From one dad to another

John McCormick is one of the authors of the book Dad, Tell Me a Story. The other authors are his sons aged 11 and 14 years. John says he is learning about parenting as he goes along – just like all of us! But he has one suggestion for all dads this Father’s Day: start storytelling tradition at home!

John says, “I did that about 14 years ago, and the time I’ve spent since telling stories with my sons, is one of the greatest treasures of my life. It’s given me lasting memories with my boys, and I learnt things about them that I’d never have known. Storytelling is an easy way for fathers to spend quality time with their children, and the benefits to both dads and kids are countless.”

Children learn so much through listening to you tell and read stories to them, and through playing with you – and what they learn also helps them to do better at school.

“Storytelling connects children to their own culture and language,” says John. “Every culture in the world has a storytelling tradition, and through stories, we connect our children to the generations that came before and the rituals and customs they established.” This gives our children confidence in who they are and where they come from – it gives them roots! Roots help a plant to stand strong in the ground and roots help to take food and water to other parts of the plant so that it can grow and be healthy. The roots we give children do the same for them.

You don’t have to be an actor or a performer to tell your children stories. All you need is what you already have, otherwise you wouldn’t be reading this: an interest in your children, and in their development and happiness.

But, warns John, “Storytelling can’t be a family tradition if you try it only once or twice and never come back to it.” You have to keep doing it and make it a regular feature of life in your home!

So, what is John’s Father’s Day message to dads out there? “All South Africans have rich and long traditions of storytelling. Use your culture’s natural love of storytelling to inspire your children to read, write and tell stories with you. If you do, I’ll be the best present you could give to yourself and your families this Father’s Day and every day of the year.”

You can read more about John McCormick’s ideas about family storytelling in his book, Dad, Tell Me a Story, and at www.dadtellmeastory.com and www.huffingtonpost.com/parents/. Get your Nal’ibali storytelling tips and ideas at www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi

John McCormick ke e mung wa bangodi ba buka ena, Dad, Tell Me a Story. Bangodi ba bang ke bana ba hae ba dilemo tse 11 le tse 14. John o re o ithuha tsotswadi ha a ntse a tswela pele – jwalaoka rona bohle! Emo na o le ithuha le e ngwwe feela bakeng sa bontate bohle ka leetsatsi lena la Bontate: qala tlwaelo ya e le nngwe feela bakeng sa bontate bohle.

Ho pheta dipale lapeng!

John o re, “Ke entse hoo dilemo tse ka bang 14 tse fasetla, mme nako eo ke e atsefela ho ithuha ke a ka qalaa ho phetela bana ba kga dipale, ke te le tla go mo lefetla bapheseng ba ka. Ho mphile dintho tse ke tlhang ka di hoplana ka ho sa tlaeng mme le ba lehlobo e ke mme, mme ke le ka ithuha dintheho tse iseng ka bana tsoa ke neng nke ke ka di tseo le kgale. Ho pheta dipale ke tseo e bonolo bakeng sa bontate ho qeta nako e iseng ya bophoko mme le bana ba bana, mme nako e kqwalamang le bontate qe e mme le kare ka e ke kqwalamang ya ba.”

Bana ba ithuha haholwana ka ho o mamele ha o ba phetela le ho ba bana dipale, le ka ho bapala le leka – mme se o ba ithuha sona se ba thuwa hape ho ithuha ka matla Sekgakga.

“Ho pheta dipale ba hohakghanyana bana le setso sa bana le pula ya bana,” ho nalo John. “Setso se se le seng lehla lehla se le ma le mokgwa ma qo ma wa ho pheta dipale, mme ka dipale, re ho mokgwa bana ba rona le mokgwa e fasetela le mafetela le mafetela se le mokgwa e e re lehla.”

Sena se ka bana ba rona bohlophelo ho se o ba tlaeng sona le mo le bana wa teng tse – se ba fa metsi? Metsi e thuwa sepa ho era se le le keqetla mme metsi e thuwa ho sa dia dip e metsi dikadankeng tse ding tsoa sephela ho ithuwa se ho le ho pheta metsi. Metsi eo e fa metsi e thuwa se "It starts with a story."

This supplement is available during term times in the following Times Media newspapers: Sunday Times Express in the Western Cape; Sunday World in the Free State, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal; Daily Dispatch and The Herald in the Eastern Cape.

We will be taking a break until the week of 27 July. Join us then for more Nal’ibali reading magic!

Re tlokgologa ho ithuha bakeng ya la 27 Pheu! Ebo re rona nokang eo bakeng sa meho e anya e ho bontate ekageng ya ho bana ho bontate ya Nal’ibali!"
**Story stars**

*A reading dad!*

Meet Simon Tau from Limpopo. Simon is a father and teacher who is committed to reading to children. Not only does he read to his own children regularly, but he has also started a reading club – Glen Cowie Fun-Fun Reading Club – from his home. We asked Simon about his passion for reading to children.

**What is your favourite part about reading to children?**

Showing them the pictures in a story! The pictures excite them and increase their curiosity.

**How often do you read to children?**

Our reading club meets every Monday from 13:00 to 18:00 during school terms. I make sure that I read an interesting story to the children at every reading club session. But at home, I read to my children almost every evening for 15 minutes before bedtime.

**What languages do you read in?**

Sepedi and English

**What inspired you to start a Nal’ibali Reading Club?**

I wanted to make a literacy difference amongst the children in my neighbourhood and community. The reading club was established in July 2012. I registered the reading club online with Nal’ibali after reading about it in The Times newspaper.

**Why is reading for enjoyment important?**

It exposes children to the world of books, develops their reading skills and increases their knowledge. And, while they are enjoying reading, they are also learning. Reading for enjoyment as a child means you are likely to embrace this habit as an adult too!

**What are some of your favourite children’s stories?**

The Name of the Tree is Bojabi by Piet Grobler. The book deals with diversity and tells a great wildlife adventure story. Another story that I like reading again and again even as an adult is Lazy Jack by Sidney Edwin. It’s a folktale with a bit of fun in it – the children at the reading club love it too!

**Finish this sentence: The greatest love it too!**

... never to fool yourself that something bad done in the darkness will never be brought to light.

**Dinaledi tsa dipale**

**Ntate ya balang!**

Kopana le Simon Tau ya tswang Limpopo. Simon ke ntate le tlifhere ya inekhetseng bakeng sa ho ballo bana. Ha o ballo leela bana ba hae ka dinako tsolie, empa hepe o qadile tlalop ya ho ballo – Glen Cowie Fun-Fun Reading Club – lapeng la hae. Re le celo batso Simon mabapi le lerato la hae la ho ballo bana. Ke kele ba e e o e potsoho ka ho fetsa mabapi le ho ballo bana?

Ha bo bontsha ditshwantsho paleng! Ditshwantsho di a ba fetsa mme di eketsa tshesha ya bana ya ho ballo ho tsela.

**O ballo bana hakasi?**

Tlalop ya rana ya ho ballo e kapana Mantaha e mngwe le e mngwe ho fetsa ka 19:30 ho fetsa ka 18:00 nkorong e dikolo di butsweng ka jana. Ke ketsa lela ba ba ke hona ba bana e pakeng e hohelela konapo e mngwe le e mngwe ya fetsa ya ho ballo. Empe lapeng, ke ballo bana ba ka bosiung bo bong le bo bong metsotso e ka bang 15 pele bo rabolala.

**O ballo ka dipuo dife?**

Se pedi le english

**Ke eng e kgopholetsi se ho qa selela Tlela ya ho ballo ya Nal’ibali?**

Ke me le ballo ho etso phapang ya tsela ya ho ballo le ho ngola hara bana ba heuli matsong sa hese. Tlela ya ho ballo e le le ya thewu ka Phupu 2012. Ke le le kgodiya tlalop ya ho ballo inthlaneng le Nal’ibali kama ho ballo ya yona koranthang ka The Times.

**Hobang le ho lebhalwa ho ballo balo ho balo?**

Ho hlakhe bana lefaheng la dikubu, ho bophak bbokobong bana ba ho ballo mme ho eketsa tsela ya bana. Amme, ha ba ritse ba natalelewa ke ho ballo, ba bale la a ihlela. Ho ballo manate ha sa la ngwana ho bolela hore e ka mma wa thabelo tlwaelo ena lela o se o le motho e mohola!

**Ke dipalo dife tsa ding tsa bana tse a di rato ho fetso?**

The Name of the Tree is Bojabi ka Piet Grobler. Buka ena e bua ka diphpapane mme e pheto pale e monate ya thibollo ya bophelo ba noheng. Pale e mngwe e ke re e rato ho e hela hagata esithana le ha ke se le le motho e mohola e ka Lazy Jack ka Sidney Edwin. Ke keleho e nang le diketsahalo ke ngabo tse thabisang ho yona – bana ba fetsa ya ho ballo ba e rato hela leho lehela!

**Qatella polelo ena. Thuto e kigalo ka ho fetsa e ke ihlulikeng yona paleng ke …**

... o se ho faitsa ka ho mma hore nilo e mpe e etsetswang letfiling e ke ke ya Nala e hlhelha ponto heng.

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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.

**Nal’ibali radyiong!**

Naretlelhwa ke ho mamele dipale ka Sesotho le Senyese mene leneneeng ka radyo la Nal’ibali:

Lesedi FM ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohlano ho floha ka 9.45 a.m. ho fihlela ka 10.00 a.m.

SAfm ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohlano ho floha ka 1.50 p.m. ho fihlela ka 2.00 p.m.

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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.
Enjoyed this short story? There’s lots more on the Fundza mobi network! Visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi for storytelling and reading. For more information, please visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

Get connected!

• Connect with FunDza’s Mxit app at http://mxitapp.com/fundza or, if you’re already on Mxit, simply add the ‘FunDza’ app.
• Submit your own writing for publication too.
• Comment on the stories
• Explore our growing ‘library’ on a phone
• Read a new story each week

FunDza is fun, easy to join and... it’s FREE!

You just need a cellphone to:

• Drive your imagination
• Fold your thoughts
• Letlalo lea ke Phelang ka Hara Lona

Teen Vogue

Francesco Nassimbeni

The Skin I Live in, by Francesco Nassimbeni

The story of his eyes and see what he sees. Of course. The moon.

I take a step forward. My heels crunch on the grass. Even by the moonlight and the wavering lantern-light, I can tell he is handsome. He looks like something out of Teen Vogue, to be perfectly honest.

I notice a figure standing by some rosebushes, with a camera aimed at the sky. He is wearing a dark blue anorak. I take a step forward. My heels crunch on the grass. Of course. The moon.

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It’s tiring, though. By 7.30 p.m. I’ve had enough. I go out into the garden.

The garden is full of paper lanterns and some are hung in the trees too. The effect is magical. It’s like a fairy-tale forest.

I don’t know what to say. He looks up into the sky again. I follow the arrow he is holding up to the sky. It’s almost as if the costume is giving me protection, letting me be afraid. It’s almost as if I am giving the protection, letting myself be afraid.

I hear people laugh. I’m glad I can’t see Kim’s face. I bet her eyes are still on me, throwing knives into my back.

The party ends up being a lot easier than I thought. A dozen kids, some of them even from my class, ask for a photo with me. For about an hour, I don’t feel afraid. It’s almost as if the costume is giving me protection, letting me be afraid. It’s almost as if I am giving the protection, letting myself be afraid.

I am so stunned, I am talking to myself, and with such openness, that I don’t know what to say. He looks up into the sky again. I follow the arrow. It’s like a fairy-tale forest.

The moon is shining, but the sky is clear. There are no clouds.

I notice a figure standing by some rosebushes, with a camera aimed at the sky. He is wearing a dark blue anorak. I take a step forward. My heels crunch on the grass. Of course. The moon.

Even by the moonlight and the wavering lantern-light, I can tell he is handsome. He looks like something out of Teen Vogue, to be perfectly honest.

He lowers his camera and turns to me. “Isn’t it beautiful?” he says.

“Nothing!” she shoots back cattily. She moves her hand up and down her body. “This is fashion.”

“I’m only supposed to be me. What are you dressed as?”

“You’re supposed to be Lady Gaga? I don’t think so.”

I hear people laugh. I’m glad I can’t see Kim’s face. I bet her eyes are still on me, throwing knives into my back.

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My name is Agnes Molope. I am seventeen years old. I like reading, animals, rainy days, watching Generations, and toasted-cheese sandwiches.

Also, I am an albino.

This story isn’t about being albino, but being albino does feature in it. It’s the story of my skin, the skin I live in. It’s the story of me. It’s the story of how I look, and how that has affected my life.

But my skin is not me. I am me. My skin is just … skin.

Before I get started on my story though, I thought I’d give you a quick crash-course on albinism.

Albinos are people whose skin doesn’t have colour. This is because their skin doesn’t produce melanin, which is the stuff that makes you brown, pink, yellow and chocolate. So, we’re super-white and we need to stay out of the sun. You do know what I mean. I’m not saying you have to be a snowflake. I’m just saying we need to be careful.

If you have albinism, you have lighter skin than what you see in the movies. There’s more to everyone than what you see.

There’s more to everyone than what you see. There’s more to everyone than what you see.

The shoot is scheduled for the coming Saturday. I daydream about it non-stop throughout the week.

I find out that his name is Jonah Farrier, that he is half-Jewish, his mother writes 'Unique South Africans'. I’d love to photograph you. Your look is so awesome."

"In a minute!" Jonah responds, his voice sailing over the lawn with ease.

I’m trying to understand how he has said "your look" and "awesome" in the same sentence. My brain is trying to process it, but failing.

He senses my painful shyness. "Of course, I’d understand if you don’t want to, but – " He is offering me a way out; I don’t need one. I know I want to do it. I want him to see me. I want him to see me the way I am.

"I’ll do it."

A slow smile spreads across his soft-looking lips. It is like watching a sunrise.
I have heard that it's bad for girls to message back instantly, but I don't care.

little flame in my tummy.

He remembers about my aversion to strong light. The thought warms me like a

No brite lites! Let me kno if ur free!

Later in the afternoon I'm at home and Jonah texts me.

Looking at.

a touch of irritation in her voice. She lifts the iPad up and I see what she is

Carmen regards me seriously. "I didn't know you were a model." There is

I press "send" and grin to myself. I feel like jumping into the clouds. I feel like

different. Not scared. Not like I'm hiding away.

Sounds fun! I'd like that!

I text back and my fingers feel excited, pressing the little buttons.

no apologies.

I am not other girls. I am the girl from the photo – brave, striking, making

My mom shoots me a look. Then she picks up the remote control and turns the

My mother and I live in a two-bedroom flat in Argyle Road, Woodstock. That's

while we work.

"Maybe I just won't go. The costume thing is stressing me out too much."

Later, while we're watching

The Bold and The Beautiful

two of us. We watch with our work in our hands, gasping and laughing at the

My mother is a seamstress, so obviously she's really good at sewing.

I notice something is very wrong as soon as I walk through the garden

And they are not in

The front door is open. I walk through. As soon as I walk into the living room,

I feel about fifty pairs of eyes on me.

In a split-second of horror, that seems to stretch to eternity and back, I realise:
morning till night. I'm nervous. I haven't been invited to a party since I was a kid in junior school.

There is a long pause, then she adds, almost like an afterthought, "It's fancy down on my desk. "My guidance teacher says I need to invite you to my party.

"Hey," she says, launching into a bored-sounding speech, and putting a card on her desk. "It's nothing," I say, blinking away the tears. "My eyes are just very sensitive."

"But I want to help you," she tells me. "I want to do something to make you feel special."

I notice Carmen walking up to me with her hips swaying. Carmen Hofmeyr is the meanest, snobbiest girl in our class. Possibly the meanest girl in South Africa.

I'm in Grade 11. It's Monday, second period.

It's not the school itself I have a problem with. It's the people who go there. There are approximately 540 learners at our school and I can safely say that approximately ninety percent of them are completely awful.

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Get story active!

Stella gets stuck is especially for younger readers. (Older children can enjoy it in their mother-tongue first and then read it in the other language of the supplement.) Here are some ideas of the kinds of things to do and say as you share the book together.

- **Page 2:** Look at all those round things. Let’s count them to see how many Stella has. (Count the round items in the picture.)
- **Page 3:** What are they? Who do you think drew them? (Point to the circles drawn on the wall.) “Stella seems to like playing with balls. Do you? What ball games do you enjoy?”
- **Page 4:** Look Stella’s eating a round pizza! Yum!”
- **Page 5:** Stella’s at the park now! What things do you think she likes to play on? Which do you like? (Point to the pipe.) “What do you think she’s going to do with that pipe?”
- **Page 6:** Paint to Stella.) “Oh no! Look, she can’t move.” (Point to the sun.) “Why do you think Stella is sitting in the sun? What do you think is going to happen next?”
- **Page 7:** Paint to each of the pipes.) “That’s like doing a rolly-polly down the hill!” (Point to the sun.) “Why do you think Stella is sitting in the sun? What do you think is going to happen next?”
- **Page 8:** That was lucky! Stella didn’t seem to get hurt. Do you think she’d like to do that again?”

Eba mahlahlahlah ka pale!

Stella o a tshwaseha e etseditswe ka ho qolela babadi ba bonyenyane. (Bana ba bohlwanwane ka ba narefeleka ke yona ka puo ya lape ng a bala ka bala ka puo en ngwwe ya fihla sa.) Mahemela ena, mma ba ya fihla sa ya dintho tsee la le ka di entsang le ho di bua ha le ntle le a raone baka bula mma moho.

- **Leqephe la 2:** “Sheba dintho tshele tse tshiga. Ha re di baleng mma re bane hore Stella o la le tse ka.” (Balang dintho tse tshiga setshwantshong.)
- **Leqephe la 3:** “Dintho tsee ke ding? Ha le nana ke mang ya di taklinghi?” (Supa didikadiwaka tse taklinghi lebogtsetla.) “Ekare Stella o ra ho bapala ka dibola. Nte le wena? Ke dipapadi dife tala bso tse o narefelela!”
- **Leqephe la 4:** “Sheba Stella o ya pizza e tshiga! Yum!”
- **Leqephe la 5:** “Stella o phakeng hona浇哇! Ke dintho dife tso o nakanang hore o ra ho bapala ho tshoana? Ke dife tse o di ratanga?” (Supa shaape.) “O nakanang hore o tla e tsoa ena ke nana ke e ka shaape e?”
- **Leqephe la 6:** “Sheba Stella o ya kgona ho sufha.” (Supa letsatsi.) “Letse tse shebeha le makete!”
- **Leqephe la 7:** “Sheba Stella o ya kgona ngwwe. “Eka ke ho bapala mapikileko ho theosa lela!” (Supa letsatsi.) “Sheba Stella le ketse ka kwesile malo! Ekare ha le kgona ho mamele ho bana se tla e tlae leesha kamonama moo.”
- **Leqephe la 8:** “Ebile lehlohonolo feela Stella ekare ha a ulwa bohloko. Nte o nana ho hore o tla tshoana ho eho se ho pula ba!”

Reading club corner

June gives us plenty of opportunities to celebrate stories and words, and because July is mostly filled with school holidays, it gives us plenty of free time to read! How about:

- Choosing one or two of the special days and then plan reading club activities around them.
- Suggest the children choose holiday reading books by one or two of the children’s authors who celebrate their birthday in June and July.
- Choose books by these authors to read to the children at reading club sessions. (You may need to translate some of the books into your language beforehand.)

Days to celebrate in June and July

**Special days**
- 5 June World Environment Day
- 13 June Father’s Day
- 16 June Youth Day
- 20 June World Refugee Day
- 30 June Social Media Day
- 18 July Mandela Day

**Special birthdays**
- 2 June Helen Oxenbury (Books for 0–3 year olds)
- 4 June Aesop (Boots for 3–93 year olds)
- 10 June Maurice Sendak (Books for 3–10 year olds)
- 13 June Niki Daly (books for 3–10 year olds)
- 23 June Eric Carle (Books for 2–6 year olds)
- 11 July E.B. White (books for 8–11 year olds)

Hukung ya Tlelapo ya ho Bala

Phupiane re le fona yeletša ya ho keteka dipale le motsewa, mme ka hobane Phupu yona e letša ka matsatsi a phomolo ya dikolo, e re fona le nako le ngata ya bolokala ba ho bala! Ha ko ba pheng:

- Ho kgeta le le le ngana le moabe a matsatsi a legone karonge mme le re diketoa phala tlelapo ya ho bala ka matsatsi ao.
- Ho hlásá ho bana ba kgetele dibukwa tsa ho bala ka matsatsi a phomola tse ntsweueng ke e mong kopa bana ba bapadi ba bapadi bana bana ka ketekang matsatsi a bana a tse a kgwedi ya Phupu tse lephu.
- Ho kgeta dibukwa tsa bapadi bana ho di bokwe bana dikapanang tse lelapo ya ho bala. (O ka nna wa hlaka ho nkatele tse ding tsa dibukwa tsena puong ya hoo pele a ba bala.)

Matsatsi a ketekwang ka kgwedi tsa Phupiane le Phupu

- **Matsatsi a kgethelelieng**
  - 5 Phupiane: Letatsa ka Tikoloha ka Lefatshe
  - 13 Phupiane: Letatsa ka Botlape
  - 16 Phupiane: Letatsa ka Botlha
  - 20 Phupiane: Letatsa ka Baphatbathehi ka Lefatshe
  - 30 Phupiane: Letatsa ka Mediywa wa Phedise
  - 18 Phupu: Letatsa ka Mandalato

- **Matsatsi a Thaha a kgethelelieng**
  - 2 Phupiane: Helen Oxenbury (Dibukwa tsa ba dileme tse 0–3)
  - 4 Phupiane: Aesop (Dibukwa tsa ba dileme tse 3–93)
  - 10 Phupiane: Maurice Sendak (Dibukwa tsa ba dileme tse 3–10)
  - 13 Phupiane: Niki Daly (Dibukwa tsa ba dileme tse 3–10)
  - 23 Phupiane: Eric Carle (Dibukwa tsa ba dileme tse 2–6)
  - 11 Phupu: E.B. White (Dibukwa tsa ba dileme tse 8–11)

Don’t forget that we will be taking a break until the week of 27 July. Enjoy the school holidays, and join us again at the end of July for more Na’libali reading magic! In the meantime, find stories and fun things to do at www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.
Stella loved round things.

One day she found a round pipe.

She crawled in. Then Stella got stuck!

Round and round she rolled.

Then out she popped!

She only played with round toys.

She only ate round food.

Stella gets stuck

Stella o a tshwaseha

A kgasetsa ka hara yona. Mme Stella a tshwaseha!

A pitika a pitika ho pota.

Mme yaba o qhomela ka ntle!

Ka tšatsi le leng a fumana phaepe e tjhitiya.

O ne a eja dijo tse tjhitiya feela.

O ne a bapala ka dithoye tse tjhitiya feela.