Read and tell stories to EVERY child EVERY day

You can read the story aloud to children who are 6 years and older. Children aged 3 to 6 will enjoy listening to the story while you tell it to them. Here are some ideas on how to share the story with younger children.

Before

✦ Get to know the story well enough so that you can retell it in your own way.
✦ Think about how to bring the story to life.
  • Make a poster that says: “Come to our party at the park!” Put it up where your children will see it.
  • Choose a time of the day to share the story when your whole family is together.
  • Find parts of the story where your children can join in, for example, doing the actions to Tin’s song.
  • Decide what facial expressions and gestures you want to use as you tell the story, for example, looking for the We Can Band like Neo did.
  • Collect and/or make simple drums, shakers and chimes using tins, or download and print the story’s pictures from www.nalibali.org to use and show as you tell the story.
✦ Practise telling or reading the story aloud yourself, or arrange for each character in the story to be read by a different family member or friend. For example, Gogo’s part could be read by your own Gogo!

During

✦ Introduce the story and characters.
✦ Tell your children the story.

After

✦ Ask open-ended questions to encourage your children to think and talk about ideas linked to the story, for example, “What is your favourite thing to do at a party?”
✦ Together, do the step dance. Call out the steps like Tin did.
✦ Invite your children to:
  • make musical instruments like drums, shakers and chimes from recycled materials such as tins, plastic, string or wool, paper towel rolls, beads, buttons and bottle tops, as well as glue, scissors and paint.
  • have a concert where they play their instruments and sing.
  • make scenes from the story using playdough or clay.

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.

Share photos and videos of you and your children enjoying the World Read Aloud Day story and activities on our Facebook page!
World Read Aloud Day with Nal’ibali

This year marks Nal’ibali’s 10th annual celebration of World Read Aloud Day! We invite you and your family to read our special story, *A party at the park*, aloud. It is written by Mabel Mnensa and illustrated by Rico.

The story is available in all 11 official South African languages. And, to allow as many people as possible to enjoy our World Read Aloud Day story in their home language, the story is also available in Shona, French, Chichewa, Portuguese, Swahili and Lingala.

Help us read a story aloud to as many children as possible this World Read Aloud Day, 2 February 2022 – and every day – and be part of building literacy in South Africa!

**What to do**

Pledge to read aloud together as a family this World Read Aloud Day – and every day. Sign up at [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) or WhatsApp the word “WRAD” to 060 044 2254. 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.

**Grow a love of reading together**

When you enjoy a story with your children every day, it:

- shows them that you think books and reading are important.
- gives you things to talk about as a family.
- builds a strong bond between you.
- helps them see that reading is an enjoyable and rewarding activity.
- shows them how we read and how books work.
- lets them enjoy stories that they cannot yet read on their own.
- encourages them to learn to read for themselves, and then to keep reading.
- helps develop literacy and emotional skills so that they can cope well at school and in society.

Spread a love of stories! Pass on this story or share it with someone you know.
Neo, Josh and Hope were all at Gogo’s house. They were talking and laughing loudly.

“Shhhh!” said Gogo. “I can’t hear what they are saying on the radio. Come, let’s all listen to my favourite show.”

Everyone kept quiet and listened. Suddenly they heard the announcer mention the name of their park.

“Wow! Our park is famous!” said Neo.

“… and Tiniso, also known as Tin, will be putting on a show at the park this afternoon with the We Can Band. Artists from Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Malawi will also be performing. Everyone is welcome to join the party!” said the announcer.

“Gogo,” said Neo, “did you hear that? They said everyone is welcome. May we please go? Please?”

Gogo looked at Neo and smiled. “If Josh and Hope are allowed to go, then you may go too,” she said. Josh and Hope were out the door as quick as a flash to ask their parents’ permission to join the party at the park.

When they came back to fetch Neo, Hope told Gogo that Bella and her mom would be going too.

“Okay, off you go then. Stay close together,” said Gogo.

At the park, Neo saw Bella and her mom, and even Noodle had come along! “I think everyone from our town is here,” said Neo. “And some new people too.”

“Listen …” said Josh. “Are some people speaking French?”

“Yes!” said Hope. “And I can hear Chichewa and Shona too.”

Neo grabbed Hope’s arm. “Look,” he said, “Tin’s on stage! But where is the We Can Band?”

Before Hope could answer, Tin stepped up to the microphone. “Hello!” she said. “ARE YOU READY TO START THIS PARTY?”

“Yebo, yes!” shouted the crowd.
Tin started playing her guitar. “Repeat after me,” she said as she started singing. “Left foot back.”

“Left foot back,” sang the crowd.
“Right foot back,” sang Tin.
“Right foot back,” sang the crowd.

Josh and Hope were smiling and singing along, but Neo was still looking around for the band.

“Come on, everyone!” shouted Tin. “Let’s celebrate! Or do you need the We Can Band to help you?”

“Yebo, yes!” shouted the crowd.

Tin looked around. “Where is the band? Oh no, I don’t see them anywhere. It’s not a party without a band. I’m going to need some help. Only a team can save this dream!” Tin smiled as she looked at the crowd. “First, I’m going to need two drummers.”

Neo and Hope had their hands up first. As they climbed onto the stage Tin took them to four large coffee tins with plastic lids. The tins were decorated with brightly coloured paper and buttons. There were also drumsticks for Neo and Hope to use.

“Now we need a shaker,” said Tin.
“Josh! Pick Josh!” shouted Neo.
“Is there a Josh out there? Where is Josh? Let’s get him up here,” laughed Tin.

Josh put up his hand. Two men lifted his wheelchair onto the stage.

“Welcome, Josh,” said Tin. “Try out these two shakers.”

Josh shook one and then the other. They made different sounds.

“That’s great,” said Tin. “NOW, LET THE …”
But before she could finish, there was a loud clanging noise. Everyone looked around to see what it could be.

Then Noodle ran across the stage, dragging tins tied together with string behind him.

“The chimes!” shouted Tin. “I thought I had lost them.”

Bella ran towards the stage. “Noodle!” she called. Noodle ran to Bella, the tins clanging noisily behind him.

“It’s fine,” said Tin laughing. “I think Noodle wants to be part of the We Can Band. And I think he wants you to join us too,” she said, pointing at Bella.

Tin helped Bella onto the stage and together they untangled the tin chimes from around Noodle’s body. Then Bella and Noodle went and stood next to Neo, Hope and Josh.

Tin strummed her guitar and said, “LET THE MUSIC BEGIN!”

As Tin pointed at Neo and Hope, they beat their drums. Then Tin sang, “Left foot back,” and pointed at the crowd.

“Left foot back,” sang the crowd.

Next Tin pointed at Josh and he shook his shakers in time to the beat.

“Right foot back,” sang Tin.
“Right foot back,” sang the crowd.

Tin pointed at Bella. The row of tins chimed beautifully as Bella swung them against each other. Noodle barked excitedly.

Soon the party was in full swing. Tin sang her songs while Neo, Hope, Josh and Bella played along. And Noodle barked every now and then to join in too!

Then the other artists each sang a song from their country. The crowd cheered and clapped. They loved the show!

“You see,” said Tin to the We Can Band, “this little team saved the dream! Thanks to the four of you … and Noodle, everyone enjoyed a wonderful party!”

★ FOR MORE STORIES, VISIT WWW.NALIBALI.ORG OR WHATSAPP “STORIES” TO 060 044 2254 ★