Encouraging children to read and write

What we believe our children can do and achieve influences what they see as possible for themselves. When you believe that your children will succeed at reading and writing, and you let them know this, you help them to see that this goal is within their reach.

How we respond to our children’s attempts to read and write will either encourage or discourage them. Giving them positive feedback as they try will help to motivate them to keep at it — and the more they do it, the better they get at it!

Here are some examples of what you can say and do to encourage your children as they learn to read and write.

Talk about learning. Let your children know that they are still learning to read and write. What they can do at the moment is not supposed to sound or look like someone who has been doing it for a long time.

Acknowledge their efforts. Respond positively to every effort your children make to read or write, no matter how small. For example, you could say, “I love hearing you try to read that all on your own!” Also comment on the pleasure your children feel when they have completed something they set out to do, for example, “I can tell you really enjoyed writing your party list!”

Be interested and proud. Ask your children to tell and show you what they are reading and writing about. Remember to tell them that you value their attempts, whether or not they do something perfectly.

Offer support. Support your children’s attempts to work on their own, without jumping in to correct every mistake they make. Rather, let them focus on understanding as they read and on communicating a message in their writing. Remember that correct spelling and punctuation come in time as a child reads and writes more and more.

Be a role model. Children learn more from watching what we do than from what we tell them to do! Let them see you reading for pleasure and using writing in your daily life, for example, writing a to-do list, sending an email or recording an appointment in your diary. When our children see us reading and writing regularly, it encourages them to incorporate reading and writing into their lives too.

What you say and do matters! When you read and write with your children and respond positively and with real interest to their attempts, you are building the foundations for their success as readers and writers.

Ho kgothaletsatsa bana ho bala le ho ngola

Seo re dumelang hore bana ba rona ba ka se etsa le ho se fihlela, se ama haholo tselo eo ba banong bogkoni boe ba nang le bana ka hare hae bana. Ha o dumela hore bana ba hao ba hao ba tla atlela ho baleng le ho ngoneleng, mme o dula o ba bolella sena, o ba thusa ho eileliwa hore sepho sena ba ka se fihlela ba bonolo.

Tsela eo re arabelang ka yona ha bana ba rona ba ka leka ho bala le ho ngola ka ba kgothaletsatsa kopa ya ba nyhamisa. Ho bana rana ha ba ntse ba leka, ho tla ba thusa ha kgothaletsatsa hore ba tswelele pele — mme ba ha ntse ba tswele pele, ba tla nilafula le ho tela!

Eka ke mehloša ya seo o ka se buang le ho se eta bokeng sa ho kgothaletsatsa bana ba hao ba ba ntse ba ihuta ho bala le ho ngola.

Buang ka ho ihuta. Esha hore bana ba hao ba tsebe hore ba sa ntse ba ihuta ho bala le ho ngola. Seo ka ba se etsa ho jwale ba ba a tshwana hela ho ulwakhalo kopa ha shebokholo jwala hore motho e a leho e le kgale e a hao.

Lemoha boiteko ba bana. Arabela ka tselo e ntsele kong e ringwe le e ringwe ea bana ea bana ba hao ba esang ya ho bala le ho ngola, le ha e ka ba nyane hakhe. Ho esa mehoša, o ka mma wa re, “Ka rata ho o mamele ho a leka ho qapla moa ka bowa!” Hape tshweta ka nyakollo ea bana ba hao ba e a leulang ha ho phethile ha ho hong hoo ba neng ba ho esaa, ho esa mehoša, “Ke a bana hone o re o hilele o ntelwetseng ka ho ngola lenane la dintho bokeng sa meletjana ya hoo?”

Bontsha fnjelo moo o be matloho. Kopa bana ba hao ba hae ho a bolelele le ho o bontsha bana ba balang le ho ngola ka seena. Hipola ho ba bolelele hore boiteko ba bana ba bo bokholo hela hoono, eban ba esa mehoša ho ntle ho nna hape.

Fana ka tshehetsa. Tshehetsa boleko ba bana ba hao ba ho sebetsa ba le bang, niche le ho tselela ho ba thusa ha ba esaa phaso e ringwe le e ringwe. Ho seng jwalo, esha hore ba tsapamise makollilo a bana ho ulwawseg ba bana le ho bolela molaetsa ha ba ngola. Hipola hore mpelele o napheshe se le etsaleng ho hoo a pua a keleneta haholo ka nako ea ngwana a ntseng a bala le ho ngola kamehla.

E ba mehoša baneng. Bana ba ihuta hohola ka hae shebokholo seoo re se esang ho feta ka ho ulwawseg se bana le bolelang hore bana le esee! Esha hore ba o bana o bala bofihelo mme o belebelele a bolela kopa ha shebokhilo bana bana ba hoo ba bana ba hoo ba bana ka bolela le ho ngola kamehla, seo se ba kgothaletsatsa hore la bana ba keyenletle hela ho bana ho bophetho la bana kamehla.

Seo a se buang le seo a se esang di bofihelo! Ha o bala le ho ngola mme haholo le bana ba hao mme o arabelo ka tselo e ntle le ka fnjelo ya mede bokeng bana bana, o aha melebelele se ka kutsho ya bana jwala bana babadi le bana bana.
**Nal’ibali news**

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) is the world’s largest award for children’s and young adult literature. It recognises “authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and promoters of reading” whose “work is of the highest quality”.

The award was founded by the Swedish government in 2002. It aims to increase interest in children’s and young people’s literature, and to promote children’s rights to culture on a global scale. Every year, an expert jury selects the winner from candidates nominated by institutions and organisations all over the world.

Nal’ibali is proud to announce that on 31 March 2015, PRAESA (Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa), which drives our campaign, was chosen from amongst 197 candidates from 61 countries as the winner of the 2015 ALMA!

Based in Cape Town, PRAESA, is an organisation that has worked to promote reading and literature for children and young people in South Africa since 1992. Here is part of what the ALMA jury had to say about PRAESA:

“With the joy of reading as its compass point, PRAESA opens new routes into the world of books and literature for young readers in South Africa. Through innovative reading and storytelling projects, PRAESA brings people together and brings literature in multiple languages alive. PRAESA’s outstanding work shows the world the crucial role of books and stories in creating rich, full lives for our children and young people.”

In May, Carole Bloch, Ntombizanele Mahobe and Malusi Niyapai from PRAESA/Nal’ibali travelled to Sweden as guests of ALMA to participate in their Award Week, which focused on the joy of books and storytelling. The Nal’ibali flag was held high as Carole, Ntombizanele and Malusi gave talks, visited schools and exhibitions – and officially received the award from the Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy.

**Ditaba tsa Nal’ibali**

Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) ke kgau e kego ka ho fetisisa lefatsheng bakeng so dingalwa tsa bana le tsa batho ba baholo. E ananela “bangodi, batshwantshi, baphethi ba dipale ka molomo le bakgothaletsi ba ho bala” ba “mesebetsi ya bana e leng ya boleng ba hodimo ka ho fetisisa.”

Kgau ena e ne e thewe ke mmuso wa Sweden ka 2002. Sephoa sa yona ke ho eketsa tjaqetjaqetja dingalweng tsa bana le batho, le ho phahamisa ditokelo tsa bana tsa ho ba le setso bosemang ba lefatshie lohle. Selema le selemo, mafo le ditsebo o kgela ba hodimo la bongkgetheng ba fomotse ke dithele le mokgatlhwa lefatsheng ka bophara.

Nal’ibali e mololo ho tsebisa hore ka la 31 Hlakubedu 2015, PRAESA (Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa), e kgannang letshabo la rona, e lie ya kgeltha ka hara bongkgetheng ba 197 ba tswang dinaheng tse 61 ‘waloka mahlohi wa ALMA wa 2015!

PRAESA, e thehiwiweng Cape Town, ke makgatlhoo oo sa saleng o sebetsa ho phahamisa ho bala le dingalwa tsa bana le batho ba batho ba Afrika Borwa le Thoha ka 1992. Sema ka ke karo ya seo mafo wa ALMA o ilekwa se bua mabapile le PRAESA. **‘waloka ho PRAESA e entise hore monyaka wa ho bala e be mokataba wa yona, e bula metjha e metjha lefatsheng la dikubu le dingalwa bakeng sa babadi ba banyenyane Afrika Borwa. Ka diporitchen tse tswelwa sele tsa bala ho le pheta dipale, PRAESA e kopanya batho mme le tšisa dingalwa di pheta ka dipuo tse ngata. Mosebetsi wa PRAESA e tsweling matsho o bontha sefatshie karolo ya bahlomo e o dikubu le dipale di neng le yona ho sheng maphele a nonneng, o felletse lefatsheng bakeng sa bana le rona le batho ba rona.”

Ko Motsheamong, Carole Bloch, Ntombizanele Mahobe le Malusi Niyapai ba PRAESA/Nal’ibali ba ila ba rona leeto le yang Sweden ‘waloka baei ba ALMA ho ya rika karolo Beking ya bana ya Dikgau, e neng e tsepamisitse makuiho ho monyaka wa dikubu le ho pheta dipale. Fologa ya Nal’ibali e ne e phahamiseditswe hodimo nakong eo Carole, Ntombizanele le Malusi ba fanang ka puo, ba etelang dikolo le dipontsho – mme ba fumana kgau ka maolwa ho tswa ho Letona la Bafisaba le Demokerasi la Sweden.

**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.

**SAfm** on Monday to Wednesday from 1.50 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**Nal’ibali on Radio!**

**Nal’ibali Radiyong!**
The ALMA award was named after Astrid Lindgren to honour one of the greatest authors of literature for children. She was born in Sweden in 1907 and died there at the age of 94!

Astrid Lindgren was the author of the famous Pippi Longstocking series of children’s books. The main character in these books is Pippi, a nine-year-old girl who lives alone with her horse and her monkey ever since her father, who was a sea captain, went missing. Pippi is very strong, says what’s on her mind and does some crazy things which often land her in trouble!

Astrid Lindgren first told the Pippi stories to her seven-year-old daughter while she was sick at home for quite a long time. Then she wrote them down in Swedish and the first one was published in 1945. Today the stories have been translated into 64 languages and are available all around the world. Of our South African languages, the books are only available in English although some titles are available in Afrikaans.

But Astrid Lindgren was not only an author. She was also a human rights activist and a feminist. During her lifetime she was constantly standing up for those with a weak, or no voice of their own. She was also a great defender of civil rights, democracy and every child’s right to be a child.

Here’s what Carole, who is the director of PRAESA, said about the experience: “Receiving this award is a dream come true and a great honour. This will make an incredible difference to the reading work we do for children across South Africa, and even Africa. Having this award come to the African continent, gives great acknowledgement to the importance of growing a love of reading with all children, no matter what their language and background.”

Carole Bloch, Ntombizanele Mahobe and Makusi Mnyani from PRAESA at a public talk with one of the ALMA jury members. People in Sweden were keen to find out about the work of Africa’s first ALMA winner and the PRAESA team did lots of interviews and talks while they were in Sweden!

Senka ke se Carole, eo e leng molaedi wa PRAESA, a leng a se bua ka ketsahalo ena: “Ho fumana kgau ena ho jwaloa toro e phethahalang ebsile ke tlaloo e kgolo. Sena se tlisla phaphang e kgolo mosebetsing wa ho bala on ae e etsetsebana bana Afrika Borwa ka bophara, esithana le Afrika. Ho kgona ho tisla kgau ena kontinenteng ya Afrika, ho tisla kananelo e kgolo ho babholo ba ho hodisa lerata la ho bala baneng bohle, ho sa kgathahlele hore puo le tlokolo ya bana ke efe.”

Carole Bloch, Ntombizanele Mahobe le Makusi Mnyani ba PRAESA puseong ya setlhoba mmoha le e mong wa ditlo ho tla mafo wa ALMA. Batho ba Sweden ba ne ba ikamaditsa ho vตกa ka mosebetsi ya mohadi wa pela wa Afrika wa ALMA mmme setlhoba sa PRAESA se le sa kemetsa dipusano le ho orabo dipapose e ngola ho ba nitsa ba le mane Sweden!

Kgau ya ALMA e rehelletswe ka Astrid Lindgren ho tlotsa e mong wa bangodi ba baholo ba dingolwa tsa bana. O ne a hlahele Sweden ka 1907 mme a hlokalatsha hona maa a le dilema tse 94!

Astrid Lindgren e ne e le mongodi wa lelota le tsebhalagang la Pippi Longstocking la dibuka tsa bana. Maphethwa wa sehlooho dibukeng tseka ke Pippi, ngwananyana ya dilema tse robang ya neng a duwa a le mng na yaa le bala ya hae ho hloa hoesale nitlana, eo a neng a le mokapotene wa dikeng, a kalhela. Pippi o matla haholo, o bua se kelelong na hae mme o etso ntho tsa bohloanyana tse a hanga ita di moko ya konyang malengageng!

Astrid Lindgren o ne a qale ka ho pheta dipale tsa Pippi ho moradi wa hae ya dilema tse supilinga ha a ne a kula lapeng ka nako e lelele. Yaba o di ngola ka pua ya Swedish mme ya pule ya phatlapatwa ka 1945. Kajeno dipale tseka di se di lelelalaeng ho dipuo tse 64 mme di fumanehau efeatshe le ho pota. Ha dipuo tsa rona tsa Afrika Borwa, dibuka tseka di fumanehau leka English leka diphloko tse ding di fumanehau ka Afrikaans.

Emos Astrid Lindgren e ne e le mongodi leka. Hape e ne e le mokowane di ditloko tsa bota le tsa basadi. Nokhang ya bophela ba hae o ne a duwa a ena le ho buela ba fokolone, kapas ba sa kgone le ipuella. Hape e ne e le mositepete a moholo wa ditloko tsa baah, demokrasi le tlokolo ya ngwana ka mong ya ho ba ngwana.
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.

The long trousers
Children of all ages will enjoy this story! It's a fun story about Gaps, the Nguni calf, whose trousers are too long … until lots of family members shorten them for him!

> As you read the story to your children, draw their attention to the details in the pictures, like all the different kinds of flowers on pages 5, and what the DJ is doing on pages 14 and 15. Talk about what the characters are doing and wearing on different pages in the story.

> Suggest that your children use paper, scissors and crayons to create the “cool, new trousers” that Gaps gets on page 4 of the story. Let them use the trousers as they retell the story – they might even want to cut the trousers in the part of the story where Gaps’s family members shorten his trousers for him.

> Encourage your children to design a wedding invitation for Gaps’s sister and her husband-to-be!

Journey
“Journey” is a story from a collection of stories written by a group of children whose families have come to South Africa from other African countries. It is the story of how they got here, why they came and how their experiences make them feel. You can use the story with children aged six years and older to talk about xenophobia.

> If possible, look at a map of Africa with your children and find the places mentioned in the story. Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. Draw their attention to how this is a long way to travel by bus, train and on foot.

> With your children, discuss these questions.

> Do you think the children enjoyed their life in Rwanda before the war started?

> Why do you think they left?

> How would you feel if soldiers were fighting in the area where you live?

> In what ways is the child in the story similar to you?

> What have you learnt from this story?

> Look at the picture on page 15 with your children. Suggest that they draw drawings of their own that have the words “One world. One family.” in them.

Thoko’s special soup
This story takes place on a cold and rainy day. Thoko decides to make some soup with a special ingredient for her mother who has had to go out. Enjoy reading the story aloud or retelling it.

> With your children, write the recipe for the soup that Thoko and her sister made – but leave out the chocolate! Use this recipe – or your own one – to make a pot of soup together.

> Re-read the paragraph about how Thoko started to cry. Can your children suggest why Thoko might have felt like crying?

> How would your children have felt if they were Thoko?

Borkigwe bo bolelele
Bana bo dilemo tschle ba ta ntelweke le pale ena! Ke pale emonate a mabo pi Isasa, nanakanye se Bokone, bo borkigwe ba hoo ba hoo ta leng bolelele halaha - ho lelo ba difo tsela nga lela lebo ka mo lela mo beka! Ho a rite a ballo ballo bana ba hoo pale ena, ba lemosha dinthla tse ditshwanye, afoleka metula yihi le talingao ya dipalaese a lelaphepo la 5, se se Dj e se eetsang lelaphepo la 14 le la 15. Bwa ka se botshwela ba eetsang le se bo se asepang maqephepo a talingao a pale ena.

Etsa Ishisho ya hare hene bana ba hoo ba sebedisa pampiri, dikere le dikeryane ho etsa "borkigwe bo bokha, bo fostheng" boo Isasa a bo ftumang lelaphepo la 4 paleng ena. E ne ba sebedisa borkigwe bokha ba ba rite ba pheta pale hape - mophomanga ba ka ballo se ho-se ho-se borkigwe karokeng ya pale moo difo tsa lelapa ka Isasa di kgutshutshang borkigwe ba haa.

Kgoa-hetsa bana ba hoo ho rala mema ya lenyalo bakeng sa kgatsadi se Isasa le mona ya fo Nyalanana le yena!

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Sopofo ya Thoko e kgethehlehing
Pale ena e etsahla ka letsoa lea ho batala mme pulo na era. Thoko a etso aqeto ya ho phesa sopofo a sebedisa ditswakwane tse kgethehlehing ba mme wa haa ya sa ntseeng le ka kae. Ntelweke le ho ballo pale ena odikgo haa ho pheta hape.

> Mpho ho lebaar bana baa, bongaleng resepe ya sopofo e ho phesa sa Thoko le mma ke mme. Mme sa haa ba haa ho phesa sopofo e ho pheta hape.

> Mophomanga ba ka ballo bana baa. E ne sa leka leka ho phesa sopofo.

> Bana hape seretswa se le maakao Thoko a qulo a qalo ba haa. Bana bana baa ho hoo le tana ka mabo pi Isasa, naka ho seho e ho phesa sopofo. Sa ho haa ho phesa sopofo.
On the wedding day, the family got up very early to get ready. Mama Nguni Cow came into the kitchen. She saw Gaps’s trousers.

"Ah shame, my poor calf. I forgot all about his trousers," she said. She quickly shortened the trousers, and left the kitchen.

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

The long trousers
Borikgwe bo bolelele

This is an adapted version of The long trousers, published by Jacana Media and available in bookstores and online from www.jacana.co.za. This story is available in English, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Afrikaans, SiSwati, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Thivenda and Ndebele. 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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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
And last, Gaps asked his sister. But she said, “Not now. I’m too busy having my dress fitted for the wedding.” Poor Gaps! He would have to wear them just as they were – TOO LONG.

Yaba Masedi o qetella ka ho kopa kgaitsedi ya hae. Empa yena a re, “Eseng jwale tjena. Ke maphathephathe ke itekanya mose wa ka wa lenyalo.”

Masedi wa batho! O tla lokela ho bo tena bo le jwalo – BO LE BOLELELE HO FETA TEKANO.

Next, Aunty Nguni Cow came into the kitchen. She felt sorry for Gaps, so she also shortened the trousers.

Ha latela Mmangwane Kgomo ka kitjhineng. O ile a utlwela Masedi bohloko, mme le yena a soma borikgwe boo.

After Aunty had left the kitchen, Sister Nguni Cow came to eat breakfast. “Tch, tch, I didn’t shorten my brother’s trousers,” she said. And what do you think happened next? Gaps’s trousers were shortened AGAIN!

Kgaitsedi ya hae, Ausi Kgomo, o ile a kena ka kitjhineng ha Mmangwane a qeta ho tswa, a ikemiseditse ho ja borakafese. “Atjhee, ha ke a soma borikgwe ba Masedi,” ke yena eo. O nahana hore o ile a etsang ha a qeta ho rialo? Le yena o ile a soma borikgwe ba Masedi HAPE!
They killed my grandfather. We heard a noise, and then my mother and father took me, and my brother and baby sister, and we ran.

It was hard to escape from the war. We travelled through many countries looking for somewhere to stop. Sometimes we had no food or water. Sometimes people were kind to us, sometimes they were not.

Our journey was made more difficult by wars in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo. We ran away from three wars – wars in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo. We saw dead people lying in a field, like leaves fallen from a tree.

Journey comes from a collection of stories written by the children of South Africa, called Every view counts: My story – Our stories. This collection was originally published by the Parliamentary Millennium Programme and Sunday Times Readright.

Story compiled by Lesley Beake. Art direction by Hybrid.

Please note: Cover artwork (including spelling of countries) was supplied by the learners. Correct spelling: Dar-es-Salaam and Burundi.
My journey began when I was born. It is still going on. The beginning was in Rwanda, which is a country I have not seen for many years and which I may not see again. I cannot live there because my family was forced to leave by cruelty and war.

When the war started, people cried. Soldiers came and there was fighting and fear everywhere.

When we came to South Africa by bus and trains, and sometimes we walked, we had such pain and problems. We did not really intend to come here, but we wanted to get as far away from the wars – and our money ran out.

I hope that dream comes true. I hope that one day love will fill the world.

One world. One family.
Then things began to change in my country. There was no petrol, no food ... no soap. People began to say that war was coming. We were afraid. My sister was born at that time. She was lucky that she was a girl because they were killing boy babies then. I didn't get to know her very well, because she was always around my mom. Mom used to carry her a lot, as if she was afraid, even then, that we would lose her.

Everywhere people speak different languages. It is very hard to go to school and learn when you don't know the language. Now I have to learn in English, which is my third language. But I will work hard and one day I will have a good job – and maybe I can go back to my country and make a difference there.
There are many people in Africa who have been forced to leave their own place. Always there are people moving and moving, looking for a place to be safe; looking for work.

Ho na le batho ba bangata Afrika ba ileng ba qobellwa ho falla dibakeng tsa bona. Ka dinako tsohle ho na le batho ba tlohang dibakeng tse itseng ba eya ho tse ding, ba batlana le sebaka se bolokehileng; ba batlana le mosebetsi.

For now, I live in KwaZulu-Natal with my father and my brother. My mother died on our way here, of sickness in one of the camps where we stayed. My little sister is lost and we don’t know if she is alive or not. Maybe one day we will find her.

Ha jwale, ke dula KwaZulu-Natal le ntate le kaitsedi ya ka. Mme wa ka o ile o hlokahala tseleng e tleng kwano, ka lebaka la ho kula ho e ngwe ya dikampo tseo re neng re dula ho tsona. Ngwaneso e monyane o la tlahile mme ha re tsebe hore ebe o ntse a phela kapa jwane. Mohlomong ka letsatsi le leng re tla mo fumana.

There were no jobs for my father, so we came to South Africa. When we got to South Africa, people called us names and used bad language. We just coped and we survived.

Ho ne ho se mosebetsi bakeng sa ntate wa ka, kahoo re ile ra fako Afrika Borwa. Ha ne fihla Afrika Borwa, batho ba ile ba re rea mabitsi mme ba sebedisa puo e mpe ho rona. Re ile ra mamela mme ra phela.
Then he asked Gogo Nguni Cow, but she was too busy cooking for the wedding.

Yaba o kopa nkgonwae, empa yena o ne a ntse a pheha dijo tsa lenyalo.

When the time came to dress for the wedding, Gaps was very surprised! His trousers weren’t too long anymore. In fact, they were very, very SHORT!

Gaps would have to wear them to the wedding. He didn’t feel very cool. But not for long...

Masedi o ile a makala hampe ha nako ya hore a tene borikgwe ba hae bakeng sa lenyalo e fihla! Bo ne bo se bo se bolelele. Nnete ke hore, jwale bo ne bo le BOKGUTSHWANYANE ho feta tekano!

Masedi o ne a lokela ho bo tena ho ya lenyalong. O ne a ipona e ka ha a tshwanelehe. Empa nakwana feela …

Next he asked Aunty Nguni Cow, but she was too busy setting tables for the wedding.

A fetela ho Mmangwanae, empa yena o ne a lokisetsa baeti ba lenyalo ditafole.

He was as fresh as a daisy!

Then it was time for the dancing. The cattle kicked their hooves high in the air. But guess whose hooves were kicking the highest of all?

Gaps, the Nguni calf, was very excited. It was the day before his big sister’s wedding. Father Nguni Bull gave Gaps a big box.

What do you think was in the box … stinky socks?

Masedi, namane ya Bolone o ne a thabile habolo. Kgatseedi ya hae e ne e nyahwa tswa le bhalahang. Ntatae, Poho ya Bolone, o ile a neha Masedi lekolose le leholo.

O nahana bore le ne le kentse eng … dikausu tse nkang?
First he asked Mama Nguni Cow. “Mama, my trousers are too long. Please shorten them.”

“Not now,” she said, “I’m too busy arranging flowers for the wedding.”

Because...

No! In the box was a pair of cool new trousers. He tried them on. OH NO! They were too long.

Somebody would have to shorten them. Who could help him? Everybody was so busy preparing for the wedding.

Tjhee! Lebokose leo le ne le kentse borikgwe bo botjha bo fesheneng. O ile a tsekanya bona. OHO HLE! Bo ne bo le bolelele haholo.

He asked for Gaps. The trousers weren’t sticking to his knees.

Because...
10 tips for sharing books with 6–9 year olds

Between the ages of six and nine, most children learn to read for themselves. But throughout this phase of your children's literacy development, you should continue to read to them — this provides them with a model for how we read.

1. Let your children select books that appeal to them. Children very often find an author, genre or series they like, and this might excite them to read more books.
2. As they start to read on their own, help your children choose books that are not too difficult so that they are able to have lots of successful reading experiences.
3. Keep more difficult books for you to read to your children.
4. Create opportunities for them to read to you. For example, take turns reading aloud to each other just before bedtime. Or, suggest that they try out their new skills by reading to a younger sibling.
5. Help your children make connections between what they are reading about and real life. For example, if they are reading about school, link it to their own experience of school.
6. Extend stories by asking your children to think about why characters behaved in certain ways, and what your children might have done if they were in the same situation.
7. Don’t let your children leave home without a book. Encourage them to read everywhere — even in the car or on the bus!
8. Read the stories your children ask for again and again, but also encourage them to read their favourite stories again themselves. This helps them to read accurately.
9. Expose older children to longer books with chapters. Try to read a chapter or two each day.
10. Find different ways to read, write and tell stories with your children and keep encouraging them as they start to read (and write) on their own.

Dikeletso tse 10 bakeng sa ho abelana dibuka le bana ba dilemo tse 6–9

Pakeng tsa dilemo tse tsehletseng le tse robong, bana ba bangata ba ifutha ho ipalla. Empe mokgahlelong ona wa kgolo ya bana ba hao wa tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola, a lokela ho tswela pele ho ba bala — sena se ba fa mhohla kapa mmotholo wa kamoo re balang ka teng.

1. E re bana ba hao ba kgethe dibuka tse ba kgiahlang. Bana hangata ba fumana mongodi, mofuta kapa lelotlo lea ba le ratang, mme sena se etsa hore ba thabele ho bala dibuka tse ngata.
2. Ha ba qala ho bala ka bobona, thusa bana ba hao ho kgethe dibuka tse seng thata hahelo e le hore ba lle ba kgone ho ithumelele dikateh le tse ngata le tse ho bala.
3. Kgela dibuka tse thata hore e be teo wena o ba ballang tsona.
4. Thea menyetla ya hore ba o balle. Ho etsa mhohla, fapanetsosang ka ho balla hadimo pele ho nako ya ho robala Kapa, etsa thihiso ya hore ba leke ho bantsha bokgoni ba bana ba bolyha ka ho balla bana ba banyenyane ya haba bana.
5. Thusa bana ba hao ho etsa kgokahano pakeng tse sa o ba se balang le baphetho ba mnete. Ho etsa mhohla, haebao ba bala ka sekolo, se nyalanye le teo ba kopanan le tsona sekolong sa boma.
6. Atolosa dipale ka ho kopa bana ba hao hore ba nahan hore ke habane ng ha baphetho ba ishwere ka tseba e iseng, le hore bana ba hao ba ne ba ka etso hoja ba ne ba le maemong a jwalo.
7. O se ka wa dumella bana ba hao hore ba tswe ka tsela le ka tshwara baka. Kgohalethe ho bala bhole — esithana le ka hara koli ka kopana beseng!
8. Bala dipale tseba bana ba hao ba di kaping kgefaleta kgafeleta, empe o boete o ba kgafeletse ho bala dipale tsebo ba di ratang hahelo hape ka babona. Sena se ba thusa ho bala ka nepaholo.
9. Etsa hore bana ba baholwanyane ya bobona le dibuka tse telele tse nang le dikgaolo. Legang ho bala kgalo e le ngwe kape tse pedi ka letsatsi.
10. Fumana ditseha tse fapaneng tsa ho bala, ho ngola le ho pheta dipale mmotho le bana ba hao mme o dule a ba kgathatsa ho ba qala ho bala lle ho ngola ka bobona.

DID YOU KNOW?

Does your young child like to:
- move things from one place to another?
- put things in bags and carry them around?
- carry brooms or wooden blocks around in trucks?
- push friends or favourite toys around in a pram, or on the back of a bike, or in a plastic crate?

Did you know that when children do these things, they are learning about distance, journeys and places?

NA O NE O TSEBA?

Na ngwana wa hao e monyenyane o reta ho:
- Hiso ditloha sebokeng se seng o di i se ho se seng?
- Kanya ditloha ka ha ka mokhotlo mme a tsamaye ka tsona?
- Dula a tshware mafelo kapa dibokolo tsa mopolanka ka hana dilan?
- Surutse metswalle tsebo dia ditrhowe tse o di ratang ka poreme, kapa o di palame ka mora baekekele, kapa ka hana kereka ya polaseki?

Na o ne o tsebo hore ha bana ba etsa ditlho tsee, ba ithuto ka bohola, maato le dibaka?
It was a cold and rainy morning. Mama was dressed in her warm coat and scarf.

"Thoko," said Mama, "I’m going into Cape Town for a job interview. I’ll be back in time for supper."

Gogo and Thoko watched through the window as Mama walked into the rain. Poor Mama, Gogo said, "It's too cold to stand here, I'm going back to bed for a little while."

Thoko poured her favourite cereal into a bowl, added some milk and gave it a stir. That’s when she got her brilliant idea. So, when she had finished eating she filled a pot with water, and then looked in the fridge to see what she could add to it. Ah, last night’s leftovers of pap and gravy! Thoko plopped the leftovers into the pot and gave it a stir until the pap broke up and the gravy turned the water brown. Then she stood on a chair to peek into the food cupboard.

“What are you doing?” asked Gogo, coming into the kitchen. She was still wearing her fluffy pink dressing gown.

“Making soup for Mama to have when she comes home cold and hungry,” said Thoko.

“What a lovely idea,” said Gogo. “Let me help you.”

Thoko looked into the pot. “What’s this?” she asked.

“Leftovers,” said Thoko.

“That’s a good way to start soup,” said Gogo, “but we need something else.”

“I know,” said Thoko. “Peaches! Mama likes peaches.”

“You don’t put peaches into soup, Thoko,” said Gogo. “What we need is a carrot.”

Gogo peeled and chopped a carrot. Then she added it to the pot and put it on the stove to boil. Next Gogo added a handful of split peas. Thoko went to the cupboard and came back with a packet of ginger biscuits.

“Mama’s mad about these,” said Thoko. “They will make the soup taste very nice.”

Gogo laughed. “Oh, Thoko, nobody puts biscuits into soup. What we need is a can of tomatoes, an onion, a spoonful of vegetable stock and a pinch of salt.”

Gogo opened a can of tomatoes and let Thoko add it to the soup. Then she threw in the vegetable stock and started to chop up an onion.

Soon, tears pooled up in Gogo’s eyes. “Eeew!” sighed Gogo. “Chopping onions makes me cry, and crying makes my nose run. Please stir the soup gently while I go and blow my nose.”

Thoko stirred and watched all the soupy things that Gogo had added go around and around. The only thing she had added were the leftovers. It wasn’t fair! This was meant to be Thoko’s special soup for Mama − not Gogo’s!

So while Gogo was away, Thoko went to the cupboard and found something special that she knew Mama absolutely loved. Quickly, she added it to the soup and stirred it in. When Gogo returned she said, “Mmmm, now it’s smelling like special soup!”

Thoko and Gogo let the soup simmer for quite a while. Then Gogo turned off the heat and said, “Now it’s ready to warm up just before Mama comes home. Come, Thoko, I’ll read you a story while we wait for Mama.”

While Gogo read, Thoko fell asleep. And the next thing she heard was the front door opening and Mama calling, “I’m home!”

Mama looked cold and tired, but she had some good news. She had got the job!

“I’m starving!” said Mama, taking off her coat. “What’s that lovely smell?”

“Thoko’s made some soup for you,” said Gogo.

“Thank you, Thoko,” said Mama. “That’s just what I need to warm me up.”

As soon as Mama had changed into dry clothes they sat down to eat.

“Mmmm,” said Mama, “this is delicious! What is it that’s making this soup taste so special?”

Gogo laughed. “Oh, Thoko, nobody puts biscuits into soup. What we need is a can of tomatoes, an onion, a spoonful of vegetable stock and a pinch of salt.”

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“I added some of that nice vegetable stock,” said Gogo.

“No,” said Mama, “that’s not it. I can taste…”

Thoko kept dead quiet. Gogo frowned.

“Yes, something yummy and sweet!” said Mama.

When all of the soup was finished, Mama went to the food cupboard and said, “Now I have something that I have been saving for a special occasion.” But Mama couldn’t find what she was looking for. “Strange,” said Mama, “I was saving three pieces of my favourite chocolate for a special occasion.”

Thoko kept her head down. She could feel Gogo staring at her.

“Thoko,” asked Gogo, “what have you done with Mama’s chocolate?”

Thoko started to cry as she told Mama that she had added the chocolate to the soup. But instead of being cross, Mama laughed. “So that’s what made your soup taste so special!”

“And it is a special occasion,” smiled Gogo. “You got a job today!”

Thoko dried her tears.

“Do you know, Thoko darling,” said Mama, “it was very thoughtful of you to make soup for me. What do you call it?”

“Thoko’s special soup,” said Thoko.

“Well, it really is the best soup I have ever tasted,” said Mama, giving Thoko a big hug.
Sopho e kgethehileng ya Thoko

Pale le ditshwantsho ka Niki Daly

E ne e le heseng ba bayang mme pulo e ena. Mme o ne e a pape jase ya ho a futhumetseng se lesokho. "Thoko," ha rialo Mme, "Ke ya kwana Cape Town bakeng sa inthaweho ya mosebeisi. Ke la kguta pape e le dijo ts' mabotsa yodya." 

Nkgono le Thoko ba shebela ka fetsetera ha Mme a kanele pulo. Ao, Mme wa batho! Nkgono a re, "Brrr, ha bota halhola ha ke ene mana, ke sa kqutlala dikobong hanyane." 

Thoko a tshela seselela ao e a ratang sekotelong, a tshela lebese yabo a fuduha. Ke mao a lla e le ka le kgaqale ka bhalale. Jwale he, yare ha a geta ja ha a tshela metsi ka pitse, mme a shebela ka sehhetsetso hore ebe e ka tshela eng hohe. Oo, dijo tse sesteng maobane tsa papa le moro! Thoko a tshela dijo tseo ka ha a pita mme a fuduwa ho fihlola le fihuhela dikotswana mme mora a fetola metsi hore a be soofo. Yabo o ema hodima setulo mme a nyarela ka khobotong ya dijo. 

"O etsega?" ha botsa Nkgono, a kena ka khejhejhe. O ne e ntse e a pape kaano ya hae e bonowa e heke.

"Ke phehela Mme sofho bakeng sa ha a kgutja a hatsetse eble a laple," ha araba Thoko. 

"Oo ke mohopola o matte," ha rialo Nkgono. "Ere ke e thuse." 

Nkgono a shebela ka pitse. "Jwale ke eng hoo?" a botsa.

"Dijo tsa maobane," ha rialo Thoko. 

"Ke tsela e ntse ya ha qala sofho," ha rialo Nkgono, "empa re fihola ntilo e ngwae." 

"Ke a tseba," ha rialo Thoko. 

"Ke a tohwa na a tshela diqepelo ka sofho, Thoko," ha rialo Nkgono. "Seo re se Nklang kae sehwe." 

Nkgono a obela e ka khobotong sehwe. Yabo a se tshela ka pitse metsi mme a e kqutlala sefatoeng hore e bele. Kamora mao Nkgono a tshela diqepelo tse fetsaing sefihla. Thoko a ya khobotong mme a kqutla a tshweere pakete ya diqibiki tsa gemere. 

"Mme o rato ntilo tsa hahola," ha rialo Thoko. "O tla e tsa hore sofho e latswehe ha monate hahola." 

Nkgono a tseha. "Jwale bo, Thoko, ha ho no motso ya thahlebang diqibiki ka sofho. Seo re se Nklang ka kqitiki ya dithamale, eie, kgabha ya setoko sa meneho le letswanyana efele." 

Nkgono a bula kqitiki ya dithamale mme ae Thoko a e tshela ka sofho. Yabo a lekhelo setoko sa meneho a qeletla ha kgutja eie. 

Hanghang, meqilgo ya tlo a mahlakoleng a Nkgono. "Eish! Nkgono a hmeloa fihle. "Ha kgutela dieke ha a tsela hore ke fihla, mme ha ka la tsa ramoa mma. Aka fuduwe sofho e bule mme re a sa fo lo na." 

Thoko a fuduwe mme a shebela ka ditswatse ntsohile tle sofho teeo Nkgono a di tsetsoeng kamoo a ditse a diqakhela. "Yena o re a tshete hore e ningwe efele, e leng dijo tse sesteng maobane. E ne e se hanele! Eena e re e lokola ha ba sofho e ileke, Nklang e Thoko bakeng sa Mme e ena se la lo na." 

Kahoho he, yare ha Nkgono a so ke, Thoko a ya ka khobotong mme a fumana ntilo e ileke, Nkgono a re a neng a tseba hore Mme a la ke a rene. Ka potlika, a e tshela ka sofho mme a e fuduwele. Ha Nkgono a kgutja yabo o re, "Wmmm, jwale e efela e nkga avakoko e sofho e kgethehileng!" 

Thoko le Nkgono ba tsekela sofho hore e tsavha nokwanana e tsefa. Yabo Nkgono a tina molo mme a re, "Jwale e ileke, e ileka hore e futhumetseng ha Mme o a se tshelang tapeng. Tho, Thoko, ke la ba bota pape e re ni te re eme re Mme." 

Ha Nkgono a ntse a bota, Thoko a kgutla. O qetsitsetsa a e se ulwana lema na ka pate le bokhele Mme re Mme a re, "Ke se ka tshelang!" 

Mme o ne a shebela ka hatsetse eble a kqetsempe, empa re e re e le dikaba tse monate. O ne e fumane mosebeisi! 

"Ke lapile!" ha rialo Mme, a bhalala yabo ya hae. "Ke eng e nkgaang ha monate hakana!" 

"Thoko o a phoqetswe sofha," ha araba Nkgono. 

"Ke a leboha, Thoko," Mme a rialo. "Sena ke se o se ning re se hlakag hohe ke futhumale." 

Etle ha Mme a se a qetle ho hiqoba diaparo mme a oapa tse ommeng, yabo ba bule fatso ho ha. 

"Wmmm," ha rialo Mme, "e monate! Ke eng ee e eelsang hopo ee e latswehe ka tsela e kgethehileng leja?" 

"Ke kente setoko sane se monate sa menho," ha araba Nkgono. 

"Jwale," Mme o ri. "Ha se sana. Ke uulwa ..." 

Thoko a kgutsa tu. Nkgono a phutha sefahleho. 

"Ee, ho na le ntilo e monate e bileng e le tswetweke!" ha rialo Mme. 

Ha sofho yhelie e e se feele, Mme a ema ha ya khobotong ya dijo mme o re, "Jwale ho na ka le ha henge ha sa leng ke ho boleka bakeng sa fetsatsa le kqetsehi lela." 

Empa Mme o re a sa ke e se hahola le fumana sa a se batong. "Ha o makatso," ha rialo Mme, "Ke ne ke boleka melhpetseng a mara a tshelang eya ka ee ke e ratang bakeng sa lao e ileke, e kgethehileng." 

Thoko a dijo ka bokhele hoholo. O ne e ulwana hore Nkgono e mo tanetse mahlo. 

"Thoko," Nkgono a bota, "e entsang ka tshelangle eya Mme?" 

Thoko a qalana ha lla a re a boleka Mme hore e ile a tshela tshelangle ka hore sofho. Empa bangke sa ha halela, Mme a tshela, "Ke yena ntilo e entsang hore sofho ya hah e latswehe ka tsela e ileke, e kgethehileng lela!" 

"Mme ke leletsa le kqetsehi lela," Nkgono a bona. "O fumane mosebeisi kajeno? Thoko a fihla ka meqilgo." 

"O a tsela, Thoko. Thoko rato la ka," ha rialo Mme, "ke ntilo e ntlo hore aber o ile va nahana ho meqilgo sofho. Hanu e e bilsang!" 

"Sofho ya Thoko e kgethehileng," Thoko a araba. 

"Thiile, efela e le sofha e monate ka ho fetisa a xikuleng ka latswe," ha rialo Mme a hoka Thoko hahola. "Ke a leboho e bokhele, Mme a kgutla yabo ya hae ka tsela e ileke, e kgethehileng leja!"
The dirt monster

Every morning, Siraaj’s father drives a truck. It is not an ordinary truck, because it sprays water and has big, round brushes at the bottom near the wheels. Siraaj’s father says it is a big dirt monster that eats up the rubbish people leave behind in the streets, and it washes and scrubs the streets too! He says it is a good monster because it only catches rubbish and dirt. Without it we’d be in a lot of trouble!

Siraaj’s father often tells a story about one day when the good dirt monster was sick and had to go to the garage for repairs. That morning he had woken up, got dressed for work, had his breakfast and started his long walk to work by 5 a.m. As he was walking to work, Siraaj’s father noticed something which told him that today was going to be different to all the other work days. He saw ...