Tsebo ya ho bala le ho ngola: ditaba tse mpe le ditaba tse monate

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 can read for themselves.

4. Take turns to choose what you read together. Talk to your children about which kinds of books they like. Do they like storybooks or information books? And what kinds of stories do they enjoy the most? Then help your children find the books they want.

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.

Every year on 8 September the world marks International Literacy Day. UNESCO hopes that there will be a world in which everyone is able to read and write. For example:

- In 2015, UNESCO 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 can read for themselves.

4. Take turns to choose what you read together. Talk to your children about which kinds of books they like. Do they like storybooks or information books? And what kinds of stories do they enjoy the most? Then help your children find the books they want.

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.

Download your FREE copy of Nal’ibali’s Children’s Literacy Charter and Children’s Literacy Rights poster from the “Story supplies” section on our website: www.nalibali.org.

Story Power.

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.
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. The poster was endorsed by the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY International), The South African Children Book Development Council / National Book Week, The Publishers’ Association of South Africa (PASAA), The Little Hands Trust and PEN South Africa.

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.

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.

Haebo a ka rata ho humana khopi ya phoustara ya Nal’ibali ya Ditoloko tsa Bana tsa Tsiebo ya ho Bala le ho Ngola ya mongolo wa Braille, ikopanye la Sanette Jordaan wa Blind SA ho 011 839 1793 kopa 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 folktale, “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 Jungle Theatre 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!

Hopola!
Nal’ibali e tsamaisa ihodisona ya yona ya selemo le selemo ya Story Bosso ka kgwedi ya Loets! Eya ho www.nalibali.org ho fumana hone o ka kenele hwang, mme re tshwae ho tshwara diketsahlo! Tsa rona fang, le hone o ka etsa hwang hone pale ya hoo e bonwe. O ka nna wa ba Story Bosso ya latelang wa Afrika Borwa!
Here are some fun things for you and your children to do after you’ve read the stories in this edition of the Na’i ‘Bali Newspaper Supplement as well as some activities to help you celebrate International Literacy Day.

**Get creative!**

**Dinthe tse ding tse tsetsele ngaka tsa tsetsele e lo o tse di o le tselelo.**

1. Tear off page 9 of this book.
2. Fold the sheet in half along the green dotted line to make the book.
3. Fold it in half again along the black dotted line.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.

**KNOW?**

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!

**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.**

**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!**

**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.**

**Challenge yourself during September to read books by authors who are new to you, or try reading books on topics that you don’t know anything about.**

**Make up some poems or rhymes together – you don’t need to be a poet!**

**Writing a story as a gift for someone important to you.**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng. O ka hong e le le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**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!**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**

**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.**

**Sebedisa o mong wa mekeleho e le setsegile ke ho le tse Setswana le hobotleng. Nna ya ha e re le, ho sebedisa dinthe tse le Setswana le lekhele. Bo ke ho le tse Setswana le le bo sebedisa di e le seho mekeleho e le Setswana le hobotleng.**
"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.

All the magic in the world is from the SONGOLOLO 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, SONGOLOLO in 2008. SONGOLOLO 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

All the magic in the world

Mehlolo yohle e lefatsheng

Wendy Hartmann

Niki Daly
“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.”

“You saw the shell?”

“Yes,” they said, “we heard the sea.”

“And you saw the princess?”

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


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!"

"Nhlo… Mololo!"

Labohlano le keng le keng manshiboya, Sonnie, Stefan, Anna, Chrissie, le Lena ba ne ba bapala seterateng kapa ka jareteng. Haecha pula e ne e nele, ba ne ba etsa dikaua tsa seretse maotong a bona mme ba tsa mae ka mola pela dikgobo, ba nse ba etsa maratanyana a itse. 
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."

Kgosatsana Lena a kobu lengele. A boswela postole ya kgosatsana mme a nna a potoloha Stefan le Chitse, a othotse mantsho, a leladitse hlooho. Sefaha sa silivera se bonya molale gwa bae mme holhe ba bona kamoo a hlomphela ka teng. A tshaka banyane jwaloja mooya o folake makgoatleng a keho.
Knock, knock!
Ko, ko!

Drive your imagination.

Carole Bloch
Alzette Prins

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

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, Tshivenda and Tsonga. Nal’ibali publications books for young readers in all eleven official South African languages.

To find out more about Jacana titles go to www.jacana.co.za.
Knock, knock!

Hello, Dog!

Dumela, Ntja!

Ko, ko!

Knock, knock!

Dumela, Mme!

Hello, Mama!

Ko, ko!
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.

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

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."
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’s first library book
Story and illustrations by Niki Daly

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.

“Now you are a member of the library,” said Nadia. Thoko was very happy!

“Carry the book nicely,” said Gogo as they left.

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.

Continued on page 15
Thoko a kena laeboraring le Nkgono. O ne a rata moniko wa moaho o motjha. O ile a rata dishelofo tsa dibuka le ditafole tse benang. Kajeno, o ne a tshepa hore o tla fumana nthonyana o kgetheliheng eo a ka e balang. Buka ya dipale ... e nang le ditshwantsho!

A tshwara letsoho la Nkgono le mofuthu ha ba kena ka phaposeng eo ho yona ho neng ho belwei dibuka kaofela tsa bana. Mofumahatsana ya neng a le kemara ka a ba sheba a bososele. O ne a wswete benthe e nyane. Ho yona ho ne ho ngotswe, “Li-bra-ri-an” (Mosebetsi wa Laeboraring).

“Thoko o lakatsa ho adima buka ya laeborari,” ha rialo Nkgono.

“Na Thoko o ne la karate ya laeborari?” ha botsa mosebetsi wa laeboraring. Thoko a sisiya hlooho. “Ho kokie, o ka naa wa fumana karate ya laeboraring eo ka yona o ka adimang dibuka “ha Nkgono wa hao a se a tlaitsitse foromo,” ha rialo mosebetsi wa laeboraring.

Nkgono a dula fatshe seletsaneng se seselha tafoleng e tala mme a qala ho tlaitsa foromo. Thoko a dula setuleng se sefubedu mme a naa a sheba kwana le kwana. Ho ne ho ena le ditafole le ditlou tse ngatse tse mpebhela a fapaneng. Maboteng ho ne ho ena le ditshwantsho le diphoumang tse mebalabalala. Dishelofo ho ho ena le dibuka le ditshwantsho.

“Ke a rata mona,” ha hweshefa Thoko. Nkgono a mo sheba a bososele. “Hobaneng o sa lo bata buka e ntle e o ka yang le yona hore?” ha rialo mosebetsi wa laeboraring.

Thoko a tsaatsamayla butele ka hohla phaposeng. E dibuka tse ding di ne le die shelofo tse hodimo mme e le ka ghele a Hihela. Tse ding di ne a kgona ho di Hihela, empa di ne di ena le mantswa a mangata haholo ho se na ditshwantsho.

“E re ke o bontshe moo ho beilweng dibuka tsa ditshwantsho teng, Thoko,” ha rialo mosebetsi wa laeboraring ya mosa, leibitso la hae e neng e le Nkgono. Thoko a latela Nkgono ho leba dishelofo tse neng le di bophahamo bo mo lekanang hantle.

“O se ke wa tata,” ha rialo Nkgono. “Ke tshepa hore o tla fumana buka e o tshwanetseng hantle feela.”

Ka nako eo Nkgono a isang foromo, Thoko o ne a se a fumane buka eo a e batlang – buka e buang ka tsebela, photjoe, sephoko, le noha LE selalame se tshosang se nang le manaka le nako e telele.

“Ere e sheba a tholsa haholo. E re re bone hore ho ho e tshosang e le boleng ya o loria hampe bositsi,” ha rialo Nkgono. Nkgono a fumana buka e nang le boltle ka bale e. E ne e ena le setshwantsho sa mofumahadi wa feri ya apereng mose o pinki wa baletile le mapeho a benang.

“Ena e shebaha la e buka e kghilisang,” ha rialo Nkgono. EmpaThoko a sisiya hlooho. O ne a tseba se a se ratang mme a tseba se a se batlang. Kaholo, a tisa buka ya hae ka thetha.

“Ere, bohle ba rata buka emo!” ha rialo mosebetsi wa laeboraring a ha bona buka eo Thoko a e kghilisang pele. Thoko a sheba buka ka Hloko ha buka ya hae e bewa seleme le letseitsi le leboho e le kghilisang ka hana. “Ha se moo!” ha rialo Nkgono, a neleletsaThoko buka ya hae ya pele ya laeboraring le karate ya hae ya laeborari.

“Jwale o se o le leloko la laeborari,” ha rialo Nkgono. Thoko o ne a thabile haholo!

“O tshware buka eo hantle,” ha rialo Nkgono ha ba tsamaya.

Buka eo! Pale e makatsang! Ditshwantsho tse makatsang! Esetana le Nkgono o ile a re le ke pale ya bana e mona a ho fetsitsa eo a klinga a e bala. Mme ha Thoko a phetela bana ba bang sekoleng ka pale eo, bohle ba ne ba bata ha bona ditshwantsho tsebo le bana.

Yaba he, ka tsatsi le tshosang e le Labohlano, Thoko a ya le buka ya laeborari sekoleng ho Mof Rhode, tshithiyo e yona, hore a e bale mme a bontshe ditshwantsho. Bana ba ne ba tshiha mme ba rata pale eo, hahlohocho Thomba, ya neng a bata hore e balwe hangathangata. Empa Mof Rhode a kwalwa buka mme a e fa Thoko hore a e kweny hantle ka mokotlaneng ha wae.

Mantsiboyeng ao ka nako ya ho robala, Nkgono a re, “Thoko, hosame ke leatsatsi le o leleng ho mofume lekaforo o mophato,” ha rialo Nkgono.

“Jpoh,” ha rialo Nkgono, “ke a kgolwa o e sile selekong!”

“Thoko,” ha rialo Thoko. “Ke ile ka e kweny ka mokotleneng wa ka ha Mof Rhode e mphi yona?”

Thoko o ne le bate ho hla. Mosebetsi wa laeboraring o ne a tla tseng a hae e tla e lela, empa Linzi Dube a re ke mo lela.

“Ke ye ka e e mphi yona?” ha tshepa ho hla.

“Thembla Nombelela!” Thoko ho holetso. “O ne a rata pale eo haholo hoo a neng a bata hore e balwe hangathangata!”

“Na Themba o a uutowa?” ha botsa Nkgono.

“Themba ka nako tse ding o rina dintho tsa batho a sa di kopa, empa kamehla o a di kutila,” ha araba Thoko.

Hoseng e tsatsi le hlahlamang, Nkgono le Thoko ho ba ya lapeng la Nombele ho ya botsa hore ebe Thembla ha a tla le buka ya laeboraring hae.

“Ee,” ha rialo Thembla, “ke ne ke itse ke tla e kutila, empa Linzi Dube a re ke mo kadihle yona.”

Yaba Themba o bontsha Nkgono le Thoko moo ba ha Dube ba dulang teng. Ha ba fihla llang ho, Linzi o ne a le teng … empa buka e le siyo!

“Tata o e nkile?” ha rialo Linzi. “Ha a tebe ho hla, empa o ne a batho ho laeboraring ditshwantsho!”

Jwale Linzi, Thembla, Thoko le Nkgono ba leba ha Tata. Ba mo fumana a dutse kante ka pela monyako a ntse a keketeha. “Ha, ha! Linzi, buka eraa e qabola e le kanene! E mmatsetse haholo hile,” ha rialo Nkgono.

Mantsiboyeng ao ka nako ya ho robala, Nkgono a re, “Thoko, hosame ke leetsatsi le o leleng ho mofume lekaforo o mophato,” ha rialo Nkgono.

“Jpoh,” ha rialo Nkgono, “ke a kgolwa o e sile selekong!”

“Thoko,” ha rialo Nkgono, “ke tshepo e qabola e le kannete! E nnatefetse haholo hoo a lae.”

“A tshwara buka eo hantle,” ha rialo Nkgono ha ba tsamaya.

Buka eo! Pale e makatsang! Ditshwantsho tse makatsang! Esetana le Nkgono o ile a re le ke pale ya bana e monate ka ho fetsitsa eo a klinga a e bala. Mme ha Thoko a phetela bana ba bang sekoleng ka pale eo, bohle ba ne ba bata ha bona ditshwantsho tsebo le bana.

Yaba he, ka tsatsi le tshosang e le Labohlano, Thoko a ya le buka ya laeborari sekoleng ho Mof Rhode, tshithiyo e yona, hore a e bale mme a bontshe ditshwantsho. Bana ba ne ba tshiha mme ba rata pale eo, hahlohocho Thomba, ya neng a bata hore e balwe hangathangata. Empa Mof Rhode a kwalwa buka mme a e fa Thoko hore a e kweny hantle ka mokotlaneng ha wae.

Mantsiboyeng ao ka nako ya ho robala, Nkgono a re, “Thoko, hosame ke leetsatsi le o leleng ho mofume lekaforo o mophato,” ha rialo Nkgono.

“Jpoh,” ha rialo Nkgono, “ke a kgolwa o e sile selekong!”

“Thoko,” ha rialo Nkgono, “ke a kgolwa o e sile selekong!”

“Jpoh,” ha rialo Nkgono, “ke a kgolwa o e sile selekong!”

“Thoko,” ha rialo Nkgono, “ke a kgolwa o e sile selekong!”
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!
Here are some puzzles to celebrate International Literacy Day on 8 September!

**Monate wa Nal’ibali**

Malepa ke ana bakeng sa ho keteka Letsatsi la Matjhaba la Tsebo ya ho Bala le ho Ngola ka la 8 Loetse!

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

**Na o ka nyalanya baphetwa ba Nal’ibali le mafuta ya dibuka eo ba ratang ho e bala?**

**Gogo**

- A. Neo
- B. Afrika
- C. Bella
- D. Gogo
- E. Hope
- F. Josh

**Sebedisa mehlala e ka tlase mona ho noha hore dintho tsena ke ding.**

- O a e bala. E na le maqephe le khabara. Ka nako e ngwwe e na le dikgacoa.
- Ena o e ngola ho a batla motho e mong a tsebe mokgwa wa ho phela niho e tšeng ea wena o tsebang ha e peha.
- O a e bala. E na le maqephe a maholo, e niho e rekwaletsatsi le letsatsi rrme e fumana Tlatseto ya Nal’ibali ka hara yona.
- Pele o le reka dintho, o ngola niho ena hare o tie o hopole see o lokelang ho se reka.

**Dikarabo:**


2. For example: let, it, at, rat, cat, race, trace, lace, lice, rice, car, tar, ate, rate, late, real, year, teal, tear, tier, tile, care

3. book, recipe, newspaper, shopping list

### 2. 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!

**Na o ka etsa mantswe a matjha a leshome le metso e mmedi ka dithako tse tswang mantsweng a, TSEBO YA HO BALA LE HO NGOLA? Ngola mantswe a hao mme ebe o natefelwa ke ho ngola polelo e sebedisang mantswe a mangata ho ona kamoo o ka kgonang!**

**Answers:**


2. For example: let, it, at, rat, cat, race, trace, lace, lice, rice, car, tar, ate, rate, late, real, year, teal, tear, tier, tile, care

3. book, recipe, newspaper, shopping list

### 3. 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.

**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!**

Na o felletswe ke mehopolo ya dipale? 
Etela www.nalibali.org kapa www.nalibali.mobi bakeng sa disitlileke le mehopolo bakeng sa kgothaletsa lerato la ho bala ngwenang wa hao, le ho mo thusa hore a dule a balal!

Produced for Nal’ibali by the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA) and Times Media Education. Translation by Hilda Mohale. Nal’ibali character illustrations by Rico.

**Daily Dispatch**  The Herald  **Sunday Times**  **Sunday World**

**Drive your imagination**