to our children, if we want them to learn that reading can be an enjoyable and entertaining activity. Knowing this is what inspires them to want to read – and then to read more and more. And, this is how they establish a satisfying lifelong relationship with books and reading. What’s more, there are lots of research studies to show that the more children read at home, the better they do at school.

But reading to your children can’t just happen once or twice. It needs to be one of the regular activities in your home. Here are three tips to help you make reading a part of your family’s daily life.

Be a role model. When your children see you reading on a regular basis, they learn that reading is important, without you ever having to actually tell them this! Talk to your children about what you are reading and encourage them to ask questions about it. Then talk to them about books that they enjoy.

If you want them to read, read to them. Decide on a time of day that you will sit with your children and enjoy a book together – and then, do this every day for at least 15 minutes! Spending quiet, relaxing times reading together, helps you connect with your children while you develop their language ability, vocabulary and reading skills at the same time.

Develop children’s confidence. Value your children’s attempts to read, just like you valued their first spoken words! Give them lots of support to develop their confidence – that’s half the battle with learning. Encourage them to read to you. Listen to their pretend reading. Let them try to read something that they choose – even if it is a little difficult for them. Unless they ask you for help, just enjoy listening to them read, without correcting them. When children behave like readers they become readers.

Be a reading home! Is your home a reading home? Are stories part of your family’s daily life? Reading to your children helps them to discover the magic of books. When you read to your children, you teach them that books allow us to explore other people’s lives and to go on adventures to different places without ever leaving our homes!

If your children only read at school and when they do homework, then they will learn to link reading with work and not with pleasure. We need to read

If your home is not a reading home, three tips can get you started:

1. Be a role model. Children learn by imitation. When your children see you reading, they will want to read. Start by setting aside a regular time to read with your children, maybe before bedtime or after school. Be consistent and make it a priority in your schedule.

2. Be a reading home. Create a Reading Area. This could be a cozy corner with a comfortable chair, a lamp, and a bookshelf filled with books. Make it a welcoming space where children feel comfortable spending time.

3. Be a reading family. Encourage reading with family members. Start by sharing your favorite books with your children. Discuss the books together, ask questions about the stories, and encourage them to share what they’ve read.

It starts with a story...

If you enjoyed reading this article, you might also like...

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On 1 June 2016, Nal’ibali celebrated its fourth birthday and used this occasion to launch its FUNda Leader Campaign – a new campaign aimed at building a reading culture in South Africa – at the historic Homecoming Centre in District Six, Cape Town.

“We would like to encourage all South Africans to get stuck into this campaign and use stories and reading to help children reach their full potential. Every child deserves this opportunity, and the FUNda Leader Campaign is a simple way of giving it to them,” said Jade Jacobsohn, Managing Director of Nal’ibali.

The FUNda Leader Campaign encourages ordinary South Africans to become literacy role models for children. The campaign wants us all to find ways to make storytelling and reading part of children’s lives. We can do this by sharing stories and books with children in fun and meaningful ways, while making sure to include stories in the children’s mother tongues.

At the special launch event on International Children’s Day (1 June), Nal’ibali staff and guests were joined by four FUNda Leader ambassadors:

- award-winning South African actress, Denise Newman
- literacy activist and founder of the literacy NGO, Imbewu Yobomi, Mzwandile Lugogo
- community activist, and founder and director of the community organisation, Township Roots, Bulelani Futhshane
- well-known illustrator and the artist behind Madam and Eve, Rico Schacherl, who has worked with us since 2012 to create the much-loved Nal’ibali characters.

The ambassadors shared some of their reading memories with the audience and also the reasons why they believe that reading has the power to change individual lives and society.

Next, a huge birthday cake with lit candles was brought in for Nal’ibali’s Training Co-ordinator, Ntombizanele Mahobe, to blow out. Then it was time to sing happy birthday to Nal’ibali (in three languages!) before everyone got to experience some of the Nal’ibali reading-for-enjoyment activities that form part of what reading clubs do regularly.

It was a fun and inspiring way to celebrate our fourth birthday!

Ka la 1 Phupjane 2016, Nal’ibali e ile ya keteka letsatsi la yona la tsvalo la bone mme e ile ya sebedisa letsatsi lena ho thakgolo letsela la yona la FUNda Leader – leletsela le lelha le leretsweng ho aha tshwaele o nthja ya ho bala Afrika Borwa – Setsing sa nalane sa Homecoming mane District Six, Cape Town.

“Re rata ho kgqathateka Mafiokia Borwa shie ho ihlwarelwe ka letsela lena le ho sebedisa dipale le ho bala ho thusa bana hone ba fhlele botleng bana ba botleng. Ngwana e mong le mong a lebokwe ka monyetla ona, mme letsela la FUNda Leader le tsa tsa e tselelo ya ho bo fa on,” ha ralo Jade Jacobssohn, Mohloadi wa Tsamaiso wa Nal’ibali.

Letsholo la FUNda Leader le kgqathateka Mafiokia Borwa a tshwaleleleng ho ba mehloha ya tsoba ya ho bala ya ho ngola ya bana. Letsholo lena le bali hore rona bali le re luma le ditsela tsa ho e tsoa horo ho pheto dipale le ho bala ya be karolo ya mathapo a bana ya rona. Re ka etso saen ka ho abatela dipale le dikasu mmiho le bana bia rona ya ketse tsa setjhaba le tse nang le mokgato, le bie re reitse re ntlefela ho kgoswetla dipale le ngotsweng ya dipuo tsa kaping tsa bana.

Ketsahalong e kilelo ho thakgolo ka Letsatsi la Bana la Mathabo (1 Phupjane), basebetsi ba Nal’ibali le baeti ba ile ba kapana mmiho le baombasadara ba FUNda Leader:

- sebapadi sa ditshwantsho se hapileng dikgau sa Afrika Borwa, Denise Newman
- mwalawedi wa tsoba ya ho bala le ho ngola le motho wa NGO ya tsoba ya ho bala le ho ngola, Imbewu Yobomi, Mzwandile Lugogo
- mwalawedi wa setjhaba, le mothlei le molwaad wa malogo ya setjhaba, Township Roots, Bulelani Futhshane
- matshwantsho ya tsaboahang le seno se esang, Madam and Eve, Rico Schacherl, ya sebeditseng le rona haesale ho tlafo ke 2012 ho bapa baphethwa re ba ratwana ho holo ba Nal’ibali

Baombasadara ba ile le abatela ka tse diting tsa dipale tseo ba di hopetlang tseo ba di badieng mmiho le baombedi le makahlo a etsegone hone ba dumele hone ho bala ho na le matha a ho fetlo ho futho ya bane le setjhaba.

Ka more mma, kuku e kglo ya letsetsa la tsvalo e nang le dikesele le baneleselese le ile ya tlafo hone Matshekhamo wa Thupelo wa Nal’ibali, Ntembisaenele Mahobe a di butswela a di time. Jwale ya ebo nokho ya ho bina pina ya letsetsa la tsvalo badieng sa Nal’ibali (ka dipuo tse) thiolo patho bali ba ka ishuma le ho natefelwa le tse diting tsa diketsahola tsa Nal’ibali tsa ho-balle botlhabe tse bapang karolo ya se o ditekala tsa ho bala di se esang nokho le nokho.

E bie tseta e setjhaba le e kigezatsang ya ho keteka letsetsi la rona la tsvalo la bone!
Be a FUNda Leader

If you’re ready to stand up and be a FUNda Leader, get in touch with Nal’ibali right away! Simply join by signing up on the Nal’ibali website: www.nalibali.org. Or, contact us by email on info@nalibali.org, or by phoning us on 02 11 804080.

Once you’ve signed up:

- 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.

Hang ha o se o ingodisitse:

- Kamora mma, Nal’ibali e tla o fa thupello le tshehetso eo o e hoaka ho etsa dintho tse bonolo ho hodisa tseba ya ho bala le ho ngoa, mme ka motlolllo re tla boloka rekoto ya ditho tshohe tse rifle tse a di etsang!

- O tla kgona ho phetela batho ka tseo o kapaneng le tsona ho FUNda Leader le dinepe dipalakutsho. Tsa media wa phedsano (social media) tsa Nal’ibali le hore batho bohile ba tlo ho bone sa o se etsang.

- Ka tshebediso ya media wa phedsano re tla o hoaka ya baetapele ba bang ba FUNda Leader e le hore o tle o abelane ka makutlo, le sebetsa mmeho kapa o hodisa neteweke ya hao ya batho ba nang le lerato la ho thusa bana hone ba be le lerato la ho bala jawa le wa.

- Baetapele ba mahlakutsho ba FUNda Leader ba tla fuma da seke heng heng mme ba kgone ho kenela dithodhso. Hape ba ka nna ba eba le monyetla wa ho ya khonferensyang ya selimo ya selimo ya neteweke ya FUNda Leader.
Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the two cut-out-and-keep books, Helga's big splash, (pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12) and Tam on top (pages 9 and 10), as well as the Story Corner story, A ghost in Granny’s pyjamas (page 14). Choose the ideas that best suit your children’s ages and interests.

Helga’s big splash

This is a story about accepting yourself and knowing who you are. It is about a hippopotamus, Helga, who becomes unhappy when she tries to be what she thinks the other animals want her to be, instead of just being herself!

• Let your children talk about what they know about hippos. Then read the information in the “Did you know?” box on this page together. Encourage them to find more information about hippos on the internet or in books.

• Discuss these questions with your children. Are hippos supposed to be thin? Why do you think Helga has said or done when Bartholomew called her fat?

• Invite the children at your reading club (or in your class) to do a television news report on what happens in the story. Divide the children into groups so that there is a news reader, a reporter (who interviews characters from the story), Helga, Bartholomew and a couple of the other animals in each group.

A ghost in Granny’s pyjamas

In the story, Onke’s dog, Puppy was dreaming. Encourage your children to draw a picture of Puppy fast asleep and then ask them to add a thought bubble with a picture in it to show what Puppy was dreaming about.

• Suggest that your children write or tell their own scary stories about something that happens at night.

Tam on top

Tam’s friends say she is too small to play soccer with them, but then they realise that small is good when they need her to reach their ball!

Discuss these questions about the story with your children.

• How do you think Tam felt when Sam and Zen said she couldn’t play soccer with them?

• If you had been one of Sam and Zeb’s friends, what would you have said or done when they said this?

• What else could Tam have said or done when they wanted her to climb up to fetch the ball? Why do you think she didn’t say or do this?

• What do you think Sam and Zeb might have learnt in this story?

At no o ne tseba?

Dikubu di na le moato a makgutshwane, molomo a mohlole le mmele a bopeleng jwaleho temelo.

• Dikubu tse ngato di phela nako e ka bang dilemo tse 45.

• Dikubu tse phutlo ka phelo le tshwene le tseba.
She stayed at home and exercised on her new exercise machines.

Driv your imagination

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

Visit Helga at her website:
http://helgasbigsplash.wix.com/helga
Like her on Facebook.
Follow her on Twitter.
AND...
Help the next book happen through our crowd fund:
Walter Cleans Up
contact@matthewkalil.com for any more information.
Buy an e-version of Helga at:
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01DO4DQPH

A story about accepting yourself and the splash you make!

Helga’s big splash
Helga o phakgatsa metsi

Matthew Kalil
Archie Collier

she did sit-ups, star-jumps and touch-your-toes.

O ile a dula hae mme a ikwetlisa ka motjhini wa hae o motjha wa ho ikwetlisa.

She did sit-ups, star-jumps and touch-your-toes.


Helga’s big splash
Helga o phakgatsa metsi

Matthew Kalil
Archie Collier

She did sit-ups, star-jumps and touch-your-toes.


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Helga’s big splash
Helga o phakgatsa metsi

Matthew Kalil
Archie Collier

She did sit-ups, star-jumps and touch-your-toes.
Helga, the pink hippopotamus, lived happily on the banks of a river in Africa. Every morning, when she woke up, she waddled down to the waterhole where all the other animals were waiting.

Helga, eo e leng kubu e pinki, o ne a phela ha monate mabopong a noka e Afrika. Hoseng ho hong le ho hong, ha a tsoha, o ne a tsamaya a theohela mokoting o nang le metsi moo diphoofolo tse ding di neng di se di eme teng
From that day on, Helga ate healthily and exercised regularly and had a happy, hippo figure for the rest of her life.

Ho tloha tsatsing leo, Helga a ja dijo hantle mme a ikwetlisa kgafetsa mme a ba le sebopelo se tshwanang le sa kubu hantle bophelo ba hae kaofela.
… and landed in the water. *Kersploooshhh!*

“Helga!” cheered the animals as they smiled. But Helga’s smile was the biggest of them all.

… mme a wela ka metsing. *Halakabla.*

“*Helga!” diphoofolo tse ding tsa hlaha ditlatse di bososela. Empa pososelo ya Helga e ne e le yona e di fetang kaofela.*
Then the ball got stuck. Oh no!

Yaba bolo e a tshwaseha. Tjhe bo!

The children tried to get the ball, but they couldn’t reach it.

Bana ba leka ho ntsha bolo eo, empa ba ne ba sa kgone ho e fihlela.

This version of Tam on top has been specially adapted for use in the Nal’ibali Supplement.
Sam and Zeb had a new ball. They wanted to play soccer. Their friends wanted to play too! Stef and Megan came. Then Dan and Zondi came. And Tam came too.

“Let’s put Tam on top.”

“You be the ref, Tam,” said Sam.
“Let’s play!” shouted Tam.

“You’re too small,” said Zeb.
“You can’t play, Tam,” said Sam.

Sam and Zeb ba ne ba ena le bolo e ntjha. Ba ne ba batla ho bapala bolo ya maoto. Metswalle ya bona le yona e ne e batla ho bapala! Stef le Megan ba tla. Yaba Dan le Zondi ba tla. Mme Tam le yena a tla.
“Helga!” all the other animals would shout as they got splashed. Helga's big splash kept everyone cool under the hot African sun.

“Helga!”

Diphofolo kaofela di ne di omana ha di haswa ke metsi, ho phakgatsa ho hoholo ha Helga ho ne ho phodisa bohle ka tlasa letsatsi la Afrika le tjhesang.

O ne a ka tlolela hodimo moyeng…
The next morning, Helga, the pink hippopotamus, wandered down to the waterhole where all the other animals were waiting. She jumped high into the air …

Hoseng ha letsatsi le hlahlamang, Helga, kubu e pinki, a leba tlase qanthaneng moo diphoofolo tsho tse di neng di eme teng. A tlolela hodimo moyeng …
Do you have questions about your children’s reading and writing development that you’d like help with? Nal’ibali will answer them for you! Go to the “Ask the Expert” section on our website, www.nalibali.org, and send us your questions.

Here are a few of the questions that people have sent us — as well as our advice to them.

My baby is six months old and since I came across your website, I’ve been inspired to read to him twice a day! I really love it that I have found an activity to do with my son that gives us both so much pleasure — and I know that it is benefitting him educationally too. I have bought one or two books for him, but I want to get some more. What should I be looking for in the books I buy for my son?

Books with simple pictures or photographs of babies’ faces usually work well for babies. Most babies also enjoy books that have songs and rhymes in them. Board books and cloth books can be chewed, pulled and patted without breaking them. They therefore work very well when you want to allow your baby to handbooks on his own, like during nap time or changes or when he is in his pram during a shopping trip. The nice thing about reading to babies is that repetition and routine makes them feel secure. So, you can read the same book over and over again in exactly the same place each day without boring your baby at all!

What words should a Grade 6 child be able to read?

Children’s reading abilities differ quite a lot, so it’s not really possible to say what words all Grade 6 children should be able to read. As long as your child understands what he/she is reading, enjoys reading and reads regularly, his/her reading will improve over time. Encourage your child by reading to him/her every day.

How much time should I spend reading to my child?

Children are able to concentrate for different lengths of time depending on different things, like how old they are, how tired they are and how interested they are in the book you’re reading to them. We encourage adults to read to children for at least fifteen minutes per day. With some children it might be better to break this up into three sessions of five minutes each. Other children may want you to keep reading to them for an hour! Only read to your children for as long as they are able to concentrate easily. By doing so, you avoid making reading a chore for them and they’re more likely to be better to break this up into three sessions of five minutes each. Other children may want you to keep reading to them for an hour! Only read to your children for as long as they are able to concentrate easily. By doing so, you avoid making reading a chore for them and they’re more likely to look forward to your reading-together times.


Tsena ke tsa ding tsa dipotso tsa bole ba re romellesteng tsona — eitsana le diketse tsa rona ha bona.

Ngwana wa ko a dikgwedi di theletheng mme hoaole ke kopana le webaekte ya tsona, le ke kgothaditse tse hore ke mmmale habedii ka letsetse? Ke e rata e le ka nkanetse tsa ho hore ke kemane ketshothelele ea nako e etsho le mora wa ka ka re thabisang re le babedi — mme ke ka tseba hore e mo tswela molome wa thuto hape. Ke mo reketse buka kopa tsa pedi, empaa ka bafa ho tshwana tse ding hape. Ke lokela ho shaba eng dibukeng ka re lokela mora wa ka ka?

Dibuka tsa nang di ditshwantho tse bonsol ka dipone tsa dikhetse tsa masea di molome bakeng sa masea. Masea a mangata hape a nateletheke ka dibuka tsa nang le dipina le diraome ho tsona. Dibuka tsa diboto le dibuka tsa masela di ka hlatunwa, tsa hulwa mme tsa ollwa empa di sa senyehe. Kahoo di seballa hantle thaholo a o bafa eo dumela leesaa ka hoo ho thwsara dibuka ka boyaena, jwaloaka nokeng a o mo lehohang leelei keka ha a le kahara poretse ka nako ya ho ya mo mabenkeleng. Ntho e ntle ka ho bafa masea ke hore phetapheto le tseka le telelethieng di etsa hore ba ikutlwe ba sitwetsheleni. Kahoo, o ka ma wa bafa buka e le mngwe qafaletsa qafaletsa sebakeng se le se leswa ke leswa e lese a lesa a ma lela.

Ke mantswse afu a ngwana wa Kereti ya o a lokholong hape o se a tseba ha bafa?

Bokgoni ba bana ba ho bafa bo tsona haphola, kahoo ka ho kgomohlo tseho re ka bolela hore ke mantswse afu a bana bohle ba Kereti ya o a lokholong ho tseba ho bafa. Ha feele ngwana wa hoo ao utshwana se a se balang, a nateletheke ka ho bafa ha mme o a ditsa a bala, ho bafa ha hoo ho fla mafelela ha nako e nitsa e tsamsaya. Qafaletsa ngwana wa hoo ha ka ha mma ya ma tsa re kotho.

Ke lokela ho qeta nako e ke ka bafa ngwana wa ko?

Bana ba kgona ha tsepmang mafikwi baledi le e akhotse tsa fapaneng, jwaloaka hore a dikho tsa bana di ke, ba kgathetho hoake le hore ha ao la ne tla thelaeleng e ke bukeng eo a bo ballang yona. Re kgathethoatsi botsadi ho lo bafa bana bonyane metsotso e lehohle le metsotso e lehohle ka letsetse. Ha bafa ho bang ho ka ho bolela ho a maelela ho ararla re ka dikhotso tse tsa metsotso a metsotso e lehohle ka maelela. Bana ba bang ba ka bafa hore a tsebelo pele ho ho bafa nako e ka bang hore! Bafa bana ba hoo feele nako e letele ka lekana diketse tsa bafa. Ka ho etso seko, o tla be o qaba ho etso ake ho bafa ke bosebetsi ho bafa mme kahoo ba ka kgona ho thahela dinako tsa lona tsa bafa mme.$$
One dark night, Onke was fast asleep in his little bed, in his little room, in the house he shared with Mama, Papa, Granny, and his little pet dog called Puppy. Puppy was asleep on a red blanket at the foot of Onke’s bed. She was snoring quietly and dreaming of catching squirrels in the park.

Suddenly Onke heard a loud noise and woke up with a fright. “What’s that noise?” he said, shaking. He pulled the blanket over his head. “I hope it’s not a monster or a scary ghost. I don’t like ghosts.”

**CRUNCH!** “There it is again,” he said, trying to sound brave. “I have to find out what made that noise.” So Onke picked up the green plastic torch he kept on his bedside table, and shone it around the room.

“Do you think a ghost made that noise?” Onke asked Puppy, who was still fast asleep and dreaming about chasing squirrels. Onke patted her head.

**HOO! HOO!** A new noise came from outside.

“Is that a ghost?” asked Onke, shining his torch through the window.

A big, fat brown thing, covered in feathers, with a yellow beak, sat on the branch outside. Onke laughed and said, “That’s not a ghost. It’s just a big owl sitting in the tree outside my room. But I wonder what made that crunching sound?”

**HOO! HOO!** The big owl spread its wings and flew off across the garden.

“Owls hunt for mice and rats at night, that’s why people never get to see them. It’s quite lucky to see an owl,” said Onke. “Isn’t that right, Puppy?” But Puppy was still fast asleep, so Onke rubbed her furry little tummy and she snored and rolled over on her red blanket.

“Maybe I’m just being silly,” thought Onke. He peeked out from behind his bedroom door, and looked into the dark passage.

But there was nothing there, just his parents’ shoes next to the wall, and Puppy’s water bowl on a little mat. Onke crept along the carpet in the passage, past his parents’ bedroom, and peeked into the kitchen.

“It’s a ghost!” he shouted, shining his torch onto a black shadow standing near the stove. The ghost wore blue pyjamas with fluffy sheep on them.

“Those are Granny’s pyjamas,” said Onke. “Why have you stolen Granny’s pyjamas, Ghost?” Onke shone his torch up to look at the ghost’s face. There was Granny!

“Onke,” said Granny, her mouth hanging open in shock. “You gave me such a fright. I thought you were a ghost.”

“I thought you were a ghost,” said Onke, giggling. “What are you doing in the kitchen so late at night, Granny?”

“I couldn’t sleep,” said Granny, “so I came into the kitchen for a mug of warm milk and some biscuits. Do you want to have a midnight snack with me?” Onke smiled and nodded his head.

So he and Granny sat at the kitchen table chatting quietly as they dunked delicious crunchy butter-biscuits into mugs of warm milk. Then they made a toasted sandwich to share, with pickles, ham, cheese, tomato, and fresh green lettuce.

When they had finished eating and drinking, they brushed their teeth for the second time that evening. Then Onke said goodnight to Granny and went back to his bedroom. As he opened the door, Puppy jumped up and barked.

“Puppy,” said Onke, patting her head, “it’s only me, you silly dog. Did you think I was a ghost?”

Puppy licked his face and rolled over on her red blanket.

“I solved a mystery tonight. Did you know that, Puppy?” asked Onke. But Puppy had already curled up and closed her eyes.

“That looks like a good idea,” said Onke. “Goodnight, Puppy.”

“Goodnight,” said a friendly ghost on the ceiling, who was just passing through the house looking for warm milk and biscuits to eat. But Onke was already fast asleep.
Ka bosiu bo bong bo lefifi, Onke o ne a kgalehile betheng ya hae e nyane, ka kamoreng ya hae e nyane, tlung eo a neng a dula ho yona le Mme, Ntate, Nkongo le ntjaunya ya hae e bitswang Puppy. Puppy o ne a robotse hodima kobo e kgbedu maotong a bethe ya Onke. O ne a honela tlase a bible a fora a leleka dikwirile pakeng.

Hanghang Onke a utlwa lerata le lehlo mme a phaphama a tshohile. “Ke lerata la eng lelo?” a rialo a ithobaletse mme jwale diqhenqhe tsa di tlosa ka di bea hantle jwaloka ha Mme a ne a nkopile. Na ha ho jwalo, Empa feela e le diaparo tsa ka tse ditshila, tse leketlileng setulong. Hoja ka phaposi. Onke a tsheha ha a bona hore ke eng hantlentle. “Ha se sepoko! tsa tau le nko e telele e kang ya kolobemoru.

Shebahala jwaloka setshosa se seholo se nang le mapheo a lenong le dinala jwale a bona ntho e nngwe e lefifi e tshosang hukung ya phaposi. E ne e kgubedu.


“Ke lerata la eng leo?” a rialo a thothomela. A hula dikobo a ikugurumetsa ka tsoa. “Ke tshepa hore se setshosa kapa sepoko se tshabang. Ha ke rate dipoko.”

“Ke lexo hape,” a rialo, a leka ho iketsa sebetenyana. “Ke lokela ho batlissia hore ke eng e etsona lerata leo.” Yaba Onke o rika totjhe e tala ya polaletlisi eo a neng e be leile tafoleng e pela bethe ya hae, mme a bona sa ka yona hohlile ka phaposong.

“Na o nanha hore ke sepoko se entseng lerata lelo?” Onke a bota Puppy, ya neng a ntse a kgaalehi e tloeta ka ho leleka dikwirile. Onke a mo phaphata hloohong. HOO! HOO! Ha Naha lerata le leng le lelthi le tswang ka ntle.

“Na ebe ke sepoko?” ha bota Onke, a bentsha totjhe ya hae ho bonesa fenestereng.

Ntso e kgo, e nonneg e souotho, e tletseng masiba, e nang le molomo o motsu o mosehlo, e ne e etsona hodima lekala ka ntle. Onke a tshetshe mme a re, “Ha se sepoko ntho yane. Empa feela e le sephoko se seholo se dutseng sefateng ka ntle ho phaposi ya ka. Empa ke a potsha hore ke eng e neng e etsa lerata lane le kgwahlatsang?”

“HOO! HOO! Sepoko se seholo sa phukalatsa mapheo a sona mme sa fofela kwana ho farala tshimoo.

“Diphoko di tsoana ditweba le ditadi bosiu, ba ka hahlo batho ba se leboleng ba di bona. Hantlentle ke lethohlohonolo ho hona sephoko,” ha rialo Onke. “Na ha ho jwalo, Puppy?”

Empa Puppy o ne a ntse a ile le sephume sa boroko, yaba Onke a phoalla mpanyana ya yona e boyo, mme ya hona ya thetehela kobong ya yona e kgubedu.

“Mohlomong ke mpa ke tsho ha difofe,” Onke a nanha a hore. Empa jwalo a bona ntho e mpane e lefibelo e tlaung qaung ku phaposi. E ne e shebahala jwaloaka setshosa se seholo se nang le mapheo a lenong le dinala tsu la nko e telele e kango ya kolobemor.”

“Na ke sepoko seo?” a rialo, a lebisa kanganya ya totjhe hore ya phaposi. Onke a tseha ha a bona hore ke eng hantlentle. “Ha se sepoko! Empa feela e le diaparo tsu ka tse ditshila, tse leketlentle setulong. Hoja ka di tloka ka di bea hantle jwalo ka Mme a ne a nkopile. Na ha ho jwalo, Puppy?” Empa Puppy o ne a ntse a tshohalete mme jwale diwetjhe tsa hae di wela hodima kobo e kgbedu.

“Empa e ne e le modumo wa eng ola o kgwahlatsang oo ke e utwileng pejana?” a rialo Onke. KGWAHLA! A utlwa modumo oo ho mme a thothomela. “E tlamela hore e be e le sephoko,” a nanha le jwalo, “mme e utwahela eka e sofha moeng ka ntle ho phaposi ya ka.”

Onke o ne o leka ho ba sebete, leba mangwele a hae a ne a thothomela jwalo ka jeli. A nyarela ka ntle ho lema la kamore ya hae, mme a shebha phasieheng e lefifi.

Empa ho ne ho se na letho teng, e le felele dia tsa batswadi ba hae di beilewe la lebotha, le sejana sa metsi sa Puppy hodima mmata o moyane. Onke a nanya hodima mmata phasiethjeng, a feta kamore ya batswadi ba hae, mme a nyarela ka kitjiheng.

“Ke sepoko!” a hololeta, a bentsheha totjhe ya hae hodima seriti se setsho se emeng haufh篓 le sefo. Sepoko se o se se aperidi dipuma tse bolou tse nang le niku e boya ho tsona.

“Ke se dipuma tsa Nkongo,” ha rialo Onke. “Hweboneng o utsitwee dipuma tsa Nkongo, wena Sepoko?” Onke a shebisa lebona la totjhe ho hantle e bone sefahleho sa sepoko. “Na e le e Nkongo!”


“Ke nanha hore wena o sepoko,” Onke a rialo a kekethe. “E tsang ka kitjiheng bosiu bo bokana, Nkongo?”

“Ke ne ke sa kgone ho robala,” ha rialo Nkongo, “kahoo ka ti a ka mona ka kitjiheng ho ti a ti a grafik ka habe a se lebona la jranga, Nn a tla a mpa ka havela le lebono?”

Onke a bososela mme a oma ka hloho.

Yaba yena le Nkongo ba dula tafoleng ya kitjiheng ba oqoqo fatsho bya ntse sa oqoqo bosiu bo botso tse monate ka hara mabekere a lebese le futhumetseng. Yaba hape ya etsa satsehise e bintshweng, e nang le diphilike, heme, kase, tamata, le leholo a tala mme ba a arolelana.

Ha ba qetile ho ja le ho mwa, ba boroa elega mene a bona legetelo la bokedi besetsa la bokoe. Yaba Onke o fonaisa Nkongo mme a leba kamoreng ya hae. Eitse ha a bula lema, Puppy a tlola mme a bokela. “Puppy,” ha rialo Onke, a mo phaphata hloohong, “ke nna, nsemaumai towe sa ntho. O ne o nanha hore he sepoko?”

Puppy a mo nyeka sefalihang mme a ipetse ho hoko le hae e lebese le gbedu. Onke a bula lema, Puppy a bokela mme a bokela. “Ke sepoko!” a hoeletsa, a bentsha totjhe ya hae ho sephoko se e lemba le sefahleho sa sepoko.


“Ke ne ke sa kgone ho robala,” ha rialo Nkongo, “kahoo ka ti a ka mona ka kitjiheng ho ti a grafik ka havela le lebona le bono a havela le futhumetseng. Yaba hafe ya etsa satsehise e bintshweng, e nang le diphilike, heme, kase, tamata, le leholo a tala mme ba a arolelana.

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Puppy a mo nyeka sefalihang mme a ipetse ho hoko le hae e lebese le gbedu. Onke a bula lema, Puppy a bokela mme a bokela. “Ke sepoko!” a hoeletsa, a bentsha totjhe ya hae ho sephoko se e lemba le sefahleho sa sepoko.


“Ke ne ke sa kgone ho robala,” ha rialo Nkongo, “kahoo ka ti a ka mona ka kitjiheng ho ti a grafik ka havela le lebona le bono a havela le futhumetseng. Yaba hafe ya etsa satsehise e bintshweng, e nang le diphilike, heme, kase, tamata, le leholo a tala mme ba a arolelana.
Use the clues below to help you complete the crossword puzzle about Helga’s big splash.

**DOWN**
1. The kind of animal Helga was

**ACROSS**
2. A wild animal with a long neck
3. A wild animal with a snout
4. The wild animal who told Helga that she was too fat
5. Where the animals went to drink water
6. What Helga made when she jumped into the water – A big _______

**Monate wa Nal’ibali**

Sebedisa mhlabla e ka tlase mona ho a thuša ho tlatsa phazele ya mantswe mbapwi le Helga o phakgatsa metši.

**HO THEOSA**
2. Phofofo e molala o malelele.
4. Nko ya kaloba e bitswa _____

**HO PAROLETSA**
1. Helga o ne a rata ho itahlela ka _____
3. Helga e ne e le motlana ona wa phofofo.
5. Helga o ne a kgatsalase ka ha ba re o _____
6. Phofofo e ileng ya re ho Helga o nonne haholo.

**World Gratitude Day** is celebrated on 21 September. Read what some of the Nal’ibali characters say they are grateful for. Then write down what you are grateful for on strips of paper. Write one thing on each strip.

I am grateful …

I am grateful for my dog, Noodle.
Ke leboha bakeng sa ntja ya ka, Noodle.

I am grateful that I have a mom and dad who read to me.
Ke leboha ha e le mona ke ena le ntate ba mpallang.

I am grateful that I am good at making things.
Ke leboha ke tseba ho iketsetsa dintho.

I am grateful for my friends.
Ke leboha ka metswalle ea ke nang le yona.

Don’t forget that we will be taking a break until the week of 23 October 2016. Join us after the school holidays for more Nal’ibali reading magic! In the meantime, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi to find stories and reading-for-enjoyment inspiration.