Are you lucky enough to have a library near you? Libraries offer us a wealth of stories and information to enrich our lives. Smaller libraries have hundreds of books while larger ones have thousands for us to choose from, giving us a wider choice of reading material than we could ever own – and we get to take some of the books home for a while!

From 15 to 22 March 2014, South African Library Week will celebrate the role libraries have played in our country over the last 20 years. This year’s theme is “check in to your library.” During this week, libraries around the country want to reach out specifically to children and young adults who are not regular library users to show them what’s on offer. So, read the reasons we think it’s worth being a regular library user, then take your whole family to visit your library during Library Week and do the following:

- Sign everyone up as members so that you can all borrow books and other resources.
- Discover what materials and regular activities it has to offer.
- Experience some of the special events held to celebrate Library Week.
- Take time to explore different sections of your library, particularly those that you have not borrowed books from before – choose books with titles or covers that interest you and just “dip” into them.
- Visit the children’s section and, if you had a favourite storybook as a child, find it so that you can read it to your children. Also find a book which you have never read before that you and your children can explore together.
- If you run a reading club, talk to the librarian about making “block loans” which allow you to borrow a larger number of books for a longer period of time than other library users.

Do you want to get information on children and reading on your cellphone? Go to www.nalibali.mobi to find tips and ideas on choosing and exploring stories with children.
1. **Help your children be better readers.** Research shows that children who use the library are nearly twice as likely to be above-average readers than children who don't. (National Literacy Trust)

2. **Establish the reading habit.** Regular trips to the library help you and your children make a regular “date” with books so you all get into the habit of reading!

3. **Something for everyone.** Libraries offer books for all ages and interests, all under one roof – from board books for babies, to picture books for young children, and novels and information books for older children and adults.

4. **Reading for free.** Libraries offer a wider variety of reading material than we could ever own – and it is free!

5. **Who’s your favourite?** Libraries are great places to find out who your favourite authors are – and you can keep discovering new ones too!

6. **Reading to write.** Reading stories written by others can help inspire children’s own story writing.

7. **More than books.** Many libraries also offer more than just books – for example, CDs, DVDs, newspapers and magazines. Some libraries also have computers you can use to access the Internet.

8. **Enjoy free activities.** Some libraries offer activities especially for children (like regular storytelling times) that let them have fun with books.

9. **Ask for advice.** Librarians are knowledgeable! Ask them about good and popular books for children, teenagers and yourself.

10. **Quiet space.** The library is a peaceful place for older children to do their homework. There are plenty of books to help them do research for school projects and assignments.

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**Mabaka a 10 a ho sebedisana laeborari ya heno**

1. **Ho thusa bana ba hao ho ba babadi ba betere.** Dipatlisiso di bontsha hore bana ba sebedisang laeborari ba na le kgonahalo ya hore ba ka fetisha babadi ba boemong ba ka hodimo ho ba tlwaelo ho feta bana ba sa sebediseng laeborari. (National Literacy Trust)

2. **Bopa tlwaelo ya ho bala.** Maeto a nako tsohle a ho ya laeboraring a thusa wena le bana ba hao ho hilopisa “letseta” la tlwaelo mmoho le dibuka e le hore bohle le tle le tlwaelo ho bala!

3. **Ho hong bakeng sa bohle.** Dilaeborari di fana ka dibuka bakeng sa batho ba dilemo tsohle le ditlabatabela tsohle, mme tsohle di ka hara mooabo a le mong – ho tloha ho dibuka tsa diboto bakeng sa masea, ho isa ho dibuka tsa dishwantsho tsa bana ba banyenyane, le dinobele le dibuka tsa tlhahisoleseding bakeng sa bana ba baholwanyane le batho ba baholo.

4. **Ho bala mahola.** Dilaeborari di fana ka kgetho e batsi ya di-sebedisa tsa ho bala ho feta kamoo rona re neng re ka le tsona kateng – mme ke tsa mahola!

5. **Ke mang eo o mo ratang ka ho fetisisa?** Dilaeborari ke dibuka tse ntle tsa ho fumana horo ebe bangodi bao o ba ratang le bate – mme hope e ka nna wa tswela pele ho fumana ba bang ba batjha!

6. **Ho balla ho ngola.** Ho bala dipale tse ngotseng ke batho ba bang ho ka thusa ho susumeletsa bana ho ngola dipale tsa bana.

7. **Tse ding ntle le dibuka.** Dilaeborari tse ngota hope di fana le ka dintho tse ding ntle le dibuka – ho etsa mahola, di-CD, di-DVD, dikoranto le dimakasine. Dilaeborari tse ding hope di na le dikomputa tse o le ka di sebedisang bakeng sa ho fumana inthanete.

8. **Natelfwa ke diketsahalo tsa mahola.** Dilaeborari tse ding di fana ka diketsahalo tse itseng tse etsedsweng bana tse kang dinako tsa kamehla tsa ho pheto dipale) tse etsang hore ba natelfwe ke dibuka.

9. **Kopa keletso.** Basebetsi ba di-laeborari ba na le tsebo e ngota! Ba botse ka dibuka tse lokileleng le tse ratwang haholo bakeng sa bana, baljha le bakeng sa hao.

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[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org)  [www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi)  [nalibaliSA](http://nalibaliSA)  [nalibaliSA](http://nalibaliSA)  [@nalibaliSA](http://@nalibaliSA)
She made the cats huddle up together into a blanket for her bed, a cover for her bony feet, a shawl for her scrawny shoulders and a rug for her lap. The cats were terrified. They wished they had listened to Theo.

Theo watched from outside. "How," he wondered, "do I get them out of the house?"

But there was no way he could get in. He ran back to the library to find a book about unlocking doors and opening windows. He tried, but the doors stayed locked and the windows shut.

He studied instructions on how to make a hot air balloon so that he could land on the roof. But the hot air balloon bounced off the chimney, sailed past the house and got stuck in a tree. He tried everything. Nothing worked.

Theo a sheba a eme ka ntle. "Ebe," a ipotsa, "nka ba ntsha jwang ntlong eo?" Empa ho ne ho sena kamoo a ka kenang.

Theo lived with his mother, his brother and his sister, right next to the library. The other cats in town were only interested in food, fun and fighting, but not Theo. He loved to read. He went to the library and read everything from comics to encyclopaedias. He learnt that the world was round and that the sea was salty. He learnt how to make bubblegum and spot satellites. He also learnt that every question had an answer – and Theo loved asking questions.

"Ma-aaa, where do kittens come from? Why is winter cold and summer warm? How do clouds float in the sky?" Theo asked his mother.

"Go to the library, dear. You will find all those answers in books."

Theo went back home to his mother and his brother and sister. He liked living right next to the library. Because he still wanted to read, hundreds of books, learn about a thousand things and, of course, ask a million and one questions.

He went back to the library, and on a table, in the corner, he saw a book called *The Little Man in Red.*

"That’s it," he cried. He borrowed a red tablecloth and a large bag. He searched for a rope, a ladder and a very big piece of cheese. Then he had a meeting with the library mice.

"And now," said Mrs Pratt, "this is what happens here!" She stood on top of the table and shouted, "Your duty, each and every one of you, is … TO KEEP ME WARM!"

"You'll get fed once a week IF you behave. There are no birthdays. There are NO holidays!" she shouted. "And THERE IS NO CHRISTMAS!"
Now, at the other end of the town was a large house. Mrs Pratt lived there. She lived alone without a single pet. She grumbled, muttered and moaned about everything.

“I’m cold,” she said, “from the top of my head right down to my feet. I don’t like winter!”

Jwale, ka nqane ka lehlakoreng le leng la toropo ho ne ho ena le ntle e kgolo. Mof Pratt o ne a dula teng. O ne a dula a le mong a se na le phete e le nngwe. O ne a honotha, a rilatlaletsa mme a tlela ka nthe e nngwe le e nngwe.

“Ke hatsetse,” a rialo, “ho tloha tse ka ho ya tla leboho ya nte. Ha ka rate mariha!”

Theo gave the mice the big piece of cheese and they ran back to the library.

The cats cheered. They carried Theo around on their shoulders and bounced him up and down in the red table cloth.

With Mrs Pratt gone, every single cat in town collected their belongings and moved into her house. They called it CAT COTTAGE … but not Theo.

The house was enormous. There was a fireplace in every room and there were little bowls set out everywhere.

“See!” said a snooty Siamese to Theo. “You’re just a scaredy-cat,” and she walked inside. Every single cat in town walked up the steps, through the front door and into the house, but not Theo. He watched from the garden gate. Only he saw Mrs Pratt lock the doors and shut all the windows. Inside, not a saucer was filled, nor a fire lit.

Meanwhile, back at the house, Mrs Pratt sat in her armchair, covered in cats. “PURR!” she ordered. “All of you purr. It makes the room warmer. Wait! There’s a chilly wind coming in. I want five cats to block the chimney.”

Suddenly there was a loud KERPLUNK sound that came down the chimney!
One day, when she was out shopping, she saw some cats. They looked so snug and warm in their soft fur coats. Mrs Pratt smiled a nasty smile and she scurried home, a plan already bubbling in the back of her brain.

The next day she was back. "Oh, I do ADORE cats!" she said. "I have a HUGE house. It has a fireplace in every room. There will be milk and food every day with fish on Fridays. Every cat is welcome." She peered around. "White cats, black cats, thin cats, fat cats, any cats … ALL CATS.

"Why does she keep saying that?" asked a ginger tom as he crept closer. Mrs Pratt sniggered. She crouched down and scratched the top of his head with a bony finger. "Oh, I adore cats," she said again and smiled a crooked smile.

"Well, here are the presents." The strange creature opened the bag and out ran hundreds of mice.

Mrs Pratt shrieked. She shot out of her chair and ran for the door. Theo did not have to open it. Mrs Pratt did that all by herself. She ran so fast that she ran into the street, into the town, right into next week and was never seen again.

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"Leha ho le jwalo, dimpho le tse na he." Sebopuwa se makatsang sa bula mokotliana mme ha tswa ditweba tse magokoloko.

Mof Pratt a tsho haholo. A tloa setulong sa hae mme a mathela monyako. Theo ha a ka a tla meha ho bula lemadi. Mof Pratt o ile a ipulela lona ka boyna. O ile a matha haholo hoo a ile a mathela seterateng, a leba toropong, ho fihilea bekeng e tlang mme ha a ka hlowa a bonwa hape.
**Story stars**

**Libraries as literacy leaders**

Lulama Langeni is the senior librarian at Harare Library (Khayelitsha, Western Cape) which is working hard to promote reading for enjoyment amongst children. We spoke to Lulama about reading and writing for pleasure.

**Why is reading for enjoyment important?**

It takes you to places that you have never been and helps you to think outside the box.

**How do you encourage children to read for enjoyment?**

I listen to them and talk about books. I also make sure that they know that I think they are good readers and I am never too busy to listen to them when they want to read to me. And, when I am reading with them, they have my full attention!

**How can adults help children develop as readers and writers?**

It is very important to join a library so that at least one parent can visit the library with their children and take books home. We want our children to grow up in homes with books! I would advise parents to make time for everyone to read together, as well as time to share stories and keep the oral tradition going. Also, have scrap paper at home for children to write their stories on.

**How can libraries help develop their communities?**

Libraries can promote lifelong learning by making sure that their collection includes a variety of materials, like books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers and magazines, and that these are all arranged in ways that make it easy for people to use them. It is also important for libraries to form partnerships with others who are passionate about literacy and investing in the community. We can encourage reading through hosting storytelling sessions and organising reading programmes at our libraries, and by supporting local reading clubs.

**Which children's story do you love to read or tell, again and again?**

I have always loved Cinderella! There is a fun, modern version of Little Red Riding Hood by Tony Bradman that I really like – in it, Red Riding Hood even has a cell phone! Then my new favourite is Three Friends and a Taxi by Maryanne Bester.

**Finish the sentence: Children should visit their libraries because …**

... libraries are fun, free and interesting!

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**Dinaledi tsatse dipale**

**Dilaeborari jwaloka baetapele ba tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola**

Lulama Langeni ka mosebetsi ya ka seholoong wa Laoeborari ya Harare (Khayelitsha, Kapa Bophirima) se sebetsang ka thata ho phahamisa ho bala bakeng sa ho natelefwa hara bana. Re ile ra buisana le Lulama ka ho bala le ho ngola monate.

**Hobaneng ha ho bala boithabiso ho le bohlwkwa?**

Ho o nkra ho a isa dabakeng tsa a sa di tsebeng mme ho a thusa ho nahana ho isela a lokolihieng.

O kgotholetsa bana jwang hore ba balle boithabiso?

Ke a ba mamela le ho bua ka dibuka. Hape ke e tsela bonnete ho hare a o tsebo hore ke nahana hore ke babadi ka bhalwa hore mme ka neke ke hloka nako ya ho ba mamela ba ba bala ka mpalala. Mme, ha ke bala le bana, ke tsepmasia maiikuto a ka ho bana feela!

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**Batho ba baholo ka ho thusa bana jwang ho hola e le babadi le bangoidi?**

Ho bohlokwa ho ingubida laeboraring hore banyane molwadi a le mang a tla a kgana ho etelo laeborari le bana ba hae mme a nako dibuka ho ya le tsona hae. Re ba bala hore bana ba rona ba holele malapeng a nang le dibuka! Naka eletsa batswadi horo ba be le nako bakeng sa bala ka bala mmoabo, esitana le nako ya ho phetelana dipale le ho dula ba nthetsa pele moeto wa ho di phetela. Hape o ka bo le parki tsa ho kwangtala lapeng hore bana ba ile ba ngole dipale tsa bana ho tsona.

**Dilaeborari di ka thusa jwang ho nthetsa pele baadi ba motse?**


**Ke pale efe ya bana eo o ratala ho e bala kapo ho e phetla, kgafetsa le kgafetsa lekgoteke?**

Haesa le ke nite ke rata Cinderella! Ho na le kgatlana o monate, ya sejwalejwale ya Little Red Riding Hood ka Tony Bradman a ke e o ratala hula! – ho yena, Red Riding Hood a bile a na le seloowa! Eile tlethala ya e ka njeke ke Three Friends a e bale kana Maryanne Bester.

**Qetella polelo ena: Bana ba lukela ho etelo dilaeborari bobane …**

... dilaeborari di monate, ke tsa mahala mme di a kgobetso!

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**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.

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.

**Khetsetsa bukana e-sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa**

1. Ntsha leqephe la 3 ho isa ha le 6 bukaneng ena ya fisetsela.
2. Le mene ka halolo hodima mola wa mathebe a matsho.
3. Le mene ka halolo hape.
4. Seha hodima mela ya mathebe a matshedu.
Kamuzu’s voice (Part 2)
by Avril Wid

Kamuzu looked at his friends. “Nobody’s helping me. Everyone is just munching and crunching,” he whispered sadly. He walked back to the farm to continue his search on his own. Kamuzu looked under the bushes, behind the shed and up at the clouds. Then he looked towards the hills.

“Oh no, there’s a storm coming! It’s already raining in the hills. That means the river is going to flood. I have to warn the animals. But I can only whisper, they’ll never hear me.”

Kamuzu felt the first raindrops plop-plop on his back. The river was already rising. Everyone was still busy munching and crunching.

Kamuzu opened his mouth, but nothing happened. He had to do something. If his friends tried to cross the river, they would all drown. He tossed his head, shook his mane and stamped the ground with his hooves. None of his friends noticed him. The waves in front of him raced and rushed.

Just then it started to rain harder. All the animals looked up and started to run towards the river.

Kamuzu forgot about his last voice. He faced the rushing river and, galloping as fast as he could towards it, took an enormous jump right over the raging water. As he landed on the other side he opened his mouth and shouted, “STOP! DON’T CROSS!”

The animals were shocked. They had never heard such a loud voice come out of Kamuzu’s mouth.

“Go back!” Kamuzu shouted. “Go up to the rocks.”

Everyone ran to the rocks to shelter from the rain.

“You saved us, Kamuzu,” said Baas.

“Thank you.”

“Your voice,” said Snorkel.

“Yes,” said Dazio, “it’s nice to hear you. We were always so quiet, we thought you just didn’t want to talk to us.”

“I’m shy,” said Kamuzu. “I never know what to say.”

“But we’re friends,” said the rabbits. “You don’t have to be shy with us.”

“From now on,” said Basa, “we want to hear you speak. Promise you will?”

“Promise! Promise! Promise!” they all said together.

And, Kamuzu, the horse, lifted his head to the sky and shouted, “YES! YES! YES! I PROMISE!”

Tell us if you liked the story, Kamuzu’s voice – SMS

“Bookmark” with your name and your comments to 32545. R1,00 per SMS.

Have you joined the Nal’ibali network yet?

Visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi to register – and receive a monthly newsletter with exclusive competitions and other great benefits.

In your next Nal’ibali supplement:

• Tips for telling stories
• Our readers’ letters and messages
• Days to celebrate in April
• A cut-out-and-keep book, The trader and the farmer
• Poems to read in celebration of World Poetry Day

In your next Nal’ibali supplement:

• Dikeletsa tsa ho pheta dipale
• Mangolo le melaetsa ya babadi ba rona
• Matsatsi a ketelekgwana ka Mmesa
• Bukana e-sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa, Mohwebi le rapolasi
• Dihothokiso tse ka ballwong ho keteka Letsetsi la Dihothokiso la Lefatshe


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Setshwantsho ka Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Illustration by Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Tlatsetsong ya hao e latelang ya Nal’ibali:

Poems to read in celebration of World Poetry Day

Setshwantsho ka Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Illustration by Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Hukung ya dipale

Ena ke karolo ya ho qetela ya pale e mabapi le pere e dihlong. Kamuzu, eo a ka e baling ho dimo kapa wa e pheta.

Lentswe la Kamuzu (Karolo ya 2)
ka Avril Wid

Kamuzu a sheba metswale ya hae. “Ha ho motho ya nthusang. Bohle ba a fula mme ba le Hafuma, a hwehswela yalo ya Halamane. Yaba o kgutlela palasing ho ya takwela pale le hapatle ka boayena. Kamuzu a sheba ka luma diholo, ka mera mosaikia, le hodomang marung. Mme a sheba le mane manarlekg.”


Kamuzu a utse marotlo ho a pula a mo mela ka mokokotlofane. Noka e ne e se e ritse e nyolohlo. Bohle ba ka ne bo ba ritse le bila, le bula.

Kamuzu a bula molomo wa hae, empah sa ho se ka tswe tseho. O ne a lamelah ho etse ho hong. Haeba metswale ya hae e ne e ka leka ho hahel o haheloka, o ne e ka kgalagana ke metse. O le a kara Hilo o hae, a sisina motho mme a tla ka maa ho a hae tselo. Ha ho le a le mong wa metswale ya hae a lling o a mela elfwa. Metsi o ka pula hae ona ho a ritse le potlako ka phha hae.

Yaba hang pula e a qa ho ka matla. Dipholoofa tsheo tsa phahamisa diholo ba sheba mme tsae qa ho hatlha nokoeng.

Kamuzu a lebala hore a lebaloetswe le kate. A shebana le noka e hasong hame, o makhre a potlako kama a ka kgamagana a lebelo ho yaona, yabo a fola hahlebophelo fela ho hahela metse a ho heloeng. Eitse ho a fitting ka npele ho noka a bula molomo wa hae mme a hetse. “EMISANG! LE KE LA TSHELELA!”

Dipholoofa di ne di tshihlo holo. Di ne di e noka di utse lentswe le phahamang holola le tsa wolomong walwa Kamuzu.

“Kgutlelang marao!” Kamuzu a ho lehola. “Nyokheleng mafikeng mane.”

Bohle ba mathela mafikeng ho ya ihlele tsetse puuo.

“O re phaholise, Kamuzu,” ha nalo Basa. “Re a lebatho.”

“O fumane lentswe la hae,” ha nalo Snorkel.

“Te,” ha nalo Dazio. “Ha monate ho a utse. O ne re o dola a botse, re ne re nohano hore o mpa a sa battle ho bas ho le rona.”

“Ke diholo,” ha nalo Kamuzu. “Kamelah ho ka tsebe se o nako se buaang.”

“Eimpoto na metswale,” ha nalo dimmutla. “Ha ho Hikatlhe hore o be diholo ho ena le rona.”


“Shespa! Shespa!” ha nalo ba bolela.

Mme, Kamuzu, wa pere, a phahamisetsa Hoabo ya hae marung mme a hetse. “EVA BOI EHLLE KE A TSHELEPA!”

Re bolela haeba o ratle pale ena, Lentswe la Kamuzu – SMSa “Bookmark” mnomo le letsebo la hae la ditsehwaela tsae hao 32545. R1,00 SMS ka ngwe.

Story corner

Here is the final part of the story about the shy horse, Kamuzu, for you to read aloud or tell.