As children grow up, they are often faced with situations that are very challenging for them. Some of these may be "ordinary" life events, like starting school, or becoming a brother or sister. But many children are also faced with very difficult challenges, like being at the receiving end of prejudice, or the death of a loved one, or divorce. Children especially need our support during these times and one of the ways we can help them, is by sharing stories with them.

There are many wonderful stories about the potentially tough situations and dilemmas that children may face. Reading these stories together can help to support your children in the following ways.

- When you read a story that has a character who has to deal with an issue similar to the one your children are facing, it helps them to realise that other children have similar problems to them, and so they feel less alone.
- Stories can help children to better understand a challenging situation, discover how to cope with it and explore what options are available to them. Reading stories can help them to understand themselves better.
- Many children find it difficult to identify and communicate how they are feeling. When children identify with a character in a story, they are often able to talk about what troubles them through talking about the character.
- Stories give us a great starting point for discussion about things that are sometimes difficult to talk about. Asking open-ended questions about the story while you are reading it and afterwards, helps children to think and talk about their personal concerns, emotions or ideas. Here are some examples of questions you could use: "Why do you think she did/said that?", "What do you think he should do?", "How would you feel if …?", "What would you do if …?", "What do you do when …?"
- Reading stories together can lead to other forms of self-expression too. For example, your children could retell and/or act out the story, tell or write their own story, draw a picture about the story or one that is inspired by it, or write to one of the story characters.
- Stories might not have the power to change the situation, but they can help change how we experience it.

Dipale tse fodiesang

Ha bana ba hola, hangata ba shebana le maemo a boima maphelang a bona. A mang a ona e ka nna ya e bahola ho tse "fiwalehiling" tse bophelo, tse khang a qela bo ha sekalonga, kha ho ba mohlwana kapa kgaitsedi. Empa bana ba bangata ba shebana le diphephetse tse boima haholo, tse khang a ihupuma ba kgethuliwa, kapa lefu ba baratwana, kapa tifhlo. Bana ba hlaka haholoholo tseiheletso ya rona nakong tsena tse thata mme e ngwwe ya ditsele tse re ka ba thuang ka tsone, ke ho abelana dipale le bona.

Ho na le dipale tse ngata tse mokatsang tse mabapi le maemo a thlate le masiaqo ao bana ba ka kopanang le ona. Ho bala dipale tsena mmoho ho ka thuha ho tshihetsa bana ba hao ka ditsele tse letleng.

Dipale di ka thuha bana ho ufutsisa boemo bo thata ka tsela e betere, ho sibolla ditsele tsa ho shebana le bona le ho halo ditsele te ding tse tsa ka di sebedicasing. Ho bala dipale ho ka ba thuha ho ikuwitwa ho betere.


Dipale di etsa hore re be le moo re ka qalang teng ka dipusano tse mabapi le dintlo tsele ka naka e ngwwe ho long thata ho ka bua ka tsone. Ho bota dipotsa tse bokuthelo ka pale ho e ose tse ho o a qepla ho e o bota ho thuha bana ho nqahama le ho bua ka mohlwana a bona, mokutiso a bota ka bua methapola ya bana. Era ka mohlwana e meng ya dipotsa tse o ka di sebedisang: "O nqahama hore ka mohlwana e qaleng/buile se?", "O nqahama hore o tshwanetse ho etsa eng?", "O ne o ho ikiwe se?", "O ne o ho ikiwe se?", "O ne o ho Chuile se?", "O ne o ho Chuile se?", "O ne o ho Chuile se?", "O ne o ho Chuile se?", "O ne o ho Chuile se?", "O ne o ho Chuile se?", "O ne o ho Chuile se?".

Ho bala dipale mmoho ho ka lebisa le molekeng emeng ya ho ikuwahantha ho. etsa mohitha, bana ba hao ba ka pheto pale hapo mme/kopa ga tshehanelese pale eo, ba pheto pale ka ngole pale eo bo e apokiling, ba tsele sebedisang se mabapi le pale kapa se susemetswele ke yona, kapa ba ngole e mong wa baphetwa ba paleng.

Dipale di ka ma tsa se be le matla a ho fetola maemo, empo di ka thuha ho fetola tsela ea re shebanaeng le maemo ka teng.
**Nal’ibali news**

To celebrate International Literacy Day on 8 September 2014, Nal’ibali launched its new and improved reading-for-enjoyment cellphone app with Mxit Reach. This easy-to-use app helps to put children’s stories and literacy tips into the hands of even more South African caregivers and their children!

Anyone with a cellphone can get a story or literacy tip delivered to their phones each week in English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi and Sesotho!

“Research shows that being told stories and being read to at home are the things most likely to help make children successful learners at school. Stories help children develop their imagination, thinking, ability to use language and their problem-solving skills,” explains Carole Bloch from Nal’ibali.

Now, with the Nal’ibali app, you don’t have to wait to be at home to share a story with your children – you can enjoy stories together on the train, in the taxi or while waiting for an appointment!

Here’s how to sign up for the Nal’ibali reading-for-enjoyment app:

1. Download Mxit on your cellphone by going to m.mxit.com.
2. Go to Apps, then Search and then Nal’ibali.

Telala ya ho ingodisetsa app ya Nal’ibali ya ho-balla-boithabiso ke ea:

2. Eyo ho Apps, ebe a ya ho Search ha be be ha Nal’ibali.

**More about the Nal’ibali reading-for-enjoyment app**

- You can sign up to receive a weekly tip or story to share with your children.
- You can earn points and rewards by completing stories, sending us reviews and answering monthly polls.
- There is a story library where you will find all your favourite read-aloud stories.
- You can complete fun literacy quizzes.
- Coming soon: a multilingual rhyme library for use with babies and very young children, and an “Ask the experts” feature, where you can send your reading and writing questions to receive an answer from a Nal’ibali literacy expert.

**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.

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

1. Ntsha leqephe la 3 ho isa ha la 6 bukaneng ena ya ikhese.
2. Le mene ka halalo hadima mola wa matheba a matsho.
3. Le mene ka halalo haphe.
4. Seha hadima mela ya matheba a matsho.

**Ditaba tsa Nal’ibali**

Ho keteka Letsatsi la Matjhaba la Tsebo ya ho Bala le ho Ngola ka la 8 Loetse 2014, Nal’ibali e thakgotse app ya yona e ntiene e ntlafaditswenyane ya selefounu ya ho-balla-boithabiso mmoho le Mxit Reach. App ena e sebedisehao ha bonolo e thusa ho kenyana dikeletso tsa dipale tsa bana le tsa tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola ka hara matsoho a bahlukomedibi ba bangata ba Maafrika Botswana mmoho le bana ba bona!

Mang kopa mang ya nang le selefounu o ka fumana dikeletso tsa pale tsa tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola ha di romela selefounu ya hae bale le bale ka ho English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi le Sesotho!


Jwale, ka app ya Nal’ibali, ho o Noko ho ema ho thilo a thilo lapeng pale o ka abelana pale le bana ba hao – le ka nataleho ka dipale mmoho ka tereneng, ka tekere na pale ho la ntele la emetsi kopeko e tiang!
Get involved at bookdash.org

We believe every child should own a hundred books by the age of five.
Become a book-sponsor and help change the world.

Hula o fosile, o se cruse
Jaletla o shweshe, Bumanga diphala
O phina phina ho a leba ho ka bokweselo
O phina phina ho a leba a hale ma舌ma
O phina phina ho a leba a hale la mofola
O phina phina ho a leba a hale lesegwane
O tra la kia phina ka kana isofelo.

Always Papa brings a song. He sings the song while he pulls the oars. He sings the song while he pulls the nets. He sings the song as he winds the ropes. He sings the song as he cycles home. “Swish. Find a fish. Pull and pop. Don’t you stop.”

Tlhapi le mpho
Liesl Jobson
Jesse Breytenbach
Andy Thesen
Ka Labohlano le leng le ikgethang ntate wa Yusuf o apara pele mafube a hlaha. O apara baki ya hae e thibelang maemo a lehodimo a batang le kaibha ya hae e tala ya ulu e kwaibela ditsehe tsa hae. O dumedisa mora hae ka letsogo. Mahlo a Yusuf a kganya ha Ntate a re, “Kajeno ke letsatsi leo ke tlango ho tshwara tlhapi mme ke o tiele le mpho ha ke etla lapeng.”

One special Friday Yusuf’s father gets dressed before a flicker of light brightens the sky. He pulls on his heavy weather-proof jacket and the green woollen cap that covers his ears. He waves goodbye to his boy. Yusuf’s eyes brighten when Papa says, “Today is the day I will catch a fish and bring a gift home for you.”

The men pull the boat in and coil up the cables. A hard white triangle catches Papa’s finger.


“What did you bring back for Yusuf?”

As the sun goes down, Papa answers the gulls, “A lucky shark tooth for my boy.”

At home Yusuf holds his gift up to the stars.

Ouma Safiya wants a nice fat yellowtail for her supper. Mother wants a new dress.

“Don’t be silly,” says Ouma. “You’ll be lucky if they catch even a tiny crab. More likely it will be fish-tail Friday. There aren’t so many fish left in the sea.”

Yusuf holds Ouma’s hand. They cross the road at the bathing cabins.


Nkgono Safiya o batla tlhapi e mohatla o mosehla e nonneng ha monatjana bakeng sa dijo tsa mantsiboya. Mme o batla mose motjha.

“Tloha mona,” ho rialo Nkgono. “O tla be o le lehlohonolo ha ba ka tshwasa le ha e le lekgala feela. Ho ka etsahala hore e be.”

The children use their image to see how Ka Labohlano le leng le ikgethang ntate wa Yusuf o apara pele mafube a hlaha. O apara baki ya hae e thibelang maemo a lehodimo a batang le kaibha ya hae e tala ya ulu e kwaibela ditsehe tsa hae. O dumedisa mora hae ka letsogo. Mahlo a Yusuf a kganya ha Ntate a re, “Kajeno ke letsatsi leo ke tlango ho tshwara tlhapi mme ke o tiele le mpho ha ke etla lapeng.”
Yusuf’s father and uncle and cousins heave and pull. A little shark has been caught. It twists and thrashes in the waves. Yusuf’s father untangles the nets, singing to the shark, “Drop and swish. Find a fish. Pull and plop. Don’t you stop.”

When the shark at last is free it streaks back into the waves, leaving only one fat yellowtail in the net. Ouma Safiya will be pleased.


Qetellong ha shaka e se e lokolohile e kgutela ka maqhubung, e siya feela tlhapi e le ngwe e nommeng e mohatlha ka mosehla ka hara letiowa. Nkgono Safiya o tla thaba.

A fish and a gift? Oh, what will it be? Papa cycles down to Muizenberg Beach. Squeak, squeak go the wheels all the way to Surfer’s Corner.


Papa rings his bell. “Wait and see what it will be!”


Dinonyana tsa lewatle di potapota sebakeng. “Hwa, Hwa, Hwa!” di a lla. “O tla tlela Yusuf’ eng?”

Ntate o letsa tshepe ya hae. “Emang feela le tla bona hore ke eng!”
The fishermen watch the sun rise. They check their nets. They check their oars. They listen to the wind. They drag their boats down to the water. Yusuf’s grandfather, Oupa Salie, was a treknet fisherman. Before him his father, Oupagrootjie Ridwaan, knew the sea too.


Ouma Safiya watches through her binoculars, her fingers curled in curiosity. The shark siren sounds. Swimmers run back to the sand and grab their towels. Surfers rush to the shore, carrying their boards under their arms. Under the showers they strip off their wetsuits.

“Whaat? Whaat? Whaat?” cry the gulls. “What will Yusuf’s father bring from the ocean?”


“Hwa! Hwa! Hwa!” ha lla dinonyana tsa lewatle. “Ntata Yusuf o tla tla le eng ha a tswa lewatle?”
Win! Ikgapele!

To stand a chance of winning one of four Jet Gift Cards worth R100 each, send us the word “Neo” and tell us about one way you can encourage 6 to 9 year olds to keep reading. Email your answer to letters@nalibali.org, or SMS it to 32545 (standard data rates apply). Competition closes on 4 December 2014.

Terms and conditions: To enter, you must be 16 years or older. Employees of PRAESA are not eligible to enter.

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

Go to: http://nalibali.org/reading_story_topics/reading-with-6-9-year-old/

Know your Nal’ibali characters

Between the ages of six and nine, many children move through the stages of emergent reading to independence. So a lot happens in terms of literacy development, and it’s important to keep reading to your children. Find out about Neo and what he enjoys reading, then enter the competition to win a gift card from Jet!

Neo is 8 years old. He lives with his mom, dad, Gogo and younger sister, Mbali. He speaks isiZulu and isiXhosa and some English too. Neo likes to explore and to try out new things. He also loves playing soccer and reading books. His favourite books are adventure stories — especially ones about pirates!

Here are five quick and easy ideas for things to do together after you and your children have read, A fish and a gift.

1. Talk about why you think Yusuf’s father put the little shark back in the sea.
2. Suggest what Yusuf might have done with the lucky shark tooth.
4. Draw pictures of Ouma Safiya thinking about a nice, fat yellowtail fish for supper and Yusuf’s mother thinking about the new dress that she wants.
5. Take the cardboard insides of two toilet rolls. Use glue, string or wool to join the two cardboard rolls and make your own binoculars like Ouma Safiya’s.

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

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Story Power.

Bring it home.

Ilisa matla a pale ka lapeng.

Get story active!

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Story corner

Here is a new story to read aloud or retell. It is about a promise that a group of noisy birds, the storks, made long ago.

A promise is a promise (Part 1)

By Wendy Hartmann

Storks are those birds with the long orange legs and long orange beaks who fly from North to South and back again. Now, a very long time ago, storks were the noisiest birds in the whole world.

They used to talk all the time. By the time they reached Africa on their flight South, each of them was talking about a different thing, all of them were talking at the same time, and not a single one of them had anything interesting to say.

If one stork said, “Fish! I love to fish.”

Another would say, “I love to fish in water.

Water is so wet.”

And another would say, “Well! I hate getting wet.”

And so it went on and on … “You’re never dry if you’re wet.”

“Wet? Can you fly if you are wet?”

“Fly? Why, you just have to flap your wings and you can fly!”

And it was those last few words that the ostrich heard. He did not like the storks’ chattering, but he forgot about the noise because the one thing he really wanted to do was fly.

So off he went to practise. For days he tried. He ran this way and that. He tried. He prayed. He waved his wings. He thought of every possible way to try to fly. He searched everywhere, but he forgot about the noise because the one thing he really wanted to do was fly.

In the end, he could not fly. It was simply not possible.

The next day they were amazed. There was not a sound from the storks and their beaks were shut tightly. At last the animals could hear each other.

Eebo o sebo o bolela ke sekaleng le fihlang. Le fihlang le a le ka le fihlang. E e fihlang e fihlang.”

O bolela kgutso?” a rialo, “le le bolela ke le fihlang.” Yaba ba tsamaya ba ya ho dikhole ka hose ka nokgone.


Diphoofolo jwale ka ne di kgona ho buisana ntle le hore di hoeletse. Di ne di kgona ho buisana ntle le hore di hoeletse.

Diphoofolo di kgonne ho etsa hore mekotatsie e tlohele ho etsa kgona ho buisana ntle le hore di hoeletse.

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Enjoy listening to stories in Sesotho and in English on Nal’ibali’s radio show:
Lesedi FM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9.45 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.
SAtm on Monday to Wednesday from 1.50 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

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