

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY WITH NALIBALI

This year World Read Aloud Day is being celebrated on 4 March 2015. Join us on this day and read a story especially written for us by South Africa's best-known storyteller, Gcina Mhlophe – *Sisanda's gift* – to children you know.

5 WORLD READ ALOUD DAY ACTIVITIES

1. Read the story, *Sisanda's gift* on pages 2 and 3 to your children and others. Practise reading it aloud a few times before you read it to the children and remember to put lots of expression into your voice as you read. With very young children, you might wish to show them the pictures as you retell the story more simply in your own words.
2. Go to www.nalibali.org and download finger puppets for the main characters in the story, *Sisanda's gift*. Then encourage your children to use the puppets to retell the story or to tell stories of their own.
3. Encourage your children to interpret the story by asking them to draw or paint a picture of their favourite part.
4. Use World Read Aloud Day to try something new – read aloud to children or adults you have not read to before, or try reading a story to your children in a different place, like at the park or when they are in the bath!
5. Make your own World Read Aloud Day posters. Then display them at your school, library, reading club or place of worship to create awareness about the importance of this day.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Go to www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi to sign up your family, reading club or school and help make this the biggest World Read Aloud Day event in South Africa!

8 BENEFITS OF READING ALOUD!

Reading aloud to your children:

- shows them that you value books and reading.
- gives you things to talk about together.
- builds a bond between you.
- allows them to experience reading as a satisfying activity.
- motivates them to learn to read for themselves and then to keep reading.
- shows them how we read and how books work.
- lets them enjoy stories that are beyond their current reading ability.
- develops their vocabulary and language abilities.

WIN!

By signing up to read aloud to the children in your life, you stand the chance of winning two domestic tickets courtesy of South African Airways!

For terms and conditions, visit www.nalibali.org



SISANDA'S GIFT

Story by Gcina Mhlophe

Illustrations by Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Every day when eight-year-old Sisanda gets home from school, she changes out of her uniform, eats her lunch and plays a game of *umlabalaba* with her grandfather. They have so much fun flying their "cows" around the board that she doesn't want to stop. But then he reminds her that she wants to become a bank manager one day when she grows up.

"How will you do that if you don't go to high school?" jokes her grandfather.



Sisanda just laughs. "I will go to high school and university too. That's why I work so hard at school!"

Sisanda is quite tall for her age – she takes after her father. Her round face and beautiful smile are her mother's. Both her parents get up early each morning to go to work at the game reserve close by. By the time Sisanda and her friends start school, coachloads of tourists are already arriving to spot Africa's finest animals.

For her last birthday, Sisanda had a special treat – her parents got permission for her to have a party at the game reserve. The giraffes at the reserve were curious about this group of people. They stretched out their long necks for the best view of

the party and they even seemed to want some of the birthday cake! Sisanda loved the giraffes. All animals were special to her, but it was the quiet and gentle giraffes that stole her heart. She could spend all day watching them.



One Friday, Sisanda's father came home from work early. He looked very upset.

"What's wrong, Baba?" Sisanda asked.

"Today a swarm of bees stung a mother giraffe," explained Sisanda's father. "Her head was so swollen from all the stings that her beautiful eyes were closed. We tried everything to help her, but it was no use – she died. And the saddest part of all is that she had a young calf that still needs her."

"Oh no!" said Sisanda starting to cry. "I wish there was something I could do. The baby giraffe must be crying just like me."

Sisanda cried and cried. Her mother tried to comfort her. She even read Sisanda an extra story at bedtime to help her forget how sorry she felt for that baby giraffe. Eventually, Sisanda drifted off to sleep to the sound of her mama's voice.



The next morning Sisanda woke up with an idea!

"Can I go to work with you today?" she asked her baba. "I have a gift for the baby giraffe."

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storytelling and reading

Her parents looked at each other, smiled and said, "Yes, of course you can come with us."

It was a warm but cloudy day. Everything in the reserve seemed unusually quiet.

"I think the sun isn't shining today because it's sad about the baby giraffe," said Sisanda.

A great big elephant gazed at the family walking by.

"Maybe he's wondering why a little girl is going to work with her parents," said Sisanda's mother.

Sisanda nodded. "He's going to get a surprise when he finds out," she thought.

They found the baby giraffe standing alone. His willowy neck drooped and his big brown eyes looked dull. Sisanda stood as close to him as she could. She opened her small bag and took out a book. Then, to her parents' surprise, she began to read to the baby giraffe. He turned his head towards her voice and listened as if he could understand every word. At first, Sisanda's parents thought reading to a giraffe was a strange thing to do, but they changed their minds when they saw how peaceful he looked – his gentle eyes looking at Sisanda.



"My story made him feel better," Sisanda told her grandfather when she got home.

Sisanda went to visit the little giraffe most afternoons and over weekends. And every time she went, she took another story to share. The two new friends looked so good together that even passing tourists took photos of them.

Slowly the little giraffe grew stronger. People at the game reserve were taking really good care of him and all the love from his new friend, Sisanda, worked like magic.

One day the reserve manager asked Sisanda to give her new friend a name.

"I think Thokozani is a good name," said Sisanda.

The next day the reserve manager phoned Sisanda's teacher. He invited all Sisanda's classmates to come and meet Thokozani. The handsome giraffe had grown taller and stronger in the three months since Sisanda's first visit.

On the day of the outing, forty Grade 3 children waited eagerly for the reserve gates to open.

Then Sisanda proudly led everyone to Thokozani. Some of the children looked at the tall giraffe in amazement. Others giggled nervously. Their teacher, Miss Khanyile, just smiled.



"Your friend is beautiful, Sisanda. You have been so kind to him," she said gently.

"What is his name?" asked one of the boys.

"Thokozani," answered Sisanda.

"Thokozani means 'rejoice'," explained Miss Khanyile.

The children sat down and listened while Sisanda read the story she had read to Thokozani on the day they had first met. The reserve manager took photos. Some tourists passing by took photos too. Even a photographer from a local newspaper clicked away. He promised that a photo of them would be in the local newspaper very soon. Everyone cheered.

What a gift! Reading to heal a friend.

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MAKE A BADGE!



1. Cut along the red dotted line to cut out the badge.
2. Colour in the picture.
3. Cut a circle the same size as the badge from some thin cardboard, for example, a cereal box.
4. Use glue to paste the badge onto the cardboard.
5. Use sticky tape or masking tape to attach a safety pin to the back of the badge. Or make a hole at the top and thread some wool or string through it so that you can hang it around your neck.
6. Enjoy wearing your badge as you read and listen to stories on World Read Aloud Day.

Send us pictures of your children with their World Read Aloud Day badges. Email them to info@nalibali.org or post them on Facebook!

ABOUT US

Nal'ibali (isiXhosa for "here's the story") is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. Children who are immersed in great and well-told stories – in languages they understand – become inspired and are motivated to learn to read for themselves. Such personally rewarding learning is a recipe for successful literacy development.

Nal'ibali is driven by PRAESA (the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa), Times Media and a growing number of partners. Through sustained mentoring and collaboration with communities, reading clubs, literacy organisations and volunteers of all ages, as well as a vibrant media campaign, Nal'ibali is helping to root a culture of literacy into the fabric of everyday life in South Africa.

For more details, visit www.nalibali.org, www.nalibali.mobi or email info@nalibali.org. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter: [@nalibaliSA](https://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA).

