Inspiration for a new year

Every day all across South Africa reading activists like us (and you!) help children to discover the joy of books. Sometimes the children we share stories with are our own children, but often they are also the children in our classrooms, libraries and reading clubs. And we are part of a wider community of adults across the world who are committed to making sure that our children experience the power that reading holds!

Helping children to establish the habit of reading for enjoyment takes time and energy – it happens as we share books and stories with children again and again. And to keep doing this, we need to stay motivated. So, to help us walk with children on their literacy journeys in 2016, here are the stories of a few inspiring individuals and communities beyond our borders who have found different ways to spark and encourage a love of reading.

Tlisa matla a pale ka lapeng.

Courtney Holmes is a barber from Iowa in the USA. He started a reading programme called “Tales 4 Trims” at the hair salon where he works! Instead of asking for money for back-to-school haircuts, he asks the children to read aloud to him from the books he has available while he cuts their hair! When he first started Tales 4 Trims, the salon didn’t have any children’s books, so Courtney brought in his own books from home. After a while, people started sending him free books. And to prove how good ideas really do catch on, the owner of the salon is now planning to make “reading for haircuts” a monthly event at the salon!

In the city of Bristol in the USA, a van has been turned into a “Bookmobile” that travels from district to district promoting reading in areas where children can’t get to the library – either because they live too far away or because their parents work long hours and so can’t take them. The van is stacked with board games and books for children to read there or to take home. The staff of the Bookmobile also read aloud to children and give away books that have been donated to the Bookmobile.

Continued on page 2.
The town council of Grenoble in France has found a new way to get stories to people. They have put eight vending machines across the town and these machines have something other than chocolates, chips and sweets to offer members of the public. Anyone can get a short story free of charge from one of the machines – all you have to do is press one or two buttons and a printed story comes out! You can even choose if you want a really short story (that takes about three minutes to read) or one that is a bit longer (five minutes)!

The Biblio Burro is a travelling library in Colombia that takes books to children in some of the country's poorest and most difficult-to-reach areas – and it does this on the back of two donkeys! The library was started with just 70 books in the late 1990s by book-lover and primary school teacher, Luis Soriano. Since then many people have got to know about the project – it has been featured in television news reports and there is a video about it on You Tube! This has helped Luis to keep the project going and to grow his collection of books to about 4 800. Work has started on building a small library, but Luis still uses his donkeys to take books to children who might never see books if he didn’t visit them regularly!

“500 Men Reading” is a project started by literacy activist and author, Floyd Stokes who lives in Central Pennsylvania in the USA. Floyd believes it is very important for children to have contact with adults who are passionate about reading – especially men, because in lots of communities, it is women who do all the reading or telling of stories to children. Floyd and his network of volunteers go into local schools and get children interested in reading by spending an hour or two reading to them. Clearly many other people think this is a good idea because in only a few years, the project has grown from 100 men to 500 men!

In 2016, we hope you will continue to feel inspired to join hands with the people around you and from all over the world who care about growing a love of books and reading in children!

World Read Aloud Day 2016
World Read Aloud Day is being celebrated early this year – on Wednesday, 24 February. Look out for our special World Read Aloud Day edition of the Nal’ibali Supplement, which will be available in the week of 14 February. It will have a special World Read Aloud Day story cut-out-and-keep book featuring Neo from the Nal’ibali family! For information on how to get involved in Nal’ibali World Read Aloud Day activities, go to www.nalibali.org.

Letstsi la ho Balla Hodimo la Letfatshe 2016
During 2015, Puku Children’s Literature Foundation ran an isiXhosa story writing competition for young people between the ages of 13 and 19 years.

The competition was sponsored by REDISA (Recycling and Economic Development Initiative of South Africa), and supported by Nal’ibali. The competition was aimed at celebrating and preserving the isiXhosa language and rich heritage of storytelling, as well as raising awareness of the importance of taking care of the environment.

In September 2015, the ten finalists in the competition were brought to Cape Town for an award ceremony that was hosted by acclaimed storyteller, Dr Gcina Mhlophe. All the finalists were presented with a certificate, a gold medal and a gift bag that included books by award-winning writers Sipho Kekezwa and Sonwabiso Ngcowa. (Both writers were at the ceremony so they could sign their books for each finalist!)

There were tears of joy when the three winners were announced. Nwabisa Gasa from Khayelitsha (Western Cape) won the first prize of R10 000. Amkele Nokrala from Philippi East (Western Cape) won the second prize of R5 000 and Simamkele Socishe from Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape) won the third prize of R3 000.

Nal’ibali would like to congratulate all the finalists, and especially the winners!

Ka 2015, Mokgatlo wa Dingolwa tsa Bana wa Puku o ile wa tshwara tshodisoa ya ho ngola dipale ts’a isiXhosa bakeng sa batho ba bath’a ba dilemo tse pakeng ts’a 13 le 19.

Tshodisoa eo e ne e tshehetswa ka diihelele ke REDISA (Recycling and Economic Development Initiative of South Africa), mme e tshehetswa le Nal’ibali. Sepheo sa Tshodisoa ena e ne e ho ketele ka ho boloka puo ya isiXhosa le lela le rueleng la moelo wa ho pheta dipale, esolana le ho le o leletswa batho ka bohlakwa ka ho Hokomleta tshilokho.

Ka 2015, ba leshomme ba fihleng ba makaqalokang tshodisanong ba ile ba fiswa Cape Town bakeng sa mokete wa dikgau o neng o tshewene ke mophethi ya tsewane wa dipale Ngaka Gaica Mhlophe. Bohlle ba fihleng ba makaqalokang ba le ba fua difikilele, kgau ya kgwana le mokotlana wa dimpho a kentseng dibuka tse ngotsweng ke bangodi ba ieng ba hloa dikgau e leng Sipho Kekeza le Sonwabiso Ngcowa. (Bangodi bao ka babedi ba ne ba le teng moketjaneng a e e hore ba ile ba kgone ho saena dibuka tsa bona bakeng sa e mong le e mong ya fihleng ho makaqalokang!) Ho ne ho ena le mekgga ya thabo ba ha ha ne ho tsobiiwa bahlodi ba banoro. Nwabisa Gasa wa Khayelitsha (Kapa Bophirim) o ile a ikagapela moputso wa pele wa R10 000. Amkele Nokrala wa Philippi East (Kapa Bophirim) o ile a ikagapela moputso wa bobedi wa R5 000 le Simamkele Socishe wa Port Elizabeth (Kapa Botlhabelo) ya ileng a ikagapela moputso wa banoro wa R3 000.

Nal’ibali e lakatsa ho lebohisa bohle ba fihleng ho makaqalokang, haloholo bahlodi!
Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the two picture books and the longer Story Corner story in this supplement. Choose the ones that best suit your children’s ages and interests.

Momma Moeng’s surprise

Momma Moeng wants to surprise Gogo Moeng at her home on her birthday – and she gets a lot of help from other people. When she arrives at Gogo Moeng’s house she gets a surprise.

Involve your children to write a list of all the things that the people in the story gave to make Gogo Moeng’s birthday celebration special. Then ask them to add three things that they would like to have given Gogo if they had visited her on her birthday.

Encourage your children to make their own birthday cards for a friend or family member whose birthday is soon.

If you run a reading club or other reading-for-enjoyment programme, ask the children to get into groups and act out the story for the rest of the club members.

Daddy’s surprise

This is another story about a surprise. Sis and her brother want to play with their toys but their dad is using the toys to create something new for them to play with – and that’s the surprise! Children aged between 3 and 9 years are most likely to enjoy this story.

As you read the story together, notice the details in the pictures and comment on them. For example, on page 3, point out the sign on the door and explain that it means “no entry”. Then you could say, “I wonder who is making all that noise behind the door. Maybe it is Sis’s dad. What do you think he could be doing? Why do you think he doesn’t want anyone to come inside?”

Talk about Daddy’s surprise on page 14–15. What is the surprise? What has the children’s dad used to make the surprise? How do you think the children feel about the surprise?

Challenge your children to create their own surprises using old egg cartons, cardboard boxes, toilet rolls, bottle tops, plastic bottles and lids, polystyrene trays, string, wool and other interesting recycled materials, together with scissors, project glue and paint.

Pat, the singing rhino

This is the story about a rhinoceros who could sing beautifully, but then lost his voice. Enjoy reading the story aloud or retelling it, then discuss some of these things with your children.

Why do you think Pat lost his voice?

Why do you think he only found it when he went home?

The old woman tells Pat that we should only do things with love in our hearts. Do you think she is correct?

What did your children learn from the story?

Mme MaMoeng’s surprise

Mme MaMoeng can only make presents for her friends if they have visited her on her birthday. As she has not been visited this year she thinks she will not be able to make a surprise.

As you read the story, suggest that your children join in by saying the sounds words, like bobbity-bob and pliff-ploff with you.

Suggest that your children choose a part of the story that does not have an illustration and draw a picture for it. Let them copy out the words from the story to go with their pictures.

Invite your children to act out the story and to join in by saying the sounds words, like bobbity-bob and pliff-ploff with you.

Drives your imagination

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 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.

Iketsetse dibuka tse sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa tse PEDI

1. Nhloho leqepheng le 5 ho isa ka 12 tlatsentsong ena.
2. Leqephendi le nang le masefane ana, 5, 6, 11 le 12 ho lona le e tsa buka e le ngwane. Leqephendi le nang le masefane ana, 7, 8, 9 le 10 ho lona le e tsa buka e le ngwane.
   a) Mena leqephendi ka holo ho hadisa mola wa matsho e matsho.
   b) Le meka ka holo ho hadisa mola wa matsho e matsho.
   c) Seha hadisa mola ya matsho e matsho le moso.
Momma Moeng sets out to surprise Gogo Moeng on her birthday. She carries the jar of jam she made on her head, and ties Baby Beka and his blue balloon to her back. Along the way, they meet many more well-wishers, and Momma Moeng ends up heading a noisy, colourful procession carrying piles of presents to Gogo. When they finally get to Gogo’s house, there is a short pause, but then the party really gets going!

Momma Mamoeng o tloha a ikemiseditse ho ya makatsa Nkgono Mamoeng ka letsatsi la hae la tswalo. O nka botlolo ya jeme eo a e entseng o e rwala hloohong, mme o pepa Nthanyana Beka le balunu ya hae e bolou. Tseleng ba kopana le ba bang ba lakaletsang Nkgono mahlohonolo, mme Mme Mamoeng o qetella a etella le bololoko o lerata, o mebalabala wa batho ba tshwereng diqubu tsa dimpho bakeng sa Nkgono. Qetellong ha ba fihla tlung ya Nkgono, ho ba le kgefutso e nyane, empa qetellong ba wela kgabong ka moketjana!

“Where is everyone going?” asked Valecia.
“Where are we going to Gogo Moeng’s house. It is her birthday,” explained Sipho.
“I’ve got a bunch of flowers for Gogo Moeng. Can I come too?” asked Valecia.
“Of course,” said Momma and off they marched.

The bunch of flowers made Valecia sneeze,
“Achoo! A-A-Achoooo!”

The chubby chicken went chuk-chuk-chook, chuk-chuk-chook,
the packet of crispy potato chips went crinkle-crinkle,
Baby Beka’s balloon went bobbity-bob
and Momma’s slipslops went pliff-ploff, pliff-ploff
down the dusty path until they saw Mr Sithole digging in his vegetable garden.

“Le ya kae, kaofela ha lona?” ha botsa Valecia.
“Re ya ha Nkgono Mamoeng. Ke letsatsi la hae la tswalo.” ha hlalosa Sipho.
“Ke na le sehlopha sa dipalesa mona bakeng sa Nkgono Mamoeng. Na le nna nka tla le lona?” ha botsa Valecia.
“Ehlile,” ha rialo Mme mme bohle ba hwanta ba tsamaya.
Sehlopha sa dipalesa tsa etsa hore Valencia a ithimole, "Heee! Heee-thiyaaaa!"
Kgoho e nonneng ya re kooko, koyiko, kooko, koyiko,
pakana ya ditjhipisi tsa ditapole tse romotsehang ya nna ya re kekere-kere, kekere-kere,
balunu ya Ntjhanyana Beka yona ya nna ya re bobbity-bob
meqathatso ya Mme yona ya nna ya re phaqa-phaqa, phaqa-phaqa
ho theosa tselana e lerole ho fihlela ba bona Mong Sithole a ntse a peta tshimong ya hae ya meroho.
It all started when Momma Moeng made a jar of jam for Gogo Moeng's birthday. Then Baby Beka found his best blue balloon. He wanted to give it to Gogo for her birthday. Momma tied Baby Beka to her back with a soft blanket. Then she put the jar of jam on her head and off she marched to Gogo Moeng's house. Baby Beka's balloon went 'bobbity-bob' and Momma's 'phaqa-phaqa', 'phaqa-phaqa' down the dusty path until she met Sipho coming out of the Tip-Top shop.

"Where are you going, Momma Moeng?" asked Sipho.

"Baby Beka and I are going to Gogo Moeng's house. It's her birthday," replied Momma.

"I've got a packet of crispy potato chips for Gogo Moeng. Can I come too?" asked Sipho.

"Of course," answered Momma. But now Momma had a BIG problem − there was too much to carry! She had to think of a plan. First, she took Baby Beka off her back and then tied the chubby chicken onto her back with the soft blanket. Baby Beka SCREAAAAMED!

So, Momma put the chubby chicken on top of the trolley and tied Baby Beka onto her back with the soft blanket. Baby Beka was happy and the chubby chicken was very happy to peck at all the vegetables. But Momma wasn't happy with this so she put the chubby chicken on Valecia's head. The feathers tickled Valecia's nose and made her sneeze even more, "AAAAAA-CHOOOOO!

Valecia wasn't happy.

"Le lebile hokae kaofela ha lona, Mme Mamoeng?" Mong Sithole a botsa.

"Re ya ha Nkgono Mamoeng. Ke letsatsi la hae la tswalo," a araba. "Ke na se tšepa e tšepa," ha rialo Mong Sithole. "Na ebe le ka mo fa yona?"

"Ehlile," ha araba Mme. Empa jwale Mme o ne a ena le BOTHATA bo boholo – ho ne ho ena le dintho tse ngata tseo a lokelang ho di nka! O ile a tlameha ho nahana leqheka. Pele, a qala ka ho theola Ntjhanyana Beka ka mokokotlong mme a pepa kgoho e nonneng ka kobo e bonojwana. Ntjhanyana Beka a BOKOLLA!

Yaba Mme o bea kgoho e nonneng hodima teroli mme a pepa Ntjhanyana Beka ka kobo e bonojwana. Ntjhanyana Beka o ne a thabile mme le kgoho e nonneng e ne e thabile haholo hobane e ne e kobola meroho kaofela e moo. Empa Mme o ne a sa thabiswa ke sena kahoo a bea kgoho e nonneng hloohong ya Valecia. Masiba a ile a tsikinyetsa nko Valicia mme a etsa hore a ithimole le ho feta, "HEEEE-THIYAAAAA!

Valecia o ne a sa thaba.
“SISI! Play HOUSE!”
“Then can we P-L-E-A-S-E have our umbrella? We want to make a special house.”
“Sorry, Sisi, I’ve used that too.”

Daddy’s surprise
Ntate o makatsa bana

Wendy Hartmann
Joan Rankin

About the author
Daddy’s surprise is part of a collection of stories in Sisi goes to school and other stories published by Human & Rousseau (an imprint of NB Publishers), written by Wendy Hartmann and illustrated by Joan Rankin. Available in bookstores now.

Wendy, who has had more than 40 children’s books published, lives in Table View. Apart from writing, she also paints.

In 2007 her book Nina and Little Duck was awarded the coveted M.E.R. Prize for illustrated children’s books. Her book In a House, in a House was on the shortlist for the 2010 M.E.R. Prize and Just Sisi won the 2011 M.E.R. Prize for best illustrated children’s book.

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

“Where’s Daddy?” asked Sisi. “Maaa...? Where’s Daddy? He said he had a surprise for us.”


“Looook! Our house! My shop!”

“BONANG! Ntlo ya rona! Shopo ya kai!”

“Roll! Roll! Roll!”

“Theta! Theta! Theta!”
“Sisi! What’s wrong?” asked Mama.

“Why is your brother crying?”

“It’s not me!” said Sisi. “It’s Daddy! Daddy is playing with OUR toys.”

“Roll! Roll! ROLL!”

“Then can we play with our tyres?” asked Sisi. “We want to roll them down the hill.”

“We don’t have time,” said Daddy. “I’m using them.”

“But D-a-a-d-y . . .”

“Not today, Sisi,” said Daddy. “I’m using them.”

“Ah, picnic time,” said Mama.

“Aa, ke nako ya pikiniki,” ha rialo Mme.

Dad smiled proudly.

Ntate a bososela ka motlotlo.

“Daddy is busy, Sisi,” said Mama. “So, please, both of you play outside for a little while.”

“But Maaa . . .”

“Ntate o maphathaphathe, Sisi,” ha rialo Mme. “Kahoo, ke a le kopa, lona ba babedi tsa mo bapallang ka ntle hanyane.”

“Empa Mme…”

“Bang! Bang!”

“Thuu! Thuu!”
“Good idea. I’ll ask Daddy.”

“Ke monohono o motle. Ke tla kopa Ntate.”

“BOX!”

“LEBOKOSO!”

“Emo! Ntate.”

“Ntate … na re ka fumana lebokoso la rona? Re batla ho bapala sephaza shopo,” ha botsa Sisi.


“Empa Ntate …”

“No, Sisi,” said Daddy. “I’ve used it for something.”

“BOX!”

“SURPRISE!”

“BONANG HE!”
We must get a birthday cake for Gogo,” said Momma.

They went inside.

Ting-a-ling went the doorbell. “Good morning, Mrs Makabelo. Did you know today is Gogo Moeng’s birthday?”

“Oh yes,” said Mrs Makabelo. “I have baked a special cake for her, but I can’t leave the shop. Could you take it to her?”

“Of course,” offered Momma, but there was a problem − Momma needed two hands to carry the cake. So, she made a plan. She put the chubby chicken on top of the jar of jam that she was carrying on her head. Now she had two hands to carry the special birthday cake. Off marched Momma, Baby Beka and Sipho through the ting-a-ling door.

When Baby Beka smelt the cake he mumbled, “Nummy, nummy, num-num.”

The chubby chicken went chuk-chuk-chook, chuk-chuk-chook, the packet of crispy potato chips went crinkle-crinkle, Baby Beka’s balloon went bobbity-bob and Momma’s slipslops went pliff-ploff, pliff-ploff down the dusty path until they met Valecia.


“Dumela, Mof Makabelo. Na o ne o tseba hore kajeno ke letsatsi la tswalo la Nkgono Mamoeng?”

“Eya bo,” ha rialo Mof Makabelo. “Ke mo baketse kuku e ikgethang, empa nke ke ka kgona ho siya lebenkele feela. Na le ka tsamaya le yona la mo isetsa yona?”

“Ehlile,” Mme a dumela, empa ho ne ho ena le bothata – Mme o ne a hloka matsoho a mabedi ho nka kuku eo. Kahoo, a etsa leqheka. A bea kgoho e nonneng hodima botlolo ya jeme eo a e rwetseng hloohong. Jwale o ne a se a ena le matsoho a mabedi ao ka ona a ka nkang kuku ya letsatsi le ikgethang la tswalo le ditjhipisi tsa ditapole tse romotsehang. Tafole e ne e kgabisitswe ka dipalesa le balunu e ntle e bolou ya Ntjhanyana Beka.

“LENA KE LETSATSI LA KA LA TSWALO LE BILENG MONATE KA HO FETISISA!” ha rialo Nkgono. O ne a hile a tsha, holusa Nkgono o ne a sa a kile a cha le manatsi a towelo a ka bang mashome a nobedi kapa a nobong a tilereng pele ho lena.

When she opened it everyone started singing a happy-birthday song.

On the table were the vegetable pie and jam tarts that Momma had made, newly laid eggs from the chubby chicken, the special birthday cake and the crispy potato chips. The table was decorated with flowers and Baby Bekas beautiful blue balloon.

“THIS IS MY BEST BIRTHDAY EVER!” said Gogo. And she should know, because Gogo had already had at least eighty or ninety birthdays before this one!
"I've got a chubby chicken for Gogo Moeng. Can you give it to her?" asked Mr Shabalala.

"Of course," said Momma tucking the chubby chicken under her arm and off marched Momma, Baby Beka and Sipho.

The chubby chicken went chuk-chuk-chook, chuk-chuk-chook, the packet of crispy potato chips went crinkle-crinkle, Baby Beka's balloon went bobbity-bob and Momma's slipslops went pliff-ploff, pliff-ploff down the dusty path until they came to Mrs Makabelo's home-bake shop.

"Ke na le kgoho e nonneng bakeng sa Nkgono Mamoeng. Na le ka mo fa yona?" ha botsa Mong Shabalala.

"Ehlile," ha rialo Mme a kgwaela kgoho ka lehafing mme yaba Mme, Ntjhanyana Beka le Sipho ke bale ba hwanta.

Kgoho e nonneng ya nna ya re kooko, koko, kooko, pakana ya ditjhipisi tsa ditapole tse romotsehang ya nna ya re kekere-kere, kekere-kere, Balunu ya Ntjhanyana Beka yona ya nna ya re bobbity-bob mme meqathatso ya Mme yona ya nna ya re phaqa-phaqa, phaqa-phaqa ho theosa tselana e lerole ho fihlela ba fihlela ha Mong Shabalala, ya neng a nse a fepa dikgoho tsa hae.

"Gogo! Gogo!" he called. Everyone looked.

"GOGO! GOGO!" everyone shouted together. "GOGO!

Way down at the bottom of the steep hill Gogo said, "EE-EE-EE. Someone is calling me. Now I can't go to the shops to buy my birthday supper."

Gogo turned round and walked all the way up the steep hill. Her slippers went shuffle-shuffle on the dusty path. Finally she reached the back door.

"Nkgono! Nkgono!" a hoeletsa. Bohle ba sheba.

"NKGONO! NKGONO!" bohle ba hoeletsa mmoso. "NKGONO!"

"WEE WEE WEE. Ho na le motho ya mpitsang. Jwale nke ke ka kgona ho ya mabenkeleng ho ya reka dijo tsa mantsiboya bakeng sa letsatsi la ka la tswalo."

Nkgono a thinya mme a kgutlela morao a nyolosa leralla.

Pakete ya ditjhipisi tsa dirapole tsa Sipho e ne entse e te kekere-keke, kekere-keke, Balunu ya Ntjhanyana Beka e ne e nse e te bokhiti-bokhiti mme mcetshane ya Mme e nse e te phaqa-phaqa, phaqa-phaqa ho theosa tselana e lerole ho fihlela ba fihla ha Moe Shabalala, ya neng a nse a fepa dikgoho tsa hae.

"Le ya kae?" yaha o a ba bota.

"Re ya ha Nkgono Mamoeng. Ke letsatsi la hae la tswalo kajeno," ha araba Mme.
Here are two pictures and a piece of writing sent to Nal’ibali by three of our readers from Limpopo. Enjoy them – and send us your stories and drawings! You stand a chance of having them published in the Nal’ibali supplement, or on the Nal’ibali Facebook page. Remember: It has to be all your own work!

Rinky Themba, 7 years old

Mom – my role model. She cooks for me. She buys me clothes and food.
Rinky Themba, 7 years old

Send your writing and pictures to: info@nalibali.org, or PRAESA, Suite 17–201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.

Romela sengalwa sa hao le ditshwantsho ho: info@nalibali.org, kapa PRAESA, Suite 17–201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.
There once was a rhinoceros named Pat who lived in Limpopo Province. He loved to sing and his family and friends loved listening to him. One day he decided to leave home to become famous.

He travelled all over South Africa singing to the different people of the country. There was not a part of the country he did not go to. If it was a well-known place, he had been there. He could not imagine himself doing anything else and he became very proud.

One day, while he was on a stage singing a beautiful song to thousands of people, Pat suddenly began to croak. He coughed, and tried to carry on singing, but he croaked again. He tried a number of times, but then Pat realised that he had lost his voice! No matter how hard he tried, he could not sing. He couldn’t even speak!

“We want our money back!” the people shouted. They grew very angry and began throwing mud at him. The mud splashed all over his face and poor Pat could not see properly. His clothes were very dirty. Pat was scared. He had never before felt so bad. This made him a very sad rhino.

Pat decided to go back to his home in Limpopo. On his way home, he kept wondering if he would ever get his beautiful voice back and be able to sing again.

People in the streets laughed and made fun of him. “You are not so famous now!” said one. Everyone was rude to him that day.

As Pat was walking along he met a very strange old woman. She had long white hair, a big nose, scary blue eyes and she was as thin as a stick.

“Your voice is not lost forever,” she said to Pat. “You must search and find it. Remember this: always do things with love in your heart.”

Then the old woman told Pat that there was only one special place in the country where he would find his voice, but she did not tell him where it was. Pat knew that he had to travel around the country again, but this time it would be to find the special place where the old woman had said he would find his voice.

The next day Pat began his search. He went to Cape Town where he had sung in a carnival with lots of other singers. He had no luck there. He did not find his voice. All he found were a few thoughts of how well he had sung before and how proud he had been then.

So, he went on to Namaqualand in the Northern Cape where he tried to sing to the Khoisan people, but he could not sing and his voice was nowhere to be found.

Pat went to the Kingdom of Zululand where he tried to sing for the Zulu king and his people, but still his voice was nowhere to be found. The king and his people helped Pat search the whole kingdom, but no one could find Pat’s voice.

In the end, Pat had travelled to every place in the country and had given up all hope of ever finding his voice. He was miserable and alone. He found himself missing his family and friends.

“Mother!” he shouted. The word came out loudly. “Mother!” he called again just to make sure that his voice was still working.

Pat jumped up and hugged his mother when she walked into his bedroom. “Mother, my voice is back. I can speak again.” Pat’s mother had never seen him this happy. It filled her heart with happiness to see him smile again. She called everyone together and Pat sang for them. They had missed hearing his voice and having him around.

Pat stayed home for good. He never went back on stage. It turned out that home was where his voice was. He realised that everything he had thought was wonderful when he was travelling, was not as wonderful as the happiness and love he had at home.
Ho kile ha eba e tsahuudu e bitswang Pat e neng e phela Porofensya e Limpopo. O ne a rato ho bina mme ba lelapa la hae le metswalle na be na rato ho mo manemla. Ka tsa tsii le leng o ile a etsa qeto ya ho tsamaya lapeng la hae ho ya bata setuno.

O ile a hahlaula Afrika Borwa yohle o atse a binela batho na sa ena. Ha ho karo lo ya naha eo a sa kag a fihla ho yona. Haeba e le sebaka se tsewawg haholo, o kile a fihla ho sono. Ha ho se seng se o a neng a ipona a ka a se o tse etse le ho bina, mme o ne a le motlotlo haholo.

Ka letsatsi le leng, Ha Pat a ntse a le kalaneng a bina pina e monate ka pele ho diketekele tsa batho, hanghang a qalo ho weshwetsa. A kgohlela, mme a leka ho tswela pele ho bina, empa a weshwetsa hape. A leka makgetlo a mmalwa, empa jwale Pat a eielwe hore o laileketswe ke lentswe! Leha a re o le leka ka thata, a se ke a kgona ho bina. O ne a se a sa kgone le ho bua!

"Re bata tjelete ya rona!" batho ba hoiletse. Ba nna ba halela mme ba qa ho mo betsa ka seretse. Seretse sa mo tshela bohlole otafiwetse heng mme Pat wa batho a se ke a kgona ho bona hantle. Diaparo tsa hae di di le ditshila haholo. Pat o ne a tshohile. O ne a qalo ho ikutlwa haape jwalo. Sena se ile a se tsha hore a be tsahuudu e hlonameng haholo.

Pat o ile a etse qeto ya ho kguthlela habo Limpopo. Tseng e lebang hae, a dula a ntse a ipotsa hore ebe lentswa la hae le monate ke sa tla kguta hape na le hore ebe o sa tla hloa a kgona ho bina hape na.

Batho ditsereteng ba ne ba mo tshela ba mo tloka. "Ha o sa le kgatala jwale!" e mong a rialo. Batho bohle ba ne ba le tla ha yena tsa tsatse ho tla.

Ha Pat a ntse a tsaamaya tseleg a kopana le mosadimoholo e mong ya makatsang haholo. O ne a ena le mmarit o molelelo o mosweu, niko a kgolo, mohlho a bolou a tshosang mme a le mosesanyane jwaloa le lohelwaka.

"Lentswe la hao ha le a lailela ho ya ho ile," a rialo ho Pat. "O lokela ho ya le bata ho fihlela o le fumana. Hopola sena: kamehla o etse dintlo ho le tseang petloeng."

Yaba mosadimoholo o bolela Pat hore ho ne a sebaka se le seng feela se ikgethahng naheng ena moo a neng a ka fumana lentswa la hae teng, empa a se ke a mmolelelo hore se hokae. Pat o ne a tseba hore o lokela ho hahlaula ho pota naha hape, empa kgotleng lena e ne e le ho ya batlana le sebaka se ikgethahng moo mosadimoholo a mmoletsese ng hore o tla fumana lentswa la hae teng.

Qotellong, Pat o ne a se a etsetse sebaka se seeng se le seeng naheng eo mme a se a laileketswe le tshepo yohle ya ho a ka fumana lentswa la hae. O ne a sulafalletswe mme a se na mang wee. O ile a ihumana a hopotse la balela la hae le metswalle.

Yaba Pat o etse qeto ya ho kguthlela habo Limpopo letsatsiing le hlahlamang lea. O ne a tla kgutlela sebaqang se o neng a tswelelwe ho sona.

Ha ile ha mo naka nako e telele pele a ka fihla moo, empa a qetella a fihlela lapeng. Batho bohle ba na ba thabelsetse ho mmohana. Pat le yen a o ne a ba thabelsetse haholo, empa o ne a ho likhotse hobane a ne a sa a kgona ho bho le laentswanyana feela. O ne a bata ho ba phetela dipale tsaa maeto a hae, tsa dintlo tse makatsang tsao a di boneng le, ehhile, hore o laileketswe ke lentswa. O ne a kgathetse haholo, empa ho lebona haholo batho ba bangata ba mo ratang ka teng. Ha metswalle yohle ya Pat e se e tsamwa, mmame a mo tisetsa sejana se tseitseng sopho e tshesang le selese sa bohobe. Yaba a mo kena dikobong mme a ma a ho fona. Pat a kgalame ka pele mme a robala ho fihlela hoesa.

Ha Pat a tosha, o ne a sa tsebe hore o hokae. A raha dikobo mme a tiela betheng. Yaba o a hopola hore o habo moo a nang le ba balela le metswalle e mo ratang haholo.

"Mme!" a hoiletse. Lentswa lea la tswa hantle feela. "Mme!" a hoiletse hape e le ho ebe bonnete ba ho hore lentswa la hae le lela le sebetsa hantle.

Pat a tipatsa a hoko mme ha a kena ka phaphosing ya ho robala. "Mme, lentswa lea ke la kgutlele. Ke kgona ho bho hape." Mme wa Pat o ne a qalo ho mmohana a ha thabile jwalo. Pelo ya hae e ile ya tla tsekaloo ha a mmohana a tshela hape. A bitso batho bohle mme Pat a ba bina. Ba ne ba hopotse ho utwla le hokae la hae le ho ba mmmoho le yena.

Pat a se ke a hloa a tloha hae. Ha ka a a hloa a kgutlela kalangen ho ya binela batho hape. O ile a fumana hore lapeng ke hona moo lentswa la hae ho neng le le teng. A lemaho hore dintlo tsxml ho neng a na hana hore di ne ho ha a ne a ntse a halalela le naha, di ne di se ntle le ho ba monate jwala lebo le lerato tse a di fumana lapeng.
How much do you know about Noodle? Choose the correct word from each pair of red words to complete the paragraph about him.

Noodle is Neo’s/Bella’s pet dog/cat and he is friends with all of Bella’s friends! Sometimes Bella thinks she should have taken him to puppy school when he was younger because he can be very naughty! When Bella and her mom are reading together, Noodle likes to lie near them in case they are reading a story with animal food/sounds in it – he likes these stories very much, especially if they have dogs barking/singing in them. Noodle loves to be in places where he can run around and jump/dig. And when he’s done that, there is nothing that he likes more than to have a drink of tea/water and a dog biscuit/bath!

Can you unscramble the letters to make the names of the places Pat visited in the story, “Pat, the singing rhino” on page 14?

- LOPIMPO
- TCAOPWNE
- QAENNOREHT
- QDNALUAMANA
- Dنانال"العانا

Two of the stories in this edition are about surprises. Follow the steps below to create your own poem about surprises. Each line of your poem starts with a letter from the word, “surprise”.

a) On a separate sheet of paper, write down all the words or phrases you can think of when you hear the word, “surprise”.

b) Choose which of these words or phrases you want to use in your poem. Remember each line of your poem has to start with a letter from the word, SURPRISE. For example: you could write “people and presents” on the line that starts with the letter, “p”.

c) Add in any other words you need to complete your poem.

d) Read your poem aloud!

Tse pedi tsa dipole tse ho tlatsetso ena di mobapi le ho makatsa batho. Lotela mehato e ka fise mona ho ipapela thatokiso ya hao mobapi le ho makatsa motho. Mola ka mong wa thatokiso ya hao o qale ka thaku e tsxwng lentsweng lena, “makatsa”.

a) Leqepheng le ka thiku le tehlo, ngalo mantswe kaolela kapa dipolelwana tseo o ka ndiwa nga tloko lentswe lena “makatsa”.

b) Kgetha hare ke mantswe ale ho ana kapa dipolelwana alle tseo o batlang ho di seбедesa thatokiso ya hao. Hapula mola ka mong wa thatokiso ya hao o lokela ho qala ka thaku e tsxwng lentsweng lena, MAKATSA. Ho eta tsh Hathla e ka rone wa ngalo “matho ya makatsang” maleng o qapla ka thaku ena “m”.

c) Betsa mantswe ale kapa ale a mang sa o a thiku hbole thatokiso ya hao.

d) Bella thatokiso ya hao hodiwa!

Visit our website: www.nalibali.org

Etila websate ya rona: www.nalibali.org

Look out for our special World Read Aloud Day edition of the Nal’ibali supplement in the week of 14 February 2016!

Supplement produced by the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA) and Times Media Education. Translated by Hilda Mohale. Nal'ibali character illustrations by Rico.