

World Read Aloud Day

with Nal'ibali

for the Early Years!



Nal'ibali
IT STARTS WITH
A STORY.



This year we would like to invite families and caregivers of younger children to read with us on World Read Aloud Day, 7 February 2024 – and every day. Our special story, *The lost kitten*, is written by Stacey Fru and illustrated by Rico. The story is available in all 11 official South African languages. This story card is especially for you!

Before World Read Aloud Day

- 🐾 Get to know the story well enough so that you can retell it or read it aloud in your own way.
- 🐾 Think about how to bring the story to life. Decide which facial expressions and gestures you want to use.
- 🐾 Choose a time of day to share the story when your whole family is together.
- 🐾 Find parts of the story where your children can join in, for example, they could make the sounds that the kitten and dog make.
- 🐾 Practise telling or reading the story aloud.



Before you read the story aloud

- 🐾 Cut out pictures of animals like dogs, cats, rabbits and tortoises that can be kept as pets. Let each child choose a picture as their pet to hold while you read the story.
- 🐾 Ask questions or talk about things that will help your children focus on the story. For example, show a photograph of a cat or kitten. Talk about animals that we keep as pets.
- 🐾 Read the title of the story. Ask, "What do you think this story is about?"



While you read the story aloud

- 🐾 Questions like, "Why do you think he did that?" and "What would you have done?" develop your children's empathy for and understanding of other people.
- 🐾 Get your children to join in by making the sounds that the animals make.

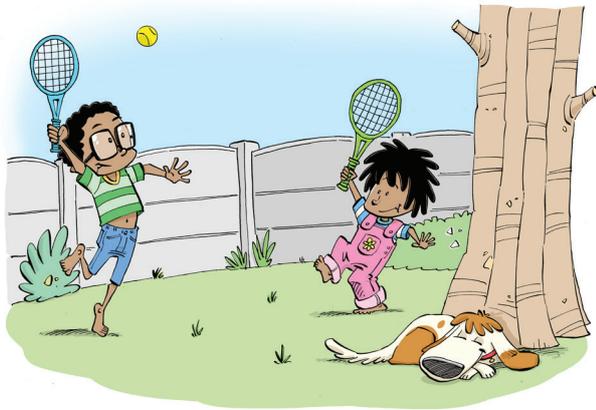


Pledge to read aloud together as a family this **World Read Aloud Day** – and every day. Sign up at www.nalibali.org or WhatsApp the word "WRAD" to 0600 44 22 54. Each family that signs up will have the opportunity to join **Nal'ibali's World Read Aloud Day family-reading journey**. You will receive additional stories as well as tips and ideas on how to read with your children throughout the year.

The lost kitten



Story by Stacey Fru 🌀 Illustrations by Rico



On Friday afternoon, Neo and Bella were playing in Neo's garden. Noodle was sleeping peacefully.



Meow, meow, meow! A tiny ginger kitten crawled out from under a bush. "Look it has a pretty blue collar around its neck," said Neo.

Neo and Bella took it inside.

"Mom, Dad, look! We found a kitten in the garden!" shouted Neo.

"It must belong to someone because it has a collar around its neck," said Bella.

"We should try to find the owners," Dad said.



"Tomorrow we can make posters about the lost kitten. Maybe the owner will see the posters," said Mom.

Neo found a shoebox and an old jersey to make a cosy bed for the kitten. Dad fed it and gave it a big bowl of clean water.



On Saturday morning, Bella arrived very early. "Let's make the posters!" she said. They made four posters. "Let's go put them up," Dad said. First they went to the library ...



then they went to the shop ...



then the neighbour let them put a poster on her gate.



They saved one poster to put up at school.

On Tuesday afternoon, Neo, Bella, Noodle and the kitten were playing in the lounge. *Knock, knock, knock!* There was someone at the door.

Noodle barked excitedly.

The kitten got such a fright that it ran and hid under the couch.



"Oh, hello," said Neo when he saw a girl at the door.

"Hello, my name is Gina," said the girl. "I think the kitten you found may be mine. Her name is Ginger."

But when they looked in the lounge, the kitten wasn't there. "Oh no!" said Bella. "I hope the kitten isn't lost again!"

Gina looked very sad.

Then they heard Noodle in the kitchen. *Woof, woof!* This was followed by a loud *CRASH!*





The children hurried to the kitchen. There sat the kitten. It had knocked over its water bowl when Noodle barked and was now very wet.

Bella dried the kitten and gave it to Gina.

Purr, purr, purr. The kitten was very happy!

“You and Neo can visit Ginger whenever you like,” said Gina.

Bella’s face lit up. “Thank you!” she said.

“But,” said Neo, “I think Noodle should stay home.”

And everyone agreed that this was probably a very good idea.



After reading the story together, talk about what happened in the story. Ask open-ended questions to encourage your children to think and talk about ideas linked to the story, for example, “What is your favourite part of the story?”

Get story active!

- 🐾 Sing a song or make up a song about cats and dogs.
- 🐾 Draw a picture of your favourite part of the story.
- 🐾 Use playdough or clay to make a model of Ginger or Noodle.
- 🐾 Make a poster of your pet or a pet you would like to have. Draw a picture of your pet. Write or ask someone to help you write the colour and name of your pet.



Share photos and videos of you and your children enjoying the World Read Aloud Day story and activities [#nalibaliwrad2024](#) on our social media!

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 The Nal'ibali Trust

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Nal'ibali (isiXhosa for “here’s the story”) is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign. Our vision is a South Africa where every child enjoys a story every day.



English