Tell a tale!

When you hear someone say “fairy tale”, which stories do you think of? We all know some fairy tales, folktales, or intsoni. Whether they were home-grown here in Africa or come originally from Europe, these are the magical stories with strange, out-of-this-world characters like fairies, tokoloshes, giants, monsters, elves and witches that we love to hear and read.

Nobody knows exactly how long fairy tales have been around because they existed in their oral form long before any of them were written down, but they’ve definitely been with us for thousands of years. They’ve also moved around the world being told and reinterpreted in different ways depending on where they land!

The thing about great fairy tales is that they last! They can be told over and over again in different ways that make them relevant for new audiences. Ntombizanele Mahobe, one of the authors of the Xhosa version of The Adventures of Pinocchio, talks about what it was like retelling this well-known story, originally from Italy, in a South African setting:

“We began by reading lots of different versions of the story. We wanted our version to stay true to the heart of the original story, but we also wanted South African children to be able to recognise familiar things and places in it. We thought hard about each of the characters and what they represented in the story, and then found South African equivalents for them.”

“Throughout time, people have learned from each other through stories,” explains Carole Bloch from Nal’ibali. “We need to take the great world stories and retell them in our own way for children here at the tip of Africa. Fairy tales have themes and lessons in them that are universal. When we retell them in an African setting, it is more likely that our children will connect with them.”

Every year on 26 February, the world celebrates the magic of fairy tales on Tell-a-fairy-tale Day. This Tell-a-fairy-tale Day, join Nal’ibali in reading a fairy tale and retelling one in your own way in your home!

Pheta tshomo!

Ha o utlwa motho a re “tshomo”, ke dipale dife tseo o nahanang ka tsona? Bohle ho na le ditshomo tseo re di tsebang. Ebang di ne di qapilwe lapeng mona Afrika kapa hlaabile kwana Yuropa, tsena ke dipale tsha mehlolo tse nang le baphetwa ba makatsang, bao e seng ba lefatshe lena, ba kang bomamolopilo, diholokoli, madimo, dikgodumodumo, dielele le balo, tseo re ratang ho di utlwa ho le di bala.

Ha ho moloho ya tsebang hantle hore ditshomo di bile teng ho hloka neng hobane di bile teng ka mokgwa wa ha phetwa ka molomo pele di qala ho ngwolwa fetshe, empa ruh haesale re ena le tsona ka differe tse diketektele. Di se di le tsanemotana di potoloha lefatshe di ntse di phetwa le ho hlolaawsa ka ditsele tsa fapaneng ho ihethilelei feela ka hore di fihla hokae!

Taba ya botlhokwana mabapi le ditshomo ke hore di dula nako e tele! Di ka phetwa hangato ka ditsele tsa fapaneng tse etsho hore di tshwanelele bakeng sa baamoheli. Ntombizanele Mahobe, e mong wa bangadi ba kgatsi ya Sekhosa ya Ditshibollo tsa Pinocchio, o bua ka hore na ho ne ho le jwang ha phetapheta pale ena e tsejwang haholo, e qapilwe kwana Italy, tiholohong ya Afrika Borwa: “Re qadile ka ho hola metutsa e mengaqa e fapaneng ya pale ena. Re ne re balita hore kgatsi ya rona e dule e ena le mokolotaba wa pale ya sethothong, empa hape re ne re balita hore bana ba Afrika Borwa ba gogone ho eletswa dintho le diboka tse tshweletsheng ka hara yona. Re ile ra nahanisana haholo ka e mong le e mong le wa baphetwa le seoa se be emetseng paleng, mme re furnane ba tshwaneleng le bana Afrika Borwa mona.”

“Haesale ho fihla kgale, batho ba ntse ba ihuta ho ba bang ka dipale,” ho hlolaasa Carole Bloch wa Nal’ibali. “Re Hloka ho nka dipale tsa lefatshe le lehola mme re di phete hape ke tsela ya rona re di phetele bana ba mona niheng ena ya Afrika. Ditsowo di ne le mokolotaba le ditsho tse tshwaneleng lefatshe nga bophara. Ha re di phete hape tiholohong ya Afrika, ho na le kigonalhela e kgalo ya hore bana ba rona ba ila ikufilha ba hokahane le tsona.”

Seleme le selemo ka la 26 Hlakola, lefatshe le keteka mehlolo ya ditshomo ka Letsetsa la Pheta-Tshomo, Letsetsing lena la Pheta-Tshomo, eba le Nal’ibali bakeng sa ho bala tshomo le ho e phete hape ka tsela ya hao lapeng la hao!

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.
Inspired to write

Kiera-Lee Hayes is the author of The Boerewors Man on page 8 of this supplement – and she is only twelve years old! We visited Kiera-Lee at her home in Cape Town to find out more about her.

How long ago did you write it?

I was 10 years old when I wrote it. When I was 11, I wrote another story, Mama Khali’s Pap, that Nal’ibali is going to use for its radio programmes.

Do you have any more stories that you want to write?

I have folders full of stories, screenplays, poems and novels! Some are finished, others still have to be completed. At the moment, my best friend and I are writing a story together. We were inspired by an outing to a historical monument in Cape Town.

What kind of books do you like?

I have been hooked on books since I was 6 years old. I love reading all kinds of books: fantasy, adventures and mysteries, real-life stories and historical fiction. Whether I enjoy a story depends on the style of the writer. If the stories are funny, they are usually a big hit!

Who is your favourite author?

C.S. Lewis! (He wrote the Narnia series.) When I was little, I loved all of Niki Daly’s books!

What would you like to do when you grow up?

I’d like to keep writing, but I also enjoy making and directing movies with my friends, so maybe there is something in that for my future.

What advice would you give other children about reading?

Reading is one of the best ways to spark your imagination. It’s increased my vocabulary and made school work a lot easier, especially English literature.

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.

Kiera-Lee Hayes is the author of The Boerewors Man on page 8 of this supplement – and she is only twelve years old! We visited Kiera-Lee at her home in Cape Town to find out more about her.

Where did you get the idea for the Boerewors Man?

I was inspired by last year’s Short Story Day Africa Competition theme which was to rewrite a legend, myth or fairy tale.

Do you have any more stories that you want to write?

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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.

The three Billy Goats Gruff
Diphooko tse Tharo tsa Gruff

Carole Bloch
Shayle Bester

This is an adapted version of The three Billy Goats Gruff, published by Jacana Media and available in bookstores and on-line from www.jacana.co.za. This story is available in isiZulu, isiXhosa, English, Afrikaans, Setswana and Xitsonga. Jacana publishes books for young readers in all eleven official South African languages. To find out more about Jacana titles go to www.jacana.co.za.

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Once upon a time there were three Billy Goats who lived in the veld. The first one was called Little Billy Goat Gruff. The second one was called Middle Billy Goat Gruff, and the third one was called Big Billy Goat Gruff. They didn’t like their dry, flat veld home very much. It was so thorny and dusty that whatever they ate got stuck in their throats.

Next it was Middle Billy Goat Gruff’s turn to cross the bridge.
But one day, there was nothing left to eat – not even a seed pod or a thorn. The Billy Goats gazed across the bridge at the koppie. Their mouths watered.

“I’m hungry,” moaned Little Billy Goat Gruff.

“I’m starving,” groaned Middle Billy Goat Gruff.

And from that day on, the three Billy Goats Gruff had a new home on the koppie, where they grew fat on the sweet, green grass.

Yaba bo tloha, Diphoooko tsa Tharo tsa Gruff tsa ba le lehae le lehae lehae, moo di leeng tsa nontshwa ke jwang bo hlabosang, bo botalana.
Across a bridge was a koppie covered with sweet, green grass. But under that bridge lived a fierce, old monster. His eyes gleamed like ripe mangoes and his nose was swollen up like a watermelon. When he was hungry he’d smack his lips together so hard that it would sound just like lightning cracking across the sky, and his huge belly would rumble like thunder. Then he’d shout, “If anyone dares to cross my bridge, I’ll gobble them up!”

No wonder the three Billy Goats Gruff had never visited the koppie with its sweet, green grass.

Just then Big Billy Goat Gruff arrived at the bridge. Click clack click clack! went the hooves of Big Billy Goat Gruff. The Billy Goat was so heavy that the bridge creaked and groaned under him.

“Who’s that click-clacking over my bridge?” bellowed the monster.


“Tjhe bo le kgale!” ha kgonya Phooko e Kgolo ya Gruff. A kobela hlooho ya hae fathse a kgorohela kgodumo ka manaka a hae a motsu. "Itjhuu!" ha lla kgodumo ha a kekgwe sepakapakeng. A nyamela yaba o nyamella ruri a sele a hlola a bonwa hape.
Get story active!

After you and your children have read The three Billy Goats Gruff, you might like to try out some of these ideas. Choose ones that best suit your children’s ages and interests.

• Discuss the story together. Let your children talk about the parts of the story they liked the most and the least. Encourage them to give reasons for their opinions. Here are some other open-ended questions you could talk about together.
  - The monster could easily have eaten the smallest or the middle-sized goats, but he chose to wait for the biggest one. Why do you think he did this? How would the story have been different if he had eaten the smallest or middle-sized goat?
  - How do you think the goats knew there was a monster living under the bridge?
  - Do you think the goats were brave or silly to cross the bridge? What would you have done?

Encourage younger children to draw pictures of a scary monster. They could even make up a name for their monster. Play a game with older children. Ask them to describe a monster while you draw what they describe. Then swap roles and let them draw a monster you describe.

Let your children make a scene of the bridge using simple materials like clay, cardboard boxes and/or sticks. Try to collect differently coloured grass or paper to represent the dry, brown grass and the sweet, green grass on either side of the bridge. Help them to make puppets of the Billy Goats Gruff and the monster. They can use the sides of toilet rolls, sticks, matchsticks and/or paper to make their puppets. Now have fun retelling the story using all of the objects you have made together.

• The monster could easily have eaten the smallest or the middle-sized goats, but he chose to wait for the biggest one. Why do you think he did this? How would the story have been different if he had eaten the smallest or middle-sized goat?
• How do you think the goats knew there was a monster living under the bridge?
• Do you think the goats were brave or silly to cross the bridge? What would you have done?

In your next Nal’ibali supplement:

• Join us as we celebrate World Read Aloud Day
• Enjoy a special World Read Aloud Day story by famous author and storyteller, Gcina Mhlophe
• Get your World Read Aloud Day 2015 badge
• The final part of the Story Corner story, The Boerewors Man

Did you know that Nal’ibali supplements come in a range of South African languages? Visit the “Supplements” section at www.nalibali.org to download the supplement in English-isiXhosa, English-isiZulu, English-Sesotho and English-Afrikaans.

Tlatsetsong ya hao e latelang ya Nal’ibali:

• Eba le rona ha re keteka Letsatsi la ho Balla Hodimo la Lefatshe
• Natefela ke pale e kgetheng ya Letsatsi la ho Balla Hodimo la Lefatshe e ngotsweng ke mongodi le mophethi wa dipale ya tsobehlang, Gcina Mhlophe
• Fumana beletsha ya hao ya Letsatsi la ho Balla Hodimo la Lefatshe 2015
• Karo ya ho-gqetla ya pale ya Hukung ya Dipale, Monna wa Bonoso


Eba mahlahahlaha ka pale!

Kamora hoba wena le bana ba hao le se le badile Diphoobook tse Thoro tsa Gruff, le ka nna la bataho ho leka e meka e mekopa ena. Kqetha tse thawaneng dilemo tsa bana ba hao le ditalabato tla bana.

• Bussangan ka pale mmoho. Er e bana ba hao ba buke ka dikando tsa pale tse ho dita raliling hatlhetho ho feta le tebo di raliling hanyane ho feta. Ba kqoalaletsa ho bana ka mabako a matika a bana. Tseba ka tse ding tsa dipinto tse bukheliho tsebo ka bussangan mmoho ka tsosa
  - Kgudomudumo e ka be e nise e jke podi e mnyane kapa e maharong, empa e ile ya kqetha ho emela e kqilo ka le fetaisa. Hobaeng o nana ho e entsho e hau? Pale ka be e ile ya tafa yaqang hjaa e ile ya qao podi e mnyane kapa e maharong?
  - Le tseba jwane hore diphoobook di ne di tseba hore ho ne la kgudomudumo e dulang ka fasa borokgo?
  - Na le nana ho hore diphoobook di ne di le sebele kapa di ne di thbane ke ho tsheta borokgo? Wena o ka a be e ile wa etsho?

• Kgqoalaletsa bana ba bonyanyane ho taka ditla e hlongolo tsa kgudomudumo e nyarosang. Ba ka mma ba isipela le lebile la kgudomudumo di ya bana.
• Bapola papadi le bana ba boholo wanyane. Ba kale hore ba halilo kgudomudumo mme ba tseke le seba se Nal’ibali. Jwale fapanya dikando mme e re ba taka kgudomudumo e wena e ne la hlongolo

Er e bana ba hao ba tsebe borokgo ba sedesi dintho tse bonolo tse ka bana. Jwale fapanya dikarolo mme o re ba tseke le sebedisa dintho hancu. Baisoakoa a khotsebo le/kapa ditlhopa. Lekela ho bokela jwane ho ke tsa lela borokgo. Lekela ho bokela jwane ho ke tsa lela borokgo, ba tsebe jwane ho ke tsa lela borokgo. Lesedi FM ka Mantaha, Labobedi le Labone ho tloha lenaneong la radiyo la Nal’ibali:

- Lesedi FM ka Mantaha, Labobedi le Labone ho tloha ho fakena ho fa 9.45 a.m. ho fihlela ho 10.00 a.m.

Enjoy listening to stories in Sesotho and in English on Nal’ibali’s radio show.

Drive your imagination
It was early evening. The Smith family were sitting outside enjoying the smell of boerewors on the braai.

"Dad! Please hurry up!" Hayley moaned. "I'm sooooo hungry!"

"Here you go!" her father said a little while later as he handed Haley two pieces of boerewors sausage twisted together. It looked just like a little man.

"A boerewors man!" said her mother and laughed.

Hayley opened her mouth to take a big bite.

"No!" cried a deep voice. "You can't eat me!"

Hayley jumped up and let go of the Boerewors Man.

"You … you can talk?" she stuttered.

"Of course I can talk!" Hayley exclaimed. "I'm too fast for them."

"I'm too fast for them," the Boerewors Man began to sing:

"They'll never catch me, the Boerewors Man. They passed another family out walking their dog.

"Where are you going?" asked the father.

"We're trying to catch the Boerewors Man! Help us!" said Hayley.

So, the Smiths and the other family and their dog all ran down the road trying to keep the little man in sight.

As they turned into the next road, they met a fruit seller wearing a blue-patterned doek that covered her pink, plastic curlers. Hayley shouted to her to help them and the fruit seller joined the party chasing the Boerewors Man.

"Catch him!" shouted Hayley.

The Smith family followed Hayley out the gate and ran down the road after the Boerewors Man. They passed another family out walking their dog.

"Where are you going?" asked the father.

"We're trying to catch the Boerewors Man! Help us!" said Hayley.

They turned round to everyone following her and shouted, "Hurry! Look – a taxi!"

Get your supplement next week to find out if the Smith family will ever catch the Boerewors Man!