphela ezithanda udaka kangaka." Akunandaba-ke kodwa, ngoba ayikho into engcono kunokugeza ngamanzi afudumele ngemva kokudlala engadini.

Kodwa mina ngingcono kunoZandi – ngingcono kakhulu. Ngingcolisa izandla nezinyawo zami kuphela. UZandi ungcola yonke indawo. Ugxuma angene emigodini azigingqwe odakeni. Ungcolisa izinwele nezingalo zakhe. Ungcolisa nekhala lakhe imbala.

UMama uthi, "Sekuyisikhathi sokugeza, kini nobabili!"

Kodwa uZandi akafuni ukungena endlini. "Malusi," esho kimi, "ngiyahlala la – kulo mgodi!"

Ngimtshela ukuthi kuzomele angene endlini azozeza, kodwa uZandi uvele anikine ikhanda lakhe.

Kodwa ngiyawathanda lawo magwebu ensipho yokugeza. Manje sekuyisikhathi sokukhuhla ukungcola kuphume ezinyaweni. Ngiyakhuhla ngiphinde ngikhuhle. Manje sekuyisikhathi sokuhlamba ubuso bami. Kwaze kwamnandi bo.

Sekungena uZandi ngaleso sikhathi. Usangcole yonke indawo. "Malusi," kusho yena, "awuyesabi yini iNunu yakuBhavu?"

"Ayikho into okuthiwa yiNunu yakuBhavu," ngisho ngihleka.

"Yebo, ikhona," kusho uZandi. "Ingena ngesivimbo samanzi sikabhavu, inezingalo ezintathu namehlo amane futhi ihlale ilambile." Ngicabanga ukuthi uZandi uzama ukungethusa nje.

"Futhi ngizokutshela okunye," kusho uZandi, "ayikho into ethandwa yiNunu yakuBhavu njengokudla izingane ezihlanzekile."

Manje sengithukile kancane. Kungenzeka ukuthi ikhona ngempela iNunu yakuBhavu.

UZandi ungibuka ngokumamatheka okukhulu, "Kulungile, Malusi. Thokozela ukugeza – kodwa ungadliwa!" Uphuma egumbini lokugeza aqonde ngqo embhedeni. Uzowungcolisa umbhede wakhe, kodwa okungenani angeke adliwe yiNunu yakuBhavu.

Ngabe ucabanga ukuthi ikhona ngempela yini iNunu yakuBhavu? Thola ngesonto elizayo ukuthi ngabe uMalusi uyahlangana yini nayo, noma ingabe mhlawumbe uZandi udlala ngaye nje.

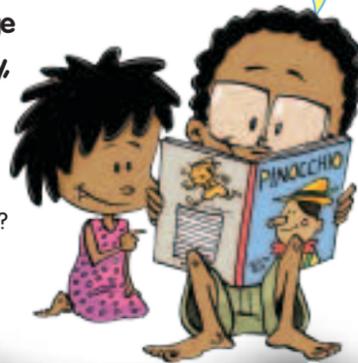
Illustration by Magriet Brink
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