Everyone in South Africa who loves stories, knows the name Gcina Mhlophe!

October is the birth month of this great story warrior. So, in this edition of the Nal’ibali Supplement, we honour her passion and commitment to telling the stories of Africa and encouraging children to be readers and writers of stories, which she has done for many decades. "My people named me GcinaMhlophe which means ‘keeper of heritage’," explains Gcina. "I wear this name like a blanket and I honour it with my being."

So, who better to explain the importance of stories than Gcina! Here are her words, taken from the "Author’s Note" in her story collection, Stories of Africa.

My grandmother was the first person to tell me stories. She encouraged my imagination to run wild, and I really believed in those laughing crocodiles and flying tortoises that she told me about. I loved her tales about the scary amaZimzim – the man-eating ogres – and many more fantastic creatures.

Because of the way my grandmother told those stories to me, I learnt at a very young age to love language and to understand its power. Many of the stories I tell are taken from well-known traditional tales that the people of Africa have been telling each other since the world began. Some of these stories from my childhood I have found in stories told and written in many other parts of the world. This is proof to me of the way in which people have always tried to make sense of life’s mysteries and used stories to explain them to each other.

Is there still room for these ancient stories in our lives today? I say, "Yes!" Because any of these stories can be retold in different ways, so that it is possible for people of different ages and cultures to find what they need in it.

One of my favourite stories is about the woman who went down to the bottom of the sea to look for far stories to bring back for the human world. I have told this tale to audiences in different countries all over the world, and so many times I have had the response: "You know, that story has made me realise that to find the answers I am looking for in my life, I need to look deep inside myself. I must search the depths of the ocean that is my own heart and soul." Now what does a storyteller say to that?

Dr Nokugcina Mhlophe, we salute you!

Find out more about Stories of Africa on page 3.
**Story stars**

**South Africa's star storyteller**

Gcina Mhlophe is probably South Africa's best-known storyteller. She has travelled all over the world to tell stories – and she is also an actor, poet, playwright, director and performer! Since 1988, Gcina has been holding storytelling workshops in libraries and schools across the country. She tells stories in English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa and isiZulu. But that is not all …

Gcina has worked tirelessly for the past 11 years running the "Nozincwadi Mother of Books Literacy Campaign" to help make South Africa a reading nation. She is deeply committed to keeping the art of storytelling alive and to inspiring children to read.

**Who told you stories when you were a child?**

My grandmother.

**When did you start telling stories and to whom did you tell them?**

First I shared them with my school friends and then with the children I took care of as a nanny for a few months. I began storytelling more seriously when I told stories in libraries and museums during a trip to the USA as an actress and director.

**Where do you get the stories from?**

The stories I tell are from long ago or I hear them on my international travels. Of course, since I am a writer, I write new stories too!

**Do you prefer reading fiction or non-fiction?**

Both – all I need is a story that is well told.

**My favourite place to read is …**

my bed and in airports when I travel.

**What languages do you read in?**

Mostly English, but also isiZulu and isiXhosa, especially poetry.

**The greatest lesson that I learnt from a book or story was that …**

an author’s voice can jump up from the page and straight into my heart! Some of the authors that have done this for me are Isabel Allende, Alice Walker, AC Jordan, Sindiswa Magonya, Paulo Coelho, Maya Angelou and Mariama Ba.

**Every child should read …**


**When my daughter was younger, her favourite picture book was …**

So much by Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury. For a while we talked about the characters in the book as if they were our family friends – especially Uncle Didi.

**When and where did you read to your daughter?**

All the time and all over the place – in the garden, in bed! She loved books and stories from the start.

**What languages did you read to her in?**

IsiZulu and English – it was such fun! Her father read to her in German.

**You have wings. Young people, here is a leader to follow!**

Dr John Kani, actor, director and writer

**Mopheti wa dipale wa Afrika Borwa eo e leng naledi**

Gcina Mhlophe hantelile ka mopheti wa dipale ya tsahahalango ka ho felisita Afrika Borwa. O se o a hlahlatesa lefalo a ntle a pheto dipale – mme hape ke mongodi, sethokotsi, mongodi wa dithwahntsisa, molaoi le sebapadi sa kalaneng! Haesale ho toha ka 1988, Gcina a ntle a tshivhaka diwekephako tsao ho pheto dipale diiboleborang le dikoang naeng ena ke baphara. O pheto dipale ka Engles, Afrikaans, isiXhosa le isiZulu. Empa ha a felie moo feela …

Gcina o sebeditsi ka ho ineheta ka alemo tse 11 tse telltla a tsaanasa “Nozincwadi Mother of Books Literacy Campaign” bakeng sa ho thuso ho etsha hore Afrika Borwa e be noha ya setshwana se bolong. O ineheta ka boteleka bakeng ho le bosika bonono ba ho pheto dipale ba pheto mme le isungaloa bana ho balola

Ke mang ya neng o a phetoela dipale ha o ne sa le ngwana?

Ngwana va ka.

O qolle neng ho pheto dipale mme o ne o di phetoela bolong?

Pele ke ne ke di phetoela matsotse wa ya ka sekalong, mme yabo ka di phetoela le bane le bane ka neng ke ka be le khokholamela ha ke ne ke le khokholamela wa bana ka dikgywedi tse mmolawu. Ke ka lita qa pheto dipale ho boteleka ha ke ne ke le pheto dipale diiboleborang le dimuswamang ha ke ne ke le teetang la ho ya USA yaboleka sebapadi sa kalaneng le matloidi.

O fumana dipale hokae?

Dipale tseo ke di phetang ke tsao mehleng ya kgopa kga ka di utlwa ha ke ntle ha ke hlahlaula dinaeng sehla matla sa. Ehlake, kae ke mongodi, ke bale ke ngola le dipale tse nhta!

O lgbeta ho bala dipale tse qalifilekopha kga sa isipalupelwa?

Di le pedi – se o se batlang feela ke pale o phetweng ha monate.

Sebako seo ke ratang ho bala ho sono ka …

betheng ya ka le boomolofaneng ha ke ntle ha hlahlaula.

O bala ka dipuo ditse?

Hlahloho ho ke English, empa hope ha le ka isiZulu le isiXhosa, hlahloho dithoakotla.

**Ha ke bala ke ho se neng a phetoela dipale sa le bala leleng?**

Phetoelo ya neng a se neng asa ho phetoela mme o ka le la dipale tse nhta.

**O se o phetela dipale ho tloha qalong?**

Dipale molapo ke lela dipale ane o ka se le qalong.

**Na o kgetha ho bala dipale ho iphatse dipale sa se isawa?**


**Ho moradi wa ko a ne sa le menyanele, buka e o a neng o a rata ho dithwahntsisa?**

So much! ka Trish Cooke le Helen Oxenbury. Ka nakwana e tsetso re ne re re bula ka tsebapheto ba ka bukeleka ya lolela ke melopo ke bala ka lela dipale le bokang.

**O le o bala moradi wa bo ase neng le hokae?**

Ka nako tshole ka dithwane – taboshig, betheng! O se a nata dipalo le bo bala e le bokang.

**O le o mmolala ka puso/dipuo ditse?**

IsiZulu le English – ha ne ho le monate! Ntatae o ne a mmolala ka Seemane.
Gcina Mhlophe has had her writing – plays, short stories, poems and children's books – published all over the world. Here are some of the children's books she has had published in South Africa.

**Stories of Africa**
*Illustrators: Various *  
*Publisher: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press*

This collection of ten stories offers a feast of enjoyment. The enchanting tales are steeped in the richness of the African oral tradition and are illustrated by a variety of artists. Stories of Africa is a South African classic available in all eleven official languages.

**Hi, Zoleka!**  
*Illustrator: Elizabeth Pulles  
Publisher: Songololo*

Ignoring the cheery calls of her friends, Zoleka makes her way to church with her family. Along the way, she practises the words of the verse she has to recite for the Palm Sunday service. But will she remember them when she has to say the verse in front of the whole congregation? This story for young readers is available in English, isiXhosa and isiZulu.

**The Singing Chameleon**  
*Illustrator: Kalle Becker  
Publisher: Songololo*

Over time, Chameleon comes to believe the cruel words his community shout at him. But fate intervenes – he meets a lark and an old man who set events in motion that transform him. The Singing Chameleon is an inspirational and compelling retelling of a Malawian tale. It is available in English, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho and Afrikaans.

**Our Story Magic**  
*Illustrators: Various  
Publisher: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press*

This collection features well-known and original stories told by South Africa’s renowned storyteller, Gcina Mhlophe. The stories are beautifully illustrated by a variety of local artists. Although this book has been available in English for some time, it is now available in all eleven official languages.

**Dipale tsa Afrika**  
*Batshwantshi: Ba fapaneng  
Mophatiola: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press*

Pokello ena ya dipale tse leshome le tse tsohle tse le tshwantshitswe ke bopang. Dipale tsa Afrika ke tla fetsa tsa Afrika Borwa e fumaneha ka dipuo tsehle diphemake. Tse le faila le tshebele ka English, isiXhosa le isiZulu.

**Hi, Zoleka!**  
*Motshwantshi: Elizabeth Pulles  
Mophatlalatsi: Songololo*

A iphapanyetsa mantswe a mmmitsang ka thabo a metswalle ya hae, Zoleka o kena tseleng e lebang le ba lelapa labo. Tseleng o ikwetlisa mantswe a temana eo a lokalang ho e etsa bakeng sa thabatsanang ya Sontaha sa Mahlaku. Empa na o tla hlopola mantswe ao ha a tšalane holae ho etsa temana eo a kela phutho ho yele? Pale ena ke ya babadi ba banye yele ka English, isiXhosa le isiZulu.

**Lenwabo le binang**  
*Motshwantshi: Kalle Becker  
Mophatlalatsi: Songololo*

Ho nako e ritse e tsama ya, Lenwabo o qetella a kqakwana mantswe a kgopo se se fetsa tse tse banyenyane ka English, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho le Afrikaans.

**Pale tsa Rona tsa Malepa**  
*Batshwantshi: Ba fapaneng  
Mophatiola: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press*

Pokello ena e Nal’ibali dipalo tse se tla tse tsebatsang haholo tse fetsa ka English, isiXhosa le isiZulu. Pale tsa Rona ke tla fetsa ka English, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho le Afrikaans.
Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the two cut-out-and-keep picture books, Sun and Moon (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12) and The journey of the mother of books (pages 7, 8, 9 and 10), as well as the Story Corner story, Skycatcher (page 14). Choose the ideas that best suit your children’s ages and interests.

Sun and Moon

Sun and Moon live happily together with their children, the Stars. Sun loves exploring the world he lives in, and one day on one of his journeys, he invites the Sea to visit his home – and that changes everything. If you are using this story with younger children, they may enjoy it more if you tell them the story rather than reading it to them.

Suggest that your children create a miniature scene from the story in a small cardboard box or on a lid. They could use playdough as well as recycled materials (like straws, matchboxes and bottle tops) and natural materials (like small stones and leaves) to do this.

Encourage your children to draw their favourite part of the story and then write the words of that part of the story underneath their picture.

Ask your children to help you write the beautiful poem that Sun wrote after he had gone looking for his family and couldn’t find them.

If you run a reading club, invite the children to retell the story in their own way by acting it out in groups. Or, suggest that the children create and act out a TV news report about one or more of the events in the story.

The journey of the mother of books

This is a short, illustrated biography of the life of Gcina Mhlophe. It begins with a poem that captures the way she inspires others to be storytellers and writers.

Before you begin reading, look at the front cover of the book with your children, and let them comment on it. You may need to explain to them that a biography is the story of someone’s life written by another person.

An autobiography is the story you write about your own life.

After you have finished reading, ask your children to think of one or two questions that they would want to ask Gcina if they met her.

Let your children use sheets of paper and string (or a stapler) to make blank books. Then let them turn the books into autobiographies of their own lives.

Skycatcher

One rainy day, Josh decides to make a kite. The next day he goes outside to fly the kite with his friends. But the wind is so strong that the kite flies away – higher and higher up into the sky!

Let your children design their own kites. Ask them questions to help them get started – for example, What shape will you make your kite? What materials could you use to make it? How could you decorate it?

Have fun with your children by blowing up balloons and then letting them go. (Don’t tie a knot at the end of the blown-up balloon.) Watch how they fly all over the place as the air escapes!

In the story, Nco wears a hat made of newspaper. Give your children newspapers, cellophane, scissors and string and challenge them to make an object using these materials.

Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

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

Eba mahlahlahla ka pale!

Mehepolo e itseng ke ena bakeng sa ho sebedisa dibuka tse pedi tse sehlang-le-ho-ipokelwana, Letsatsi le Kgwedle (maequepe ana, 5, 6, 11 le 12) le Leeto la mme wa dibuka (maequepe ana, 7, 8, 9 le 10), estiana le pale ya Hukung ya Dipale, Sefefelmaramang (leqepe la 15). Kgetha mehepolo e tshwanelang hantle dilemo le ditshohaselo tsaa bana ba hao.

Letsatsi le Kgwedle

Letsatsi le Kgwedle ka bo ne ba phela ho monate mmoho le bana ba bona, Dinidedi. Letsatsi o ne a nato ho a bo phela la fetolela tse a phela ho bona, mmohon ee ka lesa le bong, ho le leang. la mabola a hao, o mema Letwadile hore a mato le hao ho – mmohon ee se le tsebisa tsho." Hoabsa o sebedisa pale ena ho bana ba banyaneyene, e ka no batelholo holo ho a ka phela yona ho ena le ho ba bally ya ena.

Hlahisa hore bana ba hao ho ba bo lekakato kattleho ya nyane e tswang paleng ka hara lebaso ho kaledi ho le tsya hane hana, o hola bana ba, ka holo holako le khakholo ya hace e le tsho ya ho bana ba bonyane. Hola bana ba bonyane fetsela ya ho bana ba bonyane. Hola bana ba bonyane fetsela ya ho bana ba bonyane.

Kgothalela bana ba hao ho holo hore bana ba banyane e ka ba nato le hane fetsela ya ho bana ba bonyane. Hola bana ba bonyane fetsela ya ho bana ba bonyane. Hola bana ba bonyane fetsela ya ho bana ba bonyane.


Hlahisa hore bana ba hao ho ba bo lekakato kattleho ya nyane e tswang paleng mmohon e bane ba ngola matshwelele ho kaledi ho ho e le tsho ya ho bana ba bonyane.

Leeto la mme wa dibuka

Ena ke bonyanelela le kgothalela le bana ba hao ba bonyane e ho bana ba bonyane fetsela ya ho bana ba bonyane. Hola bana ba bonyane fetsela ya ho bana ba bonyane. Hola bana ba bonyane fetsela ya ho bana ba bonyane.

Leeto la mme wa dibuka (maequepe ana, 7, 8, 9 le 10) le Leeto la mme wa dibuka (maequepe ana, 5, 6, 11 le 12) le Leeto la mme wa dibuka (maequepe ana, 7, 8, 9 le 10), estiana le pale ya Hukung ya Dipale, Sefefelmaramang (leqepe la 15). Kgetha mehepolo le tshwanelang hantle dilemo le ditshohaselo tsaa bana ba hao.

Sefefelmaramang

Ka tsaatsi le leng pula e ena, Josh o etlo ya ho ea hlopte le banya. Tsaatsi le leng pula e ena, Josh o etlo ya ho ea hlopte le banya. Tsaatsi le leng pula e ena, Josh o etlo ya ho ea hlopte le banya. Tsaatsi le leng pula e ena, Josh o etlo ya ho ea hlopte le banya. Tsaatsi le leng pula e ena, Josh o etlo ya ho ea hlopte le banya. Tsaatsi le leng pula e ena, Josh o etlo ya ho ea hlopte le banya. Tsaatsi le leng pula e ena, Josh o etlo ya ho ea hlopte le banya. Tsaatsi le leng pula e ena, Josh o etlo ya ho ea hlopte le banya.
"Sun and Moon" is reproduced from Our Story Magic by Gcina Mhlophe with the permission of the author and the publisher, UKZN Press.

"Letsatsi le Kgwedi" e ntshitswe ho Pale tsa Rona tsa Malopo ka Gcina Mhlophe ka tumello ya mongodi le mophatlalatsi, UKZN Press.

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

Gcina Mhlophe
Jeannie Kinsler
She smiled. “Whooooosh, whaaaaaa! Whoooosh, whaaaaa!”

The Sun was quite captivated. On and on she went, shimmering and dancing in her own rhythm.

“But I don’t know you! Please tell me who you are!” pleaded the Sun in complete amazement.

“I am the Sea, and I have been here since the beginning of time. I don’t know what you mean when you say you have never seen me before,” she replied, smiling and moving her large body in her unique way.

And then she showed him her many, many children who all lived in her body – the dolphins, the sharks, turtles, and many others. They peeped at the Sun and went back into the Sea’s body, some of them smiling shyly, others commenting how very warm the Sun’s rays were.

Later that day the Sun went back home to tell his wife about all that he had seen. The children were mesmerised. They wished to see what he was telling them about. They were so curious, but the Moon listened to the excited telling – the happy way Sun described the Sea – and she hardly made a comment. Only “Uhmmm” (very quietly to herself).

The next time the Sun went to visit the Sea they talked about his extremely beautiful wife and children.

“I wish you could meet them all; they are so very special,” Sun said.

“That would be wonderful. Maybe I will meet them one day,” replied the Sea.

“Hey! Wait a minute! I have an idea. Why don’t you come and visit us tomorrow?” asked the Sun excitedly.

“I would love to, but how big is your house? As you can see, I am a fairly large woman,” the Sea replied.

When he finally fell asleep again, Moon and the Stars woke up and travelled all over the world, having new adventures every day. They even saw the Sea going back to her home at the Ocean and leaving some of her water children in new rivers and lakes.

So it was that the Sun moved in the day and Moon and her children, the Stars, moved at night. For many weeks, months, and years they missed each other. But Sun and Moon’s love for one another was too strong to die; they longed for each other every day.

And from time to time they steal a few moments to be together in a tight and hot embrace. People call it an eclipse, but it is the rare chance that Sun and Moon have to be together. They throw a dark cloak over the world because they don’t want any humans watching.

Cosi, cosi, iyaphela.
Here I rest my story.
Leeto la mme wa dibuka:
The journey of the mother of books:

Bayokerafi ya Gcina Mhlophe
A biography of Gcina Mhlophe

Cebo Solombela
Moses Dhladhla
Mme Gcina ya ratehang
Ha ke na mantswe a lekaneng ho ka o leboha.
Ke lakatsa ela nla be ke era le melomo e selele.
Ke mpa feela ke nata ho re le a leboha, Mme.
Ho kopa le wena ho ejeditse boitshepo ba ka le lomolo ya ka ho man.
Ka nako tse ding ke ne ke belaella ditalelele tse ho
Modimo a mphileng tsona
Ke ne ke nahane hore ke phela fatsheng la ditoro,
hobane ha ho le a mong lapeng leso ya neng a
dumela ho seo ke se etsang.
Empa tsehe se o le neng ke e fumana ho wena,
E ne e mphe mafatla.
Ke a leboha, motswadi wa ka, ka ho
ba mohlala ho rona difate tse sa ntseng ditolo.
Ke a leboha ka ho mpho tseho ka nako tsolele
le ka ho nkagopo sa hore mamedo
e tsula kaleche.
Cabo Solombela

Dibuka tse pedi tsa Geina ke tse na ho
tsa bana tse tsebahalang tso a fumaneng
dikgau ka tsona: Queen of the Tortoises le
Hi, Zoleka!

Ka 1987 Geina o ile a fumana kgau e
bitswang OBIE Best Actress Award
bakeng sa karolo ya hae ho Born in the RSA.
Ka 1988 o ile a bitswa Sehlapadi
se Hlwahlwa (Best Actress) ho Joseph Jefferson Awards mane
Chicago bakeng sa karolo ya hae ho Have you seen Zandile?

Geina o se a ile a abehwa lengolo la bongaka la tsholo ke London
Open University le University of KwaZulu-Natal. O tswele pele
ho ngola dibuka le ho ba mmaletsholo wa tsebo ya ho bala le
ho ngola.

Here are two of Geina’s well-known children’s books
that she has received awards for: Queen of the Tortoises and
Hi, Zoleka!

In 1987 Geina received the OBIE Best Actress Award for
her role in Born in the RSA. In 1988 she was named Best
Actress in the Joseph Jefferson Awards in Chicago for her
role in Have you seen Zandile?

Geina has been awarded honorary doctorates by the
London Open University and the University of
KwaZulu-Natal. She continues to write books and
be a literacy campaigner.
Dear Mama Gcina

I do not have enough words to thank you. I wish I had a thousand mouths. I just want to say thank you, Mama. Meeting you boosted my self-confidence and my belief in myself. I sometimes doubted my God-given talent. I thought I was living in dreamland, because no one in my family believed in what I do. But the support that I received from you, gave me strength. Thank you, my parent, for being an example to us trees that are still growing. Thank you for always giving me hope and reminding me that in perseverance there is a reward.

Cebo Solomela

In 1998 Gcina worked on a television show for the SABC called Geina and friends. From 2005 to 2006, she presented another SABC television show called Zindala zombili. And, in 2016, she took part in the movie, Kalushi, which is about the life of Solomon Mahlangu.

Nokugcina Mhlophe, commonly known as Gcina Mhlophe, was born on 24 October 1958. She grew up in Hammarsdale township in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

As time passed, Gcina realised that she had many different skills that included being a praise poet, actress, playwright and storyteller.

In 1982, she started acting on stage and in 1983 she was the lead actress in the play, Umongikazi (The Nurse) written by Maishe Maponya. In 1986, Gcina played a leading role in the movie, Place of weeping. At this time, she also wrote a play about herself called Have you seen Zandile?.

Gcina has travelled to many countries telling stories, including Lesotho, Europe and the USA. She tells her stories in isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho and English.

Sixty years ago, God entrusted a beautiful black girl to a Xhosa woman and man with roots in KwaZulu-Natal. When the little girl smiled, her dimples showed, making her even more beautiful.
akgetse lesela la lefifi lefatsheng hore batho ba se ke ba ba bona.

empa ke ka sewelo moo Letsatsi le Kgwedi ba kopanang. Ba
ekutswe ba kopana, ba ikutswe. Batho ba e bitsa phifalo ya
letsatsi (eklipse), hopolana kamehla.

la Letsatsi le Kgwedi le ne le le matla hore le ka shwa; ba ne ba
dikgwedi, le dilemo tse ngata ba se ke ba kopana. Empa lerato
Kgwedi le bana ba hae Dinaledi, ba tsamaya bosiu. Ka dibeke,
ba bang ba hae dinokeng le melatswaneng.

Lewatle a kgutlela morao ha hae kwana lewatleng, a siya bana
di tsebe tsa bophelo letsatsi le leng le le leng. Ba ba ba ba bona le
ba hahlaula lefatshe kaofela, ba shebana le tseo ba neng ba sa
Ke tshomo ka mathetho!

Nako le nako ba ne ba ipha metsotswana e se mekae ba
Ke kamoo Letsatsi a qadileng ho tsamaya motsheare mme
ha a qetella a robetse hape, Kgwedi le Dinaledi ba tsoha
Kgwedi a sebela monna wa hae a tshohile, "Ha o nahane
Empa Letsatsi a sutuletsa mosadi wa hae ka thoko, a swabile
Lewatle ha a ka a dumedisa. O ile a phakisetsa ka tlung le
Moon nervously whispered to her husband, "Don't you
But the Sun pushed his wife aside, a little embarrassed
There was hardly a greeting from the Sea. She just rushed
by what she was suggesting. He smiled at the Sea. "Meet my
wife, Moon, and please do come inside. The food is all ready
for you."

They moved so fast and so greedily. The Sea's children did not
care to meet the Stars.

salty water spoilt the taste of  the carefully prepared meals. Soon
there was no space for the Sun, the Moon or their children, the
Stars – and still the Sea was not yet all there. More water
was coming.

There was a time, long, long ago, when the world was very young
and sparkle as they felt the love of  their mother, the Moon, and
had seen.

The Sun was very warm and charming and he had such an
adventurous spirit. He loved exploring the world he lived in. Then
and with love. Her gentle voice was so reassuring to her loved ones.

strong love they had for one another. You could see it in their
faces. The Moon was round, serene and her face was radiant
with love. Her gentle voice was so reassuring to her loved ones.
The Sun was very warm and charming and he had such an
adventurous spirit. He loved exploring the world he lived in. Then
he would return to tell his wife and children about all that he
had seen.

Their children were very beautiful indeed; they used to shine
and sparkle as they felt the love of  their mother, the Moon, and
their father, the Sun.

There was a time, long, long ago, when the world was very young
and life was totally different to what we now know it to be. The
days were long. The nights were short. The Sun and the Moon
were married.

They lived in a beautiful house in the middle of  Africa. What
strong love they had for one another. You could see it in their
faces. The Moon was round, serene and her face was radiant
with love. Her gentle voice was so reassuring to her loved ones.
The Sun was very warm and charming and he had such an
adventurous spirit. He loved exploring the world he lived in. Then
he would return to tell his wife and children about all that he
had seen.

Their children were very beautiful indeed; they used to shine
and sparkle as they felt the love of  their mother, the Moon, and
their father, the Sun.
Ba ba ena le bana ba bangata – kaofela ha bona ba batlale ka tswana hante! Ho no le tsho ba ho nahanela e mong le e mong letho hoo Kgweedi le Letsatsi ba ieng ba qeta da ba bina … Dimakedi. Ba ba rihle lelhelo le ke leng kaofela hobane ba ne ba ba rata ka ho lekana le bona bana ne ba ne ba tseba lerato ke bana ba neng ba ba rata ka lona.

Nako le nako Letsatsi o ne a tsamaya lapeng hoseng ho iho lalhloba dithaka setla njha tse da tsi ditseng. O ne a qhombela hodima marala ke chhiba, a lebile a le bima a ipotsha dipotsha, mme a kgutleka lapeng ho qoqela mosadi le bana ka tse da tsi ditseng. Nako e tang a ka mma a tshethetha ka hodima metsa, moo tshabo bo phaphameng ba moane kale ho rershina hore a ke a tlo tleka hanyane. Manimoa a mang ke a mang ba a kgutlela lapeng, bana ba ne ba la dula fatsha, ba mamedla dipela ntlelela mme ba leka bo nahana kal dithaka tse a ba bokolokweni tse ka. Kgweedi o ne a mamedla ka posoego a toho. A shebala le a motle!


Letsatsi a ema moo, a shibele ka ho makala ho bokho. “O mang! Ho tla twang ehe ka so ke ka o bona pele?” a botsa.

“Whooohh, whaaaaaa! Whooooosh, whaaaaaa!” a seba. “Ho ka etshala ehe ba o tsebe hore ke mang empwa ma ke a o tsebe, ka o bone o rtso o hlahala hodima lefatshe!”

Finally the walls could not take it any longer; they burst and fell apart. “Hapa!” I think I told him! “Hapa!” grumbled the Moon under her breath. This was it! She had had enough. She turned to her children and said, “Come with me. We are going!”

They set off, higher and higher up into the sky. The children were fascinated by the vast open space called the sky.

“Oh Mama, we love this place, why have we not come here before?” they cried.

“I have a feeling this is really where we belong,” she replied, forcing a smile.

“But when is our father, the Sun, coming?” the Stars asked.

“Mph! Don’t talk to me about that one!” replied their mother, still very angry with her husband.

The children were not sure if they understood everything, but this new place was such fun! They moved from one part of the sky to the next, exploring just as the Sun had done before.

Back home the Sun was so sorry for what had happened and he was also angry with himself. He had not meant to scare away his beloved wife. He tried to follow her, thinking of nice, kind words he would use to let her know just how much he still loved her and his mind was all confused. He wanted his family to think clearly. He sat down to rest for a while and fell into a deep, troubled sleep.

His family roamed the sky until they too were tired and fell asleep. When the Sun woke up he went looking for them. But he could not find them. He had composed a beautiful poem and he was shining brighter and hotter with love. But no matter how fast he moved in the sky, he could not find them.
Reading club corner

Special days in November provide us with plenty of opportunities for reading, writing and storytelling. Here are some ideas for you to try.

2 November National Children’s Day: Look for child-friendly information on the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of the Child and select a few rights to discuss with the children. Ask them if they can think of ways in which these rights can be explained so that all children understand them. Let them work in groups to create a poster for each right that explains the right in one or more languages, and has an image to illustrate it.

15 November Children’s Grief Awareness Day: Blue butterflies are the symbol for this day. Ask the children to cut out paper butterflies and colour them blue. Then suggest that they write a short message of hope to comfort children who might have lost a loved one. (If some of the children are not able to write independently yet, ask them to tell you their messages and then write down the words they say.) Create a “wall of hope” by making a display of all the butterflies or give them to children who might need them.

16 November International Day of Tolerance: You’ll need lots of small pieces of paper for this activity – about half an A5 size! Begin by discussing that it is important for everyone to be respected and appreciated. Then give each child enough pieces of paper so that they have one for everyone in the club and themselves. (If you have more than 20 children in your club, divide the children into groups of between 10 and 15.) Let the children write down the words they say about each child – including themselves! When everyone has finished, let them hand out their notes and enjoy reading them.

21 November World Hello Day: With the children, find out how to say “Hello” in each of South Africa’s 11 languages and other languages used in our country. Are some of the greetings in different languages similar? Ask the children to make a poster with all or some of the greetings on it, and display them to create an inclusive environment at your club.

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It was a rainy day and Josh was sitting at the kitchen table making a kite. He had some light strips of wood which he used to make the frame of the kite. He also had some blue and red and green and pink tissue paper. He covered the whole kite with blue tissue paper.

“This blue paper is the kite’s face!” decided Josh. He cut out red tissue paper to make happy smiling lips, green tissue paper for eyes, and pink tissue paper circles for cheeks. Then he made a long kite tail out of the blue, red, green and pink paper.

“Your tail looks like the clothes dancing in the wind on Gogo’s washing line,” said Josh to the kite. Then he wound a very long piece of string around a cardboard tube and tied the other end of the string to the frame of the kite, so that it wouldn’t fly away from him later when it was in the air.

“Your name is Skycatcher!” said Josh to the kite.

The next morning, Josh sat in his wheelchair outside his front door with Skycatcher in his lap. It was the right sort of day to fly a kite. He was waiting for Hope. She was going to push him along the pavement as fast as she could go, so that Skycatcher could catch the wind and fly. Where was she?

“Here I am!” said Hope. “I’m sorry I’m a bit late. Is your kite ready to fly?”

“Yes, I can’t wait to get it up into the sky!” said Josh.

“Let’s go then!” said Hope as she held the handles at the back of the wheelchair tightly. She started to walk fast, and then to run all the way along the pavement. The wheels went bumpy-bump, bumpy-bump, picking up speed as Hope ran. Josh let a little bit of the string unwind from the cardboard tube he was holding. Suddenly the kite took off! It fluttered about in the air just above their heads.

Josh and Hope raced past Neo who was in his front garden playing with Bella. He was wearing a newspaper pirate hat and he had a cardboard sword. Bella was wearing a witch’s hat.

“You’re not a very good pirate!” said Bella, waving her magic wand.

“Woof! Woof!” barked Noodle, but Neo wasn’t listening to him or Bella. Neo was watching Josh and Hope coming along the pavement at full speed. Then Bella forgot about their game too and she also watched Josh and Hope!

“Can we come with you?” asked Neo.

“Yes! We’re going to fly Skycatcher!” said Josh as he went past.

“Come on, Bella, let’s go!” said Neo.

“Come on, Noodle,” said Bella.

“Woof! Woof!” barked Noodle.

So Hope and Neo and Bella and Noodle ran in a long line behind Josh, going bumpy-bump and woof! woof! all the way along the pavement.

When they got to the field next to some houses, Josh let out some more string and Skycatcher flew higher up into the air. And then higher. It glided gently over the rooftops and treetops with the blue sky around it. Josh and Hope and Neo and Bella watched the kite and wished they were flying up in the sky with it.

“Woof! Woof!” Noodle barked loudly. He was also looking up at the kite.

“Neo, do you want to try flying the kite?” asked Josh.

“Yes please!” said Neo, and he took the cardboard tube of string from Josh. But it was windy so Skycatcher pulled hard, and Neo dropped the cardboard tube. It whizzed round and round on the ground like a live, wild thing and it let more and more string out, so that the kite flew higher and higher. Soon it was just a small speck in the sky.

Noodle pounced on the tube of string! He held it in his jaws and under his paws so that it couldn’t spin around. Then he jumped up with his paws on Josh’s knees and passed the tube to Josh. Finally, Skycatcher stopped flying away and stayed where it was, with its bright tail waving about in the sky below it.

“Noodle, you saved our kite!” said Josh. Noodle wagged his tail.

“Noodle, you’re the best kite catcher ever!” said Hope. Noodle wagged his tail.

“Noodle, you’re such a clever dog!” said Bella. Noodle wagged his tail.

Josh reeled in his kite. Tighter and tighter he wound the string around the cardboard roll until Skycatcher lay still in his lap after its great adventure in the sky. Hope turned the wheelchair around, and they all went bumpy-bump and woof! woof! all the way home.

When Josh lay in bed that night, he thought about what fun he had had with his kite and how he had nearly lost it. “Luckily I have the best friends in the world!” he sighed as he closed his eyes.
E ne e le letatsi la pula mme Josh o ne a dute tafelong ya kitjine a ntse a etsa khaete. O ne a ena le dipatinskyane tseo a neng a di sebedisa ho etsa foreiym ya khaete. Hope o ne a ena le pampiri ya thishu e bolou le e kugbedu le e tala le e pinki. O ile a kwaehela khaete yohle ka pampiri ya thishu e bolou.

“Pampiri ena e bolou ke sefahleho sa khaete!” Josh a qeta jwalo. A seha pampiri e kugbedu ya thishu ho etsa molomo o thabileng, o bosoeleang, pampiri e tala ya thishu ho etsa mahlo, le e pinki ho etsa didikadike bakeng sa mara. Yaba o etsa mohatla o molelele wa khaete kae pampiri e bolou, e kugbedu le e tala le e pinki.

“Mohatla wa hao o tshwana le diaparo tse tantshang moyeng terateng ya diaparo ya Ngkono,” ha rialo Josh a bua le khaete. Yaba o harelle kgewele e telele haholo tjihupung ya khateboto mme a tlae tlele haholo le lang la yona foreiming ya khaete, e le hore e se ke ya fofela hodimo ho feta ha e se e le moyeng.

“Lebitso la hao e tla ba Sefofelamarung!” ha rialo Josh a bua le khaete.

Hoseng ha letatsi le hlahlamang, Josh a dula setulong sa hae sa mabidi ka ntle ka pela ntlo a beile Sefofelamarung hodima hae. E ne e le letatsi le loketseng ho fofisa khaete hantle. O ne a emetse Hope. O ne a tla mo sututsa ka thoko ho mmila ka potlako kamoo a ko Ikonang, e le hore Sefofelamarung se kgone le tshwara moye mme se fotle. O ne a le hokae?

“Ke nna enwa!” ha rialo Hope. “Ke maswabi ke fihlele morao. Khaete ya hao e se e le hokae ho fofa?”

“Ee, ke se ke katetse ho e fofisetsa marung kwanal!” ha rialo Josh.

“Ha re tsamaye hle!” ha rialo Hope a tshwara setulo sa mabidi ka morao ka thato. A qala ho tsamaye ka potlako, mme a qetella a matha a theosa tselana e ka thoko. Mabidi a ntse a re tjihuku-tjihuku, tjihuku-tjihuku, a eketse leblebo ho Hope yena a ntse a matha. Josh a lokolli kgwewe hanyane feela hore e thato loho tjihupung ya khaetebo eoa a neng e a tshwara. Hanghang khaete ya fofa! Ya phaphalla moyeng ka hodima dhlooho tsa bona.

Josh a leblebo ka matha ka leblebo ba feta Neo ya neng a ya ka pela ntlo ya tlolela leblebo le Bella. O ne a rwevte katiba ka diphereto e ntsweng ka koranta mme a ena le lerumo ka khaetebo. Bella o ne a rwevte katiba ya molo.

“Ha o phaere te e lokileleng!” ha rialo Bella, a tsoka thupa ya hae ya mholo.

“Hobu! Hobu!” ha bohola Noodle, enpa Neo o ne a sa mamela Noodle kapa Bella. Neo o ne a shebile Josh le Hope ba etla tselaneng e ka thoko ka leblebo le lehlo. Yaba Bella le yena o lebala ka papadi ya bona mme le yena a shebella Josh le Hope!

“Na re ka tla le lona?” ha botsa Neo.

“Tshwana, ke le tshuwa khaete ya rona!” ha rialo Josh. Noodle a tsoka mohatla.

“Noodle, ke wena ya tsebang ho tshwara khaete ho fota bohle!” ha rialo Hope. Noodle a tsoka mohatla.

“Noodle, o njanyana e bohale ruli!” ha rialo Bella. Noodle a tsoka mohatla.

Josh a harelle khaete ya hae. A harelle kgewele ka thato haholo rolong ya khaetebo ho fihlela Sefofelamarung se dutse hodima hae kamora ho sibolla sepakapaka ho ya marung. Hope a fetola setulo sa mabidi, mme kaofela ho bona ka kgutlela lapeng ba ntse ba re tjihuku-tjihuku! hobu! hobu!

Ha Josh a robetsa betheng bosiueng boo, a nahana ka monate oo a bileng le ona ka khaete ya hae le kamoo a battleling a laheheleka ke yona ka teng. “Ka lehlohonolo ke ne ka metswale ya sebele lefatseng lehle!” a rialo a fehehla a tutubala.
1. Can you help Josh catch his kite?

2. Can you see which two kites make a matching pair? Are these two kites the same as the kite in the story, “Skycatcher”?

3. Be a word detective and find these words in the story, Sun and Moon.

   Choose any word:
   - that describes Sun ____________
   - that describes Moon ____________
   - that describes the Stars ____________
   - that describes how Moon moved ____________
   - that describes a feeling ____________
   - that names a sea animal ____________
   - that names a continent ____________
   - that rhymes with “night” ____________
   - that is a sound ____________
   - that starts with the letters mo- ____________
   - that ends with the letters -ly ____________
   - with 7 letters ____________
   - with more than 9 letters ____________
   - that is new to you ____________

4. Eba leleketifi la mantswe mme o bate o mantswe ano paleng ya Letsatsi le Kgvedi.

   Kgetha leiteswe lefe kapa lefe:
   - le hlalosangLetsatsi _____________________________
   - le hlalosang Kgvedi _____________________________
   - le hlalosang Dinaledi _____________________________
   - le hlalosang kamo Kgvedi o neng o tsamaya ka teng _____________________________
   - le hlalosang mololute _____________________________
   - le bolelang phoofolo ya lewatle _____________________________
   - le bolelang kontinente _____________________________
   - le raemang le “bohlale” _____________________________
   - le e leng modumo _____________________________
   - le qalang ka ditlhaku tsena mo- _____________________________
   - le qetellang ka ditlhaku tsena -ng _____________________________
   - le nang le ditlhaku tse 7 _____________________________
   - le nang le ditlhaku tse fetang tse 9 _____________________________
   - le letjha ho wena _____________________________

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