Dads, make a difference!

We’ve known for a long time that fathers have an important role to play in the lives of their children. And research over the last twenty years tells us that fathers strengthen their children’s development when they are actively involved and interested in the lives of their children. There is no single “right” way for fathers to do this. Nor do fathers have to live with their children to make a positive difference.

Bontate, etsang phapang!

Ke nako e teile re tseba hore bontate ba na le seabo sa bohlokwa mapheleng a bana ba bona. Mme dipatfisiso tse entsweng dilemeng tse mashome a mabedi tse fethieng di re bolela hore bontate ba mafatatsa kgolo ya bana ba bona ho ba nka karolo le ha ba le kgohleho mapheleng a bana ba bona. Ha ho na tsela e le ngwese e “nepahetseng” bakeng sa bontate ho etsa seso. Mme bontate ba se hore ba tselane ho dala le bana ba bona hore ba tie le etse phapang e ahang.

Ho na le ditsele tse ngwalo tse fapane tse bontate ba ka fiskang dikamano le bana ba bona ka tsona – ka ha bala le ha bapala mmmho, ho ya mokoteng le diketsahaleng tsa sekelo, le ho qaqa ka fosa. Sa bohlokwa ke hore feela ba e tse ditsho tse kgaletsa (Bakeng sa mphetse a mme tse ke ho hokahana le bana ba bona) le bana ba ha “leqephe la 13” lela le bana ba le tsoho, ho ho ba le taro le ka di hopolang bopheleng. Mme, le ha ho le malome bakeng sa bontate ba ha mapheleng a bana ba bona ho ha fihela sa ba le banyenyane, ha ho bolele hore a o silwe ke nako bakeng sa ho busetsa dikamano le bana ba hoo.

Ho bana, o ang wao melome a ka seholo ho ho ba le kamano le bontate ba bona, ke hore ho ba thula ho ithu ka ba la etseho ke le mme ba seletsethile. Nako ya mame le bokana le kgohleho mapheleng a bana ba bona. Ha ho na le melome ya fihela ho bontate ba ena le seabo mapheleng a bana ba bona. “Boholo ba nako wa bontate ba e qetang le bana ba bona lesebene ho le bokho la le bana ba 10 ba la 13.” Mme bontate ba fumana kgotsofalo jwalo botsi Wesley.

Ho bana, o ang wao melome a ka seholo ho ho ha bana ba bona, am na le melome a ka seholo ho bo le bana ba bona hore ho tebado la le bana ba bona. Ha ho bana hore ho fihela ho ho bana abo ba bona, am na le melome a ka seholo ho bo le bana ba bona hore ho tebado la le bana ba bona. Mme, boholo ba nako wa bontate ba e qetang le bana ba bona lesebene ho le bana ba bona. Ho bana ba bona hore tebado la le bana ba bona, am na le melome a ka seholo ho bo le bana ba bona, am na le melome a ka seholo ho bo le bana ba bona.

There are also academic benefits when fathers are involved in their children’s lives. “The amount of time that fathers spend with their children day-in-day-out has a greater effect on school marks than the amount of money they earn,” says Front Page Father. This is an organisation that works to create awareness of the value of involved fathers, and who also wants to empower men to become more involved in the lives of their families and children.

And, the amount of time fathers spend reading with their children, is one of the best ways of predicting how well their children will read and write.” Dads who read to their children are reading role models for them. They show their children that literacy is important and that reading is an enjoyable, satisfying activity.

Of course, fathers also benefit from being involved in their children’s lives. “Involved dads,” explains Front Page Father, “have more confidence and self-esteem themselves, have a better relationship with their children and experience more satisfaction as parents.”

There are many different ways that dads can connect with their children – playing and reading together, going to school events and activities, and chatting on the phone. The key to do these things regularly. For more ideas, see our “10 tips for connecting with your children” on page 13. Even small amounts of time spent together are special, and help you bond and make memories. And, although it is best for dads to be involved from early in their children’s lives, it’s never too late to re-connect with your children.

For children, one of the main benefits of having a close relationship with their fathers, is that it helps them to feel wanted and secure. Qualitatively father-child time increases children’s self-esteem, confidence and social skills. And it is as important for girls as it is for boys.
Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the stories in this supplement. Choose the ones that best suit your children's ages and interests.

Topo's tree house

This story is best suited to children at primary school. If you are using this story with very young children, you may want to read the story on your own first, and then retell it in your own words while showing them the pictures.

In Topo's tree house, Topo shows compassion and caring towards the dove even though she builds her nest in his tree house. Topo's father shows compassion and caring towards Topo when he needs help with understanding his feelings.

- Have your children ever seen a bird's nest? Explain that nesting birds are sensitive and do not like to be disturbed. If they are, they may leave the nest and the eggs will not hatch.
- With your children, talk about how Topo chose to leave his tree house for a while so that the dove could rest there. Ask your children whether they think this was a good choice and what they would have done.
- Topo's relationship with his father. Ask them how we can tell that Topo's father loves him and cares about his feelings.
- Encourage your children to draw a picture for a part of the story that does not have an illustration and to write the story's words under their pictures.

Monkey business

Monkey business is also best suited to children who are of primary school age. If you read it to younger children you may need to explain to them what happens to the monkeys and how this happens.

- With your children, discuss what lessons you think this story teaches us.
- Talk about copying the example of others. For example, ask your children: “Why do you think the monkeys copied the people in the story? Do you think that sometimes people should copy animals?” Can you think of examples of where this might work well, or not work well?”
- Have you or your children ever seen or heard about a fire caused by people which has damaged the environment? First talk about these fires together. Then suggest that your children write about them and/or draw fire pictures.

A birthday present for Dad

In this story Alex has fun creating a home-made birthday present for his dad! Enjoy reading the story aloud or retelling it.

- Suggest that you and your children make presents for someone special using things you collect from outside.
- Re-read the paragraph that describes what Alex drew in his picture. Can your children draw Alex’s picture?

Mpho ya Ntate bakeng sa letsetsi la tswalo

Pakeng ena Alex o ntefela ke ho u tse mpho ea a letsetsegang yona lapeng bakeng sa ntate? Ntefela ke ho balla pale ena hodimo kapa ho e pheta ho.

- Elsa tshabo ya hae u tse mpho aba hae e le bokholo bako ba tsha le ba bahlole ka mpho.
- Baka mpho e le tsa mpho nobela ka mpho. Baka ba hae ka mpho e le tsa mpho.
I have a problem with my son. He is 7 years old. He is very shy and he can't read. I want to help him. What should I do to help him?

Sometimes shy children find school challenging. The best thing you can do is to spend time with him in a relaxed way, doing fun things together, such as playing, telling stories, reading with him and looking at books together. If you know or can find out what interests him most, try and get stories or other books on these subjects. Also share the stories in the Nal'ibali supplement with him. Remember that its best to read in the language he understands best to help him gain confidence.

Here are some of the questions that people have sent through this app – as well as our advice to them.

Do you know of any stories about single mothers that I can share with my children?

The best way to find stories about particular themes, is to visit a library near you and ask the librarian for help. You can also tell your children your own stories about the things you have done together with them. Start like this: “Once upon a time, there lived a mommy and her children named...”.

Most young children love hearing simple stories about themselves and the people who care for them. You could even write down these stories to read together again on another day.

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If your daughter is old enough, share the bilingual songs or rhymes in picture books, because the pictures give clues about the words. If you can find these songs or rhymes in picture books, because the pictures give clues about what the words are. If your daughter is old enough, share the bilingual stories in the Nal'ibali supplement with her – first read the story in your home language and writing the word, would all help your daughter to learn and remember the word! It would also help if you told her what the word for “apple” is in her home language. Rhymes and songs are also great for helping children to learn a language. It is even better if you can find these songs or rhymes in picture books, because the pictures give clues about what the words are. If your daughter is old enough, share the bilingual stories in the Nal'ibali supplement with her – first read the story in your home language, and then in English.

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How can I help my daughter understand words in English?

You don't say how old your daughter is, but for anyone learning words in a new language, it is easier if they are given lots of clues! So, for example, looking at a picture of an apple, hearing the word, saying the word and pointing to it in the picture, reading about an apple in a story, eating a real apple and writing the word, would all help your daughter to learn and remember the word! It would also help if you told her what the word for “apple” is in her home language. Rhymes and songs are also great for helping children to learn a language. It is even better if you can find these songs or rhymes in picture books, because the pictures give clues about what the words are. If your daughter is old enough, share the bilingual stories in the Nal'ibali supplement with her – first read the story in your home language, and then in English.
Celebrating our fathers!

Every year in June, we celebrate how important fathers are in our lives. Follow the instructions to make a card for your dad or for someone who is like a father to you.

Make a Father’s Day card
1. Cut out the card along the red line.
2. Fold the card along the dotted black line.
3. Glue the two parts together.
4. On the side with the picture, write a message to the person you will give the card to. Colour in the picture.
5. On the other side, draw a picture of you and this person together, or write a poem or longer message.

Ho keteka bontate ba rona!

Selema le selema ka Phupjane, re keteka kamoo bontate ba leng bohlokwá ka teng mapheleng a rona. Letela ditaele tse na etse karete bakeng sa ntale wa hao kapa motho ofe kapa ofe eo e ka reng ke ntale ho wena.

Etsa karete ya Letsatsi la Bontate
1. Seha o ntshe karete hodima mola o molubaedu.
2. Mena karete hodima mola wa matheba a matsho.
4. Ka lehiakoreng le nang le setshwantsho, ngola molaetsa o yang ho motho eo o fang ha ma fka karete eo. Kenya setshwantsho mebala.
5. Ka lehiakoreng le leng, taka setshwantsho sa hao moo o nang le motho enwa, kapa o ngale fhotokiso kopa molaetsa o moilele.

Create your own cut-out-and-keep books
1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement.
2. Separate pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 from pages 7, 8 and 10.
3. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
   a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
   b) Fold it in half again.
   c) Cut along the red dotted lines.

Iketsetse dibuka tse sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa
1. Nthwa ho fela ho kgapele la 5 ho isa ho kgapele la 12 fetsafo ena.
2. Akola kgapele la 5, 6, 11 le la 12 ho kgapele ana, la 7, 8, 9 le la 10.
3. Letela ditaele tse ka fane mena ho etse bukana ka mme.
   a) Mena kgapele ka hatlo ho hodima mola wa matheba a matsho.
   b) Le mene ka hatlo ho ba.
   c) Seha hodima mola ya matheba a molubaedu.

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit our website www.cup.co.za.

Email info@cup.co.za www.cup.co.za

P O Box 50017, V&A Waterfront, 8002
Topo’s tree house is one of ten stories covering different values in Heartlines’ Stories That Talk book. There are a further nine beautifully illustrated, values-based stories in Stories That Talk 2.

For copies of these books, please email orders@heartlines.org.za or phone (011) 771 2540. Stories That Talk Money, due out later this year, will contain nine more stories relating to money values.

Topo sat still and thoughtfully on the back step. Father came to sit next to him. Father knew about the nest and the eggs, and he seemed to know about Topo’s angry and sad feelings. “Sometimes, Topo,” said his father, “we need to give things up for others who are not as strong as us. Sometimes, we have to let the caring feeling be stronger than our anger. And stronger than our sadness for ourselves.”

Father hugged Topo and went inside. Topo sat still and thought about what he had said.

Topo’s tree house
Ntlo ya difate ya Topo

Kopano Selule
Sally MacLarty

Topo felt sad. He felt angry. He felt selfish. The tree house was his place and he did not want to move out.

Father said, “He felt angry. He felt selfish. The tree house was his place and he did not want to move out.”

Topo’s tree house

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Sally MacLarty

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Father said, “He felt angry. He felt selfish. The tree house was his place and he did not want to move out.”

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Topo a ka a ikgutsa a nahana hodima setupu. Ntatae a ka a tla a dula pela hae. Ntatae o ne a tseba ka sehlaha le mahe, mme e ka o ne a tseba ka ho kgena ha Topo le ho swaba ha hae.

“Ka nako e nngwe, Topo,” ha tjho ntatae, “re lokela ho tlohela dintho mme re di tlohellele ba bang ba se nang matla jwalo ka rona. Ka nako e nngwe, re lokela ho etsa hore maikutlo a ho hlokomela a be matla ho feta ho kgena ha rona. Le ho ba matla ho feta ho kgena bakeng sa rona.”

Ntate a ikopa ka Topo ha a qeta a boela ka tlung. Topo a kgutsa mme a nahanisisa seo a buileng.
Topo always looked forward to going home after school because then he could play in his tree house. Life was always interesting in the tree house.

Topo's father had built it high up in the yard's biggest tree. Topo could see many things from the tree house. He could see rooftops with different shapes and colors, tall buildings far away, and closer, he could see other trees and lots of small animals and birds.

But just as he tried to see better, the mother bird flew into the tree again. "Go away," she seemed to say. "Go away."

"This is my tree house," thought Topo. "Why should I go away?"

But Topo knew that he couldn't share his tree house with the dove. "It's the eggs or me," he thought.

Topo loved the beautiful eggs. But he knew that if he was in the tree house, he couldn't sit on them to protect them.

So Topo found a branch on the other side of the tree house and sat on it instead. He noticed that the dove sat on the eggs for long periods of time and then took off to feed. But one day, while the dove was away, it became very windy, and the branches moved up and down and from side to side. Topo was worried that the nest would be blown away. He waited and waited for the dove to come back.

Just as Topo was getting tired, the little dove flapped its wings harder than ever and flew up higher and higher. This time, it did not come down. Topo stopped running, and watched. He watched as the little bird flew further and further and higher and higher. He was so happy, he shouted out loud. It felt like he had just learnt to fly too!
Monkey business is one of 36 stories available in the Little Library Kits for Numeracy, Literacy and Life Skills. Each kit contains 60 readers (5 copies of 12 stories), 12 big books, 12 posters and a comprehensive teacher’s guide. The readers and the big books are available in all 11 official languages. For more information please visit our website www.cup.co.za.

Cambridge University Press
P O Box 50017, V&A Waterfront, 8002
Tel 021-4127800 | Fax 021 4198418
Email info@cup.co.za
www.cup.co.za

The Little Library

Monkey business
Papadi ya ditshwene

Jolanta Durno
Sally Whines

The monkeys giggled and tumbled about, until at last they wore themselves out. So they lay in the branches and put up their feet.

Nggaww! Nggaww!

They snored and they snored, but from the ground came another sort of sound!

Qhwa! Qhwa!

Monkeys are playful and curious too. Sometimes they copy what humans do.

Jwale ditshwene tsa tsheha mme tsa tlolaka, ho fihlela di kgathetse. Jwale tsa paqama makaleng a difate, mme tsa shebisa maoto hodimo.
Ka nakwana feela tsa be di kgalehile.

Nggaww! Nggaww!

Tsa kgona e telele. Empa ha tsoha modumo o mong fatshe!

Qhwa! Qhwa!

Ditshwene di rata ho bapala mme di bohlajana. Ka nako e nngwe di etsisa batho.

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Drive your imagination
Monkeys are playful and curious too, sometimes they copy what humans do.

A monkey family that lived near the sea, was jumping and swinging from tree to tree. One sunny day they came to a stop, above a messy picnic spot.

Monkeys are playful and curious too, perhaps humans should copy what monkeys do!

Baby monkey found a smoking stick. She took it and puffed it and she felt rather sick. It made her throat dry and it made her chest pain, so she took it and puffed it and she felt better.

The cigarette started to smoke and soon the monkeys began to choke. A flame went up, higher and higher and soon the flame became a fire!
They peered through the leaves and heard *munch, slurp, burp*. It sounded like fun!

So the monkeys waited till the humans had gone. They tidied the spot where the humans had been
and wrote in the sand: "Please keep our home clean!"

Because …

The sweet made Ma monkey’s teeth hurt.
The beer made Pa monkey fall in the dirt.

Monkeys are playful and curious too,
sometimes they copy what humans do.

They mumbled,
Ma monkey mumbled.

The young monkeys huddled
together and groaned.

Then they tidied the spot where the humans had been
and wrote in the sand: "Please keep our home clean!"

Because …

Yaha di hlwekisa sebaka se batho ba neng ba le ho
sona. Ts’ola manhwa ana lehlabatheng: "Ka kopo
boloka lehae la rona le hlwekile!"
The monkeys jumped and swung to the ground, and they looked at what was lying around. Monkeys are playful and curious too. Sometimes they copy what humans do.

And they worked together, using their hands, to put out the fire with large leaves and sand.

The monkeys jumped and swung to the ground, and they looked at what was lying around. Monkeys are playful and curious too. Sometimes they copy what humans do.

And they worked together, using their hands, to put out the fire with large leaves and sand.
The next day after school Topo crept up into the tree house and looked into the nest. He saw two eggs there. The eggs were beautiful; they made Topo happy. He knew that young doves would hatch out of those eggs.

After school each day Topo sat and watched the nest. The mother dove spent most of her time with her little dove. It grew bigger and bigger. It spent a lot of time flapping, flapping, flapping its wings.

One morning, as Topo was walking out of the kitchen, he stopped suddenly. There was the little dove in front of him on the grass, trying, trying, trying to fly. Topo was very excited, but he stood very still and watched.

The little dove flapped its wings very hard and flew up into the air for a short distance, then came down again. Topo followed the little dove across the yard and over the fence. The little dove tried over and over and over again.

Suddenly a gust of wind blew one of the eggs out of the nest, whooshed it along the planks and toppled it over the edge. Topo looked down. There, on the ground below, was a little white egg smashed to bits. Topo felt horrible.

Just then the dove flew back and settled onto the egg that was left in the nest.
Sometimes Topo would take his books into the tree house and read. It was good to read there because it was quiet, with just the birds singing. Other times he just sat and watched. He wondered how far the birds flew and what stories they were telling other birds about the distant places they had been to.

One day, Topo noticed a small pile of twigs on one of the branches that grew very near to his tree house. A dove flew into the tree and fluttered about. But it had seen Topo and was afraid. It flew away again. So Topo crept to a branch on the other side of the tree house and sat very still. The dove came back, saw that it was safe, and piled on more twigs.

When the pile was big enough, the dove settled on it. She looked very comfortable.

Each day when Topo came back from school he checked the nest to make sure that the egg was there. One day, as he pecked into the nest, he saw an ugly creature with a big mouth. It was very small and had no feathers. Topo slid down the tree and ran to tell his father.

Let'satsi le letsatsi ha Topo a hlaba sekolong, o ne a hlodisa ka sehlaheng ho etsa bonnete ba hore lehe le teng. Ka letsatsi le leng, ha a akgela mahlo ka sehlaheng, a bona shopwana se sebe se molomo o motho, Se ne se le senyane habolo mme se se ne la masiba. Topo a theohlha tlae sefateng mme a matha ho ya bolela ntaa.
10 tips for connecting with your children

Here are ten easy ways to help you build a close relationship with your children.

1. Read to your child regularly – no matter how old they are! Reading stories together opens your children’s eyes, minds and hearts to different people and situations. It expands your children’s horizons, develops their literacy and helps you to build a strong and loving relationship.

2. Write a note encouraging your child and put it in their lunchbox or in a textbook of their most difficult school subject. Children appreciate this, especially during exam or test times.

3. Praise your children often for things that they do so that they know you notice and care.

4. Make a regular time to sit and chat together. When you’re doing this, sit facing your child so that you can maintain eye contact. Or, sit close together.

5. Show your children that you love them by giving them lots of hugs!

6. With older children, use social media like Facebook and Whatsapp to stay in touch with them.

7. Make a date with each of your children for one-on-one time and then do something together that you know they love doing.

8. Create family rituals that help build feelings of belonging. These can be simple acts like eating breakfast together every day or washing the dishes together after supper.

9. Just be there! Watch your children play sport, or go see them in the school play. This shows them that you are interested in their lives and their achievements.

10. Tell your children stories about when you were their age. Or, tell them the stories that you enjoyed as a child.

These tips were adapted from ideas supplied by Front Page Father. Go to www.frontpagefather.co.za for more ideas and information about fathering.

From 15–21 June 2015, Front Page Father will be running Fathers’ Story Week. This programme aims to get fathers throughout South Africa reading to their children as a way of encouraging children’s intellectual development and strengthening the emotional bond between fathers and their children.

Dikeletso tse 10 bakeng sa ho tiisa kamano le bana ba hao

Tsena ke ditsela tse leshorne tse bonolo tsa ho o thrusa ho aha kamano e tiileng le bana ba hao.

1. Balla ngwana wa hao kgafetsa – ho sa kgatsha le hore o moka! Ho balla dipale mmoho ha bula mahlo, dikeltla le dipelo tsa bana bakeng sa batho ba fapaneng le maemo a fapaneng. Ho atlosa tlhela ya bana ba hao, ho ritsweta pele tsobo ya ho balla le ha ngola mme ho o thrusa ho aha kamano e matla e letsema lerato.

2. Ngola molaoetsanyana o kguthatsang ngwana wa hao hloko o o keny ka lebokosing la hae la dijo tsa mohsheare kapa ka hara buka ya thuto e ma thatafailing sekolong. Bana ba thabela sena, haholohola nakong ya hiahloba kapa ya dileko.

3. Rorisana bana ba hao hangaga bakeng sa dintla tse bao di etang e le hore ba ile bao elelele hore o a ba bana le ha ho isetela.

4. Beang nako e itseeng kamehla ya ho dula mmmoho le qoqa. Ha le etsa sena, dula o shebana le ngwana hao e le hore le ile le shebana ka mahleng. Kapa le dule le bapile.

5. Bontha bana ba hao hore o a ba rata ka ho dula o a ba haka kamehla!

6. Ka bana ba baholwanyane, sebedisa medieya wa sethoba o ka bana ba hao le bana le bana le la bana le bana le.

7. Beella letsatsi ka thoko lea o ointshang le ngwana ka mang, le le babedi feela, mme le etse ho hong hoo o tseng hantle hore o a a rata.


9. Fumaneha! Shebella bana ba hao ha ho le dipapading, kapa o ye ho ba shebella papading ya sekolo. Sena se tla ba bontha hore o na le thahasello mapheleng o bana le ho hese di le fihlellang.

10. Phetela bana ba hao dipale tse makupi le wena ha o ne o sa le dilemgong tsa bana. Kapa, o ba phetela dipale tse neng di o natefela ha o ne o sa le ngwana.
“It’s Dad’s birthday today,” said Mom.

“Oh, I want to give him a present!” said Alex. “What should I give him, Mom?”

“We have to go to the shop to buy some flour for Dad’s birthday cake,” said Mom. “We will try to think of a present for Dad on the way to the shop.”

“Okay! I’ll carry the shopping bag,” said Alex.

So Alex and his mother set off. Alex ran ahead of his mother on the well-trodden path. It was a lovely day. The sun was shining through the pine trees, and onto the pine nuts that had fallen to the ground. Alex picked one up.

“Look, Mom. What is this?” he asked.

“It’s a pine nut,” said Mom.

“It looks as if it has a wing,” said Alex.

“That’s so it can float on the wind and find a good place to grow into another pine tree,” said Mom. “All these pine nuts on the ground have fallen from the pine cones on the trees.”

“Can I taste one?” asked Alex.

“Yes, but we have to get it out of its shell first,” said Mom, and she crushed the shell with a stone.

“Here you are,” said Mom, and she gave Alex the little nut.

“It tastes good!” he said. “Do you think Dad would like some pine nuts for his birthday, Mom?”

“Maybe,” said Mom.

So Alex picked up lots of pine nuts and put them in the shopping bag. As they walked along, Alex noticed the sun reflecting off some stones. He picked one up.

“Look at this brown stone, Mom,” he said. “It is so smooth. Do you think Dad would like it for his birthday, Mom?”

“Maybe,” said Mom.

Alex put the little blue flower in the shopping bag.

Just then Alex and his mother reached the shop. Mom bought flour to make Dad a birthday cake. She also bought little candles to put on top of the cake.

When they got home, Mom baked the birthday cake and Alex took the pine nuts and the smooth stone and the little blue flower out of the shopping bag.

“Oh, no! Look,” said Alex, “the little blue flower is curled up, and its face is closed.”

“Yes,” said Mom. “Wild flowers like to show their faces to the sun, and they like to stay in the ground.”

“Oh,” said Alex.

“Why don’t you draw a picture for Dad for his birthday?” said Mom.

“Good idea,” smiled Alex. He fetched his crayons and some paper to draw a picture for Dad. He drew a house with a red roof. Then he drew a big green tree next to the house. He added a garden path all the way from the front door to the edge of the page, and he drew blue flowers all along the path. He drew the blue sky at the top of the page and also a big yellow sun. Then he drew green grass at the bottom of the page. Finally he drew Dad, Mom and himself standing on the grass.

Then Dad came home from work.

“Happy birthday, Dad,” said Alex and gave him his presents. First he gave Dad the pine nuts. “I love pine nuts,” said Dad.

Next he gave Dad the smooth brown stone. “What a special stone!” said Dad. “I’ll keep it in my pocket for luck!”

Then he gave Dad the drawing. “Oh!” said Dad. “This is our house and our tree and here we are! You, Mom and me. And I really like the blue flowers along the garden path.”

“Those blue flowers are the same blue as the sky,” said Alex.

“Thank you for my birthday presents, Alex,” said Dad, and he gave Alex a big hug. “I think we should plant some wild blue flowers,” said Dad. “We’ll plant them all along our garden path, just like the flowers in your picture.”

“Good idea!” said Alex. “I’ll help you plant them, Dad!”

After supper Mom lit the candles on Dad’s cake. Dad blew them all out in one big whoosh! Alex and Mom sang “Happy Birthday” to Dad.

“I love finding presents for you, Dad,” said Alex with a great big smile.
"Kajeno le letsatsi la tswalо la Ntate," ha riało Mме.

"O, ke botha ho mo rekela mpho!" ha riało Alex. "Ebe nka mo eng, Mме?"

"Re lekela ho ya lebenkeleng ho ya reka folouro bakeng sa kuku ya letsatsi la tswalo la Ntate," ha riało Mме. "Re tla leka ho nhana ka mpho ya Ntate ha re le tseleng ya yang lebenkeleng."

"Ho lokile! Ke tla tshwara mokotlana wa ha ya reka," ha riało Alex. Yaba Alex le mmae ba a tamayá. A leka ho pele ho mme wa hae tselengeng ya maatö. E ne e le letsatsi le letle. Letsatsi le ne le tšhāile le kganya ho kenella dilate tsa poene, le lela dikotolana tsa poene tse wetseng fatshe. Alex a thonaka e le ngwe.

"Sheba, Mме. Ke eng nhito eë?" a botsa.

"Ke kotolana ya poene," ha arabo Mме.

"E shebathala eka e na le lepheo," ha riało Alex.

"E etseditawe hore e kgone ho fota moyeng e furane sebaka se setle sa ho mela sefatseng se seng sa poene," ha riało Mме. "Dikotolana tsena tsa poene tse fatshe di wele dikhuong tsane tsa poene tse sefatseng." "Na nka letswa e le ngwe?" Alex a botsa, Ntate.


Nal’ibali fun
Using the pictures as clues, fill in the names of these Nal’ibali characters to discover the character’s name in the green blocks.

BELLA  GOGO  JOSH
DINTLE  HOPE  NEO

Monate wa Nal’ibali
O sebedisa ditshwantsho jwaloka mehlala, tlatsa mabitso a baphetwa bana ba Nal’ibali ho siballa lebitso la mophetwa dibolokong tse tala.

BELLA  GOGO  JOSH
DINTLE  HOPE  NEO

Can you find six differences between these two pictures?
Na o ka fumana diphapang tse theletseng pakeng tsa ditshwantsho tse pedi tsee?

Don’t forget that we will be taking a break until the week of 9 August 2015. Enjoy the winter holidays, and join us after the holiday for more Nal’ibali reading magic! In the meantime, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi to find stories and reading-for-enjoyment inspiration.


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