Read aloud!

Welcome to your special World Read Aloud Day edition of the Nal’ibali supplement!

World Read Aloud Day is celebrated each year to encourage children, teenagers and adults to share the power of words with each other and thereby create communities of readers. It also reminds us that the right to literacy belongs to everyone. We all have the right to read, to write and to share our stories.

So why do we make such a fuss about reading aloud to children? Apart from just being fun, reading aloud is an easy way to make a big difference in a child’s life.

When you read aloud to children you let them know that you value books and reading. Instead of just saying that you think reading is important, you behave in ways that show your children that it is important to you – you make the time in a busy life to sit down and share books with them regularly. Of course, another benefit to this is that you also show them that you think they are important, and this builds their self-esteem. And reading aloud to your children gives you things to talk about. It also helps you get to know each other and builds a bond between you.

When you read aloud and children enjoy the story, they see reading as an interesting and satisfying activity, and they realise why they should learn to read for themselves. Motivation is a very important part of becoming – and remaining – a reader. To make reading a habit, children have to want to read regularly.

Reading aloud shows children how we read and how books work. This knowledge makes it much easier for them to learn to read for themselves. Hearing new words and expressions used in stories also develops children’s vocabulary and gives them a rich language to draw from when they read and write on their own.

When we read aloud to our children, we can choose books that are far beyond their own reading ability, and in this way we can extend them as readers.

Do those seem like good reasons to read aloud to your children? World Read Aloud Day is now celebrated by over one million people in more than 100 countries. You can find ideas on how to join in with this year’s celebrations on pages 2 and 3 of this supplement.

Ball’a hodimo!

O amohetswe kgatsong ya hao e kgethehileng ya Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo ya fasilitseng ya Nal’ibali!


Kahoo habaneng re na hile re kgothatshele ho ha ka ho balla hodimo ha re balla bana? Nite feela le ho ba monate, ho balla hodimo ke moloko o abanlo wo ho lisa phaphang e kgoa bophelang ba ngwana.

Ha o balla hodimo bakeng sa bana o etsha hore o tseba hore o nika dibuka le ho bala e le ntha tsa bokholwa. Ho ene la ho re feela o nana hore ho bala re nitho ya bokholwa, o ithwe re ka tseba tse bontsha bana ba hao hore ho bokholwa ho wena – o le le na kana ha hana letsatsi la hoo le maphathaphathe ya ho dula fatshe le abalana dibuka le bana ka dinako tse tsang. Efihle, moloko o mong ho sena ka hore hope e ba bontsha hore o nana hore ho bokholwa, mme sena se aha boitshepo ho bana. Mme ho balla hodimo ho a balla bana ba hao ho o fa dintho tse le ka buang ka tsaona. Hape ho o tluwa hore le tsebana mme le bape kamano e matla pakeng tsa lona.

Ha o balla hodimo mme bana ba natefetswe ke pale, ba bana ho bala e le ketsa e kgotlelele e le kgoatsafatsang, mme ba extla ho hore ka habaneng ba lokela ho ithuta ho ipalla ka babona. Kgafatsela ke karolo e bokholwa Nal’ibali ya ho bana – le ba dula o le – mmmadi. Ho etsha hore ho bala e be tlwaelo, bana le lokela ho balla ho bala ka dinako tsang.


What’s inside?

| Ideas for ways to celebrate World Read Aloud Day |
| A special Nal’ibali World Read Aloud Day cut-out-and-keep book |
| Two other stories |
| A World Read Aloud Day badge |

Ho na le eng ka hore?

- Moropolo bakeng sa mokgwa ya ho ketlaka Letsatsi le Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo
- Bokha e kelebelela e sehlang-le-ho-giphatho ya Nal’ibali ya Letsatsi le Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo
- Dipole tse ding tse pedi
- Betjhe ya Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo

Story Power.

Bring it home.

Tsisa matla a pale ka lapeng.

Edition 105 Settel, English

This supplement is available during term times in the following Times Media newspapers: Sunday Times Express in the Western Cape; Sunday World in the Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal; Daily Dispatch and The Herald in the Eastern Cape.
Celebrate World Read Aloud Day!

Every year Nal’ibali celebrates World Read Aloud Day to raise awareness of the importance of reading aloud to encourage children's literacy development. Each year we issue a special story in all 11 official languages. We then call on adults across the country to read the story out loud to the children in their lives on World Read Aloud Day and so help us break our previous read-aloud record. Last year, with your help, we read aloud to over 160 000 children, and this year we hope to set a new record!

This year World Read Aloud Day is on 24 February. Take this opportunity to read aloud to children that you know. South Africa’s well-known singer, songwriter and literacy promoter, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, will be giving a reading of our special story that features Nal’ibali’s very own Neo. We would love it if you could join us too!

How to join in

1. Go to www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi to sign up your family, reading club or school and help make this the biggest World Read Aloud Day event in South Africa.
2. Make Nal’ibali World Read Aloud Day badges with your children. Use the template on page 16, or design your own badges.
3. On 24 February 2016, read our World Read Aloud Day story (Neo and the big, wide world) to:
   * your own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews
   * children in your class or at your school
   * groups of children at specially arranged events at your reading club, library or community centre.
4. Do other fun World Read Aloud Day activities. Use the ideas on page 3 to help you.

Keteka Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo!

Selemo le selemo Nal’ibali e keteka Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo ho ellisiwa batho bokgwana ba ho balla hodimo ho kgotlaletsa ntshetsespele ya tsebo ya ho bala le ngola baneng. Selemo le selemo re hafisa pale e kgothehiling ka dipuo tshhalo tse 11 tsa semmuso. Kahao re iplilela ho batho bohlole ka baholo naheng kagaphara hore ba balle bana ba phelang le bona dipale ka Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo le e hore ba re thuse ho robo reketo ya rona e fetileng ya ho balla hodimo. Selamong se fetileng, ka thuso ya lona, re ile ra balla hodimo re balle bana ba fetang 160 000 mme selemong sena re tshepa hore re tla fihlela reketo e ntsho.

Selamong sena Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo le ka 24 Hiokola. Naka monyetla ona bakeng sa ho balla bana bao o ba tshebang. Selini se tsebhalang sa Afrika Borwa, eibele e le mongodi wa dipuo le mophuthaheapa wa tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, o fia be a bala pale ya rona e kgothehiling e buang ka Neo e leng mophutha wa Nal’ibali. Re ka thaba haholo ha le wena o ka ba le rona!

Tips for reading aloud

1. Reading aloud is always a performance! Put lots of expression in your voice to create the mood.
2. If you are reading to a group of children, practise reading the story aloud a few times before you read it to them.
3. Start by reading the name of the author and illustrator so that your children appreciate that books are created by people, just like them.
4. Allow time for your children to look at the pictures and comment, if they want to.
5. Help develop your children’s prediction skills by asking questions like, “What do you think is going to happen next?”
6. Help develop empathy by making comments like, “I wonder how Neo felt when he couldn’t play outside.”

O ka kenela jwang

2. Etsa dibetjhe tsa Nal’ibali tsa Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo mmeho le bala le hou. Sebedisaong temphalere e lefephepeng la 16, kapa le re le dibetjhe tseo e leng tsa lona.
3. Ka la 24 Hiokola 2016, bala pale ya rona ya Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo (Neo le lefatshe le leholo, le batsi) o e balle:
   * bana bao hoo, ditshalo le batelele
   * bana ba tlelengsetse ya hoo kopa sekolo sa hoo
   * ditshhalo tsa bana diketsaholo tse hlophisitshweng ka ho ikgetha telapong ya hoo ya ho bala, laeboraring kopa setsing sa setjhaba.
4. Etsa diketsaholo tse ding tse monate tsa Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo. Sebedisa mophutha e lefephepeng la 3 hou tse.
10 ways to celebrate World Read Aloud Day

1. Let your children make their World Read Aloud Day badges (see page 16) before 24 February so that they can wear them on World Read Aloud Day. (You can get extra copies of the badge or find it in other languages at www.nalibali.org.)

2. Read the special World Read Aloud Day story, Neo and the big, wide world. Go to www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi and sign up to let us know how many children you read to.

3. Choose some of the activities suggested for Neo and the big, wide world in the “Get story active” section on page 4.

4. Follow the instructions on page 16 to make a bilingual World Read Aloud Day banner (or poster) to display at home, your school, your library or your reading club.

5. Give your children some blank paper and crayons or pencil crayons. Invite them to design a new book cover for one of their favourite books.

6. At your school:
   - arrange a special assembly to celebrate World Read Aloud Day
   - organise for the older children to read to the younger children some time during World Read Aloud Day.

7. In your classroom, organise a Step-and-Read Day. Make sure that you have lots of books and stories available for the children to read. Find something to use as a sound signal, like a drum or a plastic bottle filled with dried beans. Throughout the day on 24 February, whenever the children hear the sound signal, tell them to stop what they are doing and choose a book to read for 10 minutes.

8. At your workplace, tell your colleagues about World Read Aloud Day and then challenge them to spend at least 30 minutes reading to their children at home on 24 February. (Remember that you will have to meet or beat the challenge too!)

9. At your school, library or reading club:
   - arrange a Meet-a-Story-Morning on the Saturday closest to World Read Aloud Day. Invite the children to attend with their parents. Introduce them all to books that you know make good read aloud stories by reading to them from these books.
   - have a Story Jam session, where the children choose their favourite storybooks to read or talk about to other children in a group.

10. Have fun playing Story-in-a-Circle with groups of adults and children, or just children. Let everyone sit in a circle. Then ask a few people to volunteer to stand in the centre of the circle. The people sitting in the circle create a group story by each adding one or two sentences to the story as it goes around and around. The people standing in the middle of the circle, act out the story as it develops.

11. You can download extra copies of our World Read Aloud Day story from www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using our special World Read Aloud Day book, *Neo and the big, wide world* (pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12) and the other stories, *Lulu* (pages 9 and 10) and *The farmer and his family* (page 14) with children.

After you have read the story aloud:

- **Encourage your children to interpret it by asking them to draw or paint a picture of their favourite part.**
- **Together imagine and recreate a scene from the story using household items or other items in your environment. You could make it a life-sized version of the scene, or you could create a miniature scene in a shoebox.**
- **Share your favourite childhood story with your children, just like Gogo did in the story.**
- **With older children, discuss how they think stories and reading open up the big, wide world to us.**

Neo and the big, wide world

In this story, Gogo shares her favourite storybook with Neo and he learns how stories open up different world to us! This story can be enjoyed by children of different ages, but with very young children, you might wish to show them the pictures as you retell the story more simply in your own words.

- **Point to Lulu’s hat and say: “Look, Lulu is using the bowl as a hat!”**
- **Ask: “Where are all Lulu’s clothes now?”**
- **Supa katiba ya Lulu mme o re: “Bonang, Lulu o sebedisa sekoloklo jwalo jwalo!”**
- **Supa leqepe la 6: “Botsa: ‘O bona eng setshwantshong sena?’ Supa leqekoa la dieta mme o re, ‘Ke a ipota hore ho na le eng ka moo?’”**

Lulu

This is a story about a little girl, called Lulu, who loves trying on clothes. It is written for very young children, but you can also use the story with older children by letting them read it in their mother-tongue first and then in the other language of the supplement. They can also read it to younger children that they know.

- **Rapolasi le lepopa la hae**

Rapolasi le lepopa la hae


- **Ke o rata diselepara tsa Lulu? Wena o ka itsebela itsela ka tswang tse?**

**Lulu**

Ena ke pale e baleba bana ba bahlwanyane, bina ngwenyanene, ba bahlwana e batho, ema ka o lala le botlhokwa le bana ba tshobolo. Wena o ka baleba ba bahlwanyane, bina ngwenyanene, ba bahlwana e batho, ema ka o lala le botlhokwa le bana ba tshobolo.

- **Ha o natefela bana sa ho e balla hodimo kopa ho eheto.**

Neo le lefatshe le lehloko, le botsi

Palam ena, Ngakgomo o abelana ka buka ya hoe etso e tsa mantswe le lefatshe le lehloko ho lefatshe. Neo mmme o ihatla kamoso dipole di le bulteng lefatshe le fapaneng ka tengi! Pale ena e ka natafela bana ba ditsa le fapaneng, empaa ho bana ba banyaneanye hohlo, o ka lolotse ba ho bantshaa dikthwathwana ho a o rata e bahelwa palo ka teela ba balo ba sebedisa mantswe a haa.

- **Kgoholetsa bana ba haa ho e hloko ba ka bopa bora ba take ka bopa e pente ka lorelo ba e hloko.**

**Mmena maqephe a mang.**

Kgoholetsa lefatshe le lehloko, le botsi

Penang, Nkgono o abelana le tse wa sebedisa pale ena le baleba bana ba bahlwanyane ka haa ba dumela hore ba e bale ba bale ba bale ba bale, ema ka o rata diselepara tsa bana ba bale.

- **Supa leqepe la 5: “Botsa: ‘Na o rata diselepara tsa Lulu? Wena o ka tsebela itsela ka tswang?’”**

**Mmena maqephe a mang.**

Mmena maqephe a mang. Ne baleba ba bahlwanyane, bina ngwenyanene, ba bahlwana e batho, ema ka o rata diselepara tsa bana ba bale.

- **Ha o natefela bana sa ho e balla hodimo kopa ho eheto.**

**Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lulu</th>
<th>Neo and the big, wide world</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tear off page 9 of this supplement.</td>
<td>1. To make this book use pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.</td>
<td>3. Keep pages 7 and 8 inside the other pages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fold it in half again along the green dotted line to make the book.</td>
<td>4. Fold them in half again along the black dotted line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.</td>
<td>5. Fold them in half again along the green dotted line to make the book.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.</td>
<td>6. Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.</td>
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<tr>
<th>iketsetsi dubuka tse sehwang-ke-lo-ipolokwela tse PED</th>
<th>iketsetsi dubuka tse sehwang-ke-lo-ipolokwela tse PED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lulu</strong></td>
<td><strong>Neo le lefatshe le lehloko, le botsi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Nsha leqepe la 9 ka tlatsathe ena.</td>
<td>1. Ho eka buka ena sebedisa mapape a sa, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 le 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mena maqephe a ka halalo hidima mola wa matheba a matsha.</td>
<td>3. Botloko leqepe la 7 le ka 8 ka haa mapape a mang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Le mene ka halalo ho hidima mola wa matheba a matsha ho eka buka.</td>
<td>4. Mena ka halalo ho hidima mola wa matheba a matsha ho eka buka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Seha hidima mela ya matheba a matheba ho a halalo hidima.</td>
<td>5. Seha hidima mela ya matheba a matheba ho eka buka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Seha hidima mela ya matheba a matheba ho a halalo hidima.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
So, Neo climbed down and went on his way across the veld.

Soon, he came across a mound of hard sand with little holes, like tiny doorways. He could hear a million busy voices inside, and the patter of six million tiny feet running about.

Yaba Neo o theoha sefateng mme a tswela pe le seleng ya hae thoteng.

Ho e so ye kae, a kopana le qubu ya lehlabathe le thata le nang le mekoti e menyane, jwaloka menyako e menyanenyane. O ne a utlwa mantswe a maphathaphathe a milione ka hare, le diqinyana tsa maoto a manyane a dimilione tse tsheletseng a ntseng a matha.

It is a grey, rainy day and Neo is bored. He can’t go outside to play. Then Gogo brings something very special to share with him – her favourite book from when she was a child! As Gogo reads the book to Neo, his imagination takes him on an adventure into the big, wide world of the story until he eventually returns home to his cosy, warm bed.

Ke letsatsi le leputswa, mme pula e a na, mme Neo o tshwerwe ke bodutu. Ha a kgone ho tswela ka ntle ho ya bapala. Mme Nkgono o tisa ntho e ngwwe e kgethehiling haholo ho tla abelana le yena – buka eo a e ratang haholo ya ha e ne e sa le ngwana! Ha Nkgono a ntse a balla Neo baka eo, menahano ya hae e mo nkisa leeto la tshibollo ho ya lefatsheng le leholo le batsi la pale ho fihlala a qetella a kugtulela betheng ya hae e moifula e bonojwana.
Neo looked out the window of his room at the grey view of the grey street with all the wet, grey people hurrying through the grey, pouring rain. He couldn’t go outside, and he had already read all his books to Mbali.

Just then, Gogo came in with her hair all twiggy from the wind outside. She was holding something. Neo could see that it was flattish, and square-ish, and very colourful ... and it could open up – just like a treasure box!

“This was my favourite book when I was as young as you,” Gogo told Neo. “It was my door to the big, wide world.”

Then, she opened the book.

And that is why, whenever the world seems too grey, and his room seems too small, Neo opens a book. He steps through a door between the pages, and goes off into the big, wide world.
Eventually, Neo came to a lot of water that rushed through the valley from morning till night. Neo stepped in to cool his hot legs. The water splashed at his feet and giggled, "I am a river. I roam from the mountains to the sea. Come, follow me. I'll take you home."

Qetellong, Neo a fihla moo ho nang le metsi a mangata a neng a phalla thoteng ho tloha hoseng ho fihlela bosiu. Neo a kena ka hara ona ho phodisa maoto a hae a tjhesang. Metsi a mo hasa maotong mme a keketeha, "Ke noka, ke phalla ho tloha dithabeng ho ya lewatle. Tloo, ntatele. Ke tla o isa lapeng leno."

So, Neo slipped through the book, into his warm bed, in his cozy room, in his little house.

Yaba Neo o tswa ka hara baka, a kena betheng ya hae e mofuthu, ka hara phaposi ya hae e mofuthu, ntsoyaneng ya habo.
Neo thought about the veld and the tree and the ants and the river. And as he watched the gogo, a rainbow lit up the little house in colours so bright it looked like a picture in a storybook. Neo thought of his great adventure inside the pages of Gogo's favourite storybook, and he thought of her and Mbali and home.

On the first page was a picture of a magical place, far away from the grey, grey day. The veld was green and gold and brown, with a great, big, blue sky above, and a warm, yellow sun, baking down.

"Wow! Is that real?" Neo gasped.

Neo thought how good that would be. So, he followed the river across the valley and between the mountains. Together, they wandered through the afternoon and almost into night, until at last, Neo reached a hilltop.

Leqepheng la pele bo ne bo ena le seshwantsho sa sebaka sa mchalo, holohole le letsatsi le keputswapatswe. Naha e ne e le tala le nanala wa kg athletic le o mosotho, ho ena le lehodimo le leholohadik, le botala ba lehodimo ka hodimo, le letsatsi le mofuthu le leshla, le tshesang lefatshe.

"Kgele! Na hoo ke hwa nnete?" Neo a makala.
This is an adapted version of Lulu, published by Jacana Media and available in bookstores and online from www.jacana.co.za. This story is available in isiZulu, isiXhosa, English, Afrikaans, Setswana, Sesotho, Sepedi, Siswati, Xitsonga, Tshivenda and isiNdebele. Jacana publishes books for young readers in all eleven official South African languages. To find out more about Jacana titles go to www.jacana.co.za.


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Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi


We publish what we like

Lulu

Niki Daly
Lulu in stripy shorts and socks!
Lulu o tenne bokgutshwanyane bo metsero, o rwetse le dikausu!

Lulu loves clothes.
Lulu o rata diaparo.

Smarty arty Lulu!

What next?
Jwile ho taloeng?

Lulu's hat!
Katiba ya Lulu!

Lulu o jele koto!
The first thing he saw was tall and brown with a strong, wooden body. It had long, brown arms that reached up to the sky, and a big, twiggy head of leafy-green hair that swayed in the warm breeze.

“Hello,” said Neo, his eyes wide. “What are you?”

“I am a tree. I can see all the way across the great, gold plains. Come up, and look with me.” The tree reached out, and Neo climbed up.

At last, Neo peered through a window where an old gogo, with strong arms and twiggy hair like the branches of a big tree, closed a book and bent to kiss her little boy goodnight.

Gogo smiled. “Don’t you know? All stories are real, if you believe in them,” she said. Then she pointed to the place on the page where a little boy, just about Neo’s size, was walking across the veld.

As Gogo read, Neo closed his eyes and slipped away, over the hills ... across the great, brown earth ... off into the big, wide world.
From there, he could see a little town, washed clean by the rains and gleaming in the light of the setting sun. Then the river gurgled gently, "Go on, go home. There are people who love you there, waiting to share stories with you."

Neo remembered about the grey, pouring rain, and wondered if he should be out here. But in a story, you can do anything. There was no rain here. So, Neo set off across the veld.

He heard the voices of the veld. "Come out! Come out!" sang a little bird.

"It's a beautiful day!" chirped the cicadas.

"Come away, come and play," whispered the wind in the long grass.

"Tloo kwano, tloo re tlo hapala," ha lweshetha moya ka hara jwang bo holelele.

Neo went down, through the town. He saw the busy streets that rushed through the town, just like rivers. He saw houses, warm in the evening light. Inside them, people were busy, just like tiny ants.

Neo a tswa a tsamaya a parola thota. Tswaa! Tswaa!" ha bina nonyana e nyane.
**Story stars**

**Connecting the rural to the city**

Author, storyteller, publisher and rural arts activist, Shasha Seakamela, is one of the founders of an art and publishing movement called Rural in the City. This organisation works hard to promote the work and talent of different kinds of rural artists so that they have opportunities to show and sell their work in cities. We spoke to Shasha to find out more about this project and his thoughts on books and reading.

Give us examples of some of the things that Rural in the City (RITC) does. We do a lot of different things! These are only some of them. We publish and promote literature in indigenous languages, and offer children’s reading and art workshops. We also run arts projects in schools and community centres in rural villages around South Africa. You can find out more about what we do on our website: www.ruralintheciti.org.

Why are stories important? Stories and books help children learn about the world just by enjoying the story. Even as adults, we use stories to make sense of our world and to share that understanding with others. Telling stories helps us share experiences, understand each other, and create community.

What kinds of stories does RITC publish? We want to bring the ancient African myths back for children to enjoy.

Why do we need books in all South African languages? The lack of reading materials in indigenous languages means that children are not motivated to read. We also need to have books in all languages to embrace and accommodate everyone’s culture.

Who told you stories as a child? My mother used to tell us stories in Sepedi. I learnt to read and write in Sepedi first. Even today, I write a lot in my home language before translating it into English.

Where do you read and write? I read anywhere, anytime – at home, on the bus, in the taxi, at work! I always carry a book with me. I am always either reading or writing! I sometimes write on my cellphone.

When I read to children ... I make sure they understand what the story is about, and I explain where I need to. I let them ask questions. I also let them play – children learn through play.

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Why do we need books in all South African languages? The lack of reading materials in indigenous languages means that children are not motivated to read. We also need to have books in all languages to embrace and accommodate everyone’s culture.

Who told you stories as a child? My mother used to tell us stories in Sepedi. I learnt to read and write in Sepedi first. Even today, I write a lot in my home language before translating it into English.

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Author, storyteller, publisher and rural arts activist, Shasha Seakamela, is one of the founders of an art and publishing movement called Rural in the City. This organisation works hard to promote the work and talent of different kinds of rural artists so that they have opportunities to show and sell their work in cities. We spoke to Shasha to find out more about this project and his thoughts on books and reading.

Give us examples of some of the things that Rural in the City (RITC) does. We do a lot of different things! These are only some of them. We publish and promote literature in indigenous languages, and offer children’s reading and art workshops. We also run arts projects in schools and community centres in rural villages around South Africa. You can find out more about what we do on our website: www.ruralintheciti.org.

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The farmer and his family

By Shasha Seakamela  Illustrations by Johann Strauss

A long time ago in Limpopo, there lived a farmer and his family—his donkey, his pig, his dog, his cat and his rooster. They all lived happily together on the farm. Then one day the rain stopped and there was no more water. The vegetables could no longer be watered and there was not much left to drink.

The farmer called his donkey, pig, dog, cat and rooster. "We have to move to a place where there is water," he said. So they all left. The farmer took a few of his things with him in a bag. Together they walked along the dusty road one behind the other. Tramp-tramp! Clip-clop! Snuffle-snort! Woof-woof! Meow-meow! And cock-a-doodle-doo!

On their way to a place where there was water, the farmer and his animals met a crow. The crow watched them all walking and laughed at the farmer.

"Kwaaa! Kwaaa! Why are you walking when you have a donkey? If I were you, I would ride on the donkey," the crow said as he flew off laughing.

"Kwaaa! Kwaaa!"

The farmer thought about this for a while. Then he decided to climb on the donkey's back. He rode on the donkey while the other animals walked behind him. Clip-clop! Snuffle-snort! Woof-woof! Meow-meow! And cock-a-doodle-doo!

Soon they met a meerkat.

"Woohaha! Woohaha! You have no shame," said the meerkat to the farmer as she sat up straight to stare at them. "How can you ride on the donkey's back alone? Look how tired your pig is? His nose is dripping sweat." Before she disappeared inside her home she laughed again, "Woohaha! Woohaha!"

The farmer stopped and thought about what the meerkat had said. He looked down at his pig and decided to let the pig ride on the donkey with him.

"Jump up, Pig! Jump up on the donkey's back," said the farmer. So the pig jumped up and sat behind the farmer on the donkey's back. And they carried on walking. Clip-clop! Woof-woof! Meow-meow! And cock-a-doodle-doo!

At last the farmer saw a river, but it was still far away.

"We will go there," he said pointing. The animals all agreed and they carried on walking until they met a jackal.

"Haauauaua! Haauauaua!" howled the jackal. "You are a horrible farmer. How can you and your pig ride alone on the donkey? Look how tired your dog is. She is panting. And your cat's feet are dragging. And look at your rooster's feathers, they are all drooping," said the jackal disappearing into the bush, still laughing.

"Haauauaua! Haauauaua!"

The farmer felt bad and decided that now they would all have to ride on the donkey's back. He moved up towards the donkey's neck.

"Jump up, Dog! Jump on top of the pig," said the farmer. So the dog jumped on the pig, that sat on the donkey's back, behind the farmer.

"Jump up, Cat! Jump on top of the dog," said the farmer. So the cat jumped on the dog, that sat on the pig, that sat on the donkey's back, behind the farmer.

"Jump up, Rooster! Jump on top of the cat," said the farmer. So the rooster jumped on the cat, that sat on the dog, that sat on the pig, that sat on the donkey's back, behind the farmer.

Along the road they walked. Clip-clop, clip ... clop, clip ... clop! They were close to the river, but by now the donkey was very tired.

Suddenly, right in front of them stood a hare.

The hare looked at them and said, "Greeeee! Greeeee! You are a cruel farmer. What has your donkey done to deserve such a punishment? Where I come from, everyone is treated with kindness." Then, "Greeeee! Greeeee!" said the hare before disappearing into the bush.

The farmer thought about what the hare had said. He felt very bad. The farmer wanted to say something to the hare about all the things that had been said to him on the way, but the hare had already disappeared.

After another few steps, the donkey stopped suddenly and went down on his knees. The rooster crowed and flew off. The cat meowed and jumped down. The dog barked and ran off. The pig oinked and rolled onto the ground.

The farmer got off his donkey and stood scratching his head. He looked at his tired donkey and then went to fetch him some water. The farmer remembered all the things that had been said to him as he and his animals were walking along. He thought and thought and then he decided that never, ever again would he just do what he was told. He would think about it more carefully first and see if it was the right thing to do. He would also tell his animals what had been said and together they would decide what to do.

The farmer called his donkey, pig, dog, cat and rooster and they all sat down in the shade of a big marula tree. While they were sitting there, the farmer asked his donkey for forgiveness.

From that day on, they all became the best of friends. And from that day on, the farmer always treated all his animals with kindness.

The farmer and his family is also available as a picture book from Rural in the City. Go to www.ruralintheciti.org for more information.
Kgalekgale kwa Limpopo, ho ne ho dula rapolasi moo le lelapa la hae – esele ya hae, kolobe ya hae, ntja ya hae, katse ya hae le mokoko wa hae. Ba ne bo dula hamonate ka a fihlela bolapo moomo. Yaba ka letsetse le tla le gape e emisa ho na mme ha ebe le tlhokhe e ya metsi. Mereho e ne e se e se na nesetswe mme ho so na le metsi a ho nna.


Ha ba le tseleng e yang moo ho nang le metsi, rapolasi le diphoofolo tsa hae ba kopana le lekgwaba. Lekgwaba la ba shebella ba ha ntse ba tsamaya moo mme la la tshehe rapolasi.

"Kwaaoo! Kwaaoo! Hobaneng o tsamaya ka maoto empaa ena ena la esele? Ha ke ne ke le wena, le ke ke tla palama ese le eo," lekgwaba la nalo le ha ke la fofa le ntse la tshehe. "Kwaaoo! Kwaaoo!"


Kamora moo ba kopana le mosha.

"Wahaha! Wahaha! Ha o swabe," ha rialo mosha ho rapolasi o eme o tsepame mme o o ba tonetsa mahlo. "Hobaneng o palame ese le oo o le mong? Sheba kamoo kolobe ya hae e kagathetseng ka teng? Nko ya hae e rotha mofufutso." Pele a nyamela ka thung ya hae e a tshehe. "Wahaha! Wahaha!"


Qetellong rapolasi a bona noka, empa e ne e se le hole haholo.

"Re tla ya mane," a rialo a supile. Diphoofolo ka a fihlela ha tsona tsa dumela mme tsa tswela pele ho tsamaya ho fihlela ba kopana le lekgwaba.

"Haasusuvu! Haasusuvu!" phokojwe ya ngaya. "O rapolasi ya kgopo ya na meme, Hobaneng ha wena le kolobe ya hae le palame le le bang hodima esele? Sheba kamoo ntja ya hae e kagathetseng ka teng. E hemela hodimo. Le katse ya hae e hula hana maoto. Ake shebe le masiba le mokoko wa hae, a leketeretse fatse." a rialo phokojwe a nyamela kahara mora, a ntse a tshena, "Haasusuvu! Haasusuvu!"

Rapolasi a ikutwa hampe mme a etsa qeto ya hore bohole ba tla lokela ho palama mokokotlo wa esele. A atamelana haholo ho isa molangeng wa esele.

"Tlolela, Mokoko! Tlolela hodima kolobe, maar ia tla lokela ho palama mokokotlo wa esele," ha rialo rapolasi. Yaba ntja a tlolela hodima kolobe e neng e dutse mokokotlo wa esele, kamora rapolasi.

"Tlolela le wena, Katse! Tlolela hodima ntja, maar ia tla lokela ho palama mokoko ya hore e neng e dutse hodima kolobe, e neng e dutse hodima mokokotlo wa esele, kamora rapolasi.

"Tlolela kwano, Mokoko! Tlolela hodima katse, maar ia tla lokela ho palama mokoko ya hore e neng e dutse hodima kolobe, e neng e dutse hodima kolobe, e neng e dutse mokokotlo wa esele, kamora rapolasi.

Tsebeng la tsamaya. Kwatto-kwatto! Ba ne ba se ba amametsi ho fihla nokeng, empa ka nako eo esele e ne e kgathetseng haholo.

Hanghang, ka pele ho bona mona ho ne ho eme mmutla.


Rapolasi a nahana ka se o mmutla o getang ho se bua. A ikutwa a sa thaba. Rapolasi o ne a batala ho bua ho hung ho mmutla mabapi le dintho tse ding di builwe ho yena tselaeng, empaa mmutla o ne o se o nyametse.


Rapolasi a bitta esele ya hae, kolobe, ntja, katse le mokoko bohole ba dula tlaa mori le se feta sa manula. Ha ba ntse ba dutse moo, rapolasi a kopa tshwarelo ho esele ya hae.

Ho tloa tsatsing leo, la le iba le bela metswalle ya sebe. Mme ho tloa tsatsing leo ho ya pele, rapolasi kamehla o ne a tshwara diphoofolo tsa hae ka mosa.

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**Rapolasi le lelapa la hae hape e fumaneka ka buka ya ditshwantsho ho Rural in the Citi. Eya ho www.ruralintheciti.org bakeng sa tshahisoleding e ngwe.**
**Make a badge!**

1. Cut along the red dotted line to cut out the badge.
2. Colour in the picture.
3. Cut a circle the same size as the badge from some thin cardboard, for example, a cereal box.
4. Use glue to paste the badge onto the cardboard.
5. Use sticky tape or masking tape to attach a safety pin to the back of the badge. Or make a hole at the top and thread some wool or string through it so that you can hang it around your neck.
6. Enjoy wearing your badge as you read and listen to stories on World Read Aloud Day.

**Etsa betjhe!**

1. Seha hodima mola wa matheba a matufedu mme o ntlhe betjhe.
2. Kenya setshwantsho mebala.
3. Seha sedikadikwe se boholo ba lekanang le betjhe khatebotong e tshesane, ho etsa mohloka, lebokosa la seredile.
4. Sebedisa sekgomaretsi ho manamisa betjhe hodima khatebota.
5. Sebedisa thepi ho kgomaredang kapa masking thepi ho kanopela sepelele bokahmaaang ba betjhe. Kapa o etsa lesoba hodima mme o kenye ulu kapa kgwele lesibeng le o le hore o tle o e hake moldeng wa hao.
6. Natefelwa ke ho nwaal betjhe ya hao ha o ntle o bala le ho mamela dipale ka Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo.

**Make a banner!**

Make a bilingual World Read Aloud Day banner (or poster) to display at your home, school, library or reading club. Cut out the words and pictures below that you would like to use on your banner, and glue them to a long sheet of blank paper. Then add your own writing and drawings, and/or cut out pictures and words from magazines and newspapers to complete your banner.

**Etsang benara!**

Etsang benara e temepedi ya Letsatsi la Lefatshe la ho Balla Hodimo (kapa phousetara) ho e bontsha lapeng la hao, sekalong, laeboraring kapa tlaeapeng ya ho bala. Seha o ntlhe mantswe le ditshwantsho tse ka fise mona tse le ka ratang ho di sebedisa benareng ya lona, mme le di manamise pamping e tlele e sa ngollang. Jwale kenyaing mongolo wa lona le metako, le/ kapa le sehe ditshwantsho le mantswe ho tswa dimakasineng le dikoranteng ho phethela benara ya lona.