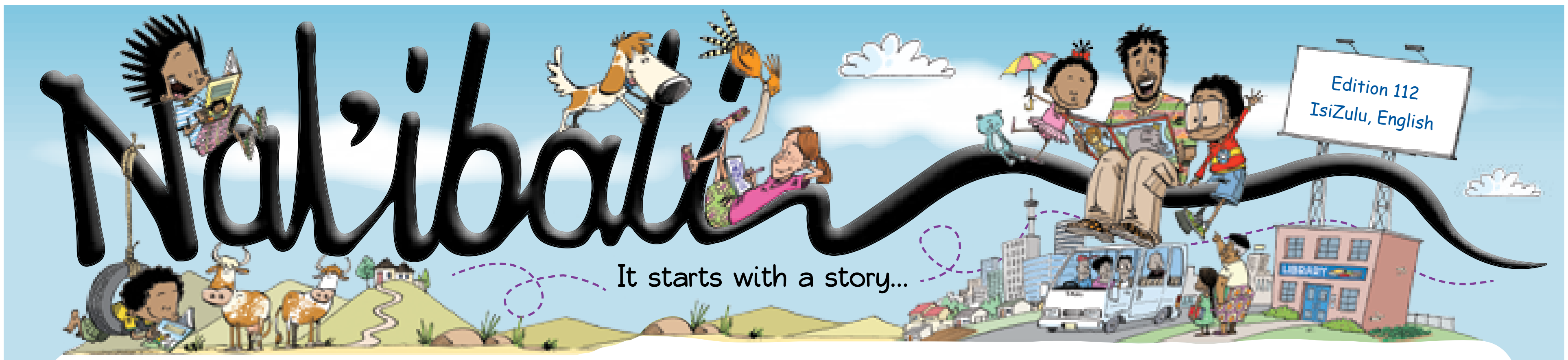


Creating change through stories

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 story lines 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.

Ukwenza izinguquko ngezindaba

NguWonder Chabalala

Wagcina nini ukufunda incwadi emnandi ukuze ujule komunye umhlaba bese uhlala lapho isikhathi esithile ukuze ufunde amagama amasha noma izindlela ezintsha zokusebenzisa amagama noma ukuthokozela isikhathi ngasinye nje? Njengomshicileli kanye nomthandi wezincwadi, ngiyakuzonda ukuqeda ukufunda incwadi emnandi ngoba lokho kuchaza ukuthi kumele ngiyothola entsha – okuyinto engahlali ilula kangako!

Ngakhula ngizungezwe yizincwadi. Ngesikhathi sami sobungane, yonke imizi yayinesitofu se-Dover. Esizindeni esijwayelekile, uMama ubezobe enza isidlo sakusihlwa bese umndeni wonke uhlale ekhishini elikhanyiswe ngekhandlela ulalele umsakazo noma abazali bethu bexoxa izindaba. Sasingakhathazekile nge-data noma ukucishwa kukagesi (load shedding) ngezikhathi ezithile. Kwakuyilesi sikhathi somndeni esasisenza sibumbane njengomndeni futhi nesagxilisa uthando lwami lwamagama kanye nezindaba.

Ngisabelana ngezincwadi nodadewethu nabafowethu nanamhlanje. Uma sihlangana, sikhuluma ngezincwadi esizifundile kanye nokuthi sifundeni kuzona. Kuba yisikhathi sethimba lokufunda sangempela uma sesithola ukuthi sonke sifunde futhi saphinde sehlelwa okwehlukile kodwa okuyigugu ngendlela efanayo encwadini.

Kubalulekile kimi ukuthi sithuthukise isizwe sabafundi abaqinile futhi abanamandla. Sisishintsha kanjani isisho esithi "abamnyama base-Afrika abafundi"? Sinezincwadi ezinhle ezimayelana neNingizimu Afrika ezibhalwe ngabantu abamnyama baseNingizimu Afrika. Izincwadi ezinemifanekiso zixoxa indaba emnandi ngezwe lethu. Sabelana kanje ngamasiko ethu, sixoxe izindaba zethu. Ake sithole ingcebo kanye nolwazi olufihleke ngaphakathi kwezincwadi ukuze sabelane ngalokhu nezizukulwane zakusasa.

Ukuxoxa izindaba sekube khona iminyaka eminingi kakhulu, ake sikugcine lokhu. Ake sithole isikhathi sokufundela izingane zethu nokuthi sizifundise ukuthi kufundwa bese kubhalwa kanjani ngezilimi zazo zasekhaya. Ake sakhe usiko lokufunda kanye nokwabelana ngemihlaba yezindaba. Abaholi abakhulu babhala baphinde bafunde izincwadi. Ungumholi onjani wena? Ngabe ufuna ukuthi izingane zakho zibe ngabaholi abanjani?

UWonder Chabalala usebenze futhi wafakwa ugqozi yizincwadi impilo yakhe yonke. Njengamanje uyi-Marketing Manager yegatsha lase-Afrika leCambridge University Press.

Drive your imagination

Story Power.
Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.
Noma kuphi. Noma nini. Noma nobani.
It starts with a story...

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.

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.

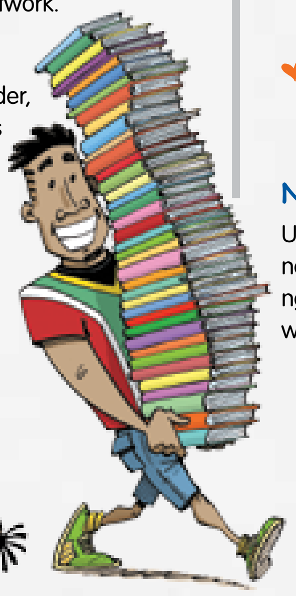
How does it work?

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 enter competitions. They could also have the opportunity 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.



Izindaba zakwaNal'ibali

NgoNhlangulana wezi-2016, uNal'ibali wamemezela umkhankaso omusha ohlaba umxhwele obizwa nge-"FUNda Leader"! Ngabe ungaba yiFUNda Leader? Qhubeka nokufunda ukuze uthole kabanzi.

Ngabe uyini Umkhankaso weFUNda Leader?

Umkhankaso weFUNda Leader uyikhwelo lokuthi bonke abantu baseNingizimu Afrika babe yizishoshovu zokwazi ukufunda nokubhala! Weseka abantu bese ubahlanganisa ngesikhathi behamba bekhuthaza abantu abadala kanye nezingane emisebenzini kanye/noma emiphakathini abakuyo ukuthi bafundele ukuzithokozisa.

Ngabe lokhu kuhluke kanjani kulokho okwenziwe nguNal'ibali ngaphambilini?

Kusukela ngowezi-2012, uNal'ibali usuhlanganyele nezinye izinhlangano ukuze uthuthukise usiko lokufunda eNingizimu Afrika. Manje, sesivulela leli thuba amalungu omphakathi.

Ubani ongaba yiFUNda Leader?

IFUNda Leader ngumuntu ofuna ukwenza lokhu okulandelayo:

- ukuthuthukisa uthando lokuxoxa izindaba kanye nokufunda phakathi kwabantu abadala kanye nezingane
- ukudlulisa amandla okufunda kanye nezindaba
- ukuthuthukisa isizwe sabafundi abaqinille futhi abanamandla
- ukuhlanganyela negagasi loshintsho lokwazi ukufunda nokubhala elihamba izwe lethu.

Ngabe kusebenza kanjani lokhu?

Uzoqala ngokubhalisa ohlelweni lwakwaNal'ibali.

- UNal'ibali, uzobe usukunika ukuqeqeshwa kanye nokwesekwa okudingayo ukuze wenze izinto ezilula ukuba uthuthukise ukwazi ukufunda nokubhala, futhi siyogcina ngokuziqhenya irekhodi lazo zonke izinto ezinhle ozenzayo!
- Uzokwazi ukwabelana ngalokho okwenzeke empilweni yakho njengeFUNda Leader kanye nezithombe ezingosini zokuxhumana zakwaNal'ibali ukuze wonke umuntu abone ukuthi wenzani.
- Sizokuxhumanisa namanye amaFUNda Leader ngengosi yokuxhumana ukuze nabelane ngemiqondo, nisebenze ndawonye noma nikhulise uhlelo lwenu lwabantu abanentshisekelo yokusiza izingane ukuthi zithuthukise uthando lokufunda njengawe.
- AmaFUNda Leader asebenzayo azothola izipesheli futhi akwazi nokungenela imincintiswano. Kungenzeka futhi ukuthi akwazi ukwethamela inkomfa yaminyaka yonke yohlelo lweFUNda Leader.

Ngingenela kanjani?

Uma usukulungele ukusukuma bese uba yiFUNda Leader, xhumana noNal'ibali njengamanje! Sithinte nge-imeyli ku-info@nalibali.org noma ngokusishayela ucingo ku-02 11 804080. Thola kabanzi ngoMkhankaso weFUNda Leader ku-www.nalibali.org noma ku-www.nalibali.mobi.

FUNDA LEADER

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/.

USEMSAKAZWENI UNAL'IBALI!

Lalela isiteshi sakho somsakazo sakwa-SABC osithandayo bese uthokozela ukulalela izindaba zezingane! Ukuze uthole izinsuku kanye nezikhathi angena ngazo emsakazweni uNal'ibali, iya ku-www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.

Drive your imagination

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 fundraise 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.

A Book Dash event in Durban

Umcimbi weBook Dash eThekwini

Children enjoying their Book Dash books

Izingane zithokozela izincwadi zazo zeBook Dash

Abavelele

Izincwadi ezikhiqizwa ngokushesha!

IBook Dash ihlanganisa ndawonye abaqeqeshelwe umsebenzi othile abangamavolontiya ukuze benze izincwadi zezindaba zase-Afrika ezintsha, wonke umuntu okhululekile ukuthi azihumushe bese ezisabalalisa. Kusukela mhla beqala ngowezi-2014, sebekhiqize izincwadi ezintsha ezingama-52, eziningi zazo sezivele esithasiselweni sephephandaba sakwaNal'ibali. Sixoxe naleli thimba labantu baseNingizimu Afrika abafaka ugqozi nabanentshisekelo ukuze sithole kabanzi ngomsebenzi abawenzayo.

Ngabe uBook Dash uzenza kanjani izincwadi?

Siba nemicimbi yokwenza izincwadi lapho sihlanganisa khona amavolontiya angamashumi amahlanu – ababhali, abadwebi, amadizayina kanye nabahleli – babe ndawonye endaweni eyodwa. Basebenza amahora ayishumi nambili bengaphumuli ngamathimba amancane bese bekhiqiza izincwadi ezintsha zezindaba zezingane.

Ngabe niwathola kuphi lawa mavolontiya?

Simema abantu ukuthi bafake izicelo ngaphambi komcimbi weBook Dash bese sikhetha abantu esicabanga ukuthi bakufanele kangcono ukwenza umsebenzi! Emcimbini ngamunye, sibheka abanekhono elihle kanye nezinhlobo zezilimi, umlando, iminyaka kanye nobulili okwehlukene. Sikhetha abaqeqeshelwe ukwenza umsebenzi othile abanekhono abahle kakhulu kulokho abakwenzayo ngoba kumele sikhiqize izincwadi ezisezingeni elifanele ngokushesha kangaka.

Nikwenzelani lokhu?

Sikholelwa ekutheni zonke izingane kumele zibe nezincwadi eziyikhulu ngesikhathi sezineminyaka emihlanu.

Ngabe nisiza kanjani ukwenza ukuthi lokhu kwenzeke?

Izincwadi esizikhiqizayo zingathwetshulwa ngokusebenzisa insiza yekhompyutha mahhala kusizindalwazi sethu (www.bookdash.org). Senza nezinhlelo zokuqoqa izimali ukuze sikwazi ukunikela nangamakhophi aphrintiwe ezincwadi zethu. Okwamanje, sesikwaze ukunikela ngezincwadi eziyizi-55 000.

Ngabe ucabanga ukuthi izindaba zibaluleke ngani ezinganeni?

Izindaba zisisiza ukuthi sikwazi ukwenza umqondo walokho okwenzeka emhlabeni, nokusenza sibe ngabantu abathokozile kunabanye. Kukhona nendathane yesayensi ekhombisa ukuthi imiqondo yezingane ithuthuka kangcono – ikakhulukazi ezinsukwini zokuqala zokuphila eziyinkulungwane – uma zinezincwadi eziningi.

Ngabe uBook Dash wenza izinhlobo zezincwadi ezinjani?

Asisuki nje sizimisele ukwenza izincwadi ezizofundisa izingane isifundo. Sifuna ukwenza izincwadi izingane ezizozithokozela, ngoba uzikhuthaza kanjalo ukuthi zifunde – kanti empeleni-ke, izingane zifunda kangcono uma zithokozela okuthile.

Ngabe yiziphi ezinye zezincwadi zezingane ozithandayo?

U-*I want my hat back* kaJon Klaasen kanye nanoma yiziphi izincwadi zikaJulia Donaldson kanye noDr Seuss.

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

Ungathola kabanzi ngeBook Dash ku-www.bookdash.org bese uthwebula ngensiza yekhompyutha izincwadi zezingane zamahhala futhi!

book dash

Drive your imagination

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 15) – 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.

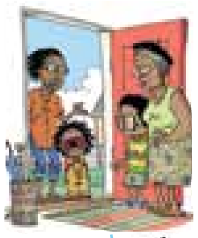
- Discuss these questions with older children:
  - When someone is called "mighty" it means that they are powerful. Who do you think was the most powerful in the story: Lion or Mouse? (Don't forget to share the reasons for your opinion!)
  - What lesson/s do you think this story teaches?
- Use cardboard or paper plates, paint and string to create masks for the characters in the story. Then act out the story wearing your masks.
- 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.

- As you read the book together, talk about the different animals and what they are doing in the pictures.
- Look at the picture on the cover with your children and talk about how we can see our reflections in water and in mirrors too. Let your children look at themselves carefully in the mirror and have fun pretending to describe themselves to someone who has never seen them before.
- Encourage your children to draw pictures of themselves and then to include the words on page 14 of the story with their pictures.

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!

- Maybe Bella should have made a "Lost" poster so that if someone found Noodle they would know who to return him to! Create this "Lost" poster on a piece of paper. Remember to include a picture of Noodle and a phone number for Bella's mother, as well as anything else you think would be important for someone to know.
- Think of names for Noodle and Trixie's puppies. Then draw a picture of each one and write its name under its picture.

For more story activities, go to page 16.

Yenza indaba ihlabe umxhwele!

Nanka amanye amacebo okusebenzisa izincwadi ezimbili ozozisika uzikhiphe, *Amandla adlula aweBhubesi*, (ikhasi 5, 6, 11 no-12) kanye nethi *Ingabe ukhona onjengami?* (ikhasi 7, 8, 9 kanye nele-10), kanye nendaba yeKhona Lezindaba, *Umseshi ohamba phambili* (amakhasi e-14 kanye nele-15) – indaba enabalingiswa bakwaNal'ibali. Khetha amacebo ahambisana kangcono neminyaka kanye nalokho okuthandwa yizingane zakho.

Amandla adlula aweBhubesi

Zonke izilwane zikhathazekile ngendlela uBhubesi akuthanda ngayo ukudla – ukuthanda kakhulu kangangokuthi maduze nje uzobe esedle zonke izilwane! Zindawonye zizama ukuqhamuka nesu lokuguqula izinto, kodwa azikwazi ukwenza lokho. Bese, igundane elincane liqhamuka necebo elidinga ube nesibindi, elithatha amasonto amabili ukuze zizigcine ziphephile kuBhubesi.

- Xoxani ngale mibuzo nezingane ezindadlana:
  - Uma umuntu kuthiwa "mkhulu" lokhu kuchaza ukuthi unamandla. Ngabe ucabanga ukuthi ubani obenamandla kakhulu endabeni: uBhubesi noma uGundane? (Ungakhohlwa ukwabelana nabanye ngezizathu zombono wakho!)
  - Ngabe yisiphi isifundo/yiziphi izifundo ocabanga ukuthi sifundiswa/zifundiswa yile ndaba?
- Sebenzisani amapuleti ekhadibhodi noma ephepha, upende kanye nentambo ukuze nakhe amamaski abalingiswa abasendabeni. Bese nilingisa indaba nifake amamaski enu.
- Bhala umdlalo usebenzisa umbhalo osendabeni – bese ulingisa lokhu nabangani!

Ingabe ukhona onjengami?

Le yindaba yesilwane esincane esifuna ofana naso, kodwa-ke sibe sesithola ukuthi sona sehlukile. Yindaba emnandi futhi elula egubha indlela omunye nomunye kithina ahluke ngayo kwabanye.

- Ngesikhathi nifunda incwadi ndawonye, xoxani ngezilwane ezahlukene kanye nalokho ezikwenzayo ezithombeni.
- Bheka isithombe esisekhaveni nezingane zakho bese nixoxa ngokuthi singayibona kanjani indlela esibukeka ngayo emanzini kanye nasezibukweni. Vumela izingane zakho ukuthi zizibuke ngokucophelela esibukweni bese ziyazithokozisa ngokuzenza sengathi zizichazela umuntu ongakaze azibone phambilini.
- Khuthaza izingane zakho ukuthi zidwebe izithombe zazo bese zifaka namagama asekhasini le-14 lendaba nezithombe zazo.

Umseshi ohamba phambili

Mamo! UBella akamtholi ndawo uNoodle! Abangani bakaBella bamsiza ukumfuna bagcine sebezithele phezu kokubamangaza kakhulu – uNoodle nomngani wakhe, uTrixie, kanye nemidlwane emithathu emisha!

- Mhlawumbe uBella bekumele enze iphosta ethi: "Okulahlekile" ukuze uma kukhona othola uNoodle ezokwazi ukuthi umbuyisela kuphi! Yenza le phosta ethi: "Okulahlekile" epheshaneni. Khumbula ukufaka isithombe sikaNoodle kanye nenombolo yocingo kamama kaBella, kanye nanoma yini enye ocabanga ukuthi ingabaluleka ukuthi omunye umuntu ayazi.
- Cabanga ngamagama emidlwane kaNoodle noTrixie. Bese udweba isithombe sawo ngamunye, ubhale igama lawo ngaphansi kwesithombe.

Ukuze uthole eminye imisebenzi yezindaba, yana ekhasini le-16.

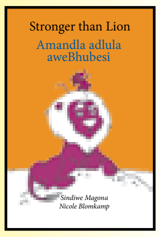
Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

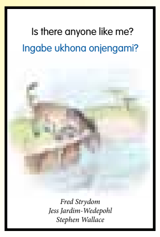
1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement.
2. The sheet with pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 on it makes up one book. The sheet with pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 on it makes up the other book.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.

   a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.

   b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.

   c) Cut along the red dotted lines.





Zenzele ezakho izincwadi EZIMBILI ozozisika uzikhiphe bese uzigcina

1. Khipha ikhasi lesi-5 ukuya kwele-12 alesi sithasiselo.
2. Iphepha elinamakhasi 5, 6, 11 kanye nele-12 lenza incwadi eyodwa. Iphepha elinamakhasi 7, 8, 9 kanye nele-10 lenza enye incwadi.
3. Sebenzisa iphepha ngalinye ukuze wenze incwadi. Landela imiyalelo engezansi ukuze wenze incwadi ngayinye.

   a) Songa iphepha libe nguhhafu ngokulandela umugqa wamachashazi amnyama.

   b) Lisonge libe nguhhafu futhi ulandele umugqa oluhlaza okotshani.

   c) Sika ulandele umugqa wamachashazi abomvu.

Drive your imagination

Stronger than Lion

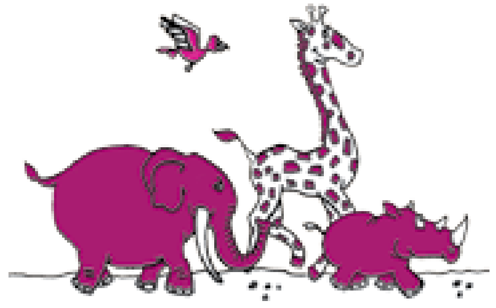
Amandla adlula aweBhubesi

Sindiwe Magona
Nicole Blomkamp

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 ...



davidphilip

Trading as **New Africa Books**

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, Tshivenda and Setswana from Exclusive Books, Bargain Books and all good bookstores countrywide.

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

Nal'ibali – It starts with a story...

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Drive your imagination

"WHAAT?" Lion roared. "Wha-at did you say?"

And, although Little Mouse trembled in her shoes, she made her voice as brave as she could and said, "I beg your pardon, My Lord, I am merely the messenger."

"Where is this animal you say is stronger than Mighty Lion?" Lion asked. But, before Little Mouse could answer, he ordered her to take him to that animal.

Little Mouse said, "Sir, this animal has also expressed a wish of seeing you."

So they set off, Mighty Lion following Little Mouse. She led him to a cave she knew was nearby. It was the perfect place for her plan.

When they got there, she said, "Your Lordship may enter. I will wait just outside the door. The animal stronger than Your Lordship said the meeting must be between just the two of you."

Growling, Mighty Lion entered the cave. As soon as he was safely inside, Little Mouse closed the mouth of the cave with a huge rock she'd put nearby for that purpose. It was dark inside. Mighty Lion narrowed his eyes the better to see. But, hard as he looked, he could not see anyone in the cave.

After a while, in a loud voice Mighty Lion asked, "Where is this goofy animal I will crush to bits and pieces? When I'm through with him, I swear not even his mother will recognise him!"

When Little Mouse heard Mighty Lion's question, she put her mouth to a little crack between the rock and the door of the cave and said, "Patience, Your Lordship. This animal will soon show itself."

By now, the sun was setting. Soon, night fell and Little Mouse went home for the night. She left Lion fuming and growling in the cave.

At the crack of dawn, the next day, Little Mouse was back at the door of the cave. Again she put her little mouth to the little crack between the rock and the door of the cave.

"INTONI?" labhodla labuza uBhubesi. "Kade uthini?"

Yize uGundane naye wayecishe wafa ukwethuka, kodwa wazama ukwenza ukuthi iphimbo lakhe lizwakale lipholile litshengisa isibindi, waphendula wathi, "Ungixolele bandla Nkosi yami, ukuthi nje mina ngiyisigijimi, isithunywa esincane."

"Siphi lesi silwane okhuluma ngaso, othi sinamandla ukwedlula mina, uBhubesi onamandla!?" ebuza. Engekaphenduli nakuphendula uGundane, uBhubesi wayesemyalele ukuthi amuse lapho kukhona lesi silwane asishoyo.

UGundane wathi, "Mhlonishwa onamandla, naso lesi silwane sifisa kakhulu ukukubona."

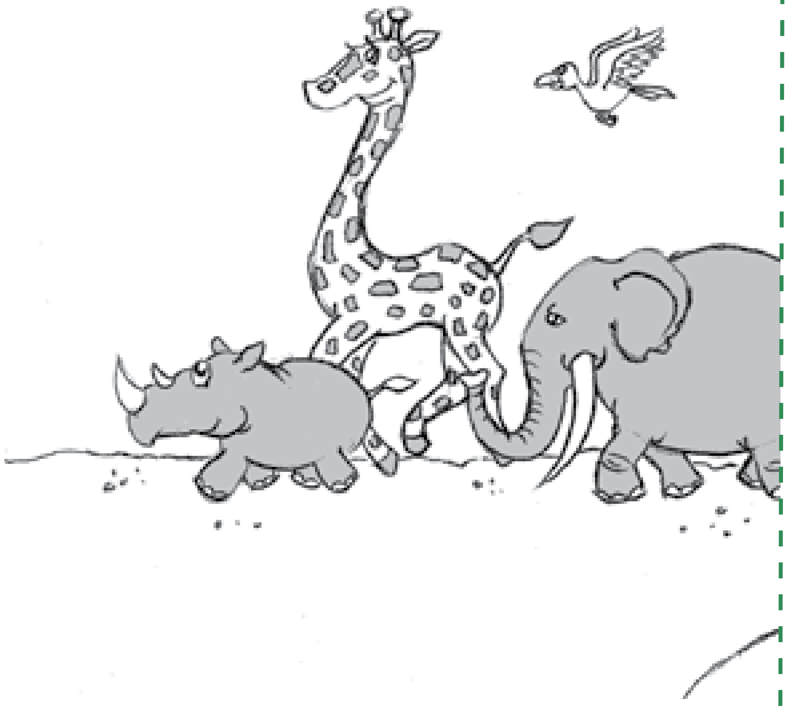
Basuka-ke bahamba, uBhubesi onamandla elandela uGundane elincane. Waholela uBhubesi emgedeni thizeni ayewazi oseduzane, okwakuyindawo enhle impela ukufeza icebo lakhe.

Ma befika lapho uGundane wathi, "INkosi yami isingangena manje, mina ngizolinda la ngaphandle. Isiqhwaga lesi sesilwane esinamandla adlula awakho sithe kungakuhle nihlangane nobabili kuphela."

Efile yintukuthelo, wangena kulowo mgede uBhubesi. Lapho esengene kahle ngaphakathi, uGundane wadudula itshe elikhulu elalihlezi lilindele ukwenza lo msebenzi eduze komlomo womgede. Kwakumnyama bhuqe ngaphakathi. UBhubesi elinamandla wacijisa amehlo akhe ezama ukubona. Amadevu alo ama aqonda, labhodlela phansi lilungele ukuhlasela. Kodwa noma ezama kangako, akabonanga lutho kulowo mgede.

Emuva kwesikhathi, ngezwi elikhulu, uBhubesi wabuza, "Siphi lesi silinyana sesilwane engizosiphihliza ngisenze izicucu? La ngiqede khona ngaso, ngiyafunga, unina uqobo akasoze asazi nokuthi singubani!"

Wawuzwa umbuzo weBhubesi uGundane, wasondeza impumulo yakhe ecijile phakathi kwezikhala zamatshe, wathi, "Bekezela, yiba nesineke Nkosi enkulu, lesi silwane sizoziveza kungekudala."



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.

UGundane elincane wayazi ukuthi isikhathi sasifikile. Wagingqa kakhulu itshe lelo elisabhola elalivale umgede, langena. Ngaphakathi lathola isilwane esinamandla silele kalusizana, siyisikhumba nje namathambo.

UBhubesi wayengakwazi ngisho ukuphakamisa ikhanda lakhe. Ngendlela ayelambe futhi ome ngayo. Amandla akhe onke ayesemshiyile. Empeleni wayengakwazi ngisho ukusukuma ahambe.

"Akafikanga," kwasho iphimbo eliyisihosha, elisholo phansi lingenakuzethemba.

"Wenze iphutha, Nkosi enkulu," kusho uGundane elincane, egxumagxuma ejabule. Ubuso bakhe bucishe buhlukane phakathi ukumamatheka. "Useze wafika, yebo ufike ngempela!" wakwitiza uGundane elincane.

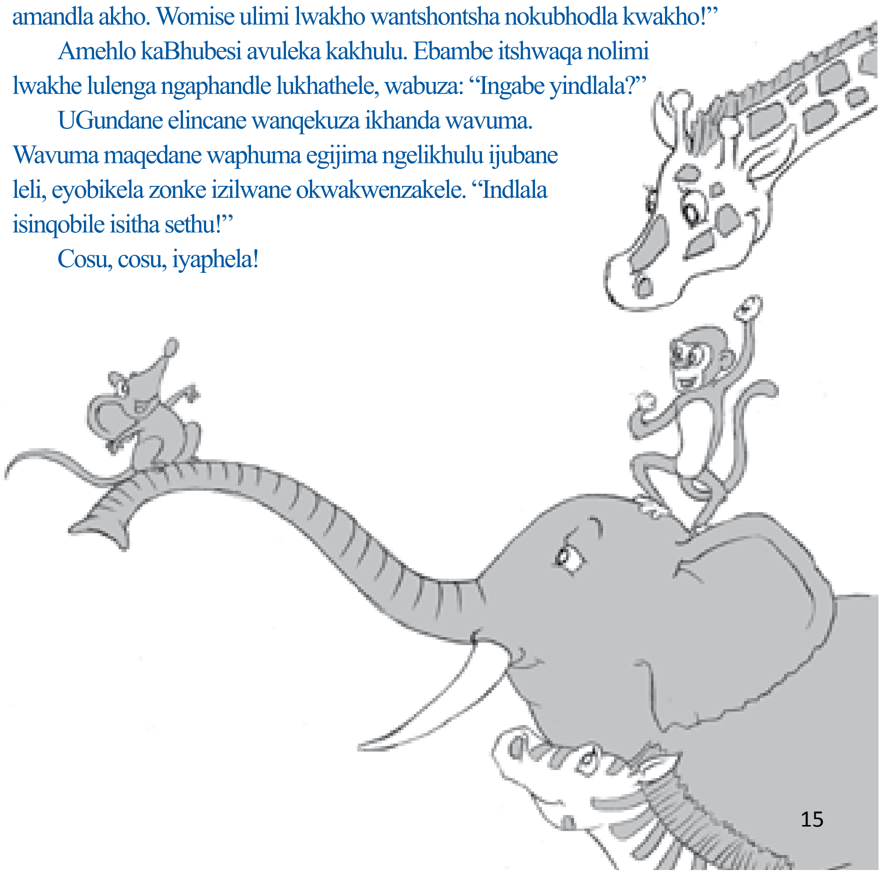
UBhubesi waphendula amehlo akhe wawabhekisa ngapha nangapha. "Uphi pho?"

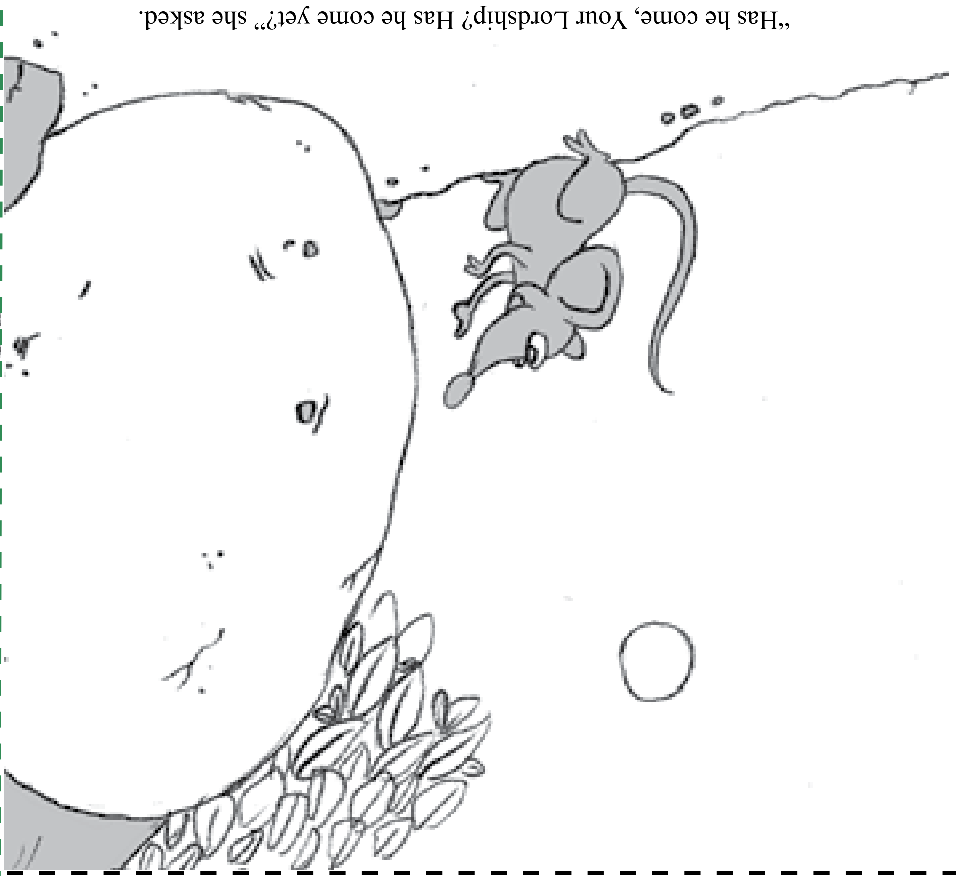
"Uyena lo okugcine uhlezi kule ndawo okuyona manje. Uwathathe onke amandla akho. Womise ulimi lwakho wantshontsha nokubhodla kwakho!"

Amehlo kaBhubesi avuleka kakhulu. Ebambe itshwaqa nolimi lwakhe lulenga ngaphandle lukhathele, wabuza: "Ingabe yindlala?"

UGundane elincane wanqekuza ikhanda wavuma. Wavuma maqedane waphuma egijima ngelikhulu ijubane leli, eyobikela zonke izilwane okwakwenzakele. "Indlala isinqobile isitha sethu!"

Cosu, cosu, iyaphela!





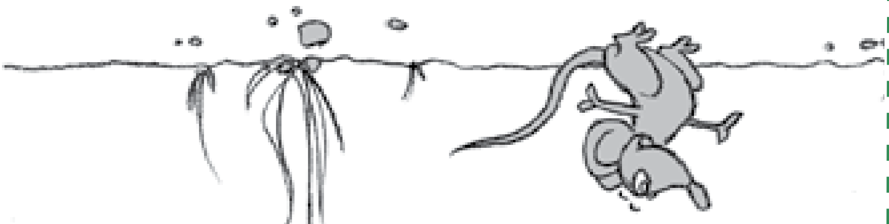
"Has he come, Your Lordship? Has he come yet?" she asked.

"The snivelling coward must have run away as soon as he heard my 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."

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.

Day after day, the same thing happened. Mighty Lion roared and 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.



Uthe ungaphela umhlangano, uGundane elincane wanikela khona emhumeni kaBhubesi. UBhubesi onamandla wamangala kakhulu ukubona le nto encanyana yesilwane izombikela ukuthi zitheni ezinye izilwane emhlanganweni na.

"Ngabe bathumele umagangane weqili elingu Mpungushe okungenani," ezicabangela, "ngisho phela noma iDube, iNdlulamithi, noma iNdlovu nezinye zizibona zibaluleke kangangoba azisakwazi ukuzokhuleka enkosini."

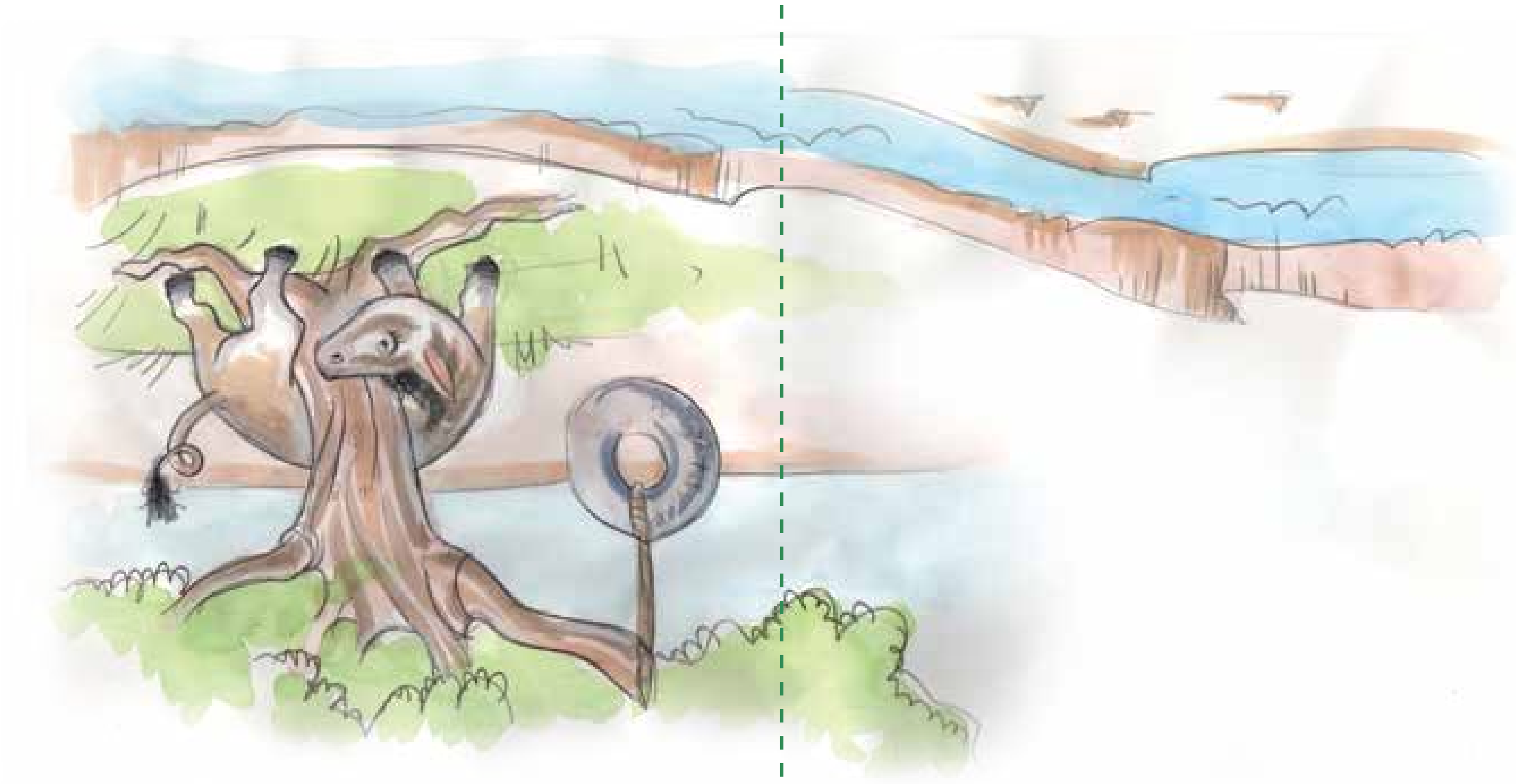
"Mlayezo muni-ke owuphethe?" uBhubesi wambuza uGundane.

Wayemangaliswe nawukuthi lalimbuka njo emehlweni lingakhombisi nokuncane ukwesaba lokhu, nakancu!

"O, Wena Omkhulukazi!" washo uGundane ekhothama eshona phansi.

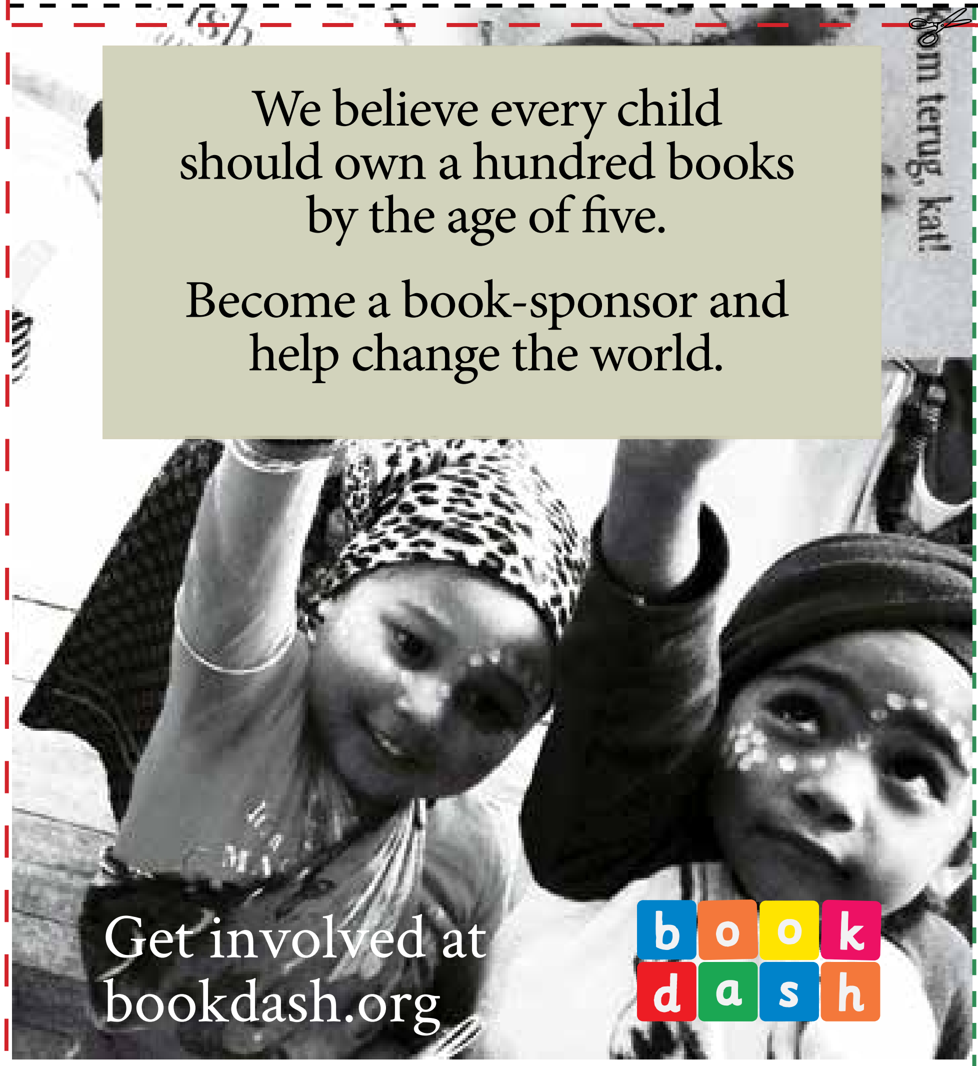
"Ngikuphathele ezimangalisayo izindaba, Nkosi yami. Kukhona isilwane, nathi ebesingasazi, isiqhwaga sesilwane esinamandla amakhulukazi, esidlula wena Nkosi enkulu."

Wathi angakuzwa lokho uBhubesi wabhavumula wabhodla kakhulu. Kwanyakaza imithi nezihlahla ehlathini, nezilwane zabaleka zaphuthuma zayocasha emigodini, ezidlekeni nakwezinye izindawo eziphephile ezaziseduzane ezazingamakhaya azo noma awezinye izilwane. Isilwane nesilwane, esikhulu nesincane, sabalekela ukuthi sibe kude le noBhubesi onamandla. Konke lokhu zakwenza ngelikhulu ijubane. Loko kubhodla kwakusho ukuthi ucasuke kakhulu uBhubesi akekho nobani-ke ofisa ukuba seduze kweBhubesi elicasukile.



Sengibheke yonke indawo
ukuze ngithole omunye oyimi.
Ngehle ngaya epaki ukuze
ngibheke ngemuva kwezihlahla.

I've looked and looked
everywhere to find another
me. I went down to the park
and looked behind the trees.



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Drive your imagination

Is there anyone like me?

Ingabe ukhona onjengami?

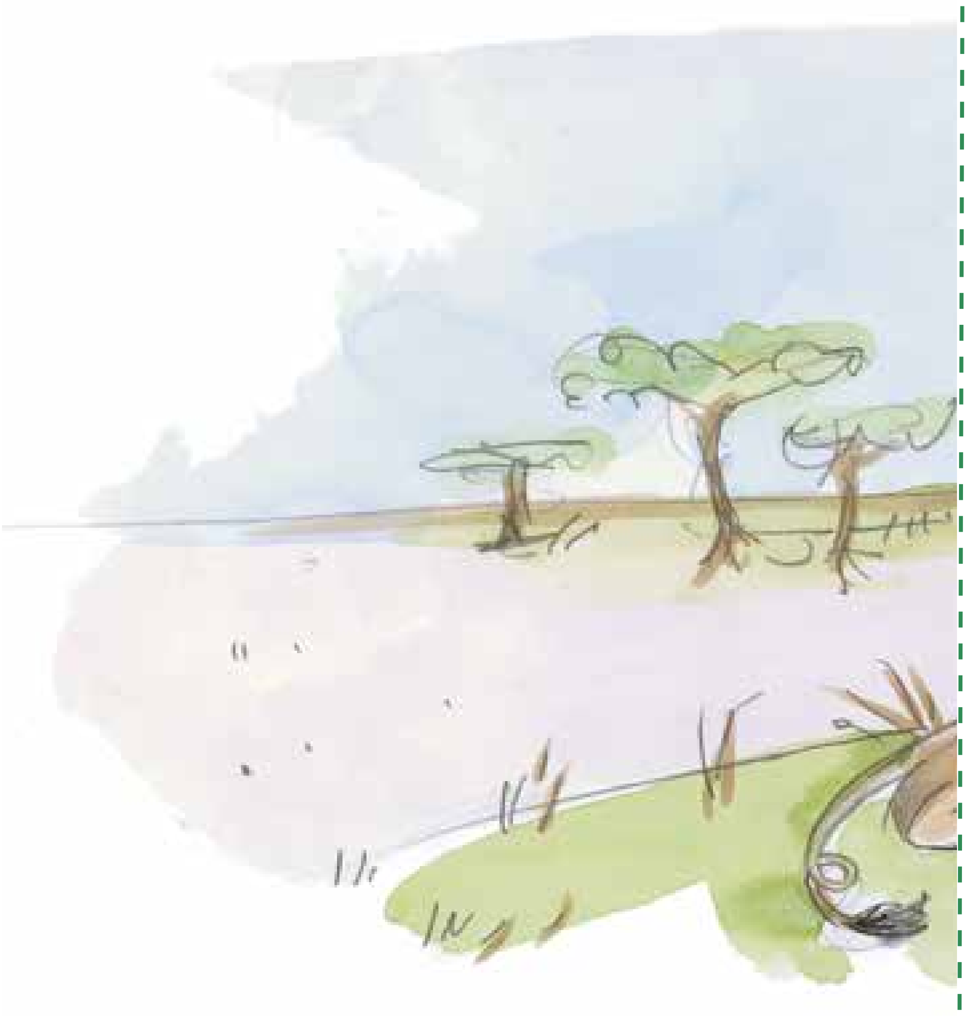
Fred Strydom
Jess Jardim-Wedepohl
Stephen Wallace

… futhi ongakwazi ukwenza
engingakwazi ukukwenza.

… and can't do what I can't.

Ngibheke ndawo zonke,
phansi naphezulu …

I looked around, up and down …



I wonder if there's another me
somewhere in the world.

But not just me, don't you see?
There's also only one of you!

Kodwa akumina ngedwa,
awuboni yini? Munye
kuphela onguwe!

Who can do what I do …

Okwazi ukwenza engikwenzayo …

… at every single face.

… kulobo nalobo buso.

There's only one me in the world! I'm special, oh it's true!

Munye kuphela oyimi emhlabeni! Ngikhethekile, futhi kuyiqiniso lokho!

Kazi ngabe ukhona yini omunye oyimi emhlabeni.

And even has
my curls.

Futhi nonezinwele
ezigoqene
njengezami.

Someone with my
eyes and my ears.

Umuntu onamehlo
kanye nezindlebe zami.

Who even has
my laugh.

Ohleka njengami imbala.

I couldn't find another me
in any single place.

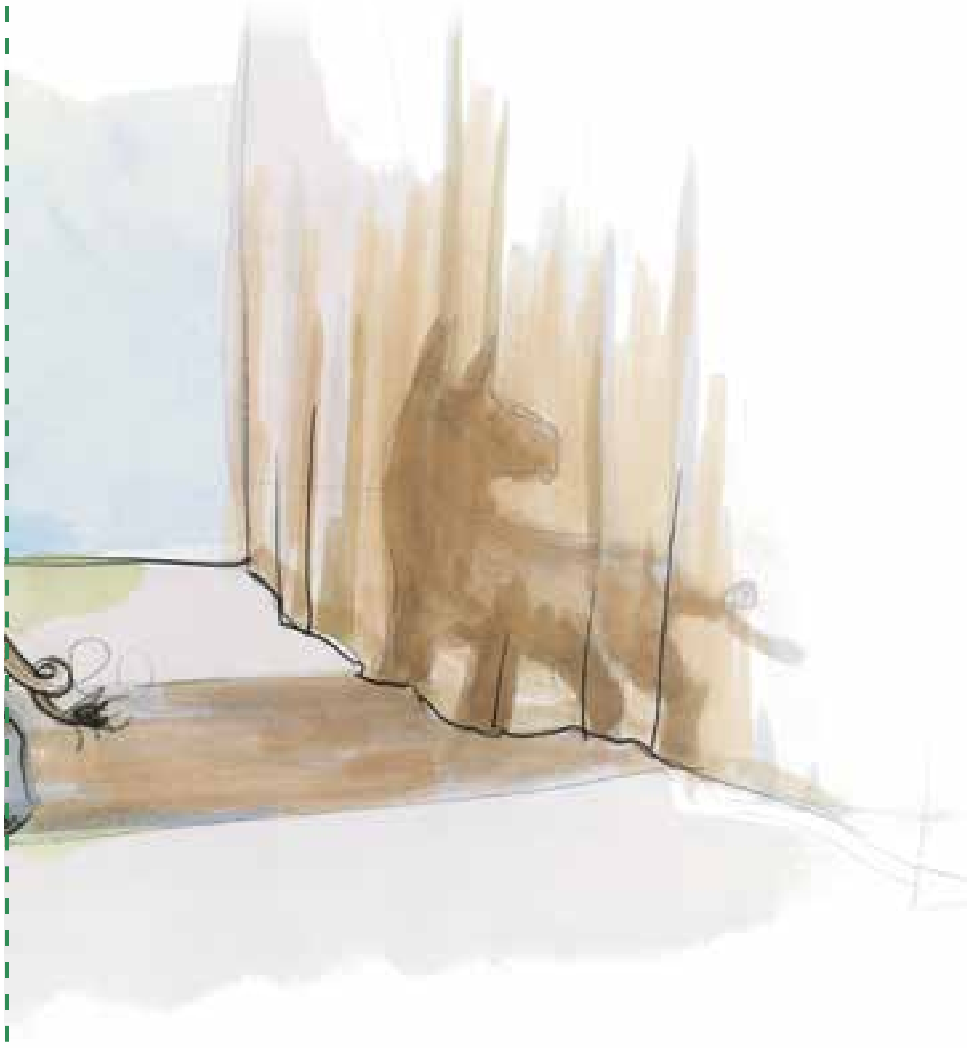
Who looks the same …

Ofana ncimishi …

… and talks the same.

… futhi okhuluma njengami.

Angimtholanga ndawo
omunye oyimi.



"He did not come," said a small, hoarse and hesitant voice.

"You made a mistake, My Lordship," said Little Mouse, jumping up and down with glee. "He did come! Yes, he did!"

Mighty Lion rolled his dull eyes from side to side. "Where is he?"

"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!"

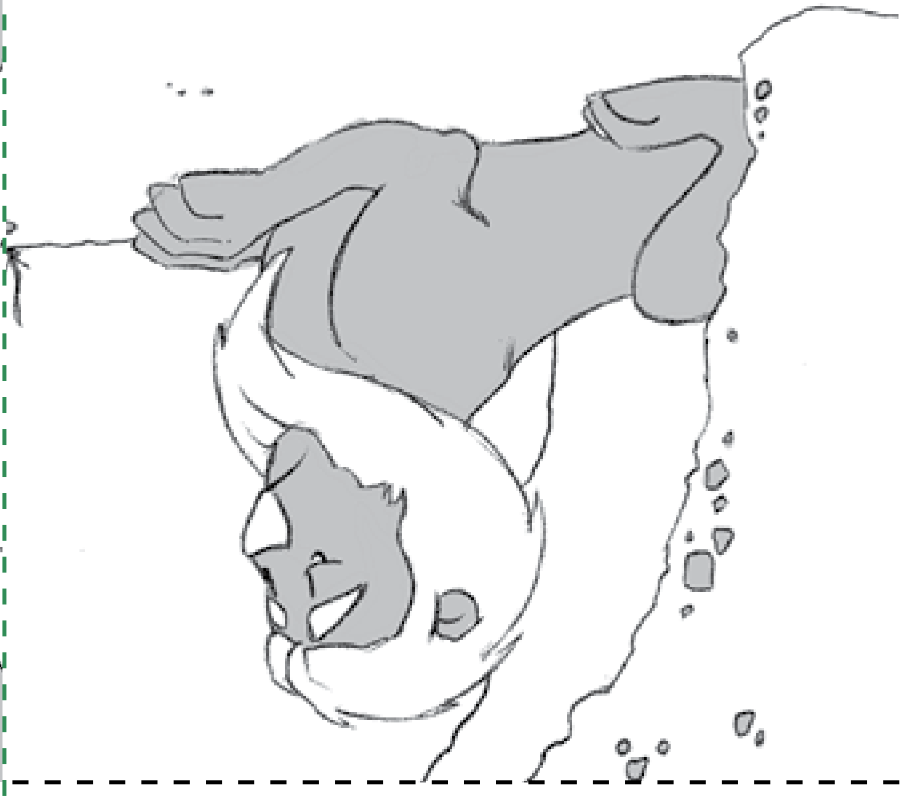
And so, this tale ends!

Kwesukesukela: izilwane zasehlathini zanquma ukuthi sekukudala kudingeka ukuba kube nomhlangano. Lona kwakungeke kube ngumhlangano owejwayelekile nje, futhi kwakubaluleke kakhulu ukuba leso naleso silwane sibe khona.

Zonke izilwane zamenywa ukuba khona. Yebo zonke, ngaphandle kukaBhubesi. Yena wayengamenyiwe, ngani ngoba umhlangano lona wawuzobe ukhuluma ngaye. UBhubesi yena wazicabangela ukuthi akamenyiwe ngoba eyiNkosi yezilwane. Izilwanyana lezi ezingelutho zazizomthumelela umlayezo noma zimlethele izindaba phela ngemuva komhlangano.

"Mhlawumbe," kucabanga yena uBhubesi, "lezi zilima zezilwanyana zifuna okungethwesa isicoco njengeNkosi phela. Futhi bekufanele ukuba kade zakwenza nje lokho!"

Ekugcinaneni lwafika lona usuku lomhlangano, lilihle, libalele nasebukhweni bezinja. Kwakungekho ngisho elilodwa ifu esibhakabhakeni, kungekho moya obhudlayo ongase uphazamise nofudu lusazihambela noma uphazamise amaphiko ejuba lisandiza kamnandi. Zeza zonke izilwane, ezincane nezinkulu. UNdlovu wabingelela wabe esewuvula ngokusemthethweni umhlangano. Izilwane zazicasuke zigane unwabu!

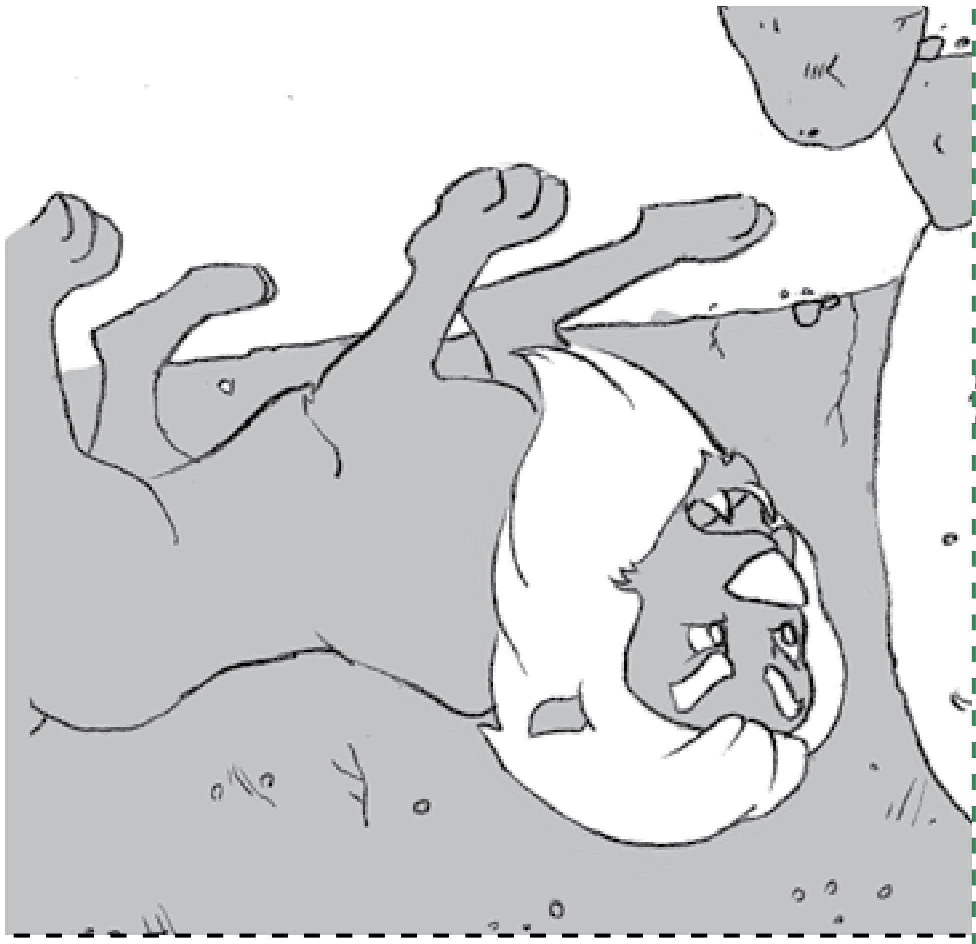


Straight after the meeting, Little Mouse went to Lion's den. Mighty Lion was astonished to see this little thing that had come to tell him what the animals had decided at the meeting.

"What message do you bring?" Mighty Lion asked the mouse.

"O, Mighty One!" Little Mouse said, bowing low. "I bring rather surprising news, My Lord. 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.



Lase liyoshona manje ilanga. Lithe lapho lishona khona, uGundane wagoduka wayozilalela. Wamshiya uBhubesi ethukuthele eqhuma lapho emgedeni. Wayeshona le nale ehla enyuka nobude bomgede, efunana nalesi silwane esasicabanga ukuthi sinamandla ukwedlula yena.

Kuthe entathakusa, ngosuku olulandelayo, uGundane elincane wabuyela khona emlonyeni womgede. Waphinde wafaka umlonyana wakhe esikhaleni esiphakathi kwamatshe.

"Useze wafika lo feleba Nkosi yami? Usefikile?" ebuza.

"Lesi thingithingi segwala sibaleke sayoshona lapho sizwa ukugquma kwami okunamandla," kuphendula uBhubesi. "Ngizule ngalifuna phansi naphezulu. Vula umnyango manje ungidedele ngiphume. Ngilambile futhi ngomile."

"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.

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

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

Then Elephant asked, "Does anyone have any suggestions?"

Oh, there were many suggestions, I can tell you. But, as fast as they came, they were discarded.

Finally, after many plans had been suggested and rejected, a small voice said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I have a plan!" All eyes turned towards the sound and everyone was surprised to see who had spoken those brave words.

Little Mouse said her piece. "To show you how much I believe in my plan, I shall carry it out all by myself."

"You?" Giraffe bellowed, unable to stop the giggles. "What do you think you can do to Mighty Lion?"

Now, the other animals joined in and laughed at Little Mouse. Little Mouse narrowed her little eyes. Her little tail trembled and quivered. She would show these big animals. She would show them – yes, she would.

Finally, the laughter stopped. The animals saw there was no other plan on the table. They had to accept Little Mouse's plan.

"All I ask for is two weeks in which to carry out my plan," Little Mouse said. By then, she said, she would have tamed Mighty Lion and he would no longer gobble them down at will.

"Bangane," kusho uMpisi ngolaka, "ukuhala kukaBhubesi kuyisilingo! Usuku nosuku abaningi bethu bayafa, ukuze kugcwale lomgodi ongeke ugcwale oyisisu sakhe. Uyasisobozela ufuna ukusiqeda ngesivinini esedlula indlela esingazala ngayo amachwane amasha. Adlule lapho adle nezingane zethu. Azitholi nethuba lokuthi zikhulakhule kancane!"

"Kungekudala kobe kungasekho noyedwa osele kithina," kusho uBhejane. Kwaphendula uNkawu enswininiza, "Khona maduze, maduze nje, sesobe singumlando! Umlando!"

Umbuzo omkhulu wosuku kwakuwukuthi, *Sizovelaphi isisombululo sokuqeda lolu bhubhane?*

UNdlovu wabuza wathi: "Ingabe ukhona ongasipha isu elithize?"

Hhayi bandla ayemaningi amacebo, ngiyakutshela. Kodwa, noma ayeza eshesha, ayephinde aphele engasizanga muntu.

Ekugcineni, ngemuva kwamacebo amaningi ephonswa ngapha nangapha aphinde afe namthanyana, kwezwakala izwi elincane lithi, "Bafowethu nodadewethu, nanti elami icebo." Onke amehlo aphenduka efuna ukubona ukuthi ingabe ngubani lo okhulume lawo magama akhombisa ukuba nesibindi kangaka.

Kuthe noma ebona bonke lobo buso bunonya, uGundane elincane walibeka phambi kwabo icebo lakhe, "Ukukhombisa ukuthi ngilithembe kangakanani leli cebo lami, ngizolenza ukuthi lisebenze ngingedwa zwi."

UNdlulamithi wehluleka ukuzibamba, wabuza, "Wena?" washo ngezwi elimemezayo futhi egigitheka. "Uyisikhunjana nje esinomsila, namehlo amancane ukwedlula ijikijolo elincane, ucabanga ukuthi yini ongayenza kulesiya sigansonso sikaBhubesi?"

Manje zonke ezinye izinyamazane zangenelela zafa ukuhleka, zihleka uGundane. Ezinye zazinamazwi aphezulu, ezinye zigigitheka, zikhonkotha, zinsinsitheka zenza yonke imisindo ongayicabanga – zonke zikhombisa ukukhohlakala kokuphendula omunye ihlaya. UGundane elincane wanciphisa amehlo akhe. Wayezimisele ngayo yonke into ewuboya obusemzimbeni nasesikhumbeni sakhe. Umsila wakhe lo wathuthumela waqhaqhazela. Wayezozibonisa lezi zilwane ezinkulu. Wayezozibonisa, yebo zazizomazi kahle!

Kwagcina sekuphelile ukuhleka. Izinyamazane zabona ukuthi alikho elinye icebo elalingazinqobela isitha sazo. Kwakumele zilamkele isu eliza noGundane elincane. Zaziphoqekile ukuthi zilamukele.Yayingekho enye indlela.

"Engikucelayo nje, amasonto amabili okuthi ngiwuphothule umsebenzi wami, isu lami liphumelele," washo uGundane. Lapho eseqedile ngaye, uBhubesi wayengasobe aphinde azenzele nje adle ezinye izilwane ngokuthanda kwakhe.

As the days passed, Mighty Lion grew more and more impatient. His strength weakened. His hunger grew, as did his thirst. But his pride did not grow any less. He still wanted to teach his challenger a lesson.

Each day, Lion's roar grew weaker. Weaker and weaker it grew until, one day, Little Mouse had to put her little mouth to the crack and shout with all her might, "My Lordship, has he not come yet?"

Then she listened for Mighty Lion's reply. But none came. Little Mouse strained as hard as she could and listened for any sound from inside the cave, and she finally heard a shuffling, a huffing and a puffing. After a while, there came a sound – Mighty Lion was trying to roar, but had no strength to do so at all.

Little Mouse knew the time had come. She quickly rolled back the rock closing the mouth of the cave and she entered. Inside she found the mighty one huddled in a sorry bundle – all skin and bones. He could not even lift his own head. That is how dehydrated and famished he was. All his strength had left him. Of course, he was in no condition to walk at all.

Kodwa uGundane elincane wathi, "Bekezela Nkosi enkulu, ngiyakholwa ukuthi lesi silwane sesiyeza. Kungekudala sizobe sesimi lapho eduze kwakho."

Laphinde lashona ilanga, kwahlwa. Kwaphinde kwasa futhi.

Usuku nosuku, lwafika lwadlula kuyiso leso. UBhubesi elinamandla wabhodla, wabubula, walinda, elindele ukufika kwesitha sakhe. Kodwa lutho ukuqhamuka isilwane esasimphonsele inselele. UGundane walokhu emkhuthazile ukuthi makalinde, emthembisa ukuthi sekuzoba elamanqamu.

Ngokudlula kwezinsuku uBhubesi wayengasenaso isikhathi salo msangano.

Waphelelwa ngamandla. Yabhoka indlala, angisakhulumi-ke ngokoma. Kodwa ukuzigabisa nokuzethemba akuphelanga. Wayesafisa ukuyifundisa isifundo le nswelaboya! Wayezomudephudephuna abe yizicucu ezingasoze zaziwa muntu. Usuku nosuku, umgqumo kaBhubesi waba buthakathaka. Walokhu eye ngokuya eba buthakathaka, kwaze kwathi ngelinye ilanga, uGundane wamemeza kakhulu efake umlomo wakhe phakathi kwesikhala ematsheni: "Nkosi enkulu, asikafiki namanje?"

UGundane walalela, walalelisisa ethi uzozwa umgqumo onamandla wempendulo kaBhubesi. Kodwa lutho, ayibuyanga impendulo. UGundane elincane wabeka indlebe ezama ngakho konke ukuthi ezwe okusamsindo noma umnyakazo ovela phakathi emgedeni. Waze ekugcineni wezwa ukushixiza, ukuhefuzela nokufixiza. Ngemuva kwesikhathi, kwezwakala umsindo, omncane osakukhwehlela okumboziwe okunokwesaba endaweni enezihlwele. Lowo kwakungumsindo kaBhubesi elinamandla. Wayezama ukubhodla, kepha wayengenawo nasokhezweni amandla okukwenza loko.

The best detective

By Wendy Hartmann Illustrations by Rico

Knock! Knock! Knock!

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

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

"What's wrong?" asked Neo. Bella cried even louder.

Gogo ran up to the front door. "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 go."

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."

"And we should all meet somewhere," said Hope. "Then we'll all know what is going on."

"We'll phone each other once while we're looking, and then we can meet at the shopping centre," said Josh.

"Can we go now?" asked Bella.

"Poor, Bella," said Mbali, patting Bella's hand.

Everyone left to search for Noodle. Hope pushed Josh's wheelchair along the pavement. They all called Noodle's name.

"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.

"Noo … Noodle …" said a small voice.

They all turned to look.

"Noodle!" said Mbali again. She pointed at the corner shop.

"Mbali?" said Gogo. "Where?"

"There's nothing there, Mbali," said Neo.

"NOOOOOODLE!" shouted Mbali.

"We should go and have a look," said Hope.

They walked to the shop on the corner. It sold bags and bangles, shirts and shoes. They all crowded in the doorway.

"In! In!" said Mbali pointing to inside the shop.

"Hello," said the owner. "Welcome. Come inside. Let me just give my friend a biscuit, then I will help you."

"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.

Nal'ibali It starts with a story...
Drive your imagination

Ikhona lendaba

Nal'ibali
Kuqala ngendaba exoxwayo...

Umseshi ohamba phambili

NguWendy Hartmann ✶ Imidwebo nguRico

Ngqo! Ngqo! Ngqo!

"Neo!" kusho uGogo. "Ngicela ubheke ukuthi ubani ongqongqozayo."

UNeo wagijima waya emnyango ongaphambili. Ngesikhathi evula emnyango wabona uBella nomama wakhe. UBella wayekhala.

"Kwenzenjani?" kubuza uNeo. UBella wakhala kakhulu-ke manje.

UGogo wagijima waya emnyango ongaphambili. "Ngenani. Ukhalelani uBella?"

"UNoodle," kusho umama kaBella. "Unyamalele."

"Akekho uNoodle," kufumfutha uBella. "Ngabe nike nambona?"

"Ake nihlale phansi," kusho uGogo, enikeza uBella iphepha lokuzesula. "Sula izinyembezi zakho. Sizokusiza. Neo, ngicela ushayele ucingo uJosh bese umcela ukuthi eze la."

Ngesikhathi uNeo eshayela uJosh ucingo, uGogo wahlala esofeni phakathi kukaBella nomama wakhe.

"Ugcine nini ukubona uNoodle?" kubuza uGogo.

"Namhlanje ekuseni," kusho uBella. "Ubedlala ensimini."

"Njalo nje uba sekhaya ngesikhathi sesidlo sasemini," kusho umama kaBella.

"Gogo," kusho uNeo, "uJosh uthe yena noHope bazoza la ngokushesha okukhulu."

"Sizokwenzenjani, Gogo?" kubuza uBella efumfutha kakhulu.

"Sizoqhamuka neqhinga uma sekufike uJosh noHope. Okwamanje sizophuza itiye sonke."

Akuphelanga sikhathi kwezwakala okunye ukungqongqoza! *Ngqo! Ngqo! Ngqo!* emnyango. UHope wadudula wangenisa inqola kaJosh ehamba ngamasondo.

"Ungakhathazeki, Bella, sizomthola uNoodle," kusho uJosh. "Sizoba abaseshi sonke, futhi sizomfuna."

"Yebo," kusho uGogo. "Manje-ke ake usisize ngokungasinika umkhondo, Bella. Ake usitshele ukuthi uthanda ukuyaphi uNoodle."

UBella kanye nomama wakhe babatshela izindawo uNoodle athanda ukudlalela kuzo nokuzivakashela.

"Kuhle," kusho uGogo. "Ngizofaka uMbali esitulweni sakhe esiqhutshwayo bese sonke sihamba siyomfuna."

"Mhlawumbe kumele sishone ezindaweni ezahlukene. Kuzoshesha lokho," kuphakamisa uJosh. "Gogo, uma wena, uNeo noMbali nehla ngoRiver Road, uBella nomama wakhe bazobe sebeyobheka ekhaya kanye nasensimini futhi. Bazobe-ke sebenyuka ngoSchool Street. UHope nami sizokwehla ngoSambals Street."

"Umqondo omuhle lowo," kusho uGogo. "Usuzwakala njengomseshi wangempela, Josh."

"Kanti kuzodingeka ukuthi sonke sihlangane endaweni ethile," kusho uHope. "Sizobe sesizwa-ke ukuthi kwenzakalani."

"Sizoshayelana izingcingo kanye nje ngesikhathi sisamfuna, sizobe sesihlangana enxanxatheleni yezitolo," kusho uJosh.

"Ngabe sesingahamba manje?" kubuza uBella.

"Nxese bandla, Bella," kusho uMbali, embambatha isandla sikaBella.

Wonke umuntu wahamba wayofuna uNoodle. UHope wadudula inqola kaJosh ehamba ngamasondo onqenqemeni lomgwaqo lokuhamba abantu. Bobabili babememeza igama likaNoodle.

"Akekho kulo mgwaqo," kusho uJosh. Kusenjalo kwakhala ucingo lwakhe. "UGogo," etshela uHope, "Ngethemba ukuthi bamtholile uNoodle."

UHope wayengezwa ukuthi uGogo wayethini kuJosh, kodwa wayezwa uMbali ememeza kakhulu ethi, "Phinki! Phinki! Phinki!" ezwakala ngemuva.

"Cha," kusho uJosh ngesikhathi eseqede ukukhuluma noGogo, "abakamtholi uNoodle." Lwaphinde lwakhala futhi ucingo lwakhe. "Lowo-ke bekunguBella nomama wakhe. Abakamtholi nabo."

"Sizokwenzenjani manje?" kubuza uHope.

"Kuzomele sihambe siyohlangana nabo bonke enxanxatheleni yezitolo," kusho uJosh.

Emizuzwini embalwa ngemva kwalokho wonke umuntu wayesemi phambi kwenxanxathela yezitolo. Amehlo kaBella ayebomvu tebhu ukukhala. UGogo wayebukeka ekhathazekile.

"Ngabe kumele sihambe sibuyele emuva siyobheka futhi?" kubuza uGogo.

"Noo … Noodle …" kusho izwi elincane.

Baphenduka bonke babheka.

"Noodle!" kusho uMbali futhi. Wayekhomba esitolo esisekhoneni.

"Mbali," kusho uGogo. "Kuphi?"

"Akukho lutho laphaya, Mbali," kusho uNeo.

"NOOOOOODLE!" kumemeza uMbali.

"Ake sihambe siyobheka," kusho uHope.

Bahamba baya esitolo esisekhoneni. Sasidayisa izikhwama namabhengela, amahembe nezicathulo. Bama bonke bavimba ngasemnyango.

"Ngenani! Ngenani!" kusho uMbali ekhomba phakathi esitolo

"Sanibona," kusho umnikazi wesitolo. "Nemukelekile. Ngenani ngaphakathi. Ake nginike umngani wami ibhisikidi, ngizonisiza."

"NOODLE!" besho bonke kanyekanye.

UBella wagijima wayosingatha uNoodle. "Ubukuphi? Besikufuna yonke indawo." UNoodle watshikizisa umsila wase ekhotha ubuso bakhe.

"O," kusho umnikazi wesitolo. "Ungowakho. Uyeza azongibingelela ekhaya njalo ekuseni."

✶ Iqhubeka ekhasini le-15.

Drive your imagination

Story corner

From page 13.

"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!"

Gogo, 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.

Everyone started talking at once. Mrs Modise was very happy to meet Noodle's owner. Bella was happy she had found Noodle. Josh and Hope were thinking about the puppies. Neo and Gogo were smiling. Then Neo turned and gave Mbali a big kiss and a hug.

"Mbali," he whispered, "you are the best detective ever."

Mbali giggled. "Pink," she said. "Pink Noodles."

Ikhona lendaba

Kusuka ekhasini le-14.

"Endlini ephinki!" kusho uMbali.

"Yebo. Indlu ephinki esekhoneni eduze kwensimu. Uyeza azodlala nenja yami encane, uTrixie. Ngiyaxolisa uma benikhathazekile. Uyaqala ngqa ukuza esitolo."

Ngesikhathi wonke umuntu esingatha, ephulula futhi embambatha uNoodle, umnikazi wesitolo wabatshela ukuthi igama lakhe kwakunguNkk Modise. Wayesanda kufika edolobheni futhi wayesanda kuvula isitolo sakhe.

"UNoodle waba umngani kaTrixie kusukela ngosuku esafika ngalo la," kusho yena. "Bayadlala njalo nje ekuseni bese uNoodle egoduka. Kodwa bekuwusuku oluhluke kancane lolu lwanamuhla. Namhlanje kwenzeke lokho obekungalindelekile kakhulu, kwadingeka ukuthi ngize noTrixie emsebenzini."

Kusenjalo kwaphuma uMbali esihlalweni sakhe esiqhutshwayo wase eqala ukumemeza.

"NOODLES!"

"Yebo," kusho uNeo, "umtholile."

UBella waqabula izihlathi zikaMbali. "Yebo, ngibonga kakhulu."

"Cha, cha, cha" kumemeza uMbali. "Noodle, Noodle, Noodle! BUKANI!"

UGogo, uNeo, uBella, umama wakhe, uJosh kanye noHope baya lapho okwakume khona uMbali. Bangunga uMbali begqolozele okuthile.

"Yebo," kusho uNkosikazi uModise, "YIYO-KE le nto enkulu ebingalindelekile eyenzekile."

UNoodle wapulukutshela phakathi kwemilenze yawo wonke umuntu wayohlala eduze kukabhasikidi kaTrixie. Wayebukeka eziqhenya kakhulu.

"Bhekani," kusho uMbali, "Noodle, Noodle, Noodle!"

UTrixie wayekubhasikidi nemidlwane emithathu ephinki futhi yomithathu yayifana noNoodle.

Kwakhuluma wonke umuntu kanyekanye. Kwamthokozisa kakhulu uNkk Modise ukuhlangana nabanikazi bakaNoodle. UBella wayethokozile ngokuthola uNoodle. UJosh noHope babecabanga ngemidlwane. UNeo noGogo babemamatheka. UNeo wabe esephenduka eqabula uMbali kakhulu futhi, emsingatha.

"Mbali," kunyenyeza yena, "ungumseshi ohamba phambili."

Wansinsitheka uMbali. "Baphinki," kusho yena. "ONoodles abaphinki!"

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Drive your imagination

Nal'ibali fun
Okokuzithokozisa kwakwaNal'ibali

1.

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.

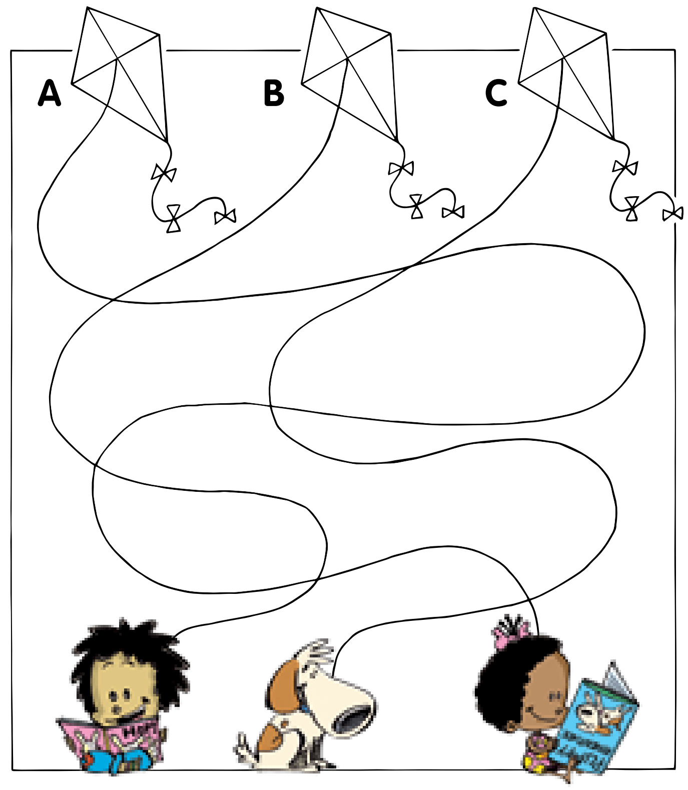
Ngabe ungawathola amagama endabeni ethi *Amandla adlula aweBhubesi* ahambisana nalesi sithombe? Uma usuwatholile yenza lokhu okulandelayo.

1. Sika ukhiphe isithombe bese usinamathelisa phakathi nendawo ekhasini elikhulu.
2. Bhala amagama asendabeni ahambisana naso ngaphansi kwesithombe. Kungenzeka futhi ukuthi ufune ukufaka amabhamuza enkulumo esithombeni.
3. Dweba amabhokisi amabili awubukhulu obufanayo nalesi sithombe – elilodwa kwesokunxele sesithombe kanye nelinye kwesokudla saso.
4. Emabhokisini angenalutho, dweba izithombe ezizokhombisa ukuthi kwenzekeni endabeni ngaphambi kwalesi sithombe kanye nangemva nje kwaso. Bese ukopishela amagama avela endabeni uwabhale ngaphansi lwezithombe zakho.

2.

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.

Ngabe ungasiza? Kuxabene izintambo zekhayithi. Thola ukuthi yiliphi ikhayithi elingelikaBella, uNoodle noMbali. Bese ufaka amakhayithi umbala.



3.

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

Ngabe yiziphi izinhlamvu zamagama ezingekho emagameni abalingiswa bendaba ethi *Umseshi ohamba phambili*?

BELLA
GOGO
HOPE
JOSH
MBALI
NKK MODISE
NEO
NOODLE
TRIXIE

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Answers:

1. 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.
2. A = Mbali, B = Bella, C = Noodle
3. C, F, K, Q, U, V, W, Y, Z

Izimpendulo:

1. Wathi angakuzwa lokho uBhubesi wabhavumula wabhodla kakhulu. Kwanyakaza imithi nezihlahla ehlathini, nezilwane zabaleka zaphuthuma zayocasha emigodini, ezidlekeni nakwezinye izindawo eziphephile ezaziseduzane ezazingamakhaya azo noma awezinye izilwane.
2. A = Mbali, B = Bella, C = Noodle
3. C, F, Q, U, V, W, Y, Z

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Drive your imagination