

# World Read Aloud Day

## with Nal'ibali



**Nal'ibali**  
IT STARTS WITH  
A STORY.



Join thousands of participants as we read our special story aloud to as many children as possible this World Read Aloud Day, **7 February 2024** – and every day – and be part of building literacy in South Africa! 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. You can read this story aloud to children who are 6 years and older. For younger children, use our special **Early Years World Read Aloud Day** story card.

### Prepare to read the story aloud

- 🐾 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

- 🐾 Read the title of the story. Ask your children what they think the story is about.
- 🐾 Ask questions that will help your children understand the thoughts and feelings of the characters in the story.

**Ideas to talk about:** Do you or someone you know have a pet? How would you feel if the pet got lost? What could you do to try and find the lost pet? How would you feel once you found it again?

### While you read the story aloud

- 🐾 As you read the story, ask your children questions about it. "What do you think will happen next?" is a great question to develop children's prediction skills, which are very important literacy skills.
- 🐾 Get them 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](http://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 in the sun.



Suddenly Noodle jumped up and started barking. *Woof, woof, woof!*

"What's wrong, Noodle?" Bella asked.

Then they heard another sound coming from the bushes. *Meow, meow, meow!* A tiny ginger kitten crawled out from under a bush. Bella rushed over and picked it up very carefully. "Look at its cute furry face," she said showing Neo.

"And it has a pretty blue collar around its neck," said Neo.

Noodle wanted to see too, but his barking scared the kitten, so Neo and Bella took it inside.



"Mom, Dad, look! We found a kitten in the garden!" shouted Neo as they ran into the lounge.

"We think it's lost, but it must belong to someone because it has a blue collar around its neck," said Bella.

Dad looked up from the book he was reading to Mbali. "We should try to find the owners. They are probably very worried that they lost their kitten," he said.

"It's too late to find them tonight," said Mom. "But tomorrow morning we can make posters about the lost kitten and put them up. Maybe the owner will see the posters."

While Mom walked Bella and Noodle home, 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. Soon the kitten had a full belly and was fast asleep.





On Saturday morning, Bella arrived very early. "I brought paper and crayons to make posters," said Bella as she hugged the kitten.

"Let's get started!" said Neo.

Once they had made four posters, Dad said, "I think that's enough. Let's go put them up."

First they went to the library, then they went to the shop, and on their way home the neighbour let them put a poster on her gate. They saved one poster and put it on the school's notice board on Monday.



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

Neo ran to open the door.

"Who is it, Neo?" asked Bella.

Noodle barked excitedly.

All the noise gave the kitten such a fright that it ran and hid under the couch.

"Oh, hello," said Neo when he saw a girl he had not met before standing at the door.

"Hello, my name is Gina," said the girl. She looked worried. "I saw your poster at the library. I think the kitten you found may be mine. Her name is Ginger and she has a blue collar around her neck."



Bella's heart skipped a beat. She really wanted to keep the kitten, but she knew that Gina must have been very worried about her kitten. "Come in," said Bella.

But when they walked into the lounge, the kitten was nowhere to be seen. "Oh no!" said Bella. "I hope the kitten isn't lost again!"

Neo, Bella and Gina looked all over the lounge, but they couldn't find the kitten anywhere. 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 scooped it up and quickly dried it. Then she handed the kitten to Gina. *Purr, purr, purr.* The kitten was very happy!

"Ginger! I missed you," said Gina hugging her kitten. She was very happy too. "Thank you for taking such good care of her, Bella and Neo."

"I'm happy that you found your kitten," said Bella. "But I'm a bit sad that we won't see Ginger again."

Neo put his arm around Bella's shoulder. He could see that she was about to cry.

"Oh, don't worry!" said Gina. "We live close by. You are welcome to visit Ginger whenever you like."

Bella's face lit up. "Thank you!" she said. "Neo and I would love to visit tomorrow afternoon."

"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?" If you have older children, encourage them to find out more about different kinds of pets and how to care for them.

### Get story active!

- 🐾 Draw a picture of your favourite part of the story.
- 🐾 Why don't you try acting out this story or a part of it with a group of your friends and family? You can even have someone pretend to be Ginger and Noodle. Use actions, words and voices to make it fun!
- 🐾 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 size, 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.**



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English