Literacy: the bad news and the good news

Every year on 8 September the world marks International Literacy Day.

On this day we think about the role that reading and writing plays in our lives, and we remember how far we still have to go to have a world in which everyone is able to read and write. For example:

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) reported in 2015 that there are 757 million people across the world who are not able to read or write a simple sentence.
- UNESCO also reported that at least 250 million of the world's 650 million primary school children are unable to read, write or do basic mathematics.
- In South Africa, only 14% of us are active book readers and only 5% of all parents or caregivers read to their children.

So, that's the bad news. The good news is that every one of us is able to do our bit to build a more literate world. We do this when we help our own children become lifelong readers by following a few basic reading guidelines.

1. Read aloud to your children as often as possible. Commit to spending 15 minutes every day reading to them. When you read aloud to children and they enjoy the story, they see reading as a satisfying and enjoyable activity. This motivates them to want to read for themselves.

2. Read to your children in their home language(s), whenever possible. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't sometimes read to them in other languages too. It's just that nothing beats reading or listening to a story in your home language!

3. Read aloud to your children not only when they are very young, but also once they enjoy reading. This helps them form good reading habits.

4. Talk about the kind of books they like. Do they like storybooks or information books? And what kind of stories do they like: adventure stories, fantasy, or stories about everyday life?

5. Use reading and writing yourself! Your children learn from your example. They need to see you using reading and writing in different ways in your daily life if you want them to do this too.

Ngwaga o mongwe le o mongwe ka di 8 Setemere lefase le keteka Letšatši la Tsebo ya go Bala le go Ngwala.

1. Balela bana ba gago gantši ka mo o ka kgonago o hlaboša lentšu. Ikgafe go ba bilele bana metsotso ye 15 letšatši le lengwe le le lengwe. Ge o balela bana o Naboša lentšu gomme le bana ba ipshina ka kanegelo, bo bana go tšala e le tiro ya go kgotsofatša ye bolela. Se se ba balele bana go ba mehla ge o nyaka gore le bona ba di ngwala. Re dira se ge re thuša bana ba rena go ba babadi ba baphelo ka moka mo re le tšale dithlhahli tišo go bala tša tshedimošo.

2. Balela bana ka polelo! polelo tišo bana tiša gae, mo ka kgonago. Se ga se re gore ka nako ye ngwale o se ba batša ba dipelo tišo ngwala. Ke fela gore ka se go se phalago go bala le go theleša ka kanegelo ka polelo go ka ga gae!

3. O se balele bana ba gago ka go Naboša lentšu go se o le ba bannyanenyana fela, elela le ge ba tšela go spalela.


5. Wena diriša go bala le go ngwala! Bana ba ihuta ka go bana wena o dira. Bo šela go go bana o diriša go bala le go ngwala ka ditše tišo go lela baphelo bako bako ba ke mokgwa go o nyaka gore le bana ba di bse bako.

Story Power.

Download your FREE copy of Nalibali's Children's Literacy Charter and Children's Literacy Rights poster from the "Story supplies" section on our website: www.nalibali.org.

Laola le ka go Nal'ibali le Ditokelo Tša Bana Tša Tsebo Ya Go Bala.

Nal'ibali news

Nal’ibali has been very busy spreading the news about the power of reading for enjoyment!

In April this year, Blind SA in partnership with Nal’ibali launched the first Braille edition of Nal’ibali’s Children’s Literacy Rights poster. The poster, first released in 2015, has eight short messages aimed at helping children to understand what they need to become inspired and independent readers and writers.


Until recently, the poster has been available in the 11 official South African languages. Now, through an on-going partnership with Blind SA, it is also available in Braille, which means that for the first time visually impaired children have the opportunity to read it for themselves.

“Literacy should be a right, not a privilege. There is nothing quite like reading a story and becoming part of the storyline. Reading, in whatever format, opens so many doors and enriches the reader with so much knowledge,” said Cathy Donaldson, President of Blind SA, at the launch of the Braille version of the poster at Sibonele School for the Blind in Meyerton, Gauteng.

We are so pleased that through our partnership with Blind SA, visually impaired children will be able to learn about their literacy rights and then also enjoy a Nal’ibali story published each month in Blind SA’s Braille magazine, Youth Magazine.


Go thôla gablele phousekera e gona ka dipolelo tša semmušo tše 11 tša Afrika Borwa. Bido, ka tiršlano ye e æweleðšlo pele ya Blind SA, e gona le ka Braille, go e re gore bana ba mohlo a go fokola ba flo ba le monyeletša wa go ipalele yona la mathomo.

“Tsêbo ya go Bala le go Ngwâla e swanetiše go ba tša e sego monyeletša. Go go selo sa go swana le go ba karolo ya kanegelo yeo o e balogo. Go balo, ka sebogapel se le go sele, go go matšišišo a maniti gomme go matšašaša mmadi ka tsêbo ye niti,” o nile bälalo Cathy Donaldson, Mopresidente wa Blind SA, go go thongwa phousekera ya mohuta wa Braille kua Sibonele School for the Blind go la Meyerton, Gouteng.

Re ñabedo gore ka tiršlano ya rena le Blind SA, bana ba go ba le mohlo a go fokola ba tša fona go thûla ka go dikolelo tše bana tše bala ya go bala le go ngwâla gape go ishinha ka kanegelo ya Nal’ibali ya go phatlalatšwa kgwedi ye ringwe le ye ngwâna ka go Blind SA’s Braille, Youth Magazine.

If you would like a copy of Nal’ibali’s Children’s Literacy Rights poster in Braille, contact Sanette Jordaan from Blind SA on 011 839 1793 or sanette@blindsa.org.za.

Ge o nyaka khophi ya phousekera ya Ditokelo tše bala ya go Bala le go Ngwâla tše bana ya Nal’ibali ba Braille, ikugokaganye le Sanette Jordaan wa Blind SA nomorong ya 011 839 1793 goba sanette@blindsa.org.za.
From 13 to 15 May, Nal’ibali brought the power of children’s stories to the Franschhoek Literary Festival in the Western Cape. At the festival we hosted storytelling events in English and isiXhosa, and we also had a pop-up book stand where people could get free books.

Together with the Jungle Theatre Company, Nal’ibali visited Dalubuhle Primary School. The Jungle Theatre Company performed an English-isiXhosa play based on our version of the traditional folk tale, “How stories began.” All the children who attended the performance received a free copy of the Nal’ibali Newspaper Supplement. Then the Grade 7s enjoyed participating in a workshop where they created their own mini-libraries from old shoeboxes, magazines, string and the cut-out-and-keep stories from the Nal’ibali Newspaper Supplement.

Then it was the turn of young children at the Groendal Soup Kitchen to experience some Nal’ibali magic! They enjoyed singing and dancing with the Nal’ibali team before meeting the Nal’ibali character, Bella, and watching the Jungle Theatre Company’s performance of “How stories began.”

The streets of Franschhoek also saw the Nal’ibali team singing songs and telling stories. Over the three days of the festival, we held over 16 pop-up storytellings where we surprised adults and children with exciting songs and tales!

And then there was our Nal’ibali-Pick n Pay book giveaway! Cambridge University Press, Exclusive Books, Jacana and The Little Hands Trust had all donated books which we were able to give away. Outside Pick n Pay, children lined up and told us their favourite stories in exchange for books and T-shirts.

The Franschhoek Literary Festival was an opportunity for children and their teachers, parents and caregivers to have fun with stories – and then take a little of that magic home afterwards.

Remember!
Nal’ibali is running its annual Story Bosso competition in September! Go to www.nalibali.org to find out how to enter, where our events will be held, and how to get your story noticed. You could be South Africa’s next Story Bosso!

Gopola!
Nal’ibali le na le phadišano ya yona ya Story Bosso ka Setemere! Eya go www.nalibali.org go hwetša gore e tseňelwa bjang, mofela a ditragalo tša rena, le tšeta ya go dira gore dikangelo ya gago e temogwe. O ka ba Story Bosso wa Afrika Borwa wa go tšela?!
Get creative!

Here are some fun things for you and your children to do after you've read the stories in this edition of the Nal'ibali Newspaper Supplement as well as some activities to help you celebrate International Literacy Day.

**Get creative!**

1. **Tear off page 9 of this newspaper supplement.**

2. **Fold the sheet in half along the green dotted line.**

3. **Fold it in half again along the black dotted line.**

4. **Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.**

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

**Knock, knock!**

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4. **Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.**

**All the magic in the world**

1. To make this book use pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12.

2. Keep pages 7 and 8 inside the other pages.

3. Fold the sheets in half along the black dotted line.

4. Fold them in half again along the green dotted line to make the book.

5. Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.

**Itlhamele ngipuku tša ripa-o-boloko tše PEDI**

1. **Go bapela le ripa-o-boloko tše PEDI!**

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**Create your own little "Knock, knock!" story by folding a sheet of A4 paper to make a book with eight pages.** Copy the words "Knock, knock!" onto the pages of your book, like they are used in the cut-out-and-keep book, Knock, knock! Then have fun adding in the other words of your story and drawing the pictures.

**String games are played by children all over the world and are some of the oldest games around – people have been playing them for over 2,000 years!**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Celebrate International Literacy Day by:**

- sharing the joy of reading with others when you choose a few of your favourite storybooks to read to children or adults who are not able to read for themselves.
- challenging yourself during September to read books by authors who are new to you, or to try reading books on topics that you don’t know anything about.
- making up some poems or rhymes together – you don’t have to write a whole poem all at once, just add a few lines or a verse to your poem or rhyme each day and watch it grow.
- writing a story as a gift for someone important to you.
- if you need help doing this, ask someone to write down the words of your story as you say them.
- talking about all the things you couldn’t do if you were not able to read or write.

**E ba le boithamelo!**

Fa ke dilo tša go ithabiša tšo o ka di dirago le bana ba gago morago ga go bala dikanelela kgatšiong ya ye Tlaleleši ya Kuranta ya Na’il’bali le mendingwana ya go le thsia go keteka Lefatsi la Tsabo ya go Bala le go Ngwalo la Boditšhabatšhaba.

**Use some of your own magic to create beautiful things from scrap materials, just like Joseph did in All the magic in the world, the magic in the world. Try making cat’s whiskers and a butterfly too.** Follow step-by-step guidelines to making these here: http://www.kidsdot.com.au/things-to-do/galleries/kids-games/5-string-games-for-kids-to-play.

**Find a long piece of string and then play string games where you create pictures like the cup and saucer, and house that Joseph made in All the magic in the world.** Try making cat’s whiskers and a butterfly too. Follow step-by-step guidelines to making these here: http://www.kidsdot.com.au/things-to-do/galleries/kids-games/5-string-games-for-kids-to-play.

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**In Thoko’s first library book, Thoko liked a story about some animals and a monster. What is your favourite story? Create your own review of it! Draw a picture of the cover (if it’s a book) or another picture about the story, and write a few sentences on what the story is about and why you like it. You could also draw between one and five stars next to your review to show how much you like the story!**

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**Itlhamele kanegelo ya gago ye nnyane ya "Koko, koko!"**

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"This was around a package," he said, "and then it was thrown away." He carefully undid all the knots and tied the two ends of the string together. "But look, it can make pictures."

"A cup and saucer," said Lena.

Where is magic found? Lena and her friends discover a kind of magic when Joseph, the odd-job man and collector of everyday objects, opens his special tin. And when Lena worries about being too small and clumsy, Joseph helps her discover the magic that can transform her too.

Niki Daly’s figures move across the pages of this book with an energy that matches the smooth, joyous rhythms of Wendy Hartmann’s text.

Their work pays tribute to the imaginations of those willing to find beauty and magic in the ordinary.

SONGOLLOLO is a quality list, featuring books by some of South Africa’s foremost authors and illustrators, including Niki Daly, Gcina Mhlophe, Joan Rankin and Jude Daly. The list features several bestsellers, including Niki Daly’s Mama, Papa and Baby Joe, and Joan Rankin’s Wow! It’s Great Being a Duck and other numerous award-winning titles.

All the magic in the world is from the SONGOLLOLO list – a range of books celebrating both the common and diverse interests and experiences in childhood, featuring stories from Africa and beyond.

Shuter & Shooter Publishers acquired the award-winning children’s picture book imprint, SONGOLLOLO in 2008. SONGOLLOLO is a quality list, featuring books by some of South Africa’s foremost authors and illustrators, including Niki Daly, Gcina Mhlophe, Joan Rankin and Jude Daly. The list features several bestsellers, including Niki Daly’s Mama, Papa and Baby Joe, and Joan Rankin’s Wow! It’s Great Being a Duck and other numerous award-winning titles.

For further information, visit www.shuters.com

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
“You have magic in that tin,” she whispered.

“No, Lena,” said Joseph. “There is no magic in my tin. All the magic in the world is not found in tins.”

“Where is it found, then?” the children asked.

Joseph smiled. “You’ve seen the things – things I pick up here and there.” They nodded.

“You saw the shell?”

“Yes,” they said, “we heard the sea.”

“You saw the pull-tops?”

“Yes.”

“And you saw the princess?”

Joseph shut the tin. “So you tell me where the magic is found.”

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“O na le maleatlana ka thining yela,” a hebaheba.


“A hwešwe ka?” bana ba boitša.


“Le bone kgapeta?”

“Ee,” ba realo, “re kwle ke kwatši.”

“Le bone dibala-dibhini?”

“Ee.”

“Gape le bone kgogolotša?”

Joseph a tswaletša thini. “Bjale impetieng gore maleatlana a hwešwe kae.”

Every Friday evening, Sonnie, Stefan, Anna, Chrissie, and Lena played in the street or in the yard.

If it had rained, they made mud socks on their feet and paraded past the chickens, making silly noises.
Every Friday evening, Sonnie, Stefan, Anna, Chrissie, and Lena played in the street or in the yard. If it had rained, they made mud socks on their feet and paraded past the chickens, making silly noises.

"A house… Magic!"

"It's my special tin," he said. "There's nothing in it to spend or to eat. But..." And she sat down to listen. Out of the tin he pulled an old piece of string. It was twisted and full of knots.

Mathapama a Labohlano le lengwe le lengwe, Sonnie, Stefan, Anna, Christie, le Lena ba be ba bapala mmileng gobo ka jarateng. Ge pulu e nele ba be ba dira masokisi a leraka maotong a bona gomme ba sepela pele ga dikgogo ba dira maiata a metle.
The others ran to see. Joseph took Lena’s hand. In it he placed a shell, pearly white and smooth. Its empty insides held the sound of the sea. They heard it whisper when they pressed the shell close to their ears. And when they shut their eyes tight, they could almost smell the salt on the waves.

If it was cold, they crowded around the roadworker’s drum to watch the orange flames lick at the damp air. Firelight painted them gold and warm. Sometimes they talked about Joseph, the odd-job man. Joseph always had a tin.

“For my special things,” he told them.

But they laughed. “Silly old Joseph,” they whispered, “picking up junk to keep in a tin.”
Knock, knock!
Koko, koko!

Carole Bloch
Alzette Prins

This is an adapted version of Knock, knock! 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, Tsivenda 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 ke lesolo la go-balela-bopshino la bosešišhaba la go utlula bokgomi bja bana ka go anega dikanelelo le go bala. Go hwetša tshedimošo ka botalo, etela www.nalibali.org goba www.nalibali.mobi
Knock, knock!

Hello, Dog!

Dumela, Xhiba!

Knock, knock!

Koko, koko!

Hello, Mama!

Knock, knock!

Hello, Mama!

Koko, koko!

Dumela, Mma
Her Royal Highness Princess Lena curtsied. She smiled a princess's smile and walked around Stefan and Chrissie, her arms outstretched, her head held high. The silver chain glittered around her neck and everyone saw how graceful she was. She danced a little dance like the wind across the wheat fields.

Joseph shook the tin. It made a mysterious sound. “Look,” he said, emptying a fistful of pull-tops from cooldrink cans onto the ground. Rings gleamed in the evening light and shiny tongues curled on the sand.

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Lena who was teased because she stumbled on stairs and fell out of trees. Little Lena who always tripped over her own feet. She twanged out music with a piece of broken wire, pulling it back and letting it go so that it hit the metal sign.
One evening, Sonnie, Stefan, and Chrissie climbed the milkwood tree to hang like monkeys in the branches, and Anna drew pictures in the sand. But Lena stood at the gate.

Joseph got up and stood in front of Lena. He put the silver chain around her neck and bowed low.

“Your Highness,” he said.
Thoko walked into the library with Gogo. She liked the smell of the new building. She liked the shelves of books and shiny tables. Today, she hoped to find something special to read. A storybook ... with pictures!

She held Gogo’s warm hand as they walked into the room where all the children’s books were kept. A lady at a desk looked up and smiled. She wore a little badge. On it was written, “Li-bra-ri-an”.

“Thoko would like to borrow a book from the library,” said Gogo.

“Does Thoko have a library card?” asked the librarian. Thoko shook her head.

“Well, you can get a library card to take out books after your Gogo has filled out a form,” said the librarian.

Gogo sat down on a little yellow chair at a little green table and started to fill in the form. Thoko sat on a red chair and looked around. There were lots of different coloured tables and chairs. On the walls were lots of colourful pictures and posters. On the shelves were lots and lots and lots of books.

“I like it here,” whispered Thoko. Gogo looked up and smiled.

“Why don’t you find a nice book to take home,” said Gogo.

Thoko walked around the room slowly. Some books were on shelves too high for her to reach. Some she could reach, but they had too many words and no pictures.

“Let me show you where the picture books are kept, Thoko,” said the nice librarian, whose name was Nadia. Thoko followed Nadia to shelves that were just the right height for her.

“Take your time,” said Nadia. “I’m sure you’ll find just the right book for yourself.”

By the time Gogo handed in the form, Thoko had found just the right book – a book about a mouse, a fox, an owl, a snake AND a terrible monster with horns and tusks.

“This looks very scary. Let’s see if there’s one that won’t give you nightmares,” said Gogo. Gogo found a book with a pretty cover. It had a picture of a fairy in a pink ballet dress and glittery wings.

“This looks like a lovely book,” said Gogo. But Thoko shook her head. She knew what she liked and she knew what she wanted. So, she held tightly onto her book.

“Ah, everyone likes that book,” said the librarian when she saw which book Thoko had chosen. Thoko looked carefully as her book was stamped with the date that she would have to bring it back. “There you go!” said Nadia, handing Thoko her first library book and her first library card.

That book! What a story! What pictures! Even Gogo said it was the best children’s story she had ever read. And when Thoko told the children at school about the book, they all wanted to see the pictures too.

So, one Friday, Thoko took the library book to school for Mrs Rhode, her teacher, to read and show the pictures. The children laughed and loved the story, especially Themba, who wanted it to be read again and again. But Mrs Rhode closed the book and gave it to Thoko to put back safely in her bag.

That evening at bedtime, Gogo said, “Thoko, tomorrow is the day we have to take your library book back to the library. So, tonight will be the last night for us to read that funny story.” Excitedly, Thoko opened her bag, but the library book was not there!

“Oh, Thoko,” said Gogo, “you must have left it at school!”

“No,” said Thoko, “I put it in my bag when Mrs Rhode gave it back to me!”

Thoko wanted to cry. What would the librarian say if she didn’t take her book back the next day? Then she did start to cry!

“Who would take it from your bag?” asked Gogo. Thoko thought and thought.

“Themba Nombela!” cried Thoko. “He loved the story so much he wanted it to be read again and again!”

“Does Themba steal?” asked Gogo.

“Themba sometimes takes things without asking, but he always brings them back,” answered Thoko.

The next morning, Gogo and Thoko went to the Nombela’s house to see if Themba had the library book.

“Yes,” said Themba, “I meant to give it back, but Linzi Dube borrowed it from me.”

So Themba showed Gogo and Thoko where the Dube’s lived. When they reached the house, Linzi was there ... but not the book!

“Tata has it,” said Linzi. “He can’t read, but he wanted to look at the pictures.”

So off went Linzi, Themba, Thoko and Gogo to Tata’s house. They found him sitting outside his front door laughing his head off.

“Ha, ha, ha! Linzi, this book is too, too funny! I am enjoying it very much,” said the old man. Gogo explained that the book belonged to the library and that they only had a few minutes to get it back to the library on time.

“Themba stealed it!” said Linzi.

“Don’t worry,” said Gogo. “Thoko will come to our house and read them a funny story.”

That’s just what they did...
Thoko o ile a ya bokgobapukung le Koko. O be a rata monlogo wa moaog o moswa. O be a rata diselelo tša dipuku le ditafola tša go phadima. Lehono, o holofela gore o tša hwetla se sengwe sa go bala sa go kgetheng. Puku ya dikangelelwa ... ya go ba le dispwantšho!

O be a swere seita sa Koko sa borotho go ba tsena ka phapošing ya go ba le dipuku tša bana ka moka. Lokgarebe la mo tsekeleng le ile la ba lebelela la mymelyla. Le be le aperse petšhe ye nnyane. E be e ngwadilwe gore, “Mo-lo-mi-wa-b-o-ko-go-ba-pu-ku.”

“Thoko o nyaka go adina puku mo bokgobapukung,” a realo Koko.

“Naa Thoko o na le karata ya bokgobapuku?” gwa botšiša mošomi wa bokgobapuku. Thoko o ile a šikinya hiolo. “Agaa, morago ga ge Koko wa gago a tlašišše foromo o ka diirišše karata ya bokgobapuku go tšea dipuku; a realo mošomi wa bokgobapuku.

Koko o ile a dula fase setwableng se seserolane tafalaneng ye talamoroko a thonga go tšašišše foromoroko. Thoko o ile a dula setwolong se sehubedile a itšeela. Go be go na le ditolo le ditafola tša mebala ya go fapananapana tša dingo. Mabotong go be go tšašišše dispwantšho tša mebalabala le diphesetsera. Mo Diseleleng go be go na le dipuku tša d itempropišše.

“Ke a go rata felo fa,” Thoko a hehabebe. Koko o ile a lebelela gomme a mymelyla.

“Lebelela puku ye botše ye o ka yago le yona gae?” Koko o ile a thalašše gore ke puku ya bokgobapukung le gore ba šaletšwe “Ha, ha, ha! Linzi, puku ye e a segiša! Ke ipšina kudu ka yona,” mokgalabje a realo. Koko o ile a hlaloša gore ke puku ya bokgobapukung le gore ba šaletšwe.

Koko o ile a sepeka ka phapošing ka go nomo. O be a sa fihlelele diselelo tše dingwe tša dipuku. Tše dingwe o be a di fihlelele efela di be di na le mantšu tša diše dispwantšho.

“Ela ke go bontšhe mo re beago dipuku tša dispwantšho, Thoko,” a realo mošomi wa bokgobapuku wa go goswa. Go go bitšwe Nadia. Thoko o ile a latela Nadia go ya lebelela go lekanaka le yena ka botelele.

“Tšea nako ya gago,” a realo Nadia. “Ke dumela gore o tla hwetša se sengwe sa go bala sa go kgetheng!”

“Bjale o leloko la bokgobapukung,” a realo Nadia. Thoko o be a thabile kudu!

“Swara puku gabotše,” a realo Koko ge ba tšaša.

Puku ya bokgobapukung, “Diswantšho tšiše dibotše! Le Koko o tle ke kanegelo ya bana ye kaonekone yeo nkilego a e bala. Gomme e e sa Thoko a bontšhe bana ba bongwe sekolong ka go kanegelo, ka moka ba duma go bona dispwantšho tša yona.

Thoko, ka Laptopane le tšepwe, Thoko o ile a ya le puku sekolong go ya bontšhe morutišše wa gagwe Moh Rhone gore a e bala a be a bontšhe barutwana dispwantšho. Bana ba ile a e e sa Thoko ba be be segišše ke kanegelo, kudu Themba, yo a bego a nyaka gore e balwe gape lae gape. Efela Moh Rhone o ile a towailela puku a efa Thoko gore a e boloke ka mokotleng wa gagwe.

Thoko, ka Laptopane le tšepwe, Thoko o ile a ya le puku sekolong go ya bontšhe morutišše wa gagwe Moh Rhone gore a e bala a be a bontšhe barutwana dispwantšho. Bana ba ile a e e sa Thoko ba be be segišše ke kanegelo, kudu Themba, yo a bego a nyaka gore e balwe gape lae gape. Efela Moh Rhone o ile a towailela puku a efa Thoko gore a e boloke ka mokotleng wa gagwe.

Mathapameng ao ao ka nako ya go ya malaong Koko a re, “Thoko, gosasa ke lešišše la go bulwleta puku ya gago ya bokgobapukung morago. Gomme, bološše bja lehono ke bološše bja go go bala kanegelo ya go segišše la mafelele.” Ka lethabo, Thoko o ile a e bula mokotla wa gagwe efela a hwetša puku lae gape gona!}

“Jjoo, Thoko,” a realo Koko, “o swanetše go ba o e tloganšše sekolong!”

“Awa,” a realo Thoko, “Moh Rhone o rile go mpha yona ka e bušišše ka mokotleng!”

Thoko o be a nyaka go lila. Mošomi wa bokgobapukung o tšo reng e ge sa bušišše puku ka moswane? O ile a thoma go lila go la a nga na gona.

“Themba Nombela!” a realo Thoko. “O ratile kanegelo ye kudu a ba a nyaka gore e balwe gape lae gape!”

“Naa Themba o a otswa? A botšiša. Themba ka nako ye ngwe o tšea dilo a se a di kgopele, efela o phela a di buša, gwa fetola Thoko.

Mesong ya go latela Koko le Thoko ba ile ba ya lapeng la ga Nombela go bοšiša ge efa Themba a swere puku ya bokgobapukung. Efela o ile a nagana a ba a nagana.

“Themba Nombela!” a realo Thoko. “O ratile kanegelo ye kudu a ba a nyaka gore e balwe gape lae gape!”

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“Themba Nombela!” a realo Thoko. “O ratile kanegelo ye kudu a ba a nyaka gore e balwe gape lae gape!”

“Ke be ke tšeago ka bušišše, efela Linzi Dube a re ke mo adime yona.”

Gomme Themba a bontšhe Koko le Thoko fao Dube a dulago gona. E rile ge ba fihla lapeng lebo, ba hwetša Linzi a le gona ... efela puku a e bale e sego!

“Tata o a swere,” a realo Linzi. “Ga a kgone go bala efela o be a nyaka go lebelela dispwantšho.”

Gomme Linzi, Themba, Thoko le Koko ba ya lapeng la go Nombela go bοšiša! Thoko o ile a ngwe o tšea dilo a se a di kgopele, efela o phela a di buša, gwa fetola Thoko.

“Ke a tšetšhe ke aga ka mokotleng! No, Thoko,” a realo Koko, “o swanetše go ba o e tloganšše sekolong!”

“Ee,” a realo Themba, “Ke be ke tšeago ka bušišše, efela Linzi Dube a re ke mo adime yona.”

Gomme Themba a bontšhe Koko le Thoko fao Dube a dulago gona. E rile ge ba fihla lapeng lebo, ba hwetša Linzi a le gona ... efela puku a e bale e sego!

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“Ke be ke tšeago ka mokotleng la 15 sekolong wana Sekhutla dišelelo go bala!”

“Ke be ke tšeago ka mokotleng la 15 sekolong wana Sekhutla dišelelo go bala!”

“Ha, ha, ha! Linzi, puku ye e a segiša! Ke ishina kudu ka yona,” mokgalabje a realo. Koko o ile a letšatša gore ke puku ya bokgobapukung le gore ba Saletšišše ke ketsotšo ye mmaωa fēla gore e fihle bokgobapukung la nako.
Thoko had never seen Gogo walk so fast. But when they reached the library, the door was closed. Gogo read the notice and said, “It will only open again on Monday.”

“But Gogo, the librarian will be very cross because the book must be back today.”

“Don’t worry about it,” said Gogo. “I will explain to the librarian what happened. I am sure she will understand what can happen when a book is as nice as this one is. Everyone wants to read it! And until Monday comes, we can enjoy it a bit more.”

When Monday afternoon came, Gogo and Thoko took the book to the library. Nadia noticed that it was late. But when Gogo explained why they could not bring it back on time, Nadia smiled and said, “That’s a wonderful story! Thoko, next time, bring your friends to join the library … and Linzi’s grandfather too. We teach people to read on Friday mornings.”

And that’s exactly what happened.

Not only Themba who loves to borrow books, but Linzi and lots of Thoko’s school friends have joined the library. And so did Linzi’s grandfather! He likes the new words he learns to read every Friday. But the books he likes most of all, are the ones with pictures that make him laugh!

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Do you want to get in touch with us?
Is there something you would like to ask or tell us? You can do this by emailing us on info@nalibali.org, and someone from Nal’ibali will email or phone you back. You can also phone our call centre on 02 11 80 40 80 from Monday to Friday between 9.15 a.m. and 4.15 p.m. But what if you don’t have enough airtime to phone us? Then phone our call centre using a “missed call” and someone will call you back within 24 hours!
Boipshino bja Nal’ibali
Fa ke marara a go keteka Letšatši le Tsebo ya go Bala le go Ngwala le Bodišhabatšhaba ka di 8 Setemere!

1. Can you make twelve new words from the letters in the word, LITERACY? Write down your words and then have fun writing a sentence that uses as many of them as possible!

   Naa o ka bopa mantšu a maswa a lesomepedi ka ditlhaka tše di lego mantšung a, TSEBO YA GO BALA LE GO NGWALA? Ngwala mantšu a gago gomme o ipshine ka go ngwala lefoko la go diriša bontši bja mantšu ao ka mo go kgonegago!

   B. For example: let, it, at, rat, cat, race, trace, lace, lice, rice, car, tar, ate, rate, late, real, year, teal, tear, tier, tile, care
   C. book, recipe, newspaper, shopping list

   **Answers:**
   B. For example: let, it, at, rat, cat, race, trace, lace, lice, rice, car, tar, ate, rate, late, real, year, teal, tear, tier, tile, care
   C. book, recipe, newspaper, shopping list

2. Use the clues below to guess what each of these things is.

   - You read it. It has pages and a cover. Sometimes it has chapters.
   - You write this when you want someone else to know how to cook something you already know how to make.
   - You read it. It has big pages, a new one is sold every day and you find the Nal’ibali Supplement in it.
   - Before you go to buy things, you write this so that you can remember what you need to buy.

   **Clues:**
   1. Before you go to buy things, you write this so that you can remember what you need to buy.
   2. You read it. It has pages and a cover. Sometimes it has chapters.
   3. You write this when you want someone else to know how to cook something you already know how to make.
   4. You read it. It has big pages, a new one is sold every day and you find the Nal’ibali Supplement in it.
   5. Before you go to buy things, you write this so that you can remember what you need to buy.

   **Answers:**
   1. Before you go to buy things, you write this so that you can remember what you need to buy.
   2. You read it. It has pages and a cover. Sometimes it has chapters.
   3. You write this when you want someone else to know how to cook something you already know how to make.
   4. You read it. It has big pages, a new one is sold every day and you find the Nal’ibali Supplement in it.
   5. Before you go to buy things, you write this so that you can remember what you need to buy.

3. Can you match the Nal’ibali characters to the kinds of books they like to read?

   - Gogo/Koko
   - Afrika
   - Bella
   - Goga/Koko
   - Hope
   - Josh

   **Clues:**
   - Books about karate/ Dipuku tša go bolela ka karate
   - Stories with witches in them/Dikanegelo tša go bo le balai
   - Stories (especially ones about aeroplanes) on his cellphone/ Dikanegelo (kuدو tša go bolela ka dilofaneli sellatsheng sa gagwe
   - Books that tell you how to make things/Dipuku tša go ho latšo ka faa dilo di dinwago kha gana
   - Romance novels/ Dipadi tša go bolela ka tša marato
   - Pirate stories/ Dikanegelo tša go bolela ka mahoduwatle

   **Answers:**
   - Gogo/Koko: books about karate
   - Afrika: stories (especially ones about aeroplanes)
   - Bella: books that tell you how to make things
   - Goga/Koko: romance novels
   - Hope: pirate stories
   - Josh: stories with witches in them

Running out of story ideas? Visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi for articles and ideas to encourage a love of reading in your child, and to help keep them hooked!

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