Make a difference!

If you ask people whether they want to make a difference in the world, most of them would say that they do. Some people do this by making a difference at home and in their schools. Others do it by contributing to community projects at a local or national level. Some of us lead the way, while others work behind the scenes to make change happen. But whatever we do and however we do it, we’re all driven by the same thing: the desire to make the world a better place – now and in the future.

Make-a-Difference Day, celebrated in October each year, was established in 1992 to help encourage us to take at least one day a year to try to make a difference in the world. But it’s also a day for us to think and plan how, in the year ahead, we can be ongoing agents of change in our own lives and the lives of others.

One of the easiest ways we can make a difference is by reading and telling stories to the children in our lives. Sharing stories comes as naturally to human beings as eating and sleeping. In fact, a lot of the time our brains even think in stories! It doesn’t matter whether we are children or adults, we all tell stories about ourselves and others. Sometimes those stories stay in our heads and sometimes we share them with the people in our lives. We use stories to explore our lives – past and present – and to dream about our future. Stories allow us to make sense of our own lives and to connect with family and friends.

The stories we hear and read as children help to shape us. So in this very simple but powerful way, you can do something which benefits our children and our world. There are lots of other reasons to share stories with children too. Here are a few.

- Sharing stories helps us bond with our children. It lets them know that we think they are important enough for us to make the time to tell and read stories with them.
- Stories help develop their imagination and creativity.
- Stories help to develop children’s language and thinking, especially when they hear or read them in their home languages.
- Stories provide children with examples of how people meet the challenges that face them.
- Children who enjoy being read to at home, are more likely to be motivated to read themselves. When children are motivated, they learn more easily.
- Stories have the power to change us and the way we see the world. When we share stories with our children, stories can do the same for them.

Make-a-Difference Day is on 27 October 2018. How will you contribute to making the world a better place?

Join us. Share stories in your language every day.

Nna karolo ya rona. Arogana mainane ka puo ya gago letsatsi le letsatsi.
Dikgang tsa Nal’ibali

During the week of 26 May 2018, Nal’ibali expanded its reading-for-enjoyment campaign by initiating a national book exchange project. Access to reading material is one of the biggest barriers to getting South Africans reading. At a book exchange, everyone brings books to swap. It is just one of the ways that Nal’ibali is supporting the circulation of books and stories in all South African languages.

During the launch week, Nal’ibali’s Literacy Mentors held public book exchange events across the country. Everyone was encouraged to bring and swap books, enjoy storytelling and read-aloud sessions, and find out more about how to read and share stories effectively with their children.

The book exchanges welcomed books of any variety – printed or handmade books for adults or children. Those who brought books to exchange, received a special sticker which they placed on the books’ inside covers. This sticker gave the owner a chance to record their name and the place where they live before passing the book on.

In support of the drive, South African public figures came along with their own books to swap at exchanges in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Limpopo. They also signed up to join Nal’ibali’s volunteer network – FUNda Leader.

But you don’t have to be a celebrity to get involved! Everyone is encouraged to hold a book exchange, and these don’t have to be great big events. You can hold an exchange at your home, school and/or somewhere in your community. Here are some tips to guide you.

1. Invite people whom you know enjoy reading books and who have books to share.

2. Put the venue, date, time and duration of the event on the invitation.

3. Allow enough time. Two to three hours gives everyone a chance to look at and exchange books and meet new friends.

4. If possible, your guests should let you know if they are coming.

5. They should also let you know how many books they will bring, or you can suggest how many books they should bring. (Three books is a good number!)

6. Have enough tables ready for your guests to put their books on. (Or put tablecloths or blankets on the ground for everyone to put their books on.)

7. Leave space around the tables so that your guests can stand around and page through books while still leaving enough space for others to move around.

8. Ask your guests to wait until all the books have been laid out before they start choosing. In this way everyone has a chance to find books they will enjoy.

9. Put out seats so that guests can sit and look at the books they’ve chosen. If you can, have a separate table with easy-to-eat snacks and something to drink.

10. Ask your guests to only take home as many books as they brought.

Dikgang tsa Nal’ibali


Ka letsatsi la tshikologo, Bakgakgakola ba bo rutang Bakgakga ya go Khwela le go Buisa ba Nal’ibali ba ne bo tswhaaro dikgolo tso thefesangon ya dibuka tsa setšhabo go ralali naga. Mongwe le mongwe a ne a rolediwa go tisa le go fapaanya dibuka, go itumekela dikgoreletseng tsa kanelo ya manane le pusetsagoedi, le go bono go le go ronotse ka ga go gotse ba ka buisa jang le go aragana jang manane sentle le lele ba bona.

Thesefoson ya dibuka e ne e amogela dibuka tso melula yothile – dibuka tso di gatsetswe le tse di Iketswelele ka matsogo sa bagolo kgotsebona. Ba bo tšisetswe dibuka go di refsana, ba filwe setšiaka se se keghepeleng se se ke gomaredišeng mo teng ga buka. Setšiaka se se fa mong wa buka naixo ya go rekota leina le gago le tšeletse la a duaung kwa go lona pele ga a fetsetsa buka pele.

Go ema tiro e nokeng, batho ba bo tšisetswe ba mo Aforika Borwa ba filwe ka dibuka tsa bono go di fapaanya kwa di thegafelebonang kwa Kopa Bofihhaba, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng le Limpopo. Gape ba le ba sae a mala mo ne a tšwelele ya Nal’ibali ya batho – FUNda Leader.

Mme ga o a tshwanetlela go o motho ya itseeng o go tshwa ka kachelor. Mongwe le mongwe o rolediwa go tswhaaro thefesangon ya dibuka, e bile ga di fapaanya go o dikgolo tse dikgolo. O ka tshwaaro thefesangon kwa lelegaeng ka gago, gago se kauqua lefogotse galo gongwe mo setšhabineng sa gago. Dintša tsa ga ga kaete ka tse.

1. Laosetsa batho ba o itseng gore sa rata go buisa le ba ba nang le dibuka tse ba ka di aragana.

2. Tsena lelalo, kotha, naixo le fazaka kwa tshwanelo mo toaletseng.

3. Letšelela nako e e lekaeng. Diura tse pedi go ya go tse thrano di fa mongwe le mongwe tšhowo ya go lebelelo le go refsana dibuka le go kapana le di tšhilo tse dintšaletsa.

4. Fa go kgoroeng, baeti ba ga gabo ba tshwanetse go o tšise le e le gore ba a tla.

5. Gape ba tshwanetse go o tšise gore sa filo ka dibuka tse kae, kgotse o ka bishikeng gore sa filo ka dibuka tse kae. (Dibuka tse tharo ke pale o e siameng?)

6. Baakanya ditshate tse di lekaeng gore baeti ba gabo ba beye dibuka mo go tsone. (Kgotse tse kwa o ka dibuka mo go tsa tsho gore mangwe le mongwe a beye dibuka tso gago.)

7. Tšegloa phatlha go dikologa ditshate gore baeti ba gabo ba kgone ba ema la go tsone le go tšehloa dibuka a ntsa ba tšegloa phatlha gore a ba gongwe ba kgone go tsamoyatsa tsa tla.

8. Kopa baeti ba gabo go lela go filwela dibuka tsothe di bewa pele ga go simolola go khelela. Ka tsa tsa tsa mongwe le mongwe o na le tšhowo ya o go bona dibuka tse a filo di itumela tsa.

9. Ntsha ditsele baeti ba kgone ba ema la go dula le go lekaelele dibuka tse ba di tšopheli. Fa o kgone, mma le tabe le e kwa thoko ya diyapele se lengwe go go nwa.

10. Kopa baeti ba gabo gore ba tsele fela pale ya dibuka le lekamanang le tse ba tšihle ka tsona.
Teaching reading as you read aloud

Reading aloud to the children in your class is fun for you and them, but it is also an activity which encourages children to learn to think more deeply about stories and helps them learn important reading skills.

Children need to learn certain strategies to help them make sense of the stories they read. Here are some of these strategies and suggestions on how you can help children acquire them.

1. **Use what you already know.** After you have read a story, ask the children, “Have you ever experienced something like what happened in the story?” Or ask them if they have seen, heard or tasted something that is mentioned in the story. Encourage them to think about the ways in which their experiences are similar and different to the ones in the story.

2. **Predict.** While you are reading, stop a few times and ask the children what they think will happen next.

3. **Use the clues.** Help the children understand that sometimes things are not fully explained in a story – you have to work them out for yourself! Show them how to look for clues that tell us more about what is happening, and/or about a character or a place.

4. **Use your imagination to interpret the story.** Ask the children to draw what they think an object, place, character or scene from the story looks like. Display their drawings and ask them to tell you about them.

5. **Check your understanding while reading.** Reread a part of the story where something unexpected or very important happens. Ask the children to listen carefully for something important or unusual. Let them talk about what they noticed.

6. **Reflect on the story.** After you have finished reading a story, ask the children what their favourite part was. Sometimes, also ask them to retell the story in their own words.

Make reading for enjoyment part of your school! For more information and guidance on how to do this, go to www.storypoweredschools.org.

Go buisetsa bona kwa godimo mo phapọsibonutelo teng ya gago go itumedisa wena le bona, mme gape ke tinwana e e rolloetsang bona go ithuta go akanya ma go tseleletheng ka mainane le go ba thu sa go ithuta bogkogni jo ba botlhokwa jwa go buisa.

Bana ba thokha go ithuta dilagamoa tse di nileng go ba thu sa go ithulaganya mainane a ba a buisa. Tse ke dingwe ba dilagamoa le dikshishinyo tsaxe gore o ka thu sa jang bona ba gago go nna le tsona.

Dirisa se o setseang o se itse. Fa o fetsa go buisa leinaane, botsa bona, “A o kile wa itemogela selo se se diraetseng mo leinaang?” Kgotsa ba botše gore a ba kile ba bona, ba utlwa kgotsa ba utlwa tse ho se yengwe se se umotlheng mo leinaang. Ba rolloetsa go akanya ka moo maletlemagela a bona a thwanang le go farologana le a mo leinaang.

Bonelo pele. Fa o buisa, ama gangwe le gapa mme o botše gore ba akanya go khile go diraeng se ao se leleng.

Dirisa methlaha. Thusa bona go thalaganya gore ka dinako dingwe di go di thalaganya ba botlelo mo leinaang – o thwanetsa go di phanebothekile! Ba bontše gore ba batele jhang methlaha e e re bolelelang go le gantsi ka se se diraetsang, le/kgotsa go le gantsi ka maotlhekwa kgotsa lela.

Dirisa ka kanyange gore go thalaganya jwa leinaane. Kopa bona go tseka ka moo ba akanyaing gore se yengwe, lefela, maotlhekwa kgotsa lela la tira ga ka le sa leinaang. Bontše dikefihlele le bona mme o ba kopa go le bolelela ka tsona.

Thola go thalaganyago gore jwa buisa fa buisa. Bisa gape karale ka leinaane moo se se sa safokwanga kgotsa se se bothokwa thata se digaeng teng. Kopa bona go reetsa ka lefolo tse ho utlwa ka go se yengwe se se bothokwa kgotsa se se sa汰laeng. Ba tse ke bua ka se ba se boneng.

Akanyak ka ga leinaane gape. Fa o fetsa go buisa leinaane, botsa bona gore karale a ba e ratlheng thata ke ke. Ka dinako dingwe, ba kopa go ane la leinaane ka malako a bona.

Put stories at the heart of your school! Go eteletsa pele bontlhokwa jwa mainane kwa sekalong sa gago.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotes from great writers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>On the power of stories:</strong> “Stories matter. Stories have been used to disseminate and to represent the dignity of a people. It is through stories that broken dignity can be restored.” - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On why we should encourage children to write:</strong> “Once in a while I catch myself wondering whether I would have found the courage to write if I had not started to write when I was too young to know what was good for me.” - Ama Ata Aidoo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dinopo go tswa mo bakwading ba ba kwa setlhengo

Ka maatla a mainane:

“Maatla a thalaganya. Mme fela mainane a kigana ka digaeng, le kgatsa se dirisa go maalaganya, le go dira bafhla. Mme gape mainane a kigana ka digaeng se le na se seyengwe.”

Chinamanda Ngozi Adichie

Ka ga thloa ya gore ke goreng re thwanetsa go rolloetsa bona go kwela:

“Sangwe le gape ke iwelela ke akanya ka gore na a ke ke nitla le bapelalelega jwa go kwela fa ke ne ne se simolela go kwela ke le moneya go ka itse se se neng se nthelema.”

Ama Ata Aidoo
Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the two cut-out-and-keep books: the comic, Heroes for change (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12) and Little Hat (pages 7, 8, 9 and 10), as well as the Story Corner story, Dirty dassie (page 14).

Choose the ideas that best suit your children’s ages and interests.

Heroes for change

This is a comic for older children that inspires them to take action so that we can achieve the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development. You can find out more about each of these goals here: www.globalgoals.org

- Explore how the Global Goals relate to your children’s lives. Ask them what they think the biggest problems are and that people in your community should or country face. Give them small squares of paper and let them write a problem on each one. Now look at the goals on pages 10 and 11 of the cut-out-and-keep book and see if they can match the problems to the goals.

- Here’s an activity to help you talk about inequality. Give members of your family, reading club or class a number of sweets/biscuits/stickers, but make sure that you distribute them unevenly. Some people should have a lot, while some people should have only a few, or one. Keep most of the sweets/biscuits/stickers for yourself. Then ask, “Is this fair?” Discuss this together and talk about how it feels if you are given fewer sweets/biscuits/stickers. Explain that you have the most because you are the one in charge of the activity. Does anyone think this is fair? How else could you all decide to share the sweets/biscuits/stickers?

Little Hat

In this South African retelling of the story, Little Red Riding Hood, Little Hat’s mother sends her to her grandmother’s house with a pot of tomato breide. She warns Little Hat to go straight to her grandmother’s house, but along the way Little Hat meets a leopard.

After you have read the story, ask your children to share other stories they have read or heard that are similar to this one.

- Help your children to think about which parts of the story could really happen and which are just make-believe. For example, Real: house, tomato breide, leopard, grit. Make-believe: leopard in bed, a hat made of a ray of sunshine and a moonbeam, animals that speak.

- Invite your children to make “Wanted” posters that would have helped the people in the village catch the leopard. Suggest that they draw a picture of the leopard and write descriptions of his eyes, fur and claws, his come (what the leopard did), where the leopard was last seen; and what reward is being offered to someone who gives the villagers useful information.

- Ask your children to write a letter from the leopard to Nandi and her grandmother to apologise for what he did wrong.

Dirty dassie

This is a story about a dassie who hates water and won’t wash! Eventually he is so dirty that the village elders send him away. But when it starts to rain, things change for the dassie.

- Give your children large sheets of paper and suggest that they draw pictures of how Dumi Dassie felt about water at the beginning or the end of the story—or both! Mix some soil with water to make mud, and let your children finger paint when it starts to rain.

- With your children, make up the dance that Dumi and the other dassies did at the end of the story. Sing the words of their song as you dance!
Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi

World’s Largest Lesson is a collaborative education project to support the announcement of the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The project is living proof of the importance of Global Goal 17, “Partnerships for the Goals”, and would not have been possible without the help of all our partners working with us and with each other.

For more information about these partnerships, go to www.think-global.org.uk. Heroes for change is reprinted in the Nal’ibali Supplement in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Pretoria.

Heroes for change
Bagaka ba phetogo

Out of those millions of conversations came the Global Goals for Sustainable Development – a plan for economic, social and environmental progress that meets the needs of today without compromising the resources of the future.

It won’t be easy, but it can be done, and if the goals are achieved, it will make the world a more just, more prosperous and safer place for us all.

The world’s biggest problem is that we can’t find solutions fast enough.

Think of the 17 Global Goals as the ultimate to-do list for people and planet – a way for us to work together so that we can find solutions for all the world’s biggest problems.

That’s why the United Nations spoke to 7 million people in 193 countries and asked them for ideas on how to fix, well, everything by 2030.

Think of the 17 Global Goals as the ultimate to-do list for people and planet – a way for us to work together so that we can find solutions for all the world’s biggest problems.

However, it’s not just about the ends – it’s also about the means. We need the partnerships to get the partnerships. We need to keep talking about the goals and keep working on them. That’s why the United Nations is asking every person to take action.

Reprinted by: United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Pretoria

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Nal’ibali ke lebonolo la bosetšhaba la go buisetso monate e le go roletsela le go jaka moaa wa go bula la talalekiso. Go bona tshedimosetsa ka bonolo, etela mo www.nalibali.org kgotsa mo www.nalibali.mobi

Heroes for change
Bagaka ba phetogo

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This is the earth. As far as planets go, it’s kind of a big deal. It’s a world filled with wonders …

Together we can solve practically any problem and overcome any challenge. All we need is a plan.

But together, well that’s a different story.

Ka gore kgang ke e: rotlhe re na le pharologantsho e e kgethegile, bokgoni jwa moftu ka nosi jwa go thusa go fetola polane te ya rona – le tsele e re tshela ka yone mo go lone – gore e nne botoka. Ka jalo bala maala a gago a magolo a ka fa teng nne o a abalane le lefatshe! Mrre mnogo re tlaa dia dikgalgamatso!
Nandi always wears the hat that her grandmother gave her and so everyone calls her Little Hat! One morning, Little Hat's mother sends her to her grandmother's house with a pot of tomato bredie. She warns Little Hat not to talk to anyone along the way, but Little Hat stops to talk to a very hungry, dishonest leopard …

Ka metlha Nandi o rwala hutshe e a e/f-ilweng ke nkokoagwe jaanong mongwe le mongwe o mimitsa Hutshenyana! Moso mongwe, mmagwe Hutshenyana o mo roma kwa go nkokoagwe ka pitsa ya moro wa tamati. O kganela Hutshenyana gore a se bu le ope mo tseleng, mme Hutshenyana o ema a bua le lengau le le tshwerweng ke tlala thata …

Earlier that morning Little Hat's grandmother had left to sell a sack of herbs at the market. She had gone off in such a hurry that she had left her bed unmade and her shawl on the pillow.

"Good!" said the leopard to himself. "I know just what to do." He shut the door and closed the curtains. Then he wrapped the shawl around his head and lay down under the blanket on the bed.

Meanwhile Little Hat was making her way to her grandmother's house. Along the way, she stopped to watch some birds feeding and a dung beetle rolling along a ball of dung. When she eventually arrived at her grandmother's house, she knocked on the door.

"Who's there?" asked the leopard, making his voice sound as soft as possible.

"It's me, Granny, Little Hat. I have a pot of tomato bredie for you for tomorrow."

"Open the door, child, and come in," said the leopard. "You sound like you have a cold, Granny," said Little Hat. "A little one, my dear," said the leopard pretending to cough. "Now shut the door and put that pot on the table. Then you can take off your hat and your shoes and socks and lie here next to me so that you can have a little rest."
There was once a little girl, so pretty and so sweet that everyone loved her. Her real name was Nandi, but everyone called her Little Hat because of the gold and fire-coloured hat, which she always wore – except when she was asleep!

The hat was given to her by her grandmother, who was so old she did not know her own age. Her grandmother said that the hat was made of a ray of sunshine and a moonbeam, and it would bring Nandi good luck. And believe it or not, this was true.

One Saturday morning Nandi’s mother said, “Little Hat, you are old enough to find your way by yourself. Take this pot of tomato bredie to your grandmother for her meal tomorrow, ask her how she is and then come back at once. Don’t stop on the way and don’t talk to people that you do not know. Do you understand?”

“Oh, yes, yes,” said Little Hat happily. She was excited as she went off with the pot inside a basket. She felt proud to be going by herself.

Go kile ga bo go le mosetsanyana, a le montle a le bonolo e bile a ratiswa ke batho botlhoko. Leina la gagwe la mme e ne e le Nandi, fela mongwe le mongwe o re a mmitsa Hutshenyana. Nandi, o a matswe wa gago a bokago. Leina la gagwe la mme e ne e le Nandi, fela mongwe le mongwe o re a mmitsa Hutshenyana. Nandi, o a matswe wa gago a bokago. Leina la gagwe la mme e ne e le Nandi, fela mongwe le mongwe o re a mmitsa Hutshenyana. Nandi, o a matswe wa gago a bokago. Leina la gagwe la mme e ne e le Nandi, fela mongwe le mongwe o re a mmitsa Hutshenyana. Nandi, o a matswe wa gago a bokago.
ya moro wa tamati o isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamati o e lla go mo isetsa moro wa tamat

When she got back to her house, she helped Little Hat put on her shoes and socks. “It’s a good thing that you had your hat to protect you,” said Little Hat’s grandmother. “Without it, where would you be now?”

A little later she took Little Hat by the hand and together they walked back to her village. Once they got home they told Little Hat’s mother what had happened. Little Hat was scolded until the sun went down. Over and over, she had to promise that she would never talk to strangers again, until, at last, her mother forgave her.

To this day, Nandi (or Little Hat) has kept her promise. Sometimes you can see her in the village shopping for her mother. She only talks to the people she knows. And you will recognise her by the gold and fire-coloured hat that she always wears – the one that looks as if it is made of a ray of sunshine and a moonbeam.
Little Hat's grandmother lived in the next village and Little Hat had to walk through the veld to get there. When she had gone a little way, Little Hat thought she heard something moving nearby.

"Is someone there?" she asked.

"Oh, hello," said the leopard, "so nice to see you, Little Hat." He had watched her leave her village alone and had followed her, hiding behind the rocks as he went. He came up to her like a friendly dog and Little Hat stopped to talk to him, which was the last thing she should have done!

"How are you, Little Hat?" the leopard asked.

"How do you know me?" asked Little Hat. "What's your name?"

"My name is Friend Leopard. And where are you going pretty one, with your golden hat and pot of food?" asked the leopard.

Just at that moment Little Hat's grandmother arrived home with her empty herb sack over her shoulder. She saw the leopard opening the door and quickly opened the sack and stretched it across the doorway.

"Oh no, you don't!" she said, catching the leopard in the sack.

Then the brave old lady ran to the dam and threw the sack into it. The leopard fell head first into the water.
Get involved with organisations that work on issues that matter most to you, engage with your government and find ways to be a hero for change in your own community!

3: Do something

3: Dira sengwe

Both natural...

Tse tlhago ga mmogo le...

... and those we ourselves have created.

... tse re itiretseng tseone ka borona.
But there is nothing on all the earth more wondrous than the billions of people who call it home. Because we all have something special within us: the ability to imagine a better world and then to take action to make it real. And isn’t that a kind of superpower? And if we use that power to help others, then wouldn’t that make us all … SUPERHEROES?

Mme ga go na sepe mo lefatsheng lotlhe se se gakgamatsang go gaisa dibidione tsa batho ba ba bitsang lefatshie ba re ke lela la bone. Gonne rona rothle re na le sengwe se se kgethegileng mo teng ga rona: bokgoni jwa go akanya lefatshie le le botoka le go tsay akgato go dira gore le me la mmannete. A mme sego ga se mofuta wa maatla a magolo? Mme fa re dirisa maatla ao go thusa ba bangwe, a sego ga se ne se re dira gore rothle re me … BAGAKA BA BAGOLO?
Dear Nal’ibali

I have read to my son since he was a baby. Now he is at primary school and his aftercare teacher spends a lot of time on storytelling activities. Wouldn’t it be better to just let the children read on their own?

Mark Camber, Knysna

Dear Mark

We agree that reading is a very worthwhile thing to do, but storytelling is also important and it has many benefits.

Storytelling helps to build relationships between people, and teaches us to understand others and their experiences. As children tell a story, they have to think about the effects an action might have on others, and they also learn to predict future events. These are useful life skills!

Telling stories helps to develop children’s ability to communicate their thoughts and ideas. They become more confident and learn how to listen with understanding. Telling stories is also a good way to learn new words and practise using them.

When you tell a story, you have to draw pictures in your mind. Having opportunities to use their imaginations, makes children’s play more creative and satisfying and helps them to draw more detailed pictures.

So, your child is getting the best of both worlds – he gets to experience storytelling and being read to!

The Nal’ibali Team

Nal’ibali yo o rategang

Fa e sale ke ntse ke bushetse monwade a sa le lese. Jaanong o kwa sekolon sa porasem a mee momotabana wa bona wa morago ga sekalo a nna rako e nti a ba anela mainane. A ga go bono a ko flogela bana ba puiseito?

Mark Camber, Knysna

Mark yo o rategang

Re a dumelana gore go bushetse yo mongwe ke selo se se botlhokwa go se dira, mme go anela mainane le gona go botlhokwa e bile go na le mesola e mentsi. 

Go anela mainane go thusa go go go botsang tsa go mafoko a mašwa le go a dirisa. Go na le gore a leke go buisa dibuka, o rata fa a buiseetsa ke mothe yo mongwe. A se ga se na go ketefatsa tokafula ya gagwe ya go buisa?

Kanthie Govender, Pietermaritzburg

Dear Kanthie

The good news is that listening to someone else read to her, helps make your daughter a better reader. When she looks at the page of the book go you read to her, she is using her eyes, ears and brain all at the same time! So, she is able to understand more easily and it is more enjoyable for her. This will motivate her to explore books for herself.

Listening to you read to her, also enables your child to get to know the same books that her classmates and friends are reading on their own. This means that she can join in conversations they have about books and this also helps to motivate her to want to try reading for herself.

At your daughter’s age, the most important thing is to grow a love for books. And it is a very good sign that she wants you to read to her.

The Nal’ibali Team

Nal’ibali yo o rategang

Ngwana wa we wa Mophato 3 o no le bothata jwa go buisa kwa sekolon. Go na le gore a leke go puiseetsa dibuka, o rata fa a buiseetsa ke mothe yo mongwe. A se ga se na go ketefatsa tokafula ya gagwe ya go buisa?

Kanthie Govender, Pietermaritzburg

Dear Nal’ibali

My Grade 3 child struggles with reading at school. Instead of trying to read books herself, she prefers it when someone else reads to her. Will this make it even harder for her to improve her reading?

Kanthie Govender, Pietermaritzburg

Kanthie yo o rategang

Dikgong tse di monate ke gore go reetsa mothe yo mongwe a mmusetsa, go thusa go di monate no mawagi go yo a botsang. Ba fola go lekhe go buisa dibuka fa a mmusetsa, a di lefale a gagwe, di reetsa go lefale go lekhe go buisa. A ngwana a lebala ba tša ga di khaloga go go buisa?

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Dirty dassie

By Joanne Bloch \ Illustrations by Heidel Dedekind

Dumi Dassie lay flat on his back, sunning his fuzzy tummy on a big, flat rock. He was nearly asleep when he heard loud giggles. Lazily, he opened one eye. Two little dassies were scampering by.

“EWWWW!!” said one of them to the other when they were safely past the rock. “That dassie smells BAD!” They giggled some more as they rushed off.

Dumi sighed, and flicked at a fly that was buzzing around his ear. “It’s not fair!” he thought to himself. “Nobody understands me.”

It was true. Dumi smelled bad because he was dirty. He was dirty because he never washed, but nobody knew why. The truth was, Dumi was scared of water. Once, when he was still a baby, he fell head first into a big muddy puddle. Dumi couldn’t swim, but luckily, his big brother fished him out by his hind legs. Ever since that day, Dumi couldn’t bear to be near water. When the other dassies went to the pool every morning to wash, Dumi slunk off and hid in the bushes. Nobody could get him to change his mind about water – not even his mother!

The days passed – the summer was very hot and there was no rain. Dumi grew dirtier and dirtier. His fur was greasy and matted, and he smelled horrible. Even worse, a swarm of flies followed him wherever he went. Dumi didn’t like this, of course, but he acted like he didn’t care.

One morning, the village elders came to talk to Dumi. They stood far away, and Dumi saw holding their noses and gasping for air.

“We are sorry, Dumi,” they said, “but as you know it hasn’t rained for a long time. There are many flies around. Flies love dirt, and you are very dirty, so the flies love you! All these flies will make us sick ... it is best that you leave this village.”

Poor Dumi! What could he do? Sadly, he slunk off. He walked and walked. The day grew hotter as the sun rose high into the bright blue sky. His head felt heavy, and his feet were so sore! Eventually, he felt he could not walk another step.

“I need some shade!” he said, looking around. There weren’t many trees in this part of the veld, but he saw a small thorn tree not far away. Slowly, Dumi limped over to this little tree. He lay down under it, and fell fast asleep.

Many hours passed. Dumi had been sleeping so soundly that he hadn’t seen the storm clouds gathering in the sky. The sun had disappeared. The sky grew dark. The air grew cooler and cooler, but still the tired dassie slept. At last, the rain began pelting down.

Dumi woke up. Fat raindrops were splashing all over his body! In the dassie village, all the dassies hid from the rain under the big rocks. But here, there was nowhere to hide! At first, when Dumi saw and felt the rain, he screamed and cried and rolled into a little furry ball. “Help!” he yelped. “ Somebody help me!” But even the flies were gone, and Dumi was all alone.

Then a strange thing happened. As the cool rain ran over his body, Dumi realised that it felt good. Slowly, he calmed down and after a while, he even dared to open his eyes. “The rain looks pretty,” he said, “and it makes the veld smell fresh!” Then Dumi stood up, and opened his mouth to drink the raindrops. “It tastes good too!” he said in wonder. He was so happy that soon he began to tap his foot and click his fingers.

That was when Dumi turned around, and danced all the way back to the dassie village, singing as he went: “The rain! The rain! I love the rain! Imvula! Imvula! Imvula!”

Dumi arrived at the village at sunset. None of the other dassies saw him – they were all hiding from the rain under big rocks. Dumi didn’t care. He was used to being alone, and anyway, he felt so happy! He ate a few leaves for supper, crawled under a bush and fell fast asleep again.

When Dumi woke up, the rain had stopped and the village looked beautiful and fresh. As the sun rose, a carpet of bright pink flowers burst into bloom.

“Wow!” he said, looking around.

Just then, all the other dassies came walking towards him. They were on their way to the pool to wash. How surprised they were to see the new, clean, sweet-smelling Dumi!

“Dumi! What happened?” they all asked, crowding around him. But instead of speaking, Dumi began to click his fingers and tap his foot ... soon he was dancing and singing again. All the dassies joined in, as they made their way to the pool: “The rain! The rain! We love the rain! Imvula! Imvula! Imvula!”
Dumi o le tala le go no go kaba asa e kwa sedibeng. Dumi o le tala le go no go kaba asa e kwa sedibeng. Dumi o le tala le go no go kaba asa e kwa sedibeng. Dumi o le tala le go no go kaba asa e kwa sedibeng.
1. ★ Can you match the correct shadow to the picture?  
★ A o ka nyalanya moriti o o nepagetseng le setshwantsho?

2. ★ Can you complete this short story in different ways? Can you create a funny story as well as a scary one? What other stories can you create?

One day _____________________________ met _________________________________  
__________________________________________________________________________.

She said, "_________________________________________________________________."  
He said, "__________________________________________________________________.

She ______________________________________________________________________.  
He ______________________________________________________________________.

And so, ___________________________________________________________________.

Letsatsi lengwe _________________________ kopane le ___________________________.  
__________________________________________________________________________.

One day _____________________________ met _________________________________  
__________________________________________________________________________.

She said, "_________________________________________________________________."  
He said, "__________________________________________________________________.

She ______________________________________________________________________.  
He ______________________________________________________________________.

And so, ___________________________________________________________________.

Running out of story ideas? Visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi for articles and ideas to encourage a love of reading in your child, and to help keep them hooked!

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kgotla mo www.nalibali.mobi go bona diathikele le megopolo go ratoeho.  
lorato la go buisa mo mawana wa gago, le go ba thusa go thwaelela runi!