Bonding over books
by Babalwa Shota

Like many children her age, my nine-year-old daughter wants to be everything when she grows up: a ballerina one week, a model another week, then an actress, musician, tennis player and – just for kicks – a “journalist like mommy”. That’s my child – spontaneous and living in the moment!

But all her life she has had a passion for books. It’s wonderful! But it shouldn’t come as a surprise to me that she loves reading so much. After all, even when she was still a foetus, I read to her! I’d read aloud to her anything I laid my hands on – reports on babies’ development, fashion tips in magazines, or nursery rhymes. I read. And, apparently, she listened.

When she was a baby, she loved her soft, cloth books. When she was not using them as chewing toys, she loved looking at them. As she grew older and more impatient, she would grab a book and make up a story as she “read” it upside down. And, boy, was she creative!

When I was a child, my mother found the perfect way to make sure that she could relax a little after work, while also spending time with me. She would give me one of her books to read beside her in bed while she escaped into another world. I loved it so much that it was natural to share that tradition with my own daughter.

I’m lucky to have a child who loves reading. I’m glad that when she asks me for a present, most of the time it’s for a new and more challenging book. She has a fantastic general knowledge and a curious mind about life. I couldn’t be prouder.

The above article is adapted from the newspaper column and blog post of the same name that Babalwa Shota, Assistant Editor at Sunday World, wrote for Nal’ibali. To read more blog posts on different topics related to literacy, go to www.nalibali.org.
Hi Nal’ibali

WOW! What a lovely, informative website. I’m super excited with the wealth of knowledge made available. I have a 19-month-old child and saw that there are quite a few recommended books I can read to him. I can’t wait to get them for him.

Mthikazi Thebe

Dumela Nal’ibali

HELANG! Aa websaete e ratehang, e fletseg fhufo. Ke thabile ka Itlala ka lebaka la leliletla le lekanana ka lelebo le lefumelele le uhole. Ke na le fhswana wa dikgwegwe tse 19 mme ke bone hore ho na le lebaka tse mmalwa tse kgophakatswana moo tse nka mmalwa tsona. Ke se ke ke tatelele ho ya di lita ke tlo mmalwa tsona.

Mthikazi Thebe

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a 37-year-old father of a 7-year-old girl who is in Grade 2. Every Wednesday evening we read aloud and do fun activities instead of watching TV. I find your supplement very resourceful because it teaches her to read. I use the theme of the story to teach her values, such as respect, discipline, love and sharing. I would not know how to approach these subjects if it wasn’t for your supplement.

I am going to recommend the supplement to a friend who runs a daycare centre. Keep up the good work!

Baoma Tsesane

Send us your reading moments and WIN!

Whether it’s a photo of your child enjoying a bedtime story or a picture of them reading their first book, send us your children’s reading moments to inspire others to create reading moments with their children too. Simply email your reading moment picture to info@nalibali.org. If selected, your photo may appear on the Nal’ibali Facebook page, and you will receive a book to enjoy with your children, as well as a Nal’ibali T-shirt!

Re romelle dinako tsa hao tsa ho bala mme o IKGAPELE!

Ebeng ekaba sekeho sa fhswana hao a natelele ke pale ya pale a robala kapa setshwantsha sa hae moo a balang buka ya hae ya pale, re romelle dinako tsa hao tsa hoo bana ba hae ya balang ho kgophakatsa ba bang hore le bana ba ipepele dinako tsa ho bala mmahlo le bana ba bana. Romella feela imele ya setshwantsha sa nako tsa ho bala ho info@nalibali.org. Haeba se kgophakatsa setshwantsha sa hao se tla fhswa a le kgophakatsa le Facebook la Nal’ibali, mme o tla fhswa a le kgophakatsa le bana ho bana, esthana le T-shirt ya Nal’ibali.

Dear Nal’ibali...

Nal’ibali ya ratehang...

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

Ngolla Nal’ibali ho
PRAESA, Suite 17−201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700 kapa ho letters@nalibali.org.

Here is Mbali Sefele, who is proudly showing the copy of the storybook, The Cool Nguni, that she cut out and made from her Nal’ibali supplement. Mbali is in Grade 3 at Venterspost Primary School in Gauteng. Thanks for the photo!

Enawe ke Mbali Sefele, ya bontshang ka motlotlo lho baka ya pale, The Cool Nguni, eo a e sehlaung le ho e e e ho e ho baka ya tla fole tla fole tla fole tla fole. Mbali Sefele, ya bontshang ka bokgolo ya 3, mme Sefele ya bokgolo sa ra sa Venterspost Gauteng. Re a leboha ka sekeho!

Baoma Tsesane
But Young Lion was not convinced. He wanted that gift with all his heart. He continued on his way home and further along the way he bumped into Jackal.

"How are you my brother from another mother?" greeted Young Lion.

"Ja," said Jackal, "I can’t complain really … but one thing …" And they started talking about the gifts. Jackal also wished the gift of singing was his.

"So what is stopping you from taking it, Bra Jackal?" Young Lion asked.

Jackal laughed with his loud jackal laugh. "Everybody would find out so easily that I’m the one who stole it," said Jackal.

"How’s that?" asked Young Lion.

"Every animal will be surprised that suddenly I, Jackal, can sing so well," Jackal replied. The two laughed because everyone knew how loud and scratchy Jackal’s voice was.

"How’s that?" asked Young Lion.

"It’s my nature, brother from another mother. I’m a singer by nature," Jackal answered.

"But you are not singing, you idiot," retorted Young Lion.

"I’m sorry, brother," said Jackal. "It’s the gift that makes me happy again. I have always wanted to sing but I can’t. I can’t sing without my gift."

"But your gift is singing. You know that," Young Lion reminded him.

"I know but I can’t sing without it," Jackal replied.

"That’s true. But you can sing with the help of someone else," Young Lion pointed out.

"That’s true," said Jackal. "I can’t perform really … but one day I’ll sing like you."

Ledinyane la Tau le tshwene e nyane e sootho

Tshepo Mokono
Vusi Malindi

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’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


Drive your imagination

Volkswagen

It starts with a story

Nal’ibali
One morning, just as the sun was about to come up, Lion, King of the jungle, ordered the village Kgosana to blow on the horn. As the sound of the horn went “Vooooo! Vooooo!” all the animals knew that the day had arrived when they were to receive gifts from the Great King.

They gathered at the King’s royal place. Young Lion was there, pushing his way to the front of the crowd. But Little Brown Monkey was first in the queue, and he received the best gift ever!

Little Brown Monkey got the gift of singing. The gift was inside a small green bottle. King Lion said, “Whenever you drink this, you’ll be able to sing beautifully. You’ll be famous and rich. You’ll be a great musician, or a great Gospel star.”

Hoseng ho hong, ha letsatsi le se le le haufi le ho tshaba, Tau, Morena wa meru, a laela Kgosana ya motse ho letsa lenaka. Ha modumo wa lenaka o nse o ya “Vooooo! Voo!” diphoofolo tsohle tsa tseba hore letsatsi le fihlile lea ka lona ba lokelang ho amohela dimpho ho tswa ho Morena e Moholo.

Tsa kgobokana paleising ya borena. Ledinyane laTau o ne a le teng, a ntsa ithoholometsa ho ya ka pelepele ho seholopa se moo. Empa Tshwene e Nyane e Sotho e ne e le yona e ka pelepele moleng, mme he ya fumana mpho e ntle ho feta tse ding!
Later that day, Young Lion bumped into Springbok on the road and shouted, "Howzit, Sister Springbok?" They hurried through their greetings so that they could get to the topic of the gift. Springbok, just like Young Lion, and Antbear, wished the monkey’s gift was hers.

"But I am sad to say, the gift belongs to Little Brown Monkey and I can’t change that," Springbok sighed.

"Out of all the animals, how come the monkey, I mean … the ugly little monkey … is the one that got such a special gift? Tell me, Sister Springbok!" Young Lion asked.

"Well, which animal deserves that gift?" Springbok asked in turn.

"Me, Young Lion, the future king. I deserve it. I deserve that singing gift," Young Lion answered.

"Wait your turn until next year when the King brings gifts; maybe you will get it next year. Good things are always worth waiting for," Springbok advised.

Young Lion said, "You are right. I should wait for next year."

The two animals waved goodbye and went their separate ways.

Young Lion sat outside and waited until the other monkeys had gone home. He waited until he was sure Little Brown Monkey was fast asleep. Then he crept in, took the small green bottle from the top of the table, and tiptoed out the room. He had stolen the gift. It was his now!

And so, after a long time thinking … Young Lion decided to return the gift.

He ran as fast as his running shoes would take him back to Little Brown Monkey’s place. He sneaked into the house and returned the bottle of singing gift to the table where it had been before.

Then he crept out and headed home. As he ran, his heart felt light and his feet felt free – freer than he had felt all day!

Mme hape, ka mora ho nahana nako e telele … Ledinyane la Tau la rera ho kgutlisana mpho.

A matha ka lebole lolhe leolu dieta tsae ha tsae ha matha di neng di mo fa lona ho kgutlela morao ha Tshwene e Nyane e Sootho. A hohobela ka thung mme a kgutlisetsa botloto ya mpho ya ho bina hodina tafole moo e neng e le hona teng pele.

Jwale a kgasetsa ka ntle mme a ya hae. Ha a ntsa a matha, peyo ya hae ya imoloha mme maoto a utlwahala a lokohile - a lokohile ho feta ka moo a neng a kile a ikutlwa ka teng letsatsi leo lolhe!
Rakgadibere a jwetsa Ledinyane la Tau hore le yena o ne a lakatsa ha mpho ya ho bina e ne e filwe yena.

"Jwale ke eng e o thibang ho e nka, mme Rakgadibere."

Ho botsa Ledinyane la Tau.

Rakgadibere a re, "Ke batla ho etsa ba bang ka tsela eo le nna ke lakatsang eka ba ka nketsa ka yona. Ha ke batle ha dintho tsa ka di ka utsuwa, ka tsela eo ha ke a lokela ho utswetsa ba bang."

Ledinyane la Tau a dumela ka hlooho. A utlwisisa seo.

Young Lion started for home, and on his way he muttered to himself, “That singing gift should be mine, mine, mine and mine. I’m going to steal it away from Little Brown Monkey.”

On his way, Young Lion met Antbear. They greeted each other. They talked about what they had eaten for breakfast, about the weather, about New Year’s resolutions and about the gifts-gathering at the King’s kraal.

Antbear told Young Lion that she also wished the singing gift was hers. “So what is stopping you from taking it, Ma Antbear?” asked Young Lion.

Antbear said, “I want to treat others in the way I want them to treat me. I don’t want my things to be stolen, so I should not steal from others.”

Young Lion nodded. He understood that.

Ledinyane la Tau a ya hae, mme ha a le tseleng a nna a korotla a re, “Mpho eno ya ho bina e lokela ho ba ya ka, ya ka, ya ka, ya ka. Ke tlo e amothe Tshwene e Nyane e Sootho.”

Ha a le tseleng, Ledinyane la Tau la kopana le Rakgadibere. Ba dumedisana. Ba bua ka tse o di jelong dijong tsa hoseng, le ka maemo a lehodimo, le ka tsa selemo se setjha tse o ikemiseditseng ho di phethahatsa hape le ka kopano ya dimpho e neng e le ha Morena.

Ha a ntse a eame, a hopola se buiweng ke Phokojwe, Phokojwe o ne a nepile – bohle ba a tseba hore Ledinyane la Tau ke letlaila. Ho tlo ba bonolo hore ba supe yena ka hore ke yena ya utswitseng mpho ya Tshwene e Nyane e Sootho.

Ledinyane la Tau a dula hodima lefika mme a nahaniisa haholo ka taba ya mpho e ka hara botlolo. “Mohlomong Letsa le yena o nepile; mohlomong mpho e tla ba ya ka selemog se tleng.”

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Get story active!

After you and your children have read Young Lion and Little Brown Monkey try discussing some of these things.

- Why did Young Lion think he deserved the gift? Do you think this is a good reason?
- What advice did Young Lion get from Antbear, Springbok and Jackal? Whose advice do you think was best?
- Why did Young Lion return the gift eventually?
- If you had been Young Lion, would you have given the gift back? Why or why not?
- Have you ever thought about taking something that belonged to someone else without asking their permission? What did you do about it? How did you feel?
- Do you think honesty is important? Why or why not?

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 Mme wa Afrika

Her children: Afrika (7 years old), Dintle (9 months old)
Her nephew/niece: Neo, Mibali
Languages she speaks: Sesotho, Setswana, English and a little bit of Afrikaans
Favourite hobby: reading novels and listening to stories on the radio
Favourite colour: orange
Something she does every day: reads to Afrika and Dintle
Her favourite food: soup

Bokella baphetwa ba Nal’ibali.

Seho mme o ipolokela baphetwa bohle ba Nal’ibali bao o ba ratang ka ho fetisa mme o ba sebedise ho ipapoloko ditshwantsho, dipale kopa ntho efe kopa fana o ka e nahanang!

Mabapi le Mme wa Afrika

Bana ba hoe: Afrika (ya dilemo tse 7), Dintle (ya dikgwedi di 9)
Motlhana wa hoe: Neo, Mibali
Dipuo tseo di buang: Sesotho, Setswana, English le Afrikaans hanyane lela Tsela eo o ilethi lo ya yona: ho bala dinothi le ho hamela dipale tsadiroang
Mmola oe o o ratang: mmola wa lamunu
Ntho oe o etsele kheso: o bala Afrika le Dintle
Dijo tseo di di ratang: sopho

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In your next Nal’ibali supplement:

- Taking turns when you read with your children
- Story activity ideas for Refilwe: An African retelling of Rapunzel

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Look at me!
Ntjhebe!

I can sit.
Nka ajula.

I can eat.
Nka ja.

I can wash.
Nka hlapa.

I can stand.
Nka ema.

I can crawl.
Nka kgasa.

I can play.
Nka bopala.

Look at me... I can read!
Ntjhebe... Nka balal}

Sue Kramer
Alzette Prins