Stories are not only for bedtime!

Do you read to your children regularly? Many parents who read to their children do this as part of their children’s bedtime routine. They cuddle up to their children and read a story or two before its time for their children to drift off to dreamland. Bedtime stories are an easy way of helping your children to relax at the end of a busy day. The bonus is that while you are reading to your children, you are also developing their understanding of how books and stories work, and so you’re making it easier for them to learn to read.

But bedtime is not the only story time available to us! There are plenty of other opportunities for us to weave stories into our children’s daily lives. Arabella Koopman, from Nal’ibali, shares two examples from her own life.

As a young child, I was an extremely slow eater. At supper time, everyone else would have finished their meal, but I would only be about halfway through mine! My parents used to nag me to eat, but it didn’t really make any difference.

Then one day, my father invented a character called Timothy Topkin and made up stories about him in a way of getting me to eat quicker! This is how it worked: while I kept eating, the latest adventure featuring Timothy and his friends continued. As soon as I stopped eating, the story would stop too. I loved Timothy Topkin and so I kept eating steadily. Problem solved!

Then later in life when I was a parent, I had a toddler who refused to get out of the bath – she always wanted to play in the water some more! Bath time would always end in tears, so I was looking for a way to change this. Stories came to my rescue!

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Whether you use stories as a way of relaxing your children, or to get them to do something they don’t really want to do, or to pass the time while you wait for an appointment, your children are learning that reading and listening to stories feels good. And it is this that helps to make them lifelong readers. So, go on, share stories anywhere and any time!
Story stars

The pavement bookworm

Philani Dladla grew up with big dreams in a small town in KwaZulu-Natal. Today he is known all over the world. Philani spoke to Nal’ibali about his passion for sharing the power of reading and told us how books have shaped his life.

What was the first book you owned?

It was a book about politics. It was written in English and meant for adults, so it was difficult for me to read because I spoke Zulu as my home language, and I was only 12 years old! But I loved it. It was given to me by the old man my mother worked for.

How did reading save your life?

Later on, I moved to Johannesburg to work. Things were going well for me, but then everything changed. I took drugs to fit in with my new friends and became addicted. In a short time, I lost everything I had worked for and was living on the streets. There I saw horrible things happen to the people around me, and it made me realise that my addiction would kill me. I decided I needed to save myself. I chose not to keep any money I got so that I couldn't buy drugs. Anything I got, I immediately spent on food and books. I read self-help books to deal with my addiction, but also read novels and biographies.

How did you use books to earn money?

I started reviewing the books I read. Then I would stand along a busy road in Johannesburg and give my reviews to the motorists who passed by. If they liked the reviews, then they would buy the book from me. That is how I became known as “the pavement bookworm”.

What happened next?

One day, a filmmaker interviewed me. He posted the video on the Internet and it went viral. It changed my life. Now people ask me to give talks about reading and books. I have become friends with authors, journalists and professors around the world.

Tell us about your reading club.

I run a reading club close to where I live. It is called Book Readers’ Club. Children from the area come here to get together and enjoy sharing books and stories.

Why is reading important?

Reading is a weapon to fight social challenges. If you read, you think.

You can find out more about Philani on his website www.pavementbookworm.co.za.

O ka uwile haholwanyane ka Philani websetselele ya hae ya www.pavementbookworm.co.za.

Dinaledi tsa dipale

Sebadi sa ka thoko ho tsela

Philani Dladla o hodie a ena le dittero tse kgo torotswaneng e nyane ya KwaZulu-Natal. Kajeno o tjwe wa lefatshe lefatshe ka bophara. Philani o bulle le Nal’ibali mabapi le lerato la hae ka la fana ka matla a hola mme a re boletla ka moo dibuka di bopileng bophelo ba hae ka tseg.

Buka ya pale e o bileng le yona ke efa?

E ne e le buka e mabapi le dipolokile. E ne e ngwotse ka English mme e e tsebokgobo ba hote, kahoo e ne e nhlafothafa e ho bala hore ka ne ke bua Sezulu lape, mme ka ne ke le dikoma tse 12 feet! Empe ka ne ke e rata, Ke ne ke e fawe ke monnamaholo ea mme wo ka a neng a mo sebedetsa.

Ho bala ho ile a pholsa bophelo ba ho jaapw?


Ho bala ho ile a pholsa bophelo ba ho jaapw?


O ile wa sebedisa dibuka jaapw ho iphumelela tselele?


Ha etsohlang ho kamara moa?


Ho bala ho ile a pholsa bophelo ba ho jaapw?

Nina and the funky experiment

This story is an extract from a South African children’s novel. It is about something unexpected that happens one morning in Nina’s home! Children from about 8 years old are most likely to enjoy the story, but younger children will enjoy doing the experiments below with them!

**Encourage your children to experiment with turning this story extract into a comic. Try to find examples of comic books and/or cartoons in newspapers and look at them together. Let your children draw their own pictures, use speech bubbles and a few introductory sentences to create their own comic!**

**Suggest that your children continue the story after Tiaan has eaten baking soda instead of sugar on his cereal. What happens to him? What happens with Nina’s experiment?**

**Let your children try using baking soda (just like Nina planned to) in these simple experiments. They can be a bit messy so you might want to do them outside!**

- **Bubble over:** Put some baking soda in the bottom of a tall container, like a plastic cup or glass. Slowly pour in some vinegar and watch how the mixture bubbles over the top!
- **Fizzy ice:** Fill an ice cube tray with vinegar and food colouring and put this in the freezer. When they are frozen, pop the ice cubes out onto a plate. Use a teaspoon to put some baking soda on top of each cube and then put a teaspoon of vinegar on top of that. Watch how the cubes fizz!

**As you read the story together, talk about some of these things.**

- If you are using this story at a reading club, invite the children to act or retell it, then discuss some of these questions with your children.

- **What do you think Melisizwe learnt in the story?**

- **Why do you think Thando feels now? How can you tell?**

- **How do you think Thando feels now? How can you tell?**

**Dancing star**

**Dancing star** is a story about a young boy who discovers his talent for dancing. It is best suited to children aged 3 to 8.

**Pages 2 and 3:** What do you think of the way the other children behaved towards Thando? What would you have done if you had been there?

**Page 6:** How do you think the children at the dance class feel? How can you tell?

**Pages 14 and 15:** How do you think Thando feels now? How can you tell? Do you think he enjoys dancing?

After you have finished the story, ask your children. Which do you like best: running races or dancing? What other things do you enjoy doing? What are you good at?

If you have access to the internet, you and your children can watch videos of people doing the salsa, rumba and jive dances. Then, why not put some music on and try out some of the dance moves you saw?

Encourage your children to draw a pictures of themselves doing something that they are good at. Suggest that they write something to go with their pictures.

If you are using this story at a reading club, invite the children to act out the story.

**Sunshine**

This story is about Melisizwe, the canary he loved so much and the lesson she teaches him. Enjoy reading it aloud or retelling it, then discuss some of these questions with your children.

- **What do you think Melisizwe learnt in the story?**

- **Why do you think he took the bird back to the forest?**

- **What do you think of what she did instead?**

- **Do you think the canary loved Melisizwe? How do you know this?**

- **Do you think it is fair to keep birds in cages? Why or why not?**

**Naledi ya motjeko**

**Naledi ya motjeko** is a story about a young boy who discovers his talent for dancing. It is best suited to children aged 3 to 8.

**Pages 2 and 3:** What do you think of the way the other children behaved towards Thando? What would you have done if you had been there?

**Page 6:** How do you think the children at the dance class feel? How can you tell?

**Pages 14 and 15:** How do you think Thando feels now? How can you tell? Do you think he enjoys dancing?

After you have finished the story, ask your children. Which do you like best: running races or dancing? What other things do you enjoy doing? What are you good at?

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Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement.
2. Keep the sheet with pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 separate from the sheet with pages 7, 8, 9 and 10.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
   a) Fold each sheet in half along the black dotted line.
   b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
   c) Cut along the red dotted lines.

I have a 9-year-old girl who is in Grade R. She doesn’t like writing and I don’t know what to do.

When children experience the power of stories in books, and they have something that they want to communicate, they develop an interest in writing. Encourage your child by reading to her regularly for at least 15 minutes a day. Leave writing materials within reach at home so that she can write a down list of things she may want you to buy for her, or so that she can write a note to you when she wants to tell you something. Remember to also be a writing role model for her – she needs to see you writing to realise that it is valuable!

What words should a Grade 6 child be able to read?

Children’s reading abilities differ quite a lot, so it’s not really possible to say what words all Grade 6 children should be able to read. As long as your child understands what he/she is reading, enjoys reading and reads regularly, his/her reading will improve over time. Encourage your child by reading to him/her every day.

What can I do to help my son memorise the letters of the alphabet?

The main way that children learn to memorise letters is by using them. Try writing out the alphabet with him. Then point to each letter, and say its name and the sound it makes. Help your son to understand that letters make up words by drawing his attention to them. Try writing out the alphabet. Then point to each letter, and say its name and the sound it makes. Help your son to understand that letters make up words by drawing his attention to them.

Iketsetse dibuka tse sehwange-lo-ipolokelu tse PEDI

1. Ntshe maqephe ho Yohoa ho la 5 ho iso la 12 flatestsong era
2. Arole leqephehadi le nang le maqephe 5, 6, 11 le 12 ho leqephehadi le
3. Sebedisa leqephehadi ka teng ho eta buka. Lotela ditsha tse ka tseke
   a) Mena leqephehadi ka teng ka halala hadina mola wa matheba
   b) Le mene ka halala hahe hadina mola wa matheba a matola
   c) Seha hadina mola wa matheba a mafubedu.
The resourceful BFFs Nina and Jessie are back.

In *Nina en die wacky hare* they exposed the horrible teacher Miss Morkel as the mastermind behind the lice infestation at Tierkop Primary.

In *Nina en die funky eksperiment* there is another mystery that needs solving. What’s wrong with the so-called “energy drink” of which a TV ad is being filmed at their athletics competition?

Buy these books to find out why Grade 4-5 learners chose them as their favourite books in the ATKV Awards!

WINNERS of ATKV Children’s Book Awards in 2013 and 2015

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Now wide awake, she put on her school uniform and made her way to the kitchen. First she took the white sugar bowl from the table and tipped the sugar into a little bag. Then she rummaged through the kitchen cupboard and took out a blue box. Sodium Bicarbonate, it said in big black letters on the front of the box. And at the bottom, in smaller print: Baking Soda.

Her mother came in the back door carrying a basket. There was a leaf stuck to her nightgown.

“The lemon tree is bearing fruit late this year. Look at how many lemons I’ve just picked, and it is already spring.” She put the basket on the table. “Later we can make some more lemon syrup, seeing as you finished all the syrup I made the other day. Tiaan!” she called.

“Hurry up and get ready!”

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


Elizbè van der Colff
Chris Venter
“Mincemeat, that's what I'm going to make of you! Mincemeat!” shouted Mirkia. Her eyes flashed. She towered over Nina like a giant. Where Mirkia's nose should have been, there was now only a huge, yellow pimple! Nina tried to run away, but tripped over her own feet. Mirkia and her brother came closer. With their long arms, they tried to grab hold of Nina.

“Mincemeat, mincemeat!” Nina heard them say as she stumbled away. All around her were children holding yellow cooldrink bottles. They pointed and laughed at her as they drank their cooldrink. Nina wanted to stop them, but she couldn't get a word out.

“Smile, Nina! I want to take a photo of you!” It was Jessie. Jessie jumped in front of Nina pointing her cellphone at Nina. Click-click! Jessie took a photo just before she too drank a huge gulp of her cooldrink.

“Out of my way, Jessie! They are trying to catch me!” Nina tried to shout, but not a word came out of her mouth.

“Nina! I want to take a photo of you!” It was Jess. Jess jumped in front of Nina pointing her cellphone at Nina. Click-click! Jess took a photo just before she too drank a huge gulp of her cooldrink.

“Smile, Nina! I want to take a photo of you!” It was Jesh. Jesh jumped in front of Nina pointing her cellphone at Nina. Click-click! Jesh took a photo just before she too drank a huge gulp of her cooldrink.

“Out of my way, Jesh! They are trying to catch me!” Nina tried to shout, but not a word came out of her mouth.

Nina wanted to hold the baking soda box and took the cooldrink to

“Tiaan, look at what you've done!” she said angrily. “Duh! When you wake up, you are supposed to open your eyes!” Nina used her hands to try to clean up the mess.

“Sorry,” mumbled Tiaan as he sat down at the table. “Come on, Tiaan, go and fetch the dustpan and broom and help your sister clean up,” said their mom. She picked up the box and looked inside. “Don't worry, Nina, it looks like there is still enough left for your experiment.”

“Thank goodness!” Nina swept up the baking soda and took the dustpan to the bin.

“Nina le Nina tla kgutla moraonyana lapeng kamora boikwetliso mantsiboyeng a kajeno, ke lokela ho pota le W & Z Limited. Le ka nna la ja re eso fihle …”

Every week after that, Thando went to dance class.

He made new friends who also liked dancing.

Thando listened to the music. He followed the steps: slow, slow, quick, quick.

Naledi ya Motjeko

Dancing star

Shumi Chimombe

Nikki Jones
They learnt to do different dances. They learnt the salsa, the rumba, and the jive.

Thando doesn’t like sports. He can’t run fast. Every sports day he comes last and the other children laugh at him.

“Slow coach! Your legs are too short!” they shout.

One day Miss Dana said to Thando, “You are a very good dancer. I want you to dance at the school concert.”


Leha Thando a se na lebelo le lekaalo la ho matha, ke naledi ya moljeke!
Thando ha a rate dipapadi. Ha a na lebelo. Kamehla ka letsatsi la dipapadi o tswa moseleng mme bana ba bang ba a mo tsheha.

“Lenwabo! Menoto ya hao e mekgutshwane!” ba rialo ba hoeletsa.

The next day after school, Thando went to dance class. There were lots of children there. Boys and girls. Tall and short.

Tsatsing le hlahlamang kamora sekolo, Thando a ya tlelaseng ya motjeko. Ho ne ho ena le bana ba bangata moo. Bashanyana le banana. Ba baholo le ba banyenyane. Ba balelele le ba bakgutshwanyane.

Then he heard the music. He began to move: slow, slow, quick, quick. Round and round he spun with his partner. The audience cheered.

Thando had to practise every day to dance even better: slow, slow, quick, quick. Thando ha a rate dipapadi. Ha a na lebelo. Kamehla ka letsatsi la dipapadi o tswa moseleng mme bana ba bang ba a mo tsheha.

“Lenwabo! Menoto ya hao e mekgutshwane!” ba rialo ba hoeletsa.

Thando might not be able to run fast, but he dances like a star!
“Because I always come last. I am not good at anything,” he said.

“Don’t cry,” said Miss Dana. “Come to my dance class tomorrow. Maybe you can dance!”

“Hobane ke dula ke salla morao. Ha ho letho leo ke le kgonang,” a araba.

“O se ke wa lla,” ha rialo Mofts Dana. “Hosane o tle tlelaseng ya ka ya motjeko. Mohlomong o tjeka!”

He danced at home. He danced in the street. He danced everywhere!

One day after a race, Thando began to cry. Miss Dana, the dance teacher, saw him.

“Thando, why are you crying?” she asked.

“Ka tsatsi le leng ka mora thodisano ya mabelo, Thando a qala ho lla. Mofts Dana, eo e leng tšihere ya motjeko, a mmona.

“Thando, o lelang?” a mmotsa.

Soon it was time for the school concert. First the dancers lined up at the front of the stage. Thando felt VERY nervous!

Ya fihla e sa hane nako ya konsarete ya sekolo. Batjeki ba qala ka ho ema moleng ka pela kalana. Thando o ne a ikutlwa a tshohle HAHOLO!

her mom out of  the room. Nina heard him say to her mom, “Nina and I will be home a bit late after practice tonight, I have to stop at W & Z Limited. You had better eat in the meantime ...”

Nina dipped her rusk in her tea. She took a bite while staring absentely at Tiaan. She wondered what her dad needed to do at W & Z Limited. Tiaan poured milk over his cereal. As always he scooped three heaped spoons of sugar from the white sugar bowl and poured it over his cereal. He took a big bite.

“Ugh!” he gagged. Bits of  wet cereal landed all over the table. He spat out the rest of  the mouthful.

Nina burst out laughing. “You put baking soda instead of  sugar over your cereal. Looks like you ARE still half asleep because I poured the baking soda into the sugar bowl right in front of  you only moments ago!”

Tiaan didn't answer, but rubbed his fingers over his tongue. “Gross!”

Thankfully Nina's hiding place had not been discovered, but just before Mirkia and Danie could leave, Nina's nose began to tickle from all the dust in the storage room. She knew she was going to sneeze. Luckily Mirkia had slammed the door to the storage room shut just as Nina sneezed. Or else this would not be only a nightmare ...
Jessie grabbed Nina by the arm and showed her the photo. Oh no! Her whole face was covered in pimples!

“Click-click! More children took photos. They were all laughing at her.

“No, don’t do that, leave me alone!” cried Nina. Nobody heard her.

Click-click! Click-click!

Nina woke up drenched in sweat. A nightmare, that’s all it was, she thought relieved. It’s because of what happened in the storage room yesterday. Nina got a chill as she remembered what had happened the day before ...

The dark, dusty storage room is also the school’s second-hand clothing bank. Nina had gone there to find a new pair of takkies. As she was about to leave, she heard Mirkia and a boy named Danie outside the door. Nina quickly hid behind the rail of clothes because she did not feel up to a confrontation with Mirkia.


“O a bona, ha ho na nho e senehileng,” ha rialo Tiaan a mshetsa leleme ka mle ho Nina ha mme wa bona a sa sheha. Nina a mo senuetsa sefaheho.

Ntata bona le yena a kena ka kirhineng.

“Hopola, moradi wa ka, bosiuang bona re tilo ikwetlelelo ho tlela ho dipole hape. O le hanle kajeno hobane o tlhla mofelo aol!” a rialo. Yaba o nwa kofi mme a hula moriti wa Nina ka ho mo bapadisa.

“H’m, boikwetlo bo a loketseng le we na, Dirk. Potlaka, o lokela ho kapele le we na seng jwalo o tlhla bo morao nakong,” mmae a rialo a hettile ha a tswa monyako. Ntatae a nka rashe e ngwe mme a latela mmaae ho ya tswe monyako.
10 tips for sharing books with children aged 9 and older

Getting very young children into the habit of reading regularly is sometimes easier than helping them to keep doing this as they get older! As they grow up, it is important to keep encouraging and supporting our children as readers.

Here are some ways in which you can help make reading something your children choose to do – rather than something they have to do.

1. Let them see that you value reading. So, make time to read yourself, go to the library together and have books in the home.

2. Share reading material that you come across that you think might interest your children, for example, magazine and newspaper articles, poems and webpages on the Internet.

3. Make time to discuss what your children are reading. For example, ask them to tell you what happened in the book they have just finished, or ask them what happened in a previous chapter as they settle down to continue reading a book.

4. Let them choose what they want to read, and then encourage and support their choices of books. Deciding what types of books you like to read is part of developing as a reader.

5. Sometimes children enjoyed being introduced to different types of books like stories about real-life situations, fantasy or biographies that they haven’t tried before. Libraries and book shops are good places to find a variety of books. Visit them together as often as you can.

6. Encourage less-regular readers by buying magazines for them, leaving a newspaper lying around and suggesting they visit websites with interesting content.

7. Ask your friends what their children enjoy reading and suggest these books to your child.

8. Keep reading to your children – even when they are competent independent readers. Choose books that are slightly more advanced than the level at which they are currently reading on their own.

9. Set aside a special time each week where you read aloud to your child. You could choose a book together especially for these times, and then read a few chapters each week.

10. Encourage your children to read in bed every evening before they go to sleep.

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

Tsena ke ditseka tse ding tseo ka tsona o ka etang hore ho bala e be ntho eo bana ba ba ha ho ikgethelang ho e e tseła – ho e ka ho ntho eo ba lamangho ho e e tseła.

1. Ba bontshe hore o nkela ho bala hodimo. Khao, iphelele nako ya ho bala, eya laebaringo le boma mme le be le dibuka ka lapeng.

2. Abalana ka dingotwa tsa ho bala teo a kopanang le tsona teo a nahanang hore di ka kgahlia bana ba hao. Ho e tseła mohlola, dimakasine le daitekele tsa dikaranta, diinthokhlo le diwebsaete Inthaneteng.

3. Beo nako ya ho busana ka seo bana ba se balang. Ho e tseła mohlola, e re ba o bollele ka se eshalagang ka hare ho buka eoa o bategang e e bala, kapa o ba botse hore ho eshalaseng kgasolong e felleling ha ho ba tseła bala pele ho bala buka.

4. E re ba kgosphate seo ba batlang ho se bala, mme o kgothaletse le ho tsehsete dikgethe tsa bona tsa dibuka. Ho e tseña qeta ko melula ya ho bala ho ratang ho di bala ke ke bala ho hallo ho bala hallo ho bala se bologa.

5. Ka nako tse ding tseo ba notlelwa ke ho tsesebwa melula e fapangen ya dibuka (halwaka dipale tse busing ka maemo a mme o boqhela, ditlara dipala dipale tse mpahlo o batho) tsele bo eso bang balea leka pele. Dilaeborari le maboanele a dibuka le ka dibuka le ntle tse le ho folda le ho fanelele le fapangen ya dibuka. Di deiletele moo xakhele e fanelele le ho mogoamang kosetsa le ho kgomang.

6. Kgothaletse babadi ba sa boleng kgafetsa ka ho ba reketa dimakasine, ho siya karanta e tseleta feta le ho ba eta le eta le diwebsaete tse nang le dibuka le dikgagah.

7. Botsa metswelle ya ha hore bane bana ba bana ba notlelwa ke ho bala eng mme o e tseña tshoeko ka dibuka tsele ngwaneng wa hao.

8. Tsela pele ho balla bana ba hao – leba ba se ba tsele ho jwela lehlo ka bobona. Kgotha dibuka tse seng di le pelelele ho feta booro ba ba balang ho bana ba bala jwela.

9. Behella nako e ikgetheng ka thokelo beke le beke mma o balang ngwaneng wa hao hodimo. Le ka nina la kgighthouse buka mme o halwaka halwaka bakeng sa dinaka tsele, mme le bale dikgagola tse mmalele ka beke.

10. Kgothaletse bana ba hao ho balla dikgagong bosi ka bong le bo bong pele ka kgakeha.

Did you know?

Does your young child like to:

• dress up in hats, shoes, scarves and belts?
• hide under blankets?
• play under the table?
• hide in different places?
• fill bags with things?
• wrap things in paper and put sticky tape on them?

Did you know that when children do these things, they are exploring the idea of completely covering objects, spaces and themselves? This helps them with Maths later on.

Na o ne o tseba?

Na ngxana wa hao e monyenyane o rata ho:

• rwala dikhibo, dietla, dikhafo le ho hama mabanta ha a bapalo?
• ipata ka Haza dikhe?
• bapalo ka tšiša tšofole?
• ipata dikbeng le fapang?
• tšiša makotla ka dithlo?
• phuthela dithlo ka pampiri mme o di kgamoretsa ka sekgomaretsa?

Na o ne o tseba hore ho bana ba etanga dithlo tsele, ba bama le o kgosogolo wa ho kwakhele dithlo, diboka le ho ikwelela ka ho phethahele? Sena se la ba thusa ka Dipalo le maemo.
Melisizwe lived in a village on the edge of the Tsitsikama forest. One day, as he was walking home from school, he found a little canary lying on the forest floor. It was flapping its wings, but it could not fly.

"Ah, I think your wing is broken!" said Melisizwe. He picked the canary up very carefully, and carried it home to his mother.

"Look, Mama, I found a bird with a broken wing in the forest," he said.

"No, this bird’s wing is not broken," said Mama. "This baby canary has fallen out of her nest. She is too young to fly, and she would have died if you had not found her, Melisizwe."

So Melisizwe and his mother made a bamboo cage, and put the little bird in it on a thick bed of leaves. "When you grow up, your breast will be the warm colour of the sun little bird, so I will call you Sunshine!" said Melisizwe.

Melisizwe fed Sunshine every morning and every evening. He gave her a dish of water, a dish of millet seeds and some sweet, new spinach leaves. The little bird soon grew old enough and strong enough to fly around the cage.

When Melisizwe went to school in the mornings, Sunshine stayed alone in her cage in the hut. When Melisizwe played outside with his friend, Mibono, making clay oxen, Sunshine stayed alone in her cage in the hut. And when Melisizwe practised stick fighting with Vuyo, Sunshine stayed alone in her cage in the hut.

One morning, while Melisizwe was giving the canary fresh water and millet seed, he spoke to the little bird. "Why are you so quiet, Sunshine? I have heard all the canaries singing in the forest. Why don’t you sing too?" he asked.

"I cannot sing. My heart is sad," said Sunshine.

Melisizwe was shocked. "Why is your heart sad?" he asked.

"My name is Sunshine, but I never see the sun because I am alone in this cage inside the hut."

"Then I will put your cage outside in the sun!" said Melisizwe. "You are safe in your cage from the snakes and the hawks, and the wild cats. You are safe with me!"

"I am safe here Melisizwe, but my home is in the forest where I can build a warm nest in a tree. My home is with all the other canaries where we can welcome each day with a song. I am alone here in this cage in the hut," said Sunshine. "And I cannot sing."

"You need not be alone! I will find another canary to keep you company, Sunshine," said Melisizwe, and he ran out of the door, so that he would be in time to walk to school with Mibono and Vuyo.

What Melisizwe did not know, is that Mama had heard every word of his conversation with Sunshine.

That afternoon Melisizwe asked, "Mama, may I go out and play with Mibono? We want to make a kraal out of sticks for our clay oxen."

"No," said Mama. "Today you must stay alone in the hut where you will be safe. I am going next door for a while." So Melisizwe had to stay inside alone.

The next day he asked, "Mama, may I go out and play with Vuyo? We want to practise stick fighting."

"No," said Mama. "Today you must stay alone in the hut where you will be safe. I am going to borrow a book from Gogo." So Melisizwe had to stay inside alone.

The next day he begged, "Please, Mama, let me go out and play with Mibono and Vuyo this afternoon."

"No," said Mama. "Today you must stay alone in the hut where you will be safe. I am going to sit outside in the sun with my book now."

"But why can’t I go out and play with my friends, Mama? I don’t want to be alone in the hut!" cried Melisizwe.

"I know you don’t, my son. It is not good to be alone in the hut," said Mama, who was reading her book outside on a chair in the sun. "But I can’t talk to you, Melisizwe. I am busy reading now."

Melisizwe sat down quietly on the floor with tears in his eyes. He looked across the room at Sunshine. The little bird looked back at him. Suddenly Melisizwe felt his heart get heavy and sad.

"I am so sorry, Sunshine," he said softly.

The next morning, when he left for school, Melisizwe picked up the cage. His mother smiled and kissed him. "You have a good heart," she said.

When he reached the forest, Melisizwe stopped under a big tree and set the cage down on the ground. Then he opened the cage door.

"You can fly away now, Sunshine. You are free, little bird," he smiled.

Sunshine hopped to the cage door, then spread her wings and flew out of the cage. She flew up onto a branch above Melisizwe and looked down at him. All at once she sang the sweetest song that he had ever heard. Then she flew far up into the tree to all the other canaries.

Melisizwe picked up the empty cage. Suddenly the air was filled with bird song. All the canaries started to sing. Melisizwe looked up, smiled and walked to school with a happy heart.
Molisiwa o ne a dula motsaneng o aletla ya moro wa Tsitsikama. Ka tsatsi le teng, 'ha a ntse a tsamaye tsetseng e tswang sekalong ho lebo la lapeng, a fumana nonyana e nyane e robotse fatshe morung. E ne e ntse e otlanya mapheo a yona, empa e sa kgone ho fola.  

"Aa batho, ke nhana hore mapheo a hoo a robotse!" ha rialo Molisiwa. A nka nonyana eo ka Nklo, mme a ya le yona lapeng ho mmae.  

"Sheba, Mme, ke fumane nonyana e nang le lepeho le robotseheng morung," a rialo.  

"Tjhe, lepeho la nonyana ena ha le a robotse," ha rialo Mme. "Lediinyane lena la nonyana le wele selelaeng sa yona. Le lenyane haholo ho ka fola, mme le la ke be le shwelo ho ene a se le fumana, Molisiwa."  

Kahoo Molisiwa le mmme ba e tsa hoko le makala a bamboo, mme ba kenywa nonyana e nyane ka ho yona ba bea hodima mosama wa mafulak a bonolo. "Ha a ho kola, setlaba sa hoo se tla ba le mmela o mofuthu wa lesa ka sekotlo la kwana e nyane, kahoo ke tla a bita Sunshine!" ha rialo Molisiwa.  

Molisiwa o ne a lepa Sunshine hoseng ho hong le hong le mansa boleko, a mma la a mong. O ne e ea sekotlo ka sekotlo, sa mele ti le ibe le mma le le se. Molisiwa a le a tsebe ho lehoko e lebelo, sa sefate se seholo ho ya. Lediinyane la nonyana la qalala ho hola ka pelo ho le hong le kgona ho fola le potoloha hoko.  

Ha Molisiwa a e sekalogeng hoseng, Sunshine o ne a salon a le mong ka hokgong ya hae ka mokgorong. Ha Molisiwa a bapala ka rifhe le mowatho ya hae ka hokwang. Mme a hokwana a lepeho ho la kwana le pho a le kgorong, mme a le Molisiwa a aletla a la kwana ka hokwana, mme a otlolla Sunshine a qhomela monyako.  

"O ka nna wa fofa jwale, Sunshine. O lokolohile, nonyana e nyane," a botsa.  


Regional Seo Molisiwa o le bapala ka bapala ho dula le mong ka mokgorong moo o haholo ho boloko. Tse la hela lela a le mong ka boloko le hela lela. Ke sa fola le dula ho dula le mong ka boloko ho yena.  

"Ke se ke kgone ho ya robotse ho ya kantle ho ya bapala le metswalle ya ka, Mme? Ha ke bakela ho dula ho le mong ka hokwana. Ke sa ilo adima buka lo yena. Ha bapala le Mibono le Vuyo ke sa ilo dula ka tlung a le mong ka hokwana."  


"Sheba, Mme, ke fumane nonyana e nang le robotseheng morung," a niwo Molisiwa.  

"Ha o a lokela ho ba mong! Ke tlha fumana nonyana e nyane ho fola o tla a fosa bonodu, Sunshine!" ha niwo Molisiwa, mme a tswa mma le a mong, hore a tie a kgone ya ho fumana Mibono le Vuyo, mme a tsamaye le bonsa ho ya sekaleng.  

"Ke a tseba ha a robotse, ngwana ka. Ha ke bakela ho dula le mong ka hokwana." Mme a dula le Mong mo le a kgone ho le boloko a se mma le. Molisiwa a ntswa la kwana le pho a le kgorong.  

"Ke a tseba ha a robotse, ngwana ka. Ha ke bakela ho dula le mong ka hokwana." Mme a dula le Mong mo le a kgone ho le boloko a se mma le. Molisiwa a ntswa la kwana le pho a le kgorong.  

"Ke se ke kgone ho ya robotse ho ya kantle ho ya bapala le metswalle ya ka, Mme? Ha ke bakela ho dula ho le mong ka hokwana. Ke sa ilo adima buka lo yena. Ha bapala le Mibono le Vuyo ke sa ilo dula ka tlung a le mong ka hokwana."  


"Sheba, Mme, ke fumane nonyana e nang le robotseheng morung," a niwo Molisiwa.  

"Ha o a lokela ho ba mong! Ke tlha fumana nonyana e nyane ho fola o tla a fosa bonodu, Sunshine!" ha niwo Molisiwa, mme a tswa mma le a mong, hore a tie a kgone ya ho fumana Mibono le Vuyo, mme a tsamaye le bonsa ho ya sekaleng.  

"Ke a tseba ha a robotse, ngwana ka. Ha ke bakela ho dula le mong ka hokwana." Mme a dula le Mong mo le a kgone ho le boloko a se mma le. Molisiwa a ntswa la kwana le pho a le kgorong.
When people travel to interesting places they often send postcards to friends and family back home. Postcards usually have a photograph of a place you have visited on one side. A message and the address of the person you are sending the postcard to, are on the other side. Now follow the steps below to make your own postcard!

1. Cut out the front and back sides of the postcard below.
2. Glue the two sides together.
3. On the front of your postcard, draw a picture of a place you would like to visit or a place you enjoyed visiting – or create a magical place all of your own!
4. On the back of your postcard:
   - on the left, write a message to someone you know telling them about how you are enjoying visiting the place in the picture and what you’ve done while you are there.
   - start your message like this: Dear…
   - don’t forget to say who the message is from – you!
   - on the lines on the right, write the name, surname and address of the person you are sending the postcard to.
   - in the empty block above the address, draw a postage stamp.

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Ha batho ba etela dibaka tse kgahlisang hangata ba romela diposekarete ho metswalle le ba lebako ba seitseng hae. Diposekarete hangata di na le ditshwantsho tsa sebaka se o se etetseng ka lehlakoreneg le leng. Molaetsa le ateresse ya motho eo o mo romelaing yona di ka lehlakoreng le leng. Jwale, latele mehato e ka flase mona ho etsetsa posekarete ya hao?

1. Seha o ntilehe bokapeleng ba bokamarao ba posekarete e ka flase mona.
2. Kgomaretsa mahlakore eo mmoho.
3. Ka bokapeleng ba posekarete ya hao, taka setshwantsho sa sebaka se o ratang ho se etela kopa sebaka se o kileng wa natefelwa ke ho se etela – kopa o popatile sebaka sa mhlobi se o ka mohanelang sona!
4. Ho bokamarao ba posekarete ya hao:
   - ka ho le ketshedi, ngola molaetsa o yang ho motho eo o mo theeang o mmolelile kamoo o natefelwa ke sebaka se setshwantsho le tseo o di entseng haesale o fihla moo.
   - qalo molaetsa wa hao tjaena … ya rathang
   - o seke wa lebaka ho ngola hore molaetsa o tswa ho mang – wena!
   - meleng e ka ho le lekona, ngola lebiso, tame le ateresse tsa motho eo o mo romelaing posekarete.
   - bokakong bo se nang lethe bo ka hodimo ho aterese, taka setempe sa ho posa.

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Get your copy of the 100th edition of the Nal’ibali reading-for-enjoyment supplement in the week of 27 September 2015!

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Can you think of six words that start with each of the letters that Josh is holding? Write them here.

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Fumane khopi ya hao ya kgatšo ya bo100 ya tlatsetsa ya Nal’ibali ya ho-ballina-monate e tla reksissa ka beke ya la 27 Loetse 2015!

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Fumana khopi ya hao ya kgatšo ya bo100 ya tlatsetsa ya Nal’ibali ya ho-ballina-monate e tla reksissa ka beke ya la 27 Loetse 2015!