Creating change through stories

By Wonder Chabalala

When last did you read a good book just to get lost in another world and stay there for some time learning new words or new ways of using words and simply savouring each moment? As a publisher and a book lover, I hate finishing a good book as it means having to find a new one – something which isn’t always that easy!

I grew up around books. In my childhood, every household owned a Dover stove. In a typical scene, Mother would be making supper and the whole family would be gathered in the candle-lit kitchen listening to the radio or to our parents telling stories. We didn’t worry about data or load shedding! It was this family time that bonded us as a family and instilled my love of words and stories.

I still share books with my sister and brothers today. When we meet, we speak about the books we’ve read and what we’ve learnt from them. It’s a real book club moment when we realise that we have all learnt and experienced something different but equally valuable from a book.

It’s important to me that we grow a nation of strong and powerful readers. But how do we change the phrase “black Africans don’t read”? We have good books about South Africa written by black South Africans. Books that are illustrated and have great storyline about our country. This is how we share our cultures and tell our stories. Let’s discover the treasures and knowledge which are hidden inside books so that we can share this with future generations.

Storytelling has been around for so many years, let’s preserve that. Let’s find time to read to our children and teach them how to read and write in their mother tongues. Let’s build a culture of reading and sharing words and story worlds. Great leaders write and read books. What kind of leader are you? What kind of leader do you want your children to be?

Wonder Chabalala has worked with and been inspired by books all his life. He is currently the Marketing Manager for the African branch of Cambridge University Press.
NAL'IBALI ON RADIO!
Tune in to your favourite SABC radio station and enjoy listening to children's stories! To find out the days and times that Nal'ibali is on the radio, go to www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.

NAL'IBALI RADYONG!
Bulela seteishene sa radio se o se rathang sa SABC mme o natefwe ke ha mamela dipole tsa bana! Ho fumana matstsi le dinake tse Nal'ibali e leng radyong ka tsona, eyo ha www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.

Nal'ibali news
In June 2016, Nal'ibali announced an exciting new campaign called “FUNda Leader”! Could you be a FUNda Leader? Read on to find out more.

What is the FUNda Leader Campaign?
The FUNda Leader Campaign is a call to all South Africans to be literacy activists! It supports people and connects them as they go about encouraging adults and children at work and/or in their communities to read for pleasure.

How is this different from what Nal'ibali has done before?
Since 2012, Nal'ibali has partnered with other organisations to grow a reading culture in South Africa. Now, we are opening up this opportunity to members of the public.

Who can be a FUNda Leader?
A FUNda Leader is someone who wants to:
- grow a love of storytelling and reading among adults and children
- pass on the power of reading and stories
- grow a nation of strong and powerful readers
- join the growing wave of literacy change that is sweeping across our country.

How does it work?
You'll start by signing up to the Nal'ibali network.
- Then, Nal'ibali will give you the training and support you need to do simple things to grow literacy, and we'll proudly keep a record of all the great things you do!
- You’ll be able to share your FUNda Leader experiences and photographs on Nal'ibali’s social media platforms so that everyone can see what you’re doing.
- Through social media we’ll connect you with other FUNda Leaders so that you can share ideas, work together or just grow your network of people who are as passionate about helping children develop a love of reading as you are.
- Active FUNda Leaders will get special offers and be able to attend the annual conference of the FUNda Leader network.

How do I join?
If you're ready to stand up and be a FUNda Leader, get in touch with Nal'ibali right away! Contact us by email on info@nalibali.org or by phoning us on 02 11 804080. Find out more about the FUNda Leader Campaign at www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

Ka Kgweyi wa Phupjane 2016, Nal'ibali e le ile ya phatlalatsa letsolo ke le tshibja le thabisang le bitswang “FUNda Leader”! Na ebe o FUNda Leader? Tswela pele ho bala o tle o ufwe ho feta.

Letsholo la FUNda Leader ke eng?
Letsholo la FUNda Leader ke bapitso ba yo ho Mafikizela Bonva ohe le ho bakwenadi ba tsobo ya ho bala le ho ngolakgo le tshehetsa letsoho mo le a ba hokhanya ya ho ritse ba tsamaya ba kgqarhletsa bhalo ba bhalo ho bana mesebetsing le kopa metseng ya bona hore ba bala bhalobhaso.

Sena se fapana jweng le se Nal'ibali e kileng ya se etse pele ho mona?
Haesle ho lohlo ka 2012 Nal'ibali e ritele e etso selekane le mekgatso e meng bakeng sa ho hodisa kevelo ya ho bala Afrika Bonva. Jwale, re bula le ditheo sa tsethaba mohylela ama.

Ke mang ya ko bang FUNda Leader?
FUNda Leader ke maha ya bafalang ho:
- hodisa le tshatsha dipole le ho bala ka hana bhalo ba bhalo ya bana
- fetsetsa matla a ho bala le dipole ho ba bang
- aha tsethaba sa babadi sa matla le la kileng
- tsethaba setfelo se tsethla se hola se tsukutling noka ya rona sa ho fetoa tsobo ya ho bala le ho ngolakgo

E sebetsa jweng?
O fa qo ka ho ingosha neteveleng ya Nal'ibali.

Kamora moo, Nal'ibali e fa o fa thupelo la tshehetsa eo e o hokang ho etso ditho tse bonola ho hodisa tsobo ya ho bala le ho ngolakgo, mme ka molotlo re fa bolokha rebo ya ditho bokhela ya ditso tle o di o etsoa?

O fa kgona ho phetela bhalo ka teo o kapaneng la tsona ho FUNda Leader mmopho le dinepe dipoleletemfong tsa media wa phediadiso isociety metalas na Nal'ibali e le hore bhalo bobole ba tle ba bone se o se etsoa.

Ka tshebokho ho media wa phediadiso le feta se fetsa ho o kahinya le botaapela ba bang ba FUNda Leader e le hore o tle a abedimo anya ka malutlo, le sebetsa mmopho kopa o hodisa netevela ya hore ya bhalo ba bang le letsoho la ho thu e ba bana hone ya ba le letsoho la ho bala bhalo wena.

Botaapela ba mallahlahihla ba FUNda Leader ba le fumana dithelelo lse ikeleang mme ba kgone ho kena ditlhodiso. Hape ba ka nna ba ebo le mophela wa ho ya khonferenseng ya selemo ya sethoko ya FUNda Leader.

Ke kena la jweng?

NAL'IBALI RADIYONG!
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Story stars

Books in a flash!

Book Dash gets together volunteer professionals to create new, African storybooks that anyone can freely translate and distribute. Since they started in 2014, they’ve produced 52 new books, many of which have appeared in the Nal’ibali newspaper supplement. We spoke to this group of inspiring and passionate South Africans to find out more about the work they do.

How does Book Dash make books?

We hold book creation events where we get fifty volunteers – writers, illustrators, designers and editors – together in one place. They work for over twelve hours straight in small teams to produce new children’s storybooks.

Where do you find these volunteers?

We call for applications before a Book Dash event and then we select people we think are best suited to the task. For each event, we look for great talent and a range of languages, backgrounds, ages and genders. We choose experienced professionals that are very good at what they do because we have to produce good books so quickly.

Why do you do this?

We believe that all children should own a hundred books by the time they are five years old.

How do you help to make this happen?

The books we produce can be downloaded for free from our website (www.bookdash.org). We also raise funds so that we can give away printed copies of our books. So far, we have managed to give away 55,000 books.

Why do you think stories are important for children?

Stories help us make sense of the world, which makes us happier people. There’s also loads of science showing that children’s brains develop better – especially in the first one thousand days of life – if they have lots of books.

What kinds of books does Book Dash create?

We don’t set out to make books that teach children a lesson. We want to create books that children will just enjoy, because that’s how you encourage them to read – and actually, children learn best when they’re enjoying something.

What are some of your favourite children’s books?

I want my hat back by Jon Klaasen and any books by Julia Donaldson and Dr Seuss.

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Dinaledi tsa dipale

Dibuka ka potlako!

Book Dash e kopanya baporofeshanale ba baiithaopi ho etsa dibuka tsa dipale tsa Afrika tse nthwa, tse mang kopa mang a ka di fetoletleng ka bolokolohe mme a di aba. Haesale ba qala ka 2014, ba hlahisitse dibuka tse 52 tse nthwa, tse ngata tsa tsona di hlahleletse flatsetsong ya koranta ya Na’ilbali. Re buisane le sehlopha sena sa Maafrika Borwa a nang le lerato la dibuka a kgothatsang ho fumana hahlophane ke masebetsi oo ba o etsang.

Book Dash e etsa dibuka jweng?

Re tshwara dikopano tsa ho qala qopa dibuka mao re kopanyang baiithaopi ba mashome a mahlano – bangodi, batshwanwishi, baetsi ba meralo le baiithaophisi – mmoho sebaking se le seng. Ba sebetsa dihora tse fetang tse leshome le metsa e mmedi ka kotloloho ka diklitswana tse nyane ho Hlahsa dibuka tse nthwa tsa dipale tsa bana.

Le fumanala baiithaopi bana hokae?

Re mema dikopelo peho ho kopanya ya Book Dash mme ebe re kgatha batho bao re nahanang hore ho laletse mosebetsa ano ka ho fetisa! Bangodi sa kopanya ka mmoho, re batlaana le talente e nite le dipuo tse tapafapafangeng, dibuka tse ba phelang ho tsona, dilo ke le bong. Re kgatha baporo lehlophane ho nang le baphililela ho tsebang se ho fana se sa etsang hobane re lokela ho hlahisa dibuka tse nite ka potlako.

Hobaneng le etsa sena?

Re dumela hore bana bophile ho lokela ho ba le dibuka tse lekgola ka nako eo ba hiing diklomong tse hlano.

Le thusa jweng hore see se phethahele?

Dibuka tse re di hlahsang di ka jotjwana lekhalo o webandswang ya rona (www.bookdash.org). Hape re nyola mokota wa txhelete le e hore re kgana ho fana ka diklopo tse halitsweng tsa dibuka tsa rona. Ho thlha e waxale, re se re kgane ho fana ka dibuka tse 55 000.

Hobaneng le nahana hore dipale di bohlokwa baneng?

Dibopa di re thusa ho utswasa lefatshe leo re phelang ho lona, o lela se re etsang hore re be batho ba thabang. Hape ha ma le sa neseg ha ngata tse bontshang hore boko ba bana ba hola hanlife ho feta – hlaholohlo matsatsing a pele a sekelo a baphelo – hoeba ba eba le dibuka tse ngata.

Book Dash e bopa dibuka tsa mofuta ote?

Ha se hore re qala feela re se re etsa dibuka tse bangana tsho hiung e iseng. Re batho ho etsa dibuka tse bana ba ka natefelwng ka tsona, hobane ke kamoso a ba kgohalethang ho balo – mme hanlentlile, bana ba ihula ho feta ha ba natefelwa ke ho hong.

Ke dibuka dife tse ding tsa bana tseo o di ratang ka ho fetisa?

I want my hat back by Jon Klaasen le bula efe ka Julia Donaldson le Dr Seuss.

You can find out more about Book Dash at www.bookdash.org and download free children’s books too!

O ka fumana dimthwa tse ding nobo le Book Dash ho www.bookdash.org mme o jarolle le dibuka tsa bona tsa mahala!
Get story active!
Here are some ideas for using the two cut-out-and-keep books, Stronger than Lion, (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12) and Is there anyone like me? (pages 7, 8, 9 and 10), as well as the Story Corner story, The best detective (pages 13 and 14) – a story featuring the Nal’ibali characters. Choose the ideas that best suit your children’s ages and interests.

Stronger than Lion
All the animals are worried about Lion’s appetite – it is so big that soon he will have eaten all the animals! Together they try to think of a plan to change things, but aren’t able to. Then, a little mouse comes up with a brave, two-week plan to keep them safe from Lion.
Discuss these questions with older children:
1. When someone is called “mighty” it means that they are powerful. Who do you think was the most powerful in the story: Lion or Mouse? (Don’t forget to share the reasons for your opinion!)
2. What lesson(s) do you think this story teaches?
3. Use cardboard or paper plates, paint and string to create masks for the characters in the story. Then act out the story wearing your masks.
4. Write a play using the text from the story – then perform it with friends!

Is there anyone like me?
This is a story about a young animal who searches for someone who is just like him, but then finds out that he is unique. It’s a sweet and simple story that celebrates how each of us is unique.
Is there anyone like me? (pages 14, 15) – pale e nang le baphetwa ba Nal’ibali. Kgetha mehopolo e tshwanelang dilemo le thahasello tsa bana ba hao hantine.

The best detective
Oh no! Bella can’t find Noodle anywhere! Bella’s friends help her to look for him and land up getting a big surprise – Noodle and his friend, Trixie, and three new puppies!
Encourage your children to draw pictures of themselves and then to include the words on page 14 of the story with their pictures.

For more story activities, go to page 16.

E ba malahahlaha ka pale!
Mehopolo e itseng ke ena bakeng sa ho sebedisa dibuksa tse sehwang-ke-ho-apolokela, E matla ho feta Tau, (maqephe ano, 5, 6, 11 le 12) le Ha ho na le motho ya tshwanang le nna? (maqephe 7, 8, 9 le 10), esitana le pale ya Hukung ya Dipale, Leteketifi le hlhwaha (leqepheng le 14 le 15) – pale e nang le baphetwa ba Nal’ibali. Kgetha mehopolo e tshwaneng dilemo le thahasello tsa bana ba hao hantine.

E matla ho feta Tau
Diphospho kaolalela di kgathetshile ka tsela eo Tau a jang ka yona – o ja hahola hoo e se kgale a tso fela bangle a jetle diphospho tse ding kaolalela. Mmelela di ho nahana leqeka la ho fetola dintho, empa ha di kgone. Yaba tweba e nyane e fia ka leqeka le sebele, la dibake tse pedi ha di sereletsa ho Tau.

Busana le bana ba bohelwanya ka dipotso tena:
1. Ha motho a bitwa “ya matla” ho bolale hore o na le matla a maholo. Ke mang e o nahanielo hore a ne a ne ena le matla a maholo paleng ene: Tau kopu Tweba? (O se ke wela le bana ka maloka bakeng sa malotlou a hao!)
2. Ke di/thuto dife tseo a nahanolaheng hore ena e fia ka lana?
4. Ngalong papadi le sebedisa tsema e tswang paleng - ebe le tshwanangshing mmaho le metswalle!

Na ho na le motho ya tshwanang le nna?
Eka pale a mabapi le phopholo e nyane e batlhokanang le phopholo e ringwe e tshwananang le yona hantine, empa e fumana hore e kigathile. Ke pale e manoha e bonolo e ketekete kamoo motho ka mong ho rona mona e kigathile e ho teng.

Busana le bana ba bohelwanya ka dipotso tena:
1. Ha ntho le bala baka ena mmaho, busanang ka diphospho tse fapangapeng le tseo di dietseng ditshwanangshing mpo.
2. Sheba setshwanthwa se ho bokantle mmaho le bana ba bao mmle le bue kamo re kigonang ho ipona ka metseng le ka hana dipone. Re e bana ba hao la tshweka la hloko seaponeng mmle ba natefelwe ke ho ketsa eka ba ithlahlwa ho motho e mpopo ya esakong a ba bana.
3. Kgathetsela bana ba hao ha tokwa ditshwanthsho tsa bana le ho kenyetseka manswe a leqepheng le 14 la pale ditshwanangshing tsa bana.

Letekefetsi le hlhwasha
Joewel! Bella ha a fumane Noodle hohele! Metswalle ya Bella e media ho bobo le yena mmle ba qotse ba fumana ditaba tse monate ba sa di lebelo – Noodle le motswalle wa ha hoi, Trixie, le madinyane a marao!

Busana le bana ba bokwetswa ka dipotso tena:
1. Mohloeng Bella ka ka be ka entse phostrata ya “Lahlhile” e le hore ha motho a fumana Noodle a tse a tsebe hore o mo kugulitsana ho mang! Etsa phostrata ena ya “Lahlhile” sekgetjhang a sa pampiri. Hapola bo kenyetseka setshwanthsho sa Noodle le nomoro ya mmle ma ya Bella, esitana le eng kapa eng e ngwe e o ka nahanielo hore e bokwetsa hore motha e a tsebe.

Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books
1. Take out pages 3 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.

ikatsetsi dibuksa tse sehwang-ke-ho-apolokela tse PEDI
1. Ntsa leqephedi la 5 ho sa ho la 12 tlatsetsong ena.
2. Leqephedi le nang le maqephe ano, 5, 6, 11, 12 ho lona le etsa buka e le ringwe. Leqephedi le nang le maqephe ano, 7, 8, 9 le 10 ho lona le etsa buka e le ringwe.
   a) Meno leqephedi ka haloho hodina mola wa matheba a matsho.
   b) Le mene ka haloho hope hodina mola wa matheba a matsho.
   c) Seha hodina mola ya matheba a malowedu.
The animals of the jungle decide that a meeting is long overdue. The meeting is to be no ordinary meeting, and each animal is to attend. So the day, time and place is set. All the animals are invited – except Lion …

This version of Stronger than Lion has been specially adapted for use in the Nal’ibali Supplement. The published storybook, Stronger than Lion, is available in English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Ndebele, Xitsonga, SiSwati, Tsonga and Setswana from Exclusive Books, Bargain Books and all good bookstores countrywide.
Once upon a time, the animals of the jungle decided a meeting was long overdue. This was to be no ordinary meeting and it was extremely important that each and every animal attend.

All the animals were invited to attend. All except Lion. He was not invited because, you see, the meeting was about him. But Lion thought he was not invited because he was King of the Jungle.

"Perhaps," thought Lion, "these silly fools want to crown me King. About time!"

At last, the day of the meeting dawned, and a bright and sunny day it was. Elephant declared the meeting open. The animals were all fuming.


"What message do you bring?" Mighty Lion asked the mouse. He was shocked to see that she looked him straight in the eye and showed no fear at all, none at all.

"My little thirsty." The little mouse said, "I came here because of the water the lion has. I am not afraid. I am too big for his boots and couldn't bring myself to come."

"What message do you bring?" Mighty Lion asked the little mouse who had come to tell him what the animals had decided at the meeting. To the Lion's den. Mighty Lion was astonished to see this little thing that had come to tell him.

"Has he come, Your Lordship?" Little Mouse asked. "Has he come yet?"

"My little thirsty." Again, night fell. Then morning came. Day after day, the same thing happened. Mighty Lion roared again to see this little thing that had come to tell him what the animals had decided at the meeting.

"Even crafty Jackal would have been better, " he thought, "that is, if Giraffe, Zebra or Elephant didn't appear. And Little Mouse urged him to wait, assuring him that soon the challenger would come."

"I have heard your mighty roar," Lion answered. "I have looked high and low for him. Open the door and let me out. I am hungry and a little thirsty." He growled, waiting to crush his challenger. But the challenger did not appear. And Little Mouse urged him to wait, assuring him that soon the challenger would come.

"Has he come?" He asked again.

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Is there anyone like me?
Na ho na le motho ya tshwanang le nna?

We believe every child should own a hundred books by the age of five.
Become a book-sponsor and help change the world.

Get involved at bookdash.org

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

Fred Strydom
Jess Jardim-Wedepohl
Stephen Wallace
I wonder if there's another me somewhere in the world.

Empa e seng nna feela, ha o bone? Ho na le wena a le mong feela!
There’s only one me in the world! I’m special, oh it’s true!

Ya ka elsong se o k e se elsong

Who can do what I do …

Ya ka etsang seo ke se elsong

… at every single face.

… sefahlehong se seng le se seng.

Ho na le nna ya le mong lefatsheng! Ke kgetehile, ehlile ke nnete!

Ke a ipotsa hore ebe ho na le nna e mong kaekae lefatsheng mona.
And even has my curls.
Ya bileng a le moriri o harelaneng jwalo ka wa ka.

Someone with my eyes and my ears.
Motho ya nang le mahlo a ka le ditsebe tsa ka.

I couldn't find another me in any single place.
Ha ke a ka fumana nna e mong kae kapa kae.

Who looks the same …
Ya tshwanang le nna hantle …

… and talks the same.
… le ya buang jwaloka nna.
I have looked high and low for him. Open the door and let me out. I am hungry and a little thirsty.

But Little Mouse said, “Patience, Your Lordship, I do believe this animal is on its way. Before long he will be by your side.”

Again, night fell. Then morning came.

They meditated. They consulted. Better to listen to the Wise Old Man.

The meeting was a remarkable gathering. Engaging, vibrant, and amusing.

The Flood. Heavens! He is the one who is holding you where you are. He has drained you of all your strength. He has dried your tongue and stolen your roar!

Mighty Lion’s eyes bulged. With his brow furrowed and his tongue hanging limply out of his mouth, he asked, “Hunger?”

Little Mouse nodded and ran out of that cave as fast as her little legs could carry her. She went and announced to all the animals of the jungle, “Hunger has slain our enemy!”

And so, this tale ends!
and he would no longer gobble them down at will. Mouse said. By then, she said, she would have tamed Mighty Lion.

"You think you can do to Mighty Lion?" Little Mouse said her piece. "To show you how much I believe in my plan, I shall carry it out all by myself." Finally, after many plans had been suggested and rejected, a plan on the table. They had to accept Little Mouse's plan.

Finally, the laughter stopped. The animals saw there was no other way. "You?" Giraffe bellowed, unable to stop the giggles. "What do you think you can do to Mighty Lion?"

"I know my plan, I shall carry it out all by myself." And he would no longer gobble them down at will.

"Morenaka, ho dumela hore phoofolo — re ja ka pele ho feta kamoo re kgonang ho ba le madinyane ka teng. Yaba Tlou e a botsa, "Na ho teng mang kapa mang ya nang le tlhahiso efe haufinyane, ha ho tlo ba le ya mong wa rona ya tlo sala," Tshukudu a rialo.

"O nahana hore o ka etsang ho Tau e Kgolo?" Tweba e Nyane ya bula mahlo a yona ha nyane. Mohatla wa yona o "Wena?" ha hoeletsa Thuhlo, e hloleha ho thiba ditsheho. Qetellong, ditsheho tsa emisa. Yaba diphoofolo di a hlokomela hore ho ne diphoofolo tsena tse kgolo. E ne e batla ho di bontsha – ee, e ne e hlile e batla ho bontsha thapisitse Tau e Kgolo mme e keke ya hlola e di ja feela kamoo e ratang ka teng.

"Re fedisa jwang polao ena ya diphoofolo re fedile! Re fedile!" Le jwale, ho ne ho ena le ditlhahiso tse ngata, ke a o jwetsa. Empa, di kga ra kgula le fihle "Seo ke se kopang feela ke nako ya dibeke tse pedi hore ke thahlla haufinyane. Morenaka, na ha e so fihle?"

"Mamello, Morenaka, ke dumela hore phoofolo era e belebe. E tlak bokgantsho ba yona ha bo a ka ba fokotseha. E ne e sa ntse e le lebo ho nata mophephetsi wa yona motlwang wa pula. Le metsang ba e ka ba fokotseha, e me e sa ntse e le lebo ho nata mophephetsi wa yona motlwang wa pula. Mamello, Morenaka, ke dumela hore phoofolo." Empa Tweba e Nyane ya re, "Mamello, Morenaka, ke dumela hore phoofolo era e belebe.

"Friends," Wolf howled, "Lion's appetite is appalling. Every day many of us die, to provide a feast for his bottomless pit of a stomach. He is eating us up faster than we can produce babies. He even eats the little ones. They don't get a chance to grow up!"

"Soon, there won't be any of us left," Rhino said.

"Soon, soon, we shall be history! History!"

Monkey screeched, "Soon, soon, we shall be history! History!"

"The big question of the day was: How to stop the massacre?"

"What do you think you can do to Mighty Lion?"

Finally, the laughter stopped. The animals saw there was no other way.
“What’s wrong?” asked Neo. Bella cried even louder.

“Neo!” said Gogo. “Please see who is at the door.”

Neo ran up to the front door. When he opened it he saw Bella and her mother. Bella was crying.

“Come in. Why is Bella crying?”

“It’s Noodle,” said Bella’s mother. “We can’t find him.”

“Noodle’s gone,” sniffed Bella. “Have you seen him?”

“Sit down,” said Gogo, giving Bella a tissue. “Dry your tears. We are going to help you. Neo, please phone Josh and ask him to come here.”

While Neo phoned Josh, Gogo sat between Bella and her mother on the couch.

“When did you last see Noodle?” Gogo asked.

“This morning,” said Bella. “He was playing on the field.”

“He is always home by lunch time,” said Bella’s mother.

“Gogo,” said Neo, “Josh said he and Hope will get here as quickly as they can.”

“What are we going to do, Gogo?” asked Bella sniffing loudly.

“When Josh and Hope get here we’ll make a plan. Right now we’ll all have some tea.”

Soon there was another Knock! Knock! Knock! at the door. Hope pushed Josh’s wheelchair inside.

“Don’t worry, Bella, we’ll find Noodle,” said Josh. “We’ll all be like detectives and look for him.”

“Yes,” said Gogo. “Now help us with some clues, Bella. Tell us where Noodle likes to play and visit.”

Bella and her mother told them all the places where Noodle liked to play and visit.

“Good,” said Gogo. “I’ll put Mbali in her pushchair and we can all go and look for him.”

“Maybe we should go in different directions. Then it will be quicker,” suggested Josh. “Gogo, if you, Neo and Mbali go down River Road, then Bella and her mother can look at home and on the field again. Then they can go up School Street. Hope and I can go down Sambals Street.”

“What a good idea,” said Gogo. “You sound like a real detective, Josh.”

“He’s not in this street,” said Josh. Then his phone rang. “It’s Gogo,” he told Hope, “I hope they’ve found Noodle.”

Hope couldn’t hear what Gogo was saying to Josh, but she could hear Mbali shouting, *Pink! Pink! Pink!* loudly in the background.

“No,” said Josh when he had finished speaking to Gogo, “they haven’t found Noodle.” His phone rang again. “And that was Bella and her mother. They haven’t found him either.”

“Now what?” asked Hope.

“We should go and meet everyone at the shopping centre,” Josh said.

A few minutes later everyone stood in front of the shopping centre. Bella’s eyes were red from crying. Gogo looked worried.

“Should we walk back and look again?” Gogo asked.

“No … Noodle …” said a small voice.

They all turned to look.

“Noodle!” they all said together.

Bella rushed forward and hugged Noodle. “Where have you been? We’ve been looking everywhere.” Noodle’s tail wagged and he licked her face.

“Oh!” said the shop owner. “So he belongs to you. He comes to say hello at my home every morning.”

Continued on page 15.

“Ke Noodle,” ha araba mmne wa Bella. “Ha re mo fumane.”

“Noodle o lelhedi,” Bella a hiewephetse. “Na o kile wa mmna?”


Ha Neo a ntse a fouela Josh, Nikgono a dula pakeng tsa Bella le mmne wa hae soufeng.

“Le qetsetse neng ho bona Noodle?” ha botsa Nikgono.

“Hoseng hona,” ha araba Bella. “O ne a ntse a bapala thoteng mane.”

“Kamehlo o kgutiela hae ka nako ya dito tsa motsheare” ha rialo mmne wa Bella.

“Nikgono,” ha rialo Neo, “O isite yena le Hope ba tla fihla kwano ka potlako kamo ba ba kgonang.”

“Re tlo etsa kwabo, Nikgono?” ha botsa Bella a hiewephetse haholo.

“Ha Josh le Hope ba fihla mona re tla loha leano. Ha jwale re tla ke re nweng tse mmoa.”

E eso be nem ho boela ha atwilahala Koko! Koko! Koko! hape monyako. Hope a kgamela setulo sa Josh sa mabidi ka tlhudi.

“O se ke wa tshwenyeha, Bella, re tla mo fumana Noodle,” ha rialo Josh.

“Bohle re tla tshwana le mateketifi mmne re mmatla.”

“Re tla tshwana le mateketifi mmne re mmatla.”

E eso be nem ho boela ha atwilahala Koko! Koko! Koko! hape monyako. Hope a kgamela setulo sa Josh sa mabidi ka tlhudi.

“Ke tla bea Mbalai hodiina setulo sa hae se suytswang mmne bolele re ka tsamaya ho ya mmatla.”

“Mohloong re lokela ho arishana re nie ditsele tse fapaneng. Kahoo re tla potlaka, Josh a siriwa jwalo.” “Nikgono, ho wena, Neo le Mbalai le ka theosa ka River Road, ebe Bella le mmne wa hae ba sheba lapeng le thoteng hape. Kamora moo ba ka nyolosa ka Seterata sa School. Naa le Hope re ka theosa ka Seterata sa Sambals.”

“Oo ke monahano o motle,” ha rialo Nikgono. “O bua jwalo ka leletetifi la nnete, Josh.”

“Mme bolele re lokela ho kopana sebakegeng se itseng,” ha rialo Hope.

“Kahoo re ka tseba hore ho re tse ho etshahla eng.”


Hope o ne a sa igone ho utlwa seo Nikgono a se bolellang Josh, empaa o ne a utlwa fela Mbalai a hoelletsu, Pink! Pink! Pink! haholo ka morao.

“Tjhe,” a Josh a rialo ha a qeta ho bua le Nikgono. “Ha ba eso fumane Noodle. Founo ya hae ya la hape. “Mme eo e ne e le Bella le mmne wa hae. Ha ba eso fumane Noodle le bona.”

“Jwale re etsang?” ha botsa Hope.

“Re lokela ho ya kopana le batho ba bang setings sa mabendeke,” ha rialo Josh.

Metsotsana kamora moo batho bohole ba ne ba eme ka pela setsi sa mabendeke. Mahlo a Bella a ne a le mafubedu ke ho hae. Nikgono o ne a shebahala a tshwenyehile.

“Na re ka kgutlile morao ra ya batho hape?” ha botsa Nikgono.

“Noo … Noodle …” ha rialo lettswwe le lesane. Bohle ba letla ho shoba.

“Noodle!” ha rialo Mbalai hape. A supa lebhenele le hukung.

“Mbalai?” ha botsa Nikgono. “Hokae?”

“Ha ho letho mono, Mbalai,” ha rialo Neo.

“NOOOODLE!” a hoelletsu Mbalai.

“Re lokela ho ya shoba,” ha rialo Hope.

Ba ya lebhenele le hukung. Le ne le rekisa mekotlana le dibenele, dihempe le dieta. Bohle ba bokara monyako.

“Ka hane! Ka hane!” ha rialo Mbalai a supile ka hae lebolekele.


“Pink!” said Mbali.

“Yes. The pink house on the corner next to the field. He comes to play with my little dog, Trixie, I’m so sorry if you have been worried. It’s the first time he has come down to the shop.”

While everyone cuddled, stroked and patted Noodle, the shopkeeper told them that her name was Mrs Modise. She was new in town and had just opened her shop.

“Noodle made friends with Trixie the day we moved in,” she said. “They play every morning and then Noodle goes home. But today was a little different. Today there was a big surprise and I had to bring Trixie to work with me.”

Just then Mbali got out of her pushchair and started to shout.

“NOODLES!”

“Yes,” said Neo, “you found him.”

Bella kissed Mbali’s cheek. “Yes, thank you so much.”

“No, no, no!” shouted Mbali. “Noodle, Noodle, Noodle! LOOK!”

Neo, Neo, Bella, her mother, Josh and Hope moved to where Mbali was standing. They crowded around Mbali and stared.

“Yes,” said Mrs Modise, “THAT was the big surprise.”

Noodle pushed passed everyone’s legs and sat down next to Trixie’s basket. He looked very proud.

“Look,” said Mbali, “Noodle, Noodle, Noodle!”

Trixie was in the basket with three tiny pinkish puppies and all three looked just like Noodle.
Can you find the words in the story *Stronger than Lion* that fit with this picture? Once you’ve found them do the following.

1. Cut out this picture and paste it in the middle of a large sheet of paper.
2. Write the words from the story that go with it under the picture. You might also want to add some speech bubbles to the picture.
3. Draw two boxes the same size as this picture—one to the left of the picture and one to the right of it.
4. In the empty boxes, draw pictures to show what happened in the story just before this picture and just after it. Then copy the words from the story under your pictures.

“I bring rather surprising news, My Lord.”
“Speak!”
“There is, unbeknown to us, an animal stronger than your Lordship!”

At that, Lion gave a terrible, mighty roar. The trees in the jungle shook and the animals scurried and hid in their burrows, nests and whatever else they could find, whether it was theirs or someone else’s.

Every single animal, big or small, wanted to hide from Mighty Lion. And hide as fast as possible. That roar told them he was mighty upset. And you don’t want to be anywhere near a lion that is upset.

“WHAAT?” Lion roared. “Wha-at did you say?”

Which letters of the alphabet do not appear in the names of the characters in *The best detective*?

BELLA
GOGO
HOPE
JOSH
MBALI
MRS MODISE
NEO
NOODLE
TRIXIE

Can you help? The kite strings have got mixed up. Work out which kite belongs to Bella, Noodle and Mbali. Then colour in the kites.