November is International Picture Book Month – a time to celebrate those special books that capture our imagination with their carefully chosen words and beautiful illustrations. Picture books introduce our children to the world of literature. They also play a critical part in their development.

Picture books are meant to be read aloud so this makes them the perfect reading resource for sharing stories with children. As we read aloud, we are able to have conversations with our children about what we are reading, and we can invite them to comment on the story and ask questions about it. These conversations deepen children’s understanding of the story. They also help children to learn about the way in which stories and books work.

Picture books offer children a language lesson! Through the rhythm and rhyme in many of these books, children experience the sounds of our languages. The repetition in them (for example, “I’ll Huff and I’ll Puff and I’ll blow your house down!”), allows children to join in by saying some of the words of the story, even before they are able to read. And, because picture books use fewer words than novels, the words that are chosen and how they are used, is very important.

So, the rich use of language in these books develops and extends children’s own use of spoken and written language. And then there are the illustrations! Through the partnership between the words on the page and the pictures, children make meaning from what is being read to them and learn to enjoy stories. But they also learn to “read” pictures. They develop the skill of interpreting visual images, and you only have to think about the number of advertisements you see every day to understand what an important life skill that is!

And finally there is that essential human quality of empathy. Picture books enable young children to join someone else’s world just for a moment. They help children to understand that empathy is not a single emotion, but is the result of seeing someone else’s world from a different perspective. Developing the ability to do this takes lots of practice, and picture books provide a safe place to start the process.

So, picture books may be entertaining and magical, but actually they’re essential!

Celebrating picture books!

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And finally there is that essential human quality of empathy. Picture books enable young children to join someone else’s world just for a moment. They help children to begin learning how to step into someone else’s shoes and to see life from a different perspective. Developing the ability to do this takes lots of practice, and picture books provide a safe place to start the process.

So, picture books may be entertaining and magical, but actually they’re essential!

Ho keteka dibuka ts&a ditshwantsho!

Ho keteka dibuka ts&a ditshwantsho! Ho keteka dibuka ts&a ditshwantsho! Ho keteka dibuka ts&a ditshwantsho! Ho keteka dibuka ts&a ditshwantsho! Ho keteka dibuka ts&a ditshwantsho!
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.

Bring it home.
Tlisa matla a pale ka lapeng.
This is an excerpt from the book *Next Stop – Zanzibar Road!* by Niki Daly, published by Giraffe Books, which is an imprint of Pan Macmillan South Africa. This follows on from the first book *Zanzibar Road*, and is also available in bookstores and from online retailers.

The quirky and much-loved gang from *Zanzibar Road* is back for another fun-filled adventure with Mama Jumbo, Little Chico and a host of colourful and entertaining characters that will delight children and adults alike.

Let the adventures continue in *Zanzibar Road*!

Niki Daly’s high regard for children is always beautifully expressed through the books he creates for them. He has won numerous awards at home and abroad for his lyrical writing and gently humorous illustrations.

This story is also available in the following languages: isiZulu, isiXhosa, siSwati, isiNdebele, Sesotho, Setswana, tshiVenda, xiTsonga and Portuguese. To find out more about Pan Macmillan and its imprints and titles, go to www.panmacmillan.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

**“Squeeze me once, squeeze me twice. Just one more squeeze and I’ll double the price!”** joked Louie-Louie.

“Mpenye hanngwe, mpenye habedi. Mpenye hapo mme ke tla eketsa habedi theko!” Louie-Louie o bua jwalo a swaswa.

Soon Mama Jumbo’s shopping bag was heavy with fruit and vegetables. "What else do I need?" thought Mama Jumbo. "Ah! A mirror!"
Mr Motiki’s taxi thumped and bumped down the dusty road.

Tekesi ya Monghadi Motiki e theosa e nyolosa tseleng e lerole.
It tooted, hopped and skidded to a stop to pick up passengers along the way.

O letsa hutara ya koloi mme o e kgina le ho e emisa ho nka bapalamis tseleng.
By the time Mama Jumbo piled out, her hat was sitting on the tip of her trunk.

“Eish! A mirror would be such a help,” sighed Mama Jumbo.

“Okay,” said Mama Jumbo. “But I only have two paw-paws, and you have lots and lots of beads.”

“I know,” said Old Granny Baboon. “But my family is hungry, and we can’t eat beads.” So Mama Jumbo and Old Granny Baboon swapped.

Next, Kwela walked by with all her pretty things. When she saw Mama Jumbo’s bowl of beads, she said, “I've been looking for beads like those for a long time.”

“What will you give me for them?” asked Mama Jumbo.

“How about a mirror?” suggested Kwela.

Nakong eo Mme Tlou a theohang, katiba ya hae e ne e dutse ntheng ya nko ya hae.

“Weel Seipone se ka thusa ka sebele,” Mme Tlou a bua jwalo a sa thaba.

“Ho lokile,” ha bolela Mme Tlou. “Empa ke na le diphopho tse pedi feela, empa wena o na le difaha tse ngata haholo.”

“Ke a tseba,” ha bolela Nkgono Tshwene. “Empa bana ba ka ba lapile, mme re ke re ra ja difaha.” Kahoo Mme Tlou le Nkgono ba fapanyetsana dintho tsena.

Jwale, Kwela a feta moo a tshwere dintho tsa hae tse ntle. Ha a bona sejana sa Mme Tlou se kentseng difaha, a re, “Ha se jwale ke batla difaha tse tshwanang le tsena.”

“O tla nneha eng ha ke o neha tsona?” ha botsa Mme Tlou.
Know your Nal’ibali characters

In South Africa, many homes are bilingual or multilingual. This is a wonderful resource for children!

First out the languages that the Nal’ibali character, Hope, speaks and read and then enter the competition to win a gift card from Jet!

1. Hope is 10 years old and lives in the daily lives of children her own age.
2. She enjoys reading novels about wild animals or korate.
3. Hope can also speak and read in Afrikaans and Zulu.

Some books by Niki Daly

Lots of Niki Daly’s books are available in a number of South African languages. Most libraries and bookshops have his books available. Here are some of his books:

- Creepy Street
- The Herd Boy / Modisana
- Mama, Papa and Baby Joe
- No more kisses for Bernard!
- Ruby sings the blues
- Zanabar Road / Tsela ya Zanabar
- The Herd Boy / Modisana
- Creepy Street

5 facts about Niki Daly

1. Every time he has an idea for a story, Niki Daly writes it down in a notebook he calls his “Book of Ideas”.
2. He won an international award for the very first book he had published – and he has been winning awards ever since!
3. He has been writing and illustrating children’s books for 36 years!
4. The part Niki Daly enjoys most about working on picture books is creating new story characters.
5. One of his favourite picture book author-illustrators is Maurice Sendak, who wrote and illustrated Where the Wild Things Are.

Win! Ikgapele!

To stand a chance of winning one of four Jet Gift Cards worth R100 each, send us the word “Hope” and tell us if it is good for children to learn more than one language. Email your answer to letters@nalibali.org, or SMS it to 32545 (standard data rates apply).

Competition closes on 27 November 2014.

Terms and conditions: To enter, you must be 16 years or older. Employees of PRAESA are not eligible to enter. This competition is open to residents of South Africa only and there is no fee or any other charge for entering. Employees of PRAESA may not enter. To enter, email: hope@nalibali.org or SMS the word “Hope” to 32545.

Clue: Visit our “Reading & storytelling tips” section on the Nal’ibali website to find the answer.

Go to: http://nalibali.org/reading_storytips/language
Hukung ya dipale

Ena ke karolo ya bobedi ya pale ya Ntatu ya ileng a leka ho thwana le Motsheare le Bosiu. Natelefwe ka ho e bolo, kapa ho e bolo ebe o e phetela ba bang.

Ntatu le Sefate sa Bommelak
(Karlo ya 2)
Ka Leo Daly

Mantsiboyang ao, Ntatu ao pata kamora dikhotla mme a ema. Ha Bosiu a tsabo, Ntatu a mo sala moro. A mo shebela ha a Ntatu's moni wo ha ke laletangwaneng le lla Sefate sa Bommelakokanala.

Ntatu a ama bosiu kaufela ha thlha e e baseng. A shebela Motsheare a phola setlaeke laletangwaneng le le la Sefate sa Bommelak. "Jwale ke se ke tebba sepini sa bono?" ha raphana Ntatu, "Ha no Ntatu's setlaeke sa ka laletangwaneng ko la Sefate sa Bommelak, se ha shebela jo wa ke Motsheare. Ha no ha Ntatu's masipa ko ka ka ha laletangwaneng le le la Sefate sa Bommelak, ha la ha jwale wa ke Mmabe bosiu wo Bas."

Empa ya re pale Ntatu a tshidisa, ho haholo la setlaeke, ha haholo modumo o tshangang o ileng wa mo nyanso haholo mme a, fofo haholo ho phofo a leka laletangwaneng.

Sefate sa Bommelak se le sa Nhloko motla sa oanaha. "Ntatu," sa rasi, "ha no ha molle ngle le Motsheare le Bosiu ya laletang, ho fihlela ho haholo kara ha laletangwaneng le ka a se elo, ka fihlela ha la Nthokako. Jwale, tsaomane, mme a tshinana haholo sa laletang, sa laletang le sa ante sa laletang le sa laletang le sa a tshinana sa laletang le sa laletang le laletang le sa ante sa ante sa ante."

Mme ha a tshiptlwa, Ntatu a o kelana dipale ka Bosiu a tshinana a therana a lela. "Jwale, alaha dipale ka Bosiu a tshinana a therana a lela. "There, Ntatu," said the Bommelak Tree, "now on, you will never wash yourself in water. You are cursed forever to wash in dust. Now go and be happy with who you are!"

Soon Ntatu's colourful feathers faded. His face became grey and dirty. His wings shrunk and his legs grew short.

And whenever the animals saw Day and Night walk by, Ntatu looked at the ground and said nothing.

But the little mole whispered, "Look at how handsome Day is. Look at how beautiful Night is. And look at how grey Ntatu the pigeon is!"

Tell us if you liked the story, Ntatu and the Bommelak Tree – SMS "Bookmark" with your name and your comments to 32545. R1.00 per SMS.

Ntatu and the Bommelak Tree
(Bommelak Tree)
By Leo Daly

That evening, Ntatu hid behind a bush and waited. When Night woke, Ntatu followed her. He watched her wash her hair in the pool beneath the Bommelak Tree.

Ntatu waited all night long until morning came. He watched Day wash his face in the pool beneath the Bommelak Tree. "Now I know their secret!" thought Ntatu. "If I wash my face in the pool beneath the Bommelak Tree, then it will be as handsome as Day's face. And if I wash in the pool beneath the Bommelak Tree, then they will be as beautiful as Night's hair."

But just as Ntatu was about to dive into the pool, there was a terrible sound that stopped him in his tracks.

The Bommelak Tree shook its branches. "Ntatu," it said, "no one besides Day and Night may wash themselves in this pool. If you do, I will curse you. Now go and be happy with who you are!"

Ntatu shivered in fright, but he said, "And who are you to tell me what to do, Tree? I will be as handsome as Day and I will be as beautiful as Night! There is nothing you can do to stop me!"

And with this, Ntatu flapped his wings and dived into the pool beneath the Bommelak Tree.

But he did not land in the cool water of the pool. He crashed into a pit of dust. Ntatu was so happy he didn't even realise this. He flapped his wings in the dust and he scrubbed his face in it – and he felt very beautiful and very handsome.

"There, Ntatu," said the Bommelak Tree, "from now on, you will never wash yourself in water. You are cursed forever to wash in dust. Now go and be happy with who you are!"

Soon Ntatu's colourful feathers faded. His face became grey and dirty. His wings shrunk and his legs grew short.

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