



Edition 64
IsiZulu, English

Start early and don't stop!

Often, when people talk about the importance of reading to children, they mean reading to children who are three years or older – some people even mean children over the age of five! But more and more research is showing that it is better to start reading to children from birth.

Doctors all over the world are giving the same advice to new parents: start reading to your baby immediately and keep reading to him or her. Why? Because we know that children's brains develop the most from two weeks after the baby is conceived to the time the baby is three months old. Recent research also shows that reading to children under the age of three, helps them to meet important brain development milestones. In fact, the later you leave introducing your children to books, the more difficult it is for them to develop the literacy skills they need to be successful at school.

When babies don't yet understand many words, sharing books with pictures, rhymes and simple stories helps teach them vocabulary and language – and it gets their brains thinking! It's also a wonderful way to relax and bond with a baby. As babies grow, the more you read aloud and talk to them, the more words they hear, and very soon you'll hear them using the words themselves! They will also find out how the print has meaning and how we tell stories. But most importantly, when parents and caregivers read often to very young children, these youngsters grow up seeing reading as fun and worthwhile. So, they are more likely to choose to read in their free time when they are older. This is important because the more children read, the better they become at reading ... and the more pleasure they get from reading, the more likely they are to read!

These are all great reasons to follow the doctors' orders: read regularly to babies and children and keep giving them books!

Sheshe uqale ungabe usayeka!

Imvarimisa uma abantu bekhuluma ngokubaluleka kokufundela izingane, bakhuluma ngokufundela izingane ezineminyaka emithathu nangaphezulu – abanye abantu basuke besho nezingane ezineminyaka engaphezu kwemihlanu! Kodwa ucwaningo oluningi olwenziwayo lukhombisa ukuthi kungono ukuqala ukufundela izingane kusukele ekuzalweni kwazo.

ODokotela emhlabeni wonke babacebisa ngendlela efanayo abazali abaqlalayo ukuthola abantwana: qala ukufundela usana lwakho masinyane, bese uqhubeka nokulufundela. Ngani na? Ngoba siyazi ukuthi izingqondo zezingane zithuthuka kakhulu kusukela emasontweni amabili unina esekhulelwe kuze kube yisikhathi lapho ingane isinezinyanga ezintathu. Ucwaningo luyakhombisa futhi ukuthi ukufundela izingane ezineminyaka engaphansi kwemithathu, kuzisiza ukuthi zisheshe zifinyelele emabangeni okuthuthuka komqondo abalulekile. Empeleni, uma wephuza ukwethula izincwadi ezinganeni zakho, kuzoba nzima kuzo ukuthi zikwazi ukuthuthukisa ukwazi ukufunda nokubhala ezizokudinga ukuze zikwazi ukufunda ngempumelelo esikoleni.

Ngesikhathi abantwana bengakawaqondi amagama amanangi, ukwabelana nabo ngezincwadi ezinezithombe, imilolozelo kanye nezindaba ezilula kuyabasiza ngokubafundisa amagama kanye nolimi – futhi kwenza ukuthi imiqondo yabo icabange. Kuyindlela enhle futhi yokuthi nawe ukuphumule uphinde ubo nesikhathi sokuxumana nomntwana.

Ngesikhathi abantwana bekhula, uma ubafundela futhi ukhuluma nabo kakhulu, uma bede bezwa amagama amanangi, uzobezwa sebewasebenzisa lawo magama maduze nje! Bazophinde bathole futhi ukuthi yini eyenza okubhaliwe kuchaze okuthile, nokuthi sizixoxa kanjani izindaba. Kodwa okubaluleke kakhulu ukuthi, ngesikhathi abazali kanye nabantu abanakekela izingane befundela izingane ezincane kakhulu, lezi zingane zikhula zibona ukufunda kuyinto emnandi nokufanele yensiwe. Ngakho, manangi amathuba okuthi zikhethi ukufunda ngesikhathi sokungenzi lutho olunye uma sezikhulakhulile. Lokhu kubalulekile ngoba uma izingane zide zifunda kakhulu, ziya ngokuba ngcono ekufundeni okubhaliwe... futhi uma zithola injabulo enkulu ekufundeni okubhaliwe, ayanda amathuba okuba zikuthande ukufunda!

Yizo zonke lezi izizathu ezibalulekile ekulandeleni umyalelo kadokotela othi: fundela abantwana nezingane ezindadlana njalo bese uqhubeka nokuzinikeza izincwadi!



Drive your imagination

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

Nalibali
It starts with a story...



Drive your
imagination

Celebrating our mothers!

Each year on the second Sunday in May, we celebrate how important mothers are in our lives. Follow the instructions to make a card for your mom or the mother-figure in your life!

Make a Mother's Day card

1. Cut out the card along the red line.
2. Fold the card along the dotted black line.
3. Glue the two parts together.
4. On the side with the picture, write a message to the person you will give the card to. Colour in the picture.
5. On the other side, draw a picture of you and this person together, or write a poem or longer message.



Ukubungaza omama bethu!

Minyaka yonke ngeSonto lesibili kuNhlabu, sigubha ukuthi babaluleke kangakanani ezimpilweni zethu omama. Landela imiyalelo ukuze wenze ikhadi likamama noma umuntu ofana nomama empilweni yakho!

Yenza ikhadi loSuku Lomama

1. Sika ikhadi ngokulandela umugqa obomvu.
2. Goqa ikhadi ulandele umugqa wamachashazi amnyama.
3. Hlanganisa lezi zingxene ezimbili ngeglu.
4. Ohlangothini olunesithombe, bhala umyalezo oya kumuntu ozomnikeza ikhadi. Hlobisa isithombe ngombala.
5. Ngakolunye uhlangothi dweba isithombe sakho nalo muntu nindawonye, noma ubhale inkondlo noma umyalezo omude.

Nal'ibali
It starts with a story...

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 nguhafu lapho kunomugqa (ulayini) wamachashaza amnyama khona.
3. Lisonge libe nguhafu futhi.
4. Sika lapho kunomugqa wamachashaza abomvu khona.





Wapphinde wagjima futhi wase ... EGXUMA
amangina akhe angaphambili ezibanjemizelishwama.
ukuthi umisa kasiati. Ekugcineni, wakwazi ukufaka
UNguluban'encane kwadiingeka ukuthi azibonele

"Ngeumsangano phela le nto yakho."
"Ungangibheki nakungibheka," kusho imbuzi endala.

"Ngeke," kusho isikuhukukazi. "Yingozini embi le."
"Ngeke ngikwazi," kusho inkomazi. "Ngimatasasasa."

engiyizamayo ngalesi isikhwama.
UNguluban'encane. "Kulukhuni ukwenza le nto
"Ningangisiazakodwa bandla?" kumeemeza

again he ran and ... JUMPED off the root.
Eventually, he got his front legs into the packet. Once

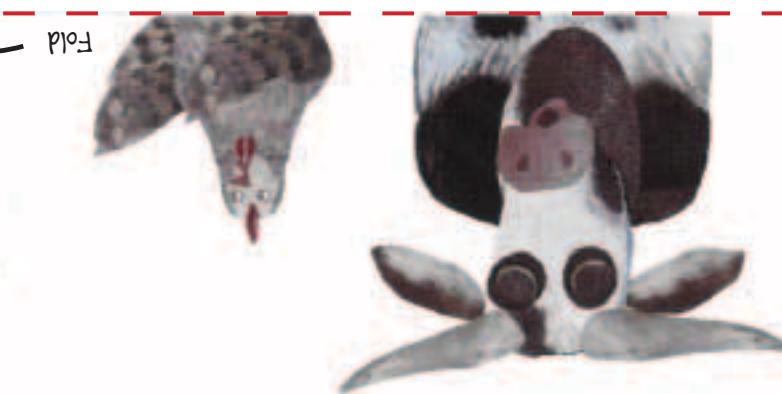
Little Pig had to keep struggling all on his own.

"Don't look at me," said the old goat. "It's just too crazy!"

"No," said the hen. "Too dangerous."

"I can't," said the cow. "I'm busy!"

"Could you help me?" called Little Pig. "I'm finding this
packet a bit difficult."



ezibanjemizelishwama.
ngeeskathi ezama ukulaka amangina akhe angaphambili
zabukela ngesiskathi UNguluban'encane ezitholela
Ngokuhamba kwalojo saku, izilwane zaphindie zama
kukhonoanda imbuzi endala.

"Ubani ozocosha leziya zinsiba?"

"Ngitshellele ukuthi uzolimala," kusho
isikuhukukazi.

"Bengazi ukuthi leli yisu eliwubuwula,"

to get his front legs into the handles.

Later in the day, the animals once again stood around and
watched as Little Pig found a packet and dragged it up

"Who is going to pick up those feathers?" complained the
old goat.

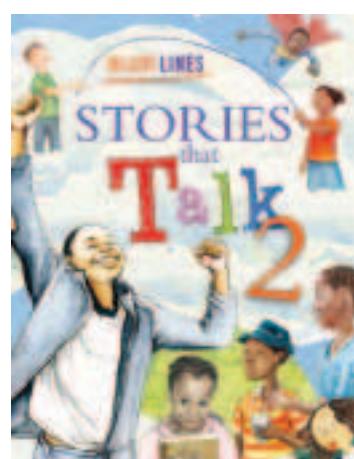
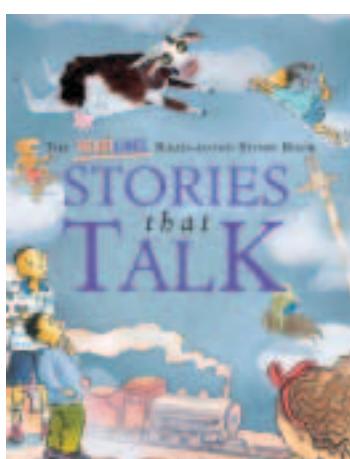
"I told him he would get hurt," said the hen.

"I knew it was a stupid plan," said the cow.

HEARTLINES

Can Little Pig fly?

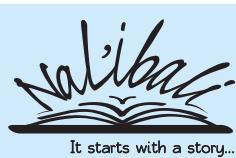
Angandiza uNgulub'encane?



HEARTLINES

For copies of *Heartlines' Stories that Talk* (in all 11 languages), and *Stories that Talk 2* (English only) please email orders@heartlines.org.za or phone (011) 771 2540.

Nal'ibili is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibili.org or www.nalibili.mobi



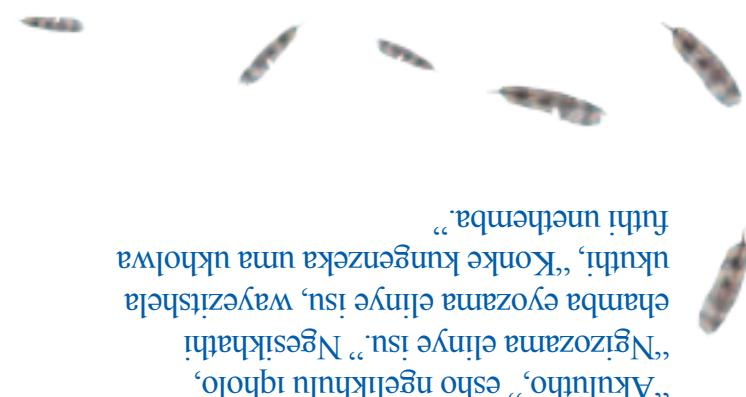
UNal'ibili umkhankaso wokufundela
ukuzithokozisa kazwelonke wokokhela
lokho okungensiwa yizingane ngokuxoxa
nangokufunda izindaba. Ukuze uthole eminye
imininingwane, vakashela ku-www.nalibili.org
noma ku-www.nalibili.mobi



Drive your
imagination

Bridget Krone
Diek Grobler





CRASH! Little Pig landed on the ground with a big bump.
He stood up and shook his head. He wiggled each of his legs and found that nothing was broken.
Then he saw his wings lying on the ground beside him. They were in pieces.
“Oh well,” he said bravely, “I’ll have to make another plan.” And he set off to look for a new idea, thinking to himself, “All things are possible if you believe and have hope.”

BHAKLA! UNguliban’ encane wawela
Wasyakazisa umlenze wakhe ngeamunye watohola ukuthi akukho okwepukile.
Ayeyizicou. Wase ebona amaphiko akhe ewele phansi!

“Akulutho,” esho ngelekhulu iqholo,
“Ngizozama elinye isu.” Ngesikhabhi
ehamba eyozama elinye isu, wayezitsihela
ukuthi, “Konke kungenzeka uma ukholwa
uktuthi unehemba.”

Fold

ukubamba izinyembezi.
ehogela emoyeni. Wapphakamisa ikhanda lakhe wacwayiza ezama elisekhabeni lami lensa amehlo ami abe zinyembeza. “Wahamba, “Angikhali mina,” kuhika Unghulib’encane, “Lei qhunu wubulima lobu obenazyo. Koda wa wulunanga ukulalela.”
“Akusizi ukukhala,” kusho inkomazi, “Ngekuthelle ukuthi kwaba bughungu kakhlulu, wase epahlia ukukhala.
Unghulib’encane. Kujolokhu-ke wafike washayisa ngekuthala kudala.
Kwaba khona UKUBHAKLAZKA okukhulu ngesikhabhi esewa moyaya ungena esikhwamene, silkhukhunala emva kwakhe.

Kwaba khona umisido omkulu ophi HASHA HASHA ngesikhabhi
“It’s no use crying,” said the cow.
“I told you that this was a silly idea.
But you didn’t want to listen.”
“I’m not crying,” pretended Little Pig.
“This bump on my snout is just making my eyes water.” And he walked away, sniffing. He held his head up high and blinked back the tears.



Then there was a loud CRASH as Little Pig hit the ground hard. This time he landed on his snout. It hurt a lot and he began to cry.
“It’s no use crying,” said the cow.
“I told you that this was a silly idea.
But you didn’t want to listen.”
“I’m not crying,” pretended Little Pig.
“This bump on my snout is just making my eyes water.” And he walked away, sniffing. He held his head up high and blinked back the tears.

“Good morning!” shouted Little Pig to all the sleeping animals on the farm. It was still very early and he was the first one awake. “Hello? Hello? Is anyone awake?” he called. But no one answered him. They all pretended to be asleep.



islikukhukazi ngokunesa. „Siyaxolisua ngoba aslikwazanga Zazizwa zingakhuulekile nje. „Ngulub'encane ...“ kusho Zabukana.

Kwadathaka izinyembezi ezinkulu zawaela phansi emhlabathini. „Kwaze kwanzima!“ esho ekhala. „Angikwazi ukwenza lokhu.“ Zapheunda zoinke izilwane zabhaka Ngulub'encane. Wayekhala.

„Uyobé uyisilima una ecabanga ukuthi angandiza ngala magasisha amabili,“ kusho inkomazi.

okuwaphakamisa, yingakho ayelokhu ewela phezu kwakhe nje. ophaheni. Wazama wazama kodwa wayengenawo amandla nene Nguluban'encane edonsele amagashaa amabili amakulu Ekuhambeni kosuku, izilwane zamangalisa ukuona

“... said the hen slowly, ‘I’m sorry we didn’t help you. Please looked at each other. They felt very uncomfortable. Little Pig don’t give up.’

The animals were quiet. They looked at Little Pig. They hard!“ he sobbed. ‘I can’t do this.’ Big tears rolled down his cheeks and fell into the dust.

They all turned to look at Little Pig. He was crying. ‘It’s too branchees,’ said the cow.

“He’s very stupid if he thinks that he can fly with those falling on top of him.

but he was not strong enough to lift them up and they kept dragging two big branches towards the roof. He tried and tried

A while later, the animals were surprised to see Little Pig



“Hhey!“ esho ememeza.
“Ngibukeni!“

WAGXUMA esuka ophaheni.

kabili, kathathu, wase ema ngamanonzvana ...
amaphiko. Wabakuzza ngamaphiko akhe kanye,
ophaheni. Wagcina esefinyelele. Wawabophela
wadhubeka nokuhudla amaphiko akhe ecaaca eya
Kodwa Nguluban'encane akabasgizanaga dakala,

“Hey!“ he shouted. “Look at me. I’m fl ...“

JUMPED off the roof.

three times, then stood up on his back legs and ran and ...
Then he strapped them on. He flapped them once, twice,
to drag his wings up onto the roof. At last he managed.

But Little Pig took no notice of them and went on trying

Suddenly, over the hill, came the cow. She was running as fast as she could. And holding tightly onto her horns, with beautiful wings streaming out behind him, was ... Little Pig! He was flying at last!

Kusenjalo, phezu kwegquma, kwaqhamuka inkomazi.
Yayigijima kakhulu ngendlela eyayikwaze ukwenza ngayo. Kanti owayebambele ezimpondweni zayo, enamaphiko amahle andiza emva kwakhe, kwakuwu- ...
Nguluban'encane! Ekugcineni wayesendiza!



Sanibonani bo!” kumemeza uNguluban'encane esho kuzo zonke izilwane zasepulazini. Kwakusekuseni kakhulu, futhi nguye yedwa owayevuke kuqala. “Sanibonani? Sanibonani? Ngabe ukhona kodwa osevukile?” kumemeza yena. Kodwa akaphendulwanga muntu. Zonke izilwane zenza sengathi zilele.

"Uzozilimaza," kweXwawayisa isikhukhukazi.
"Hhayi, cha," kusho inkomazi. "Lokhu
kimi lezo zinsiba bandla?"
"Futhi uyangcollisa njé," kukhononda
lukuba yingxenye yalo."
"Nzizama . . ." kuhewuzela Nguluban'encane,
"Wenzami?" kubuza inkomazi.

old goat.
"And you are making a mess," complained the
hen.
"You'll hurt yourself," warned the hen.
"No," said the cow. "That sounds like a very bad
plan, and I don't want anything to do with it."
"I'm trying . . ." panted Little Pig, "... to climb up
onto this root. I've made some wings, you see,
and I'm hoping to fly. Could you help and pass
me those feathers?"
"What are you doing?" asked the cow.

"Well," said Little Pig, "I have things to do."
And off he trotted.

"Thank goodness he's gone," muttered
the old goat. "It's just too early for
his nonsense."

Eventually the animals got up
and did what they always do.
Stand around. Chew. Scratch.
Moan. Scratch a bit more. Moan.

Only Little Pig was busy. All morning he
ran around the farm, humming a little hum.
The other animals watched as he rushed backwards
and forwards with things in his mouth.

"Kulungile," kusho uNguluban'encane, "Kuningi engihlose
ukukwenza." Washaya wachitha.

"Kungcono ngoba uhambile," kukhononda imbuzi endala.
"Kusekuseni kakhulu ukuthi singamelana nalo mbhedo
wakhe."

Ekugcineni zavuka zonke izilwane zaqhube ka nemisebenzi
yazo. Zazima nje; zetshise; zizenwaye; zibubule; zizenwaye
kakhudlwana; ziphinde zibubule.

UNgulub'encane kuphela owayematasatasa. Wayetshakadula
epulazini usuku lonke, kuzwakala imvunge encane
ayishayela phansi. Ezinye izilwane zazimbuka ngesikhathi
eya emuva naphambili ephethe okuthile ngomlomo.



It got louder and louder.
There was a sound like distant thunder.
in the field to watch Little Pig Fly.
That evening the animals all gathered
collecting all the things they needed.
They rushed around the farm
"No! Found a bigger packet. That one's too small."
"I think we might need that packet too."
"And bring those branches!"
"I'll get some more . . ."
"Where are those guinea fowl feathers?"

how to help Little Pig Fly.
"Yes. We will!" Suddenly all the animals had ideas about
asked. "Will you help me?"
Little Pig sniffed and wiped away his tears. "Really?" he
said the hen.
"So if you really, really want to fly, we will help you."
"And boring," said the old goat.
"Yes," said the cow. "You must always have hope. Little
Pig. Life without hope is very . . . empty. And sad."

"Kunjalo," kusho inkomazi. "Ubohlala njalo unethemba,
Ngulub'encane. Impilo engenalo ithemba . . . iyize leze.
Futhi iyadabukisa."

"Futhi-ke inesidina," kusho imbuzi endala.
"Ngakho uma ufunu ngempela, ngempela ukundiza,
sizokusiza," kusho isikhukhukazi.

UNgulub'encane wesula izinyembezi zakhe.
"Ngempela?" kubuza yena. "Ningangisiza ngempela?"

"Yebo. Sizokusiza!" Ngokushesha zonke izilwane zaba
nemibono yokusiza uNguluban'encane ukuba andize.

"Ziphi leziya zinsiba zempangele?"

"Ngizoyothatha ezinye zazo . . ."

"Bese ngiza nalawo magatsha!"

"Ngicabanga ukuthi sizosidinga naleso sikhwama futhi."

"Cha! Tholani isikhwama esikhudlwana. Lesi sincane
kakhulu."

Izilwane zazehla zenyuka nepulazi lonke ziqoqa
izinto ezizozidinga.

Ngalobo busuku izilwane zaqoqana ensimini zizobona
uNguluban'encane endiza. Kwaba khona umsindo
owawuzwakala sengathi yizulu lidumela kude.
Waya ngokukhula umsindo.



Sawubona! Good news, our first supplement for this year arrived on Friday! We had an opportunity to go through it with the reading club team on Friday and we were all inspired by the content of this edition. I guess the word "inspiration" sums up the whole edition: from Sello Phemelo's well-written poem (well done!) to our favourite story, *The elders at the door*. This story connects with us in different ways and we believe it will do the same for our children as we share it this week in our clubs.

I recently met a parent of one of our reading club children. She told me about how her five-year-old child, Kwanele Nxusa, had recently started to share things with his siblings without her having to ask him to do this. When she asked him why he had started sharing more, he said that he didn't want to be like the little monkey he'd read about in a story at his reading club – *Baby Monkey's Bananas* by Sue Hepker and Graeme Viljoen (supplement 42). He told his mother how the monkey landed up lonely and surrounded by dangerous animals because of his greediness!

This scenario made me realise that stories go a long way in children's lives. They are not only about fun, but they shape them in a mysterious way!

Ngiyabonga.

Gcinumuzi Radebe, Nal'ibali Cluster Mentor

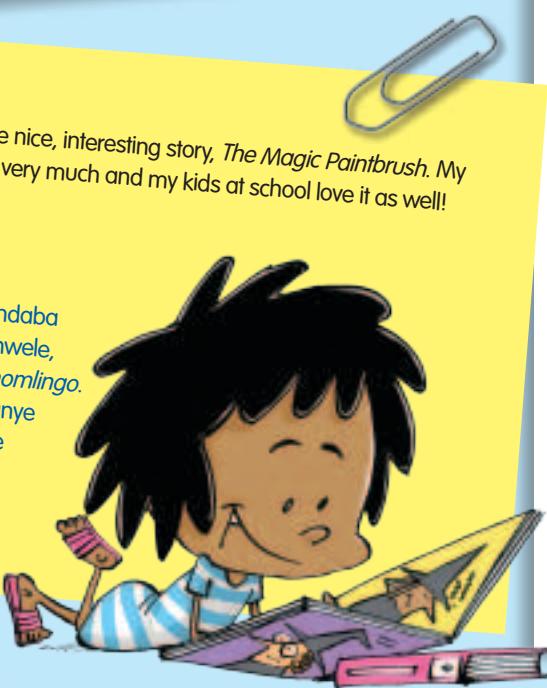
SMS

Thanks so much for the nice, interesting story, *The Magic Paintbrush*. My child enjoyed the story very much and my kids at school love it as well!
Maureen

Thumela i-SMS

Siyabonga kakulu ngendaba emnandi, nehlaba umxhwele, *Ibhulashi Lokupenda Elinomlingo*. Izingane zami ekhaya kanye nasesikoleni ziyyithokozele kakulu!

UMaureen



Dear Nal'ibali... Nalibali Othandekayo...

Write to Nal'ibali at
**PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17,
Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft
Road, Mowbray, 7700, or at
letters@nalibali.org.**

Bhalela uNal'ibali
**ku-PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17,
Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft
Road, Mowbray, 7700 noma
ku-letters@nalibali.org.**



Sawubona! Izindaba ezimnandi ukuthi isithasiselo sethu sokuqala nonyaka safika ngoLwesihlanu! Saba nethuba lokusifunda sonke nethimba lokufunda ngoLwesihlanu, futhi kwasifaka intshisekelo okuqukethwe yilolu shicilelo. Ngiyacabanga ukuthi igama elithi "intshisekelo" lisho konke ngalolu shicilelo: kusukela enkondlweni eyayibhalwe kammandi kaSello Phemelo (Usebenzile!) ukuya endaben esayithanda kakulu, *Abantu abadala emnyango*. Le ndaba isithinta kakulu futhi siyakholwa ukuthi izokwenza okufanayo nasezinganeni zethu.

Ngisanda kuLangana nomzali wenyeyezingane eziethimbeni lethu lokufunda. Wangitshela ukuthi ingane yakhe eneminyaka emihlanu, uKwanele Nxusa, useqale ukwabelana ngezinto ezithile nezingane zakubo umzali engamcelanga ukuthi enze lokhu. Wathi uma umzali embuza ukuthi kungani eqale ukwabelana nabanye kangaka, wathi wayengafuni ukuba njengenkawana ayefunde ngayo endaben yethimba lokufunda ethi – *Obhanana beNkawana kaSue Hepker noGraeme Viljoen (esithasiselweni sama-42)*. Waxoxela umama wakhe ukuthi inkawana yagcina iyodwa futhi izungezwe izilwane eziyingozi ngenxa yomhobholo!

Le ndaba ingenze ngabona ukuthi izindaba zibamba iqhaza elibalulekile ezimpilweni zezingane. Azigini nje ngokuthokozisa, kodwa zakha izimilo zezingane ngendlela emangalisayo!

Ngiyabonga.

UGcinumuzi Radebe, i-Nal'ibali Cluster Mentor

Get story active!

After you and your children have read *Can Little Pig fly?* try discussing some of these things.

- Why do you think Little Pig didn't give up trying to fly?
- Is there something that you really want to do? What is it?
- Ask open-ended questions (questions that have no right or wrong answer and instead, can be answered in different ways). For example:
 - Do you think the animals treated Little Pig well? Why or why not?
 - Are hope and having dreams the same thing? Why or why not?
 - Do you agree with the cow that we should always have hope? Why or why not?

Yenza indaba ihlabe umxhwele!

Ngemva kokuba wena kanye nezingane zakho senifunde indaba ethi, *Angandiza uNgulub'encane?* zamani ukudingida ezinye zalezi zinto.

- Ngabe ucabanga ukuthi kungani uNgulub'encane engazange ayeke ukuzama ukundiza?
- Ingabe ikhona into ofuna ukuyenza ngempela? Yini leyo?
- Buza imibuzo evulelekile (imibuzo engenayo impendulo efanele noma engafanele kundaloko, engaphendulwa ngezindlela ezahlukene). Isibonelo:
 - Ngabe nicabanga ukuthi izilwane zamphatha ngendlela efanele uNgulub'encane? Niyavuma noma cha, ngani?
 - Ngabe ithemba noma ukuba nephupho elithile kuyinto efanayo? Niyavuma noma cha, ngani?
 - Ngabe niyavumelana yini nenkomazi ekutheni kumele sihlale sinethemba? Niyavuma noma cha, ngani?



Story corner

Here is the first part of the story about Amina and her special toy-friend, Whatzit, for you to enjoy reading aloud or telling.

Whatzit (Part 1)

by Jude Daly

It was raining, really bucketing down, and Amina was fed up and lonely. None of her friends could come and play and everyone in the house was busy. Everyone was always busy! It was no fun being the youngest.

Amina lay on her bed. And she stood on her head. Then she put on her fairy wings and started to dance. Amina twirled and whirled. She scurried and flurried. She even rocked and rolled. Then she flopped back on her bed. Nothing helped. She was still fed up and she was still lonely.

So Amina unpacked her toys. Most of them were hand-me-downs from her big sisters, even the toy box was a hand-me-down. She put Eli, Dassie, Rabbit and Mouse on her bed. They were going to have a tea party as soon as she found the teapot.

She searched the toy box again and that's when Amina found Whatzit. It was lying forgotten at the bottom of a sewing basket, at the bottom of the toy box.

Amina turned Whatzit over to see its face, but it didn't have one. Poor forgotten Whatzit! It had a shape, sort of roundish-squarish, but no face or arms or legs or wings or tail or anything.

Amina propped Whatzit up on the bed between Eli and Dassie and opposite Rabbit and Mouse. She found the tea pot and poured the tea. Eli, Dassie, Rabbit and Mouse finished their tea in no time, so did Amina. But Whatzit didn't. Well, how could it without a mouth!

So, Amina took Whatzit and the sewing basket and went to find her granny.

"What's that?" asked her granny.

"Whatzit," said Amina. "Whatzit needs a mouth."

"Okay," said Amina's granny, "but we must be quick, I am very busy and still have so much to do."

Amina's granny helped her sew a mouth for Whatzit; a nice smiley mouth.

"And Whatzit needs a nose," said Amina. But already her granny was not listening.

Will Amina find someone to help her give Whatzit all the things he needs? Find out next week – and discover where Whatzit comes from!



Illustration by Magriet Brink
Umdwebo wenziwe nguMagriet Brink

In your next Nal'ibali supplement:

- Easy ways to inspire children to read
- Story Star: Judith Sephuma talks to us about reading to her children
- Collect the Nal'ibali characters: Gogo
- A cut-out-and-keep book, *Perfectly me*
- The final part of the Story Corner story, *Whatzit*

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