



I nkarhi wa ku hlayela ehenhla!

Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla ri tlangeriwa lembe na lembe hi xikongomelo xo khutaza vana, vantshwa na vanhu lavakulu leswaku va hlamuselana nkucetelo lowu marito wu nga vaka na wona. Nakambe ri hi tsundzuxa leswaku hinkwerhu hi na lungelo ra ku hlaya, ku tsala na ku hlamuselana mintsheketo.

It's time to read aloud!

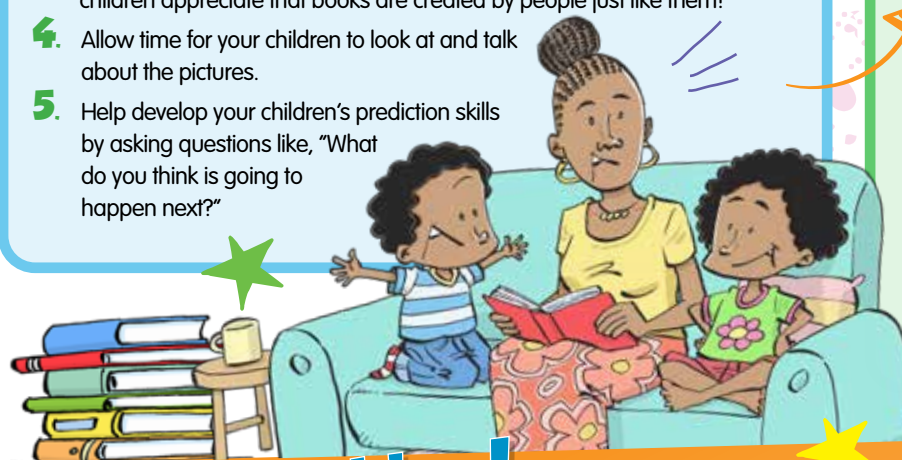
World Read Aloud Day is celebrated each year to encourage children, teenagers, and adults to share the power of words. It also reminds us that we all have the right to read, to write and to share our stories.

Swiringanyeto mayelana ni ku hlayela ehenhla

1. Minkarhi hinkwayo ku hlayela ehenhla swi lava ku tikhata! Tikhata swinene leswaku rito leri u ri humesaka ri vula swokarhi.
2. Praktisa ku hlayela ntsheketo ehenhla minkarhi yo talanyana u nga si wu hlayela vana va wena.
3. Sungula hi ku hlaya vito ra mutsari ni ra muendli wa swifaniso, ku tsundzuxa vana leswaku tibuku ti endlwa hi vanhu vo fana na vona!
4. Nyika vana nkarhi wo nyanga swifaniso va tlhela va vulavula ha swona.
5. Va pfune ku lota vuswikoti bya vona bya ku vumbha hi ku vutisa swivutiso swo tanihi lexi nge, "U anakanya leswaku ku ta endleka yini sweswi?"

Tips for reading aloud

1. Reading aloud is always a performance! Put lots of expression in your voice to create the mood.
2. Practise reading the story aloud a few times before you read it to your children.
3. Start by reading the name of the author and illustrator so that your children appreciate that books are created by people just like them!
4. Allow time for your children to look at and talk about the pictures.
5. Help develop your children's prediction skills by asking questions like, "What do you think is going to happen next?"



Swiringanyeto mayelana ni ku tlangela Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla

- Pfuna vana ku endla tibeki ta vona ta Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla (vona tluka 16) ku nga si fika ti-7 ta February, leswaku va ti ambala hi Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla. (U nga kuma tikopi leti engeteleke ta beji kumbe u tikumela yona hi tindzimi tin'wana eka www.nalibali.org.)
- Endla xibukwana xo titsemela ni ku tihlayisela xona xa ntsheketo wa hina wo hlawuleka wa Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla, lowu nge *Xikatsana lexi lahlekeke*, lexi nga eka matluka 5, 6, 11 na 12.
- Hlayela vana vo tala hilaha swi nga kotekaka hakona ntsheketo lowu nge *Xikatsana lexi lahlekeke*. Nghena eka www.nalibali.org loko u heta ku tsarisa u hi tivisa leswaku u hlayele vana vangani.
- Hlawula swin'wana swa swintirhwana leswi ringanyetiweke eka xifunengeto xa le ndzhaku xa xibukwana xo titsemela ni ku tihlayisela xona, u swi endla na vana va wena.
- Kombela vana lava kuleke leswaku va hlayela lavatsongo swokarhi ekaya, exikimini xa ku hlaya kumbe exikolweni hi Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla.

Ideas to celebrate World Read Aloud Day

- Let your children make their World Read Aloud Day badges (see page 16) before 7 February so that they can wear them on World Read Aloud Day. (You can get extra copies of the badge or find it in other languages at www.nalibali.org.)
- Make up the cut-out-and-keep booklet of our special World Read Aloud Day story, *The lost kitten*, on pages 5, 6, 11 and 12.
- Read *The lost kitten* to as many children as you can. Go to www.nalibali.org and sign up to let us know how many children you read to.
- Choose some of the activities suggested on the back page of the cut-out-and-keep booklet to do with your children.
- Ask older children to read to the younger children in your family, reading club or school sometime during World Read Aloud Day.

Tsaka na hina!

1. Nghena eka www.nalibali.org u tsarisa ndyangu wa wena, xikimi xa ku hlaya kumbe xikolo, u hoxa xandla eku endleni leswaku xiendlakalo xa nan'waka xa Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla xi va lexikulu eka hinkwaswo eAfrika Dzonga.
2. Hi ti-7 ta February 2024, hlayela vana hinkwavo lava khumbeke vutomi bya wena ntsheketo wa Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla (*Xikatsana lexi lahlekeke*).
3. Nghenisa swinepe na tivhidiyo ta leswi mi swi endleke hi Siku ra Misava ra ku Hlayela Ehenhla eka tiwebsayiti ta hina ta swihaxamhungu swa vamaseve hi hashtag **#nalibaliwrad2024**

Join in the fun!

1. Go to www.nalibali.org to sign up your family, reading club or school and help make this the biggest World Read Aloud Day event in South Africa.
2. On 7 February 2024, read our World Read Aloud Day story (*The lost kitten*) to all the children in your life.
3. Share photos and videos of your WRAD events on our social media sites with the hashtag **#nalibaliwrad2024**



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The Nal'ibali Trust



+27 64 801 5496



IT STARTS WITH
A STORY.
SWI SINGULA HI
NTSHEKETO



Mbewu Ya Dyondzo!

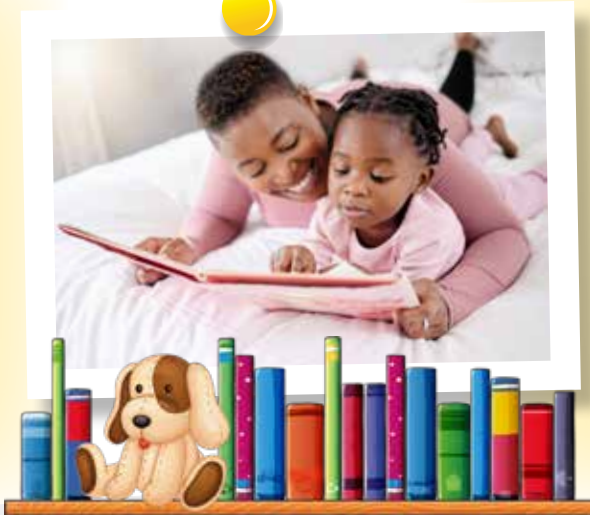
Swiringanyeto swo hlayela swihlangi na tincece tibuku

Literacy Seeds!

Tips for sharing books with babies and toddlers



N'wina vatswari na vahlayisi va vana lavatsongo, a ku na ndlela leyinene kumbe leyi hoxeke yo hlayela swihlangi ni tincece tibuku. Nchumu lowukulu i ku tsakela ku dzumba swin'we ni ku landzelela mboyamelo wa vona ku vona leswi mi faneleke mi swi endla. Va hlayeleni tibuku ku ringana nkarhi lowu pfumelelaka vona na n'wina – a swi bohi ku hlaya buku mi yi heta! Mi nga ya emahlweni hi nkarhi wun'wana, kumbe mi ringeta ndlela yin'wana – kumbe mi ringeta buku yin'wana.



Dear parents and caregivers of young children, there's no right or wrong way to use books with babies and toddlers. It's more about enjoying the time you spend together and following their lead in deciding what to try next. Share a book together for as short or as long a time as you both want to – you don't have to finish the book! You can try again later, or in another way – or try a different book.

Ndzi nga hlawula tibuku ta njhani?

- 🐾 Hlawula tibuku to tala hilaha swi nga kotekaka hakona hi ririmi kumbe tindzimi leti n'wana a vulavulaka tona, loko swi koteka.
- 🐾 Hlawula mintsheketo leyi vulavulaka hi vana van'wana, leyi vulavulaka hi ndyangu ni hi timhaka leti tolovelekeke ta siku na siku.
- 🐾 Tincece ti rhandza ngopfu tibuku ta swiphato ni ta swifaniso.
- 🐾 Vanani na nkarhi wo tala wo hungasa hi tibuku ni ku ti hlaya hi ku phindhaphindha tibuku leti n'wana a ti rhandzaka ngopfu!



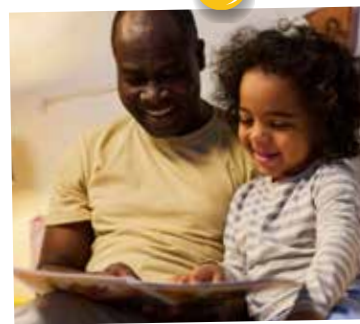
What books do I choose?

- 🐾 Choose lots of different books in your child's home language(s), wherever possible.
- 🐾 Choose some stories that have other children in them as well as ones that are about family and familiar everyday experiences.
- 🐾 Rhyme and flap-books are very popular with toddlers.
- 🐾 Have lots of playful times with books and read books that are your child's favourites again and again!



Leswi mi nga swi endlaka loko mi hlaya buku

- 📖 Tshamiseka u xinga n'wana wa wena kumbe a tshama etlhelo ka wena loko mi hlaya tibuku.
- 📖 Komba n'wana swifaniso mi tlhela mi vulavula hi tinhlamuselo ta swona, vatlangi ni leswi endlekaka ebukwini. Kombetela eka munhu kumbe nchumu wokarhi ivi u hlamusela leswaku i mani kumbe i yini ni leswaku u endla yini.
- 📖 Kombetela marito loko u ma hlaya. Sweswo swi ta pfuna n'wana a dyondza leswaku marito i yini ni leswaku marito lava u ma vulaka "ma huma" kwihi.
- 📖 Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula hi ku tirhisa xikandza na ku tshukatshukisa miri.
- 📖 Vutisa swivutiso mayelana ni leswi endlakaka ebukwini. Swi hlamule wena kumbe u tshika n'wana wa wena a swi hlamula, loko a ta swi kota ni loko a swi lava.
- 📖 Anakanyisisa hi leswi n'wana a swi vulaka kumbe ku swi endla, kutani u angula hi ndlela ya kona. Sweswo swi endla leswaku ku hlaya ka n'wana ku mi tsakisa mi ri vambirhi, naswona swi pfuna n'wana leswaku a dyondza ririmi.
- 📖 Kuma swiphemu swa ntsheketo leswi n'wana a nga hlanganyelaka eka swona. Hi xikombiso: a nga vula swiga leswi phindhiwaka eka ntsheketo kumbe a endla mimpfumawulo ya switlangi kumbe swilo leswi nga ebukwini.



What to do while reading the book

- 📖 Relax and sit comfortably with your child on your lap, or next to you, when you share books.
- 📖 Draw your child's attention to the pictures and talk about the concepts, characters and what is happening in the book. Point to someone or something and say what or who it is and what they are doing.
- 📖 Point to the words as you read them. This helps your child learn what words are and where the words you are saying "come from".
- 📖 Use facial expressions and gestures to make the story come alive.
- 📖 Ask questions about what is happening in the book. Answer them yourself or allow your child to answer, if he or she can and wants to.
- 📖 Listen carefully to what your child says or does and respond to it. This makes the experience more interesting for both of you and helps to develop your child's language.
- 📖 Find parts of the story where your child can join in. For example: saying sentences that are repeated in the story or making the sounds and noises of the characters or objects in the book.



Matirhiselo ya ntsheketo lowu nge Xikatsana lexi lahlekeke

1. Kombela vana – handle ko va sindzisa – leswaku va hlaya na wena.
2. Kumani ndhawu yo rhula ni leyi tshamekaka mi hlayela kona. Timani xiyanimoya, TV, na selfoni.
3. Tshamani ekusuhi na kusuhi na n'wana kumbe u n'wi xinga kunene.
4. Rhangani hi ku nyanganyanga xifunengeto xa buku xa le mahlweni ivi mi vulavula ha xona. Hlayani vito ra buku na mavito ya mutsari na muendli wa mikombiso.
5. Langutani swifaniso eka tluka ha rin'we. Kombela n'wana ku nun'hwetela mapheji, a ma khomakhoma kumbe ku ma khumba.
6. Endlani leswaku ntsheketo wu nyanyula! Tirhisani marito yo hambanahambana laha ku vulavulaka Neo, Bella, vatswari va Neo, na Gina.
7. Vutisa, "U ehleketa leswaku ku ta endleka yini sweswi?" eka swiphemu swo hambanahambana swa ntsheketo. Swivutiso sweswo swi ta pfuna n'wana ku tirhisa vuswikoti bya ku vona swilo hi tihlo ra mianakanyo.
8. Vulavulani swin'we hi ntsheketo. Bulani hi swivutiso swo tanihi, "Xana wa swi rhandza swikatsana? Ha yini Noodle a vukule xikatsana? Ha yini Bella a a tshoveke mbilu loko Gina a ta teka xikatsana?"
9. Hlamusela n'wana leswi u swi rhandzaka eka swifaniso. Vutisa leswi a swi rhandzaka hi swifaniso.
10. Xa nkoka eka hinkwaswo, tiphineni hi ku hlaya tibuku, naswona minkarhi hinkwayo mi endla leswi mi nga swi kotaka leswaku ku hlaya ku va nchumu lowu tsakisaka!



How to use the story The lost kitten

1. Invite – never force – your child to read with you.
2. Find somewhere quiet and comfortable to read. Turn off the radio, TV, and cell phone.
3. Sit close together or with your child on your lap.
4. Start by looking at and talking about the book's front cover. Read the story's title and the names of the author and illustrator.
5. Look at the pictures on each page. Encourage your child to smell, hold or touch the pages.
6. Make the story come alive! Use different voices for Neo, Bella, Neo's parents, and Gina.
7. Ask, "What do you think is going to happen next?" at different parts of the story. Such questions will help to stimulate your child's imagination.
8. Talk to each other about the story. Discuss questions like, "Do you like kittens? Why did Noodle bark at the kitten? Why was Bella sad when Gina came to fetch the kitten?"
9. Tell your child what you like about the illustrations. Ask your child what they like about the illustrations.
10. Most of all, enjoy sharing the book, and always try your best to make reading fun!

Swiringanyeto swa swintirhwana swa Xikatsana lexi lahlekeke

Siku hinkwaro (hambiloko u endla mintirho ya le kaya!), u nga endla swintirhwana swo tsakisa ni vana va wena:

- 🐾 Yimbelelani risimu ro vulavula hi swiharhi ni mimpfumawulo leyi swi yi endlaka.
- 🐾 Languta vana va wena ivi u ku, "Xewani! Hi mina Ginger. Miyewu, miyewu, miyewu!" kumbe "Xewani! Hi mina Noodle. Huu, huu, huu!" Katsa na swiharhi swin'wana na mimpfumawulo leyi swi yi endlaka.
- 🐾 Kombela vana va ringeta ku dirowa xikatsi, mbyana, kumbe xiharhi xin'wana.
- 🐾 Kombela vana va hlamusela mintsheketo yo vulavula hi swikatsi, timbyana, kumbe xin'wana lexi va tsakisaka.



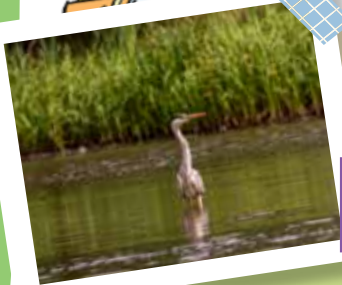
Activity ideas for The lost kitten

Throughout the day (even when you are doing chores!), you can do fun activities with your children:

- 🐾 Sing a song about animals and the sounds that they make.
- 🐾 Look at your children and say, "Hello! My name is Ginger. Meow, meow, meow!" or "Hello! My name is Noodle. Woof, woof, woof!" Include other animals and the sounds they make.
- 🐾 Encourage your children to try drawing a cat, a dog, or another animal.
- 🐾 Invite your children to tell stories about cats, dogs, or anything else that interests them.

Masiku lama tsundzukiwaka hi February!

Days to celebrate in February!



2 February

Siku ro Tsundzuka Tindhawu ta Nhlangasi

Lemukisa van'wana hi nkoka wa tindhawu ta nhlangasi tanihileswi ti sirhelelaka vaakatiko na vhlwa ra vutomi loko xiyimo xa maxelo xi cinca.

World Wetlands Day

Create awareness about how important healthy wetlands are for protecting communities and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.



11 February

Siku ra vavasati na vanhwanyana eka swa sayense

Hlanganyela eka tsima ro lwela vavasati na vanhwanyana leswaku va kota ku hlanganyela hi xitalo eka swa sayense.

Day of women and girls in science

Campaign for women and girls to be able to participate more in science.

13 February

Siku ra Misava ra Xiyanimoya

Hoyozela nkoka wa vuhaxi bya xiyanimoya lebyi haxaka mahungu, vuyimbeleri, miehleketo na mintokoto ya vanhu va misava hinkwayo.

World Radio Day

Celebrate the importance of radio broadcasts that share news, music, ideas, and experiences from around the world.



14 February

Siku ra Varhandzani

Tivisa van'wana ndlela leyi u va rhandzaka ha yona!

Valentines Day

Let others know how much you love them!



Siku ro Lwela Vululami eMisaveni Hinkwayo

Hlamusela van'wana leswi u swi ehleketaka ni leswi swi nga endlwaka leswaku ku lwiwa na ku pfumaleka ka mintirho, vuswet, milawu ni mahanyelo lama endlaka leswaku van'wana swi va tikela ku titwa va ri vaakatiko.

World Social Justice Day

Share ideas and actions on how to fight against unemployment, poverty and laws and behaviour that make it difficult for others to be part of society.



Tisungulele layiburari ya wena.

Endla tibuku **TIMBIRHI** hi ku tsema u ti hlaysia

1. Susa pheji 5 ku fika eka pheji 12 eka xitatisi.
2. Maphepha ya mapheji ya 5, 6, 11 na 12 ma endla buku yin'we. Maphepha ya pheji 7, 8, 9 na 10 ma endla buku yin'wana.
3. Tirhisa rin'wana na rin'wana ra maphepha lawa ku endla buku. Landzelela swileriso leswi nga laha hansi ku endla buku yin'wana na yin'wana.
 - a) Petsa phepha hi le xikarhi eka nkhwanti wa ntima lowu nga tsemekatsemeka.
 - b) Petsa nakambe hi le xikarhi eka nkhwanti wa rihladza.
 - c) Tsema hi le ka nkhwanti wo tshwuka.



Grow your own library.
Create **TWO** cut-out-and-keep books

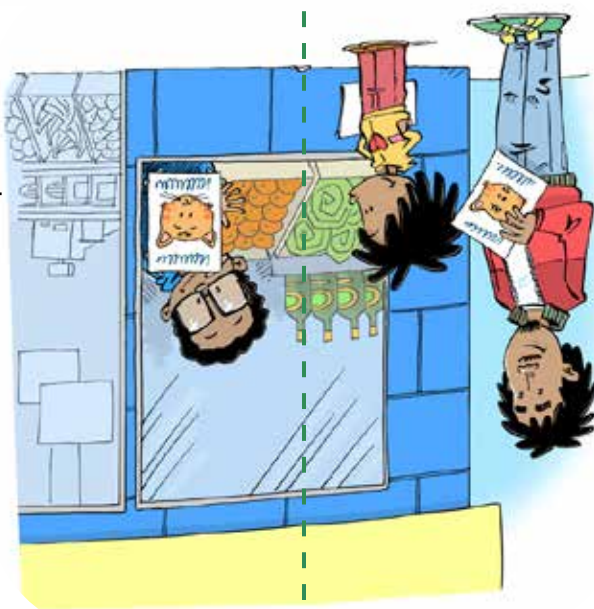
1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement.
2. The sheet with pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 on it makes up one book. The sheet with pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 on it makes up the other book.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
 - a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
 - b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
 - c) Cut along the red dotted lines.

Va sungule hi le lajiburari, va hundzela exitolo, naswona loko va ri karhi va tlhelela ekaya, muakelani un'wana u va pfumelele ku namaketa phostara ehekeni yakwe. Va hlajise phostara gi'nwe va ya yi namaka exikolweni ebodweni ra switliso hi Musumbhunu.



"Hi nga ha yimagimi!" ku vula Neo. Loko va endle tiphostara ta mune, Papa u te, "Ndzi vona ti enele. A hi yeni hi ya ti namaketa."

Hi Mugqivela nimixo, Bella u hubute kunene. "Ndzi te na phepha na tikhrayoni leswaku hi endla tiphostara," ku vula Bella a ri karhi a angarha xikatsana.



"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."

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

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.



The lost kitten

Neo, Bella and Noodle are enjoying themselves in Neo's front garden. Suddenly, Noodle jumps up and starts barking. Just then, a tiny kitten crawls out from under a bush. Bella immediately falls in love with the little kitten. But it looks like it belongs to someone else. What will Neo and Bella do?



Neo, Bella na Noodle va le ku tihungaseni exirhapani xa ka va Neo emahlweni ka yindlu. Hiloko Noodle a ku bulumuku, a sungula ku vukula. Kutani ku humelela xikatsana xi ta hi le khwatini. A swi tekanga nkarhi leswaku Bella a rhandza xikatsana xexo. Kambe xi vonaka xi ri na n'wini wa xona. Xana Neo na Bella va ta endla yini?

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.

Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

- Dirowa xifaniso xa xiphemu xa ntsheketo lexi ku tsakisaka ngopfu.
- Swi nga va njhani u ringeta ku tlanga ntsheketo lowu kumbe xiphemu xa wona ni ntlawa wa vanghana ni swirho swa ndyangu? Nakambe wena kumbe un'wana mi nga tiendla Ginger na Noodle. Tirhisa miri, marito ni mimpfumawulo leswaku u endla swi tsakisa!
- Endla phostara ya xifuwo xa wena kumbe lexi u nga tsakelaka ku va na xona. Dirowa xifaniso xa xifuwo xa wena. Tsala kumbe u kombela un'wana a ku pfuna ku tsala vukulu, muhlovo na vito ra xifuwo xa wena.



Xikatsana lexi lahlekeke

Stacey Fru • Rico Schacherl

Ideas to talk about: Do you or does 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 if you found it again?

Mianakanyo yo bula hayona: Xana wena, kumbe un'wana loyi u n'wi tivaka u na xifuwo? A wu ta titwa njhani loko xi lahleke? Xana u nga endla yini leswaku u ringeta ku xi kuma? A wu ta titwa njhani loko se u xi kumile?

Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org



Nal'ibali i pfumba ra rixaka ro hlayela ku tiphina ku tlhonthla ni ku simeka ntolovelo wo hlaya eAfrika Dzonga hinkwaro. Ku kuma vuxokoxoko hi xitalo, endzela www.nalibali.org



Papa u tlakuse nhloko a tshika ku hlayela Mbali buku. “Hi fanele hi ringeta ku kuma vini va xona. Va fanele va karhateke ngopfu hileswi xi nga va lahlekela,” ku vula yena. “Kambe se ri perile,” ku vula Mama. “Mundzuku namixo hi nga ringeta ku endla tiphostara ta xikatsana lexi nga lahleka hi ti nameketa. Kumbexana n’wini wa xona u ta vona tiphostara.” Loko Mama a ha heleketa Bella na Noodle ekaya, Neo u kume bokisi ra tintanghu na jesi ra khale a endlela xikatsana byetlelo bya kahle. Papa u xi nyike swakudya na nkambana wo vonakanyana wa mati go tenga. Swi nga si ya kwihl, xikatsana a xi lo ndangu, ivi xi ya na vurhongo.

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.



“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.” “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.” Noodle barked excitedly. All the noise gave the kitten such a fright that it ran and hid under the couch. “Who is it, Neo?” asked Bella. Neo ran to open the door. “Knock! There was someone at the door. 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.

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.



Ntsako wu tthele wu vonaka enghoheni ya Bella. “Ndza nkhenisa!” ku vula yena. “Mina na Neo hi nga tsakela ku ta mundzuku nandzhenga.” “Kambe,” ku vula Neo, “ndzi ehleketa leswaku Noodle a sala.” Hiloko hinkwavo va pfumelelana hi rito rin’we leswaku leji i mianakanyo ya kahle.



When they arrive at Lebo's home, Gogo rests on the sofa. Lebo dashes into the lounge. "Gogo, Gogo, I know what we can do today! We can go to the mall. There are lots of shops with nice toys and ice cream!" "I'm afraid I can't. The mall is too big, and I will get so tired."

Loko va fika eka va Lebo, Gogo u tshame esofeni. Lebo u tsutsumele ekamareni ro tshama eka rona. "Gogo, Gogo, ndza swi tiva leswi hi nga swi endlaka namuntlha! Hi nga ya emolo. Ku na switolo swo tala swa tithoyi to saseka na ayiskhritimi!" "Mina a ndzi nge swi koti. Molo yikulu ngopfu, kutani ndzi ta vuya ndzi nga ha tikoti hi ku karhala."

Lebo and Gogo's tea party



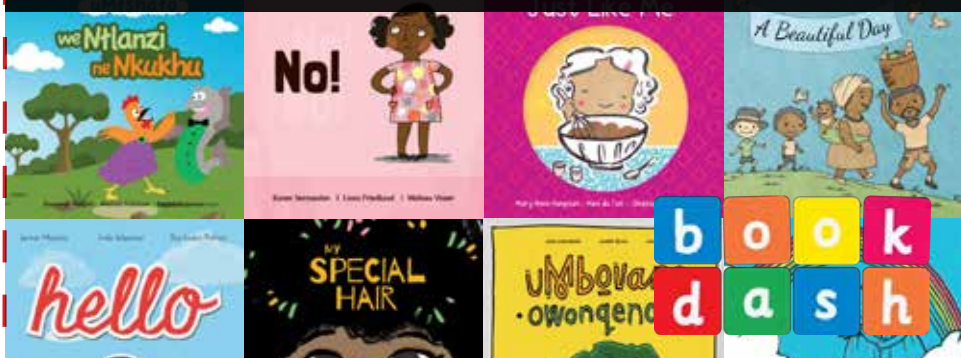
Xinkhubyana xo nwa tiya xa Lebo na Gogo

Siphosethu Zantsi • Sashni Govender • Elizabeth Sparg

Ideas to talk about: Have you ever been to a tea party? What kind of food do you think should be at a party? How is a tea party different from other kinds of parties?

Mianakanyo yo bula hayona: Xana u tshama u va exinkhubyanini xa ku nwa tiya? U anakanya leswaku i swakudya swa muxakamuni leswi faneleke swi va kona exinkhubyanini xa kona? Xana xinkhubyana xa ku nwa tiya xi hambane njhani ni swinkhubyana swin'wana?

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Get story active!

- ★ Imagine that you are going to have a tea party for your family and friends. Make a list of the food you would make.
- ★ Write a message to invite your family and friends to your party. It can be an invitation card, a letter, an SMS or a WhatsApp message.
- ★ Now draw a picture of you and your family and friends at the tea party.

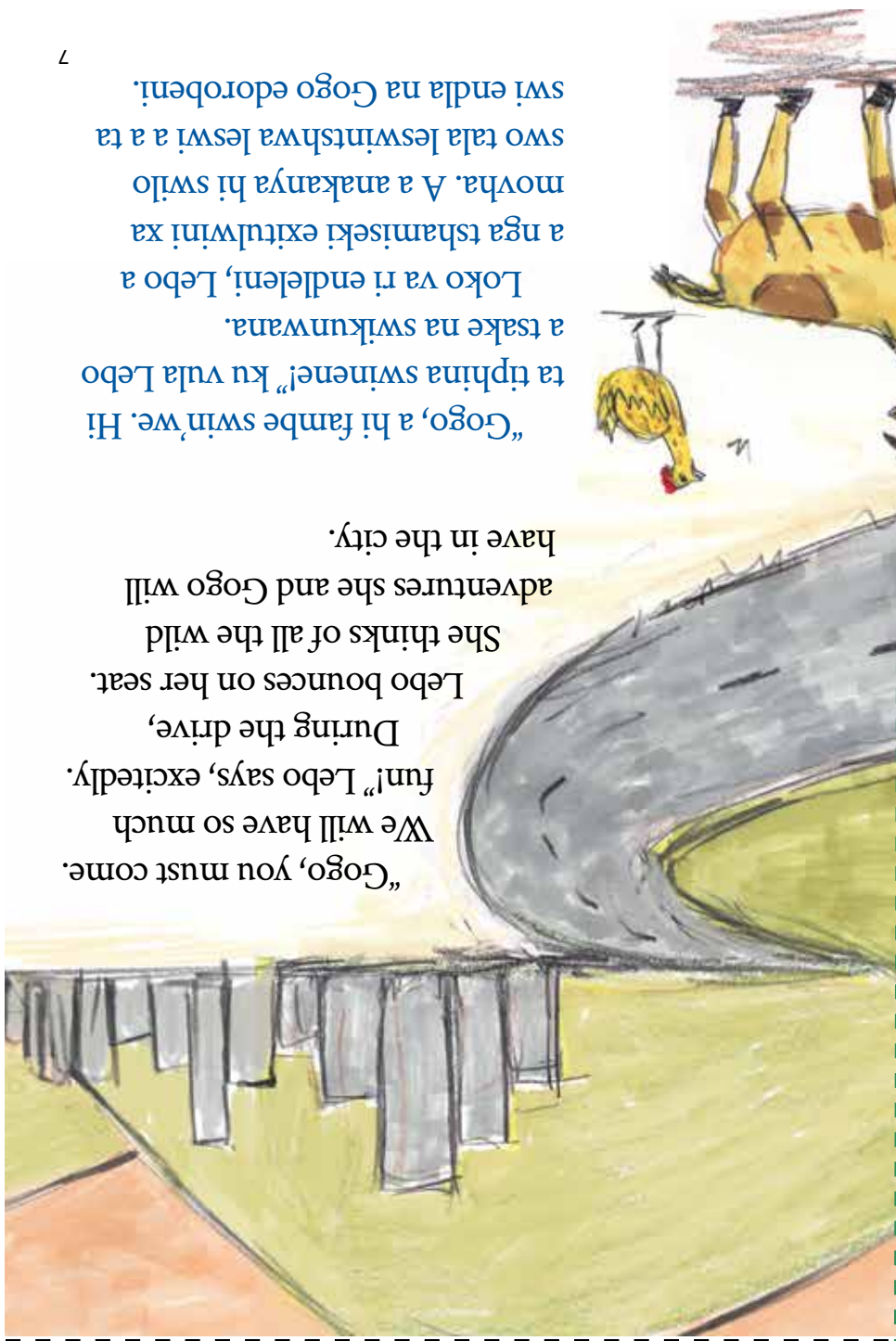
Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

- ★ A hi nge u endlela vandyangu na vanghana xinkhubyana xa ku nwa tiya. Tsala nxaxamelo wa swakudya leswi a wu ta swi endla.
- ★ Tsala meseji u rhamba vandyangu na vanghana exinkhubyanini xa wena. U nga va tsalela khadi, papila, SMS kumbe WhatsApp.
- ★ Kutani dirowa xifaniso xa wena u ri na vandyangu ni vanghana exinkhubyanini xa ku nwa tiya.

Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org



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“Gogo, you must come. We will have so much fun!” Lebo says, excitedly. During the drive, Lebo bounces on her seat. She thinks of all the wild adventures she and Gogo will have in the city.

“Gogo, a hi fambe swin’we. Hi ta tiphina swinene!” ku vula Lebo a tsake na swikunwana. Loko va ri endleleni, Lebo a nga tshamiseki exitulwini xa movha. A a anakanya hi swilo swo tala leswintshwa leswi a ta swi endla na Gogo edorobeni.

Lebo is at Gogo’s farm. She is bored with chasing the animals.

“Now you chase me, Gogo!” Lebo shouts as she races past.

“Slow down, Lebo,” Gogo says, hurrying to catch up.

Gogo trips over a rock while chasing Lebo.

“Ouch!” she screams. Gogo has hurt her ankle.

Lebo u le purasini ra Gogo. U borhekile hi ku hlongorisana na swiharhi.

“Sweswi hi wena u faneleke u hlongorisa mina, Gogo!” ku huwelela Lebo a ri karhi a hundza hi ku tsutsuma.

“Hunguta rivilo, Lebo,” ku vula Gogo a ri karhi a n’wi hlongorisa.

Gogo u khuguriwe hi ribye loko a ri karhi a hlongorisa Lebo.

“Ishh!” ku konya yena. Gogo u tivavise hlakala.

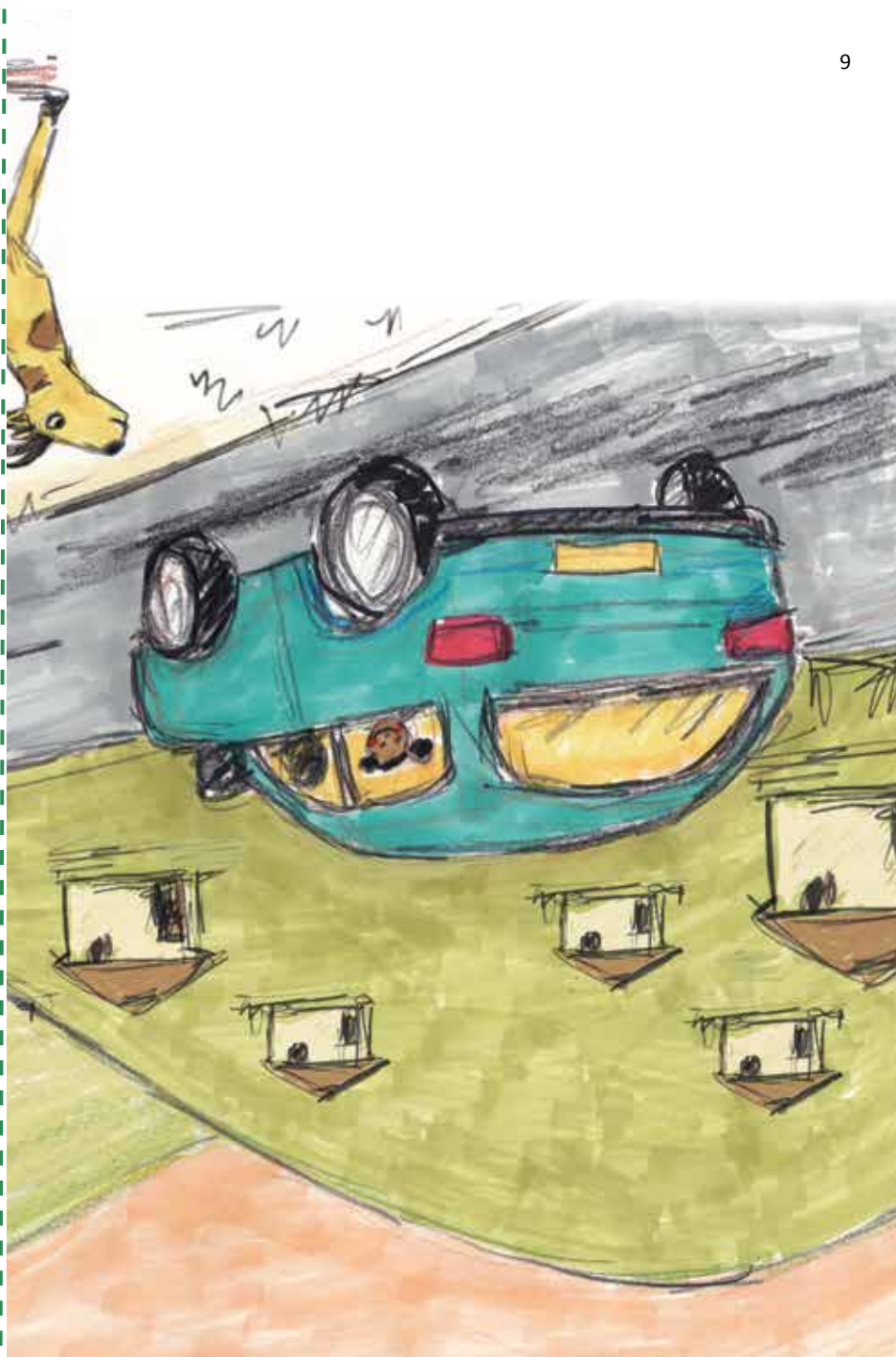


“Gogo, Gogo, I know what we can do today! We can go to the park!” “I’m afraid that won’t work. The dogs in the park will run around and could make me fall again.” “Gogo, ndza swi tiva leswi hi nga swi endlaka namuntlha! Hi nga ya ephakeni!” “Mina a ndzi nge swi koti. Timbyana ti ta va ti tsutsumatsutsuma na phaka hinkwayo naswona ti nga ndzi wisa nakambe.”

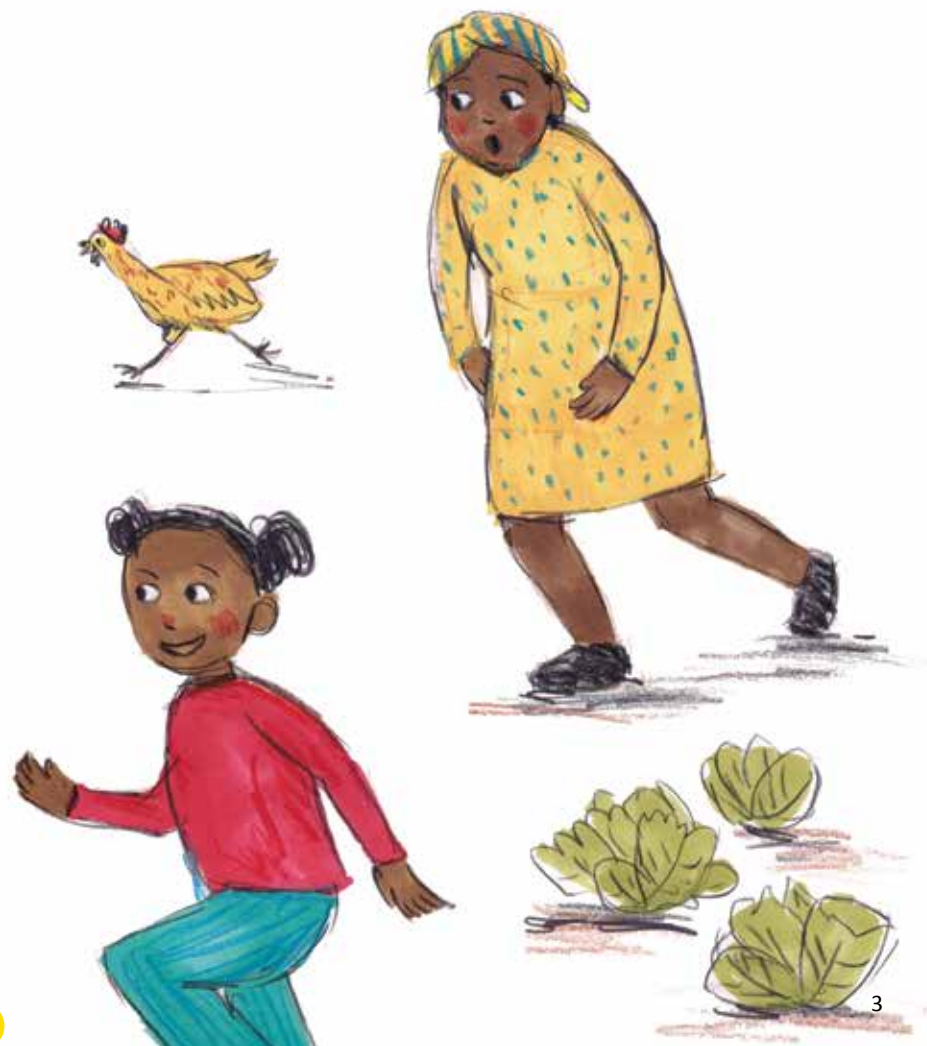


Lebo u miyerile loko Gogo a ri eku lukeni. Hiloko a ta na rhengu rin’wana! “Gogo, Gogo, ndza swi tiva leswi hi nga swi endlaka namuntlha! A hi endle xinkhubyana xa ku nwa tiya. Gogo, u nga titshamela kwala. Leswi u nga vaviseka ndzi ta ku tisela swilo hinkwaswo.”





Lebo is quiet while Gogo knits.
Suddenly she has an idea! “Gogo,
Gogo, I know what we can do today!
Let’s have a tea party. Gogo, you can
sit here. I will bring everything to you
because you are hurt.”





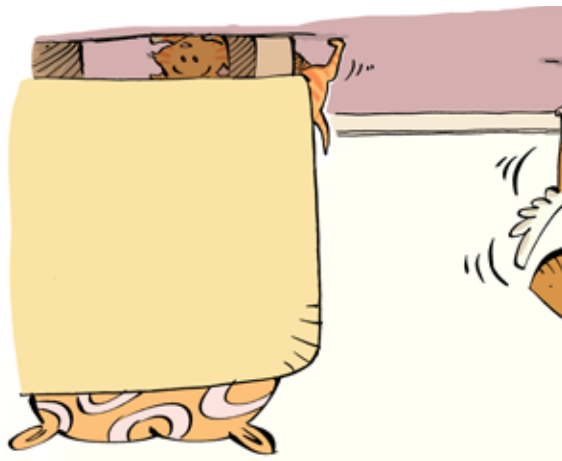
Gogo u vuye eka dokodela a ambale
butsu ro hlawuleka, a famba hi tinhonga.
“Gogo, a hi fambe swin’we ekaya
edorobeni leswaku hi ta ku khathalela,
ku vula mana wa Lebo.
“A ndzi nge fambi ndzi siya purasi ra
mina. Ndzi ta va right,” ku hlamula Gogo,
a nga lavi no twa.



Gogo comes back from the doctor with a
special boot and crutches.
“Gogo, come back to the city with us so that
we can take care of you,” says Lebo’s mom.
“I won’t leave my farm. I will manage on my
own,” Gogo replies, stubbornly.

A second later, Lebo’s eyes are wide
with excitement. “Gogo, Gogo, I know
what else we can do today. Let’s go to
the beach.”
“I’m sorry, Lebo. I’m afraid my
crutches will sink into the soft sand.”
Endzhakunyana, Lebo u honole mahlo
a nyanjukile. “Gogo, Gogo, ndza swi
tiva swin’wana leswi hi nga swi endlaka
namuntlha. A hi ye ebichi.”
“Ndzi khomele, Lebo. Tinhonga ta
mina ti ta bodlhomela esaveni.”





Hi Ravumbirhi nindzhenga, Neo, Bella, Noodle na xikatsana a va ri eku tlangeni ekamareni ro tshama eka rona. *Khokho, khokho, khokho!* A ku ri na munhu enyangweni.

Neo u tsutsume a ya pfula rivanthi.

“I mani, Neo?” ku vutisa Bella.

Noodle u vukule hi ku nyanyuka lokukulu.

Hasahasasa leyi yi chavise xikatsana lerova xi tsutsuma xi tumbela ehansi ka sofa.

“Oh, xewani,” ku vula Neo loko a vona xinhwangetana lexi a a nga si tshama a xi vona, xi yime enyangweni.

“Xewani, hi mina Gina,” ku vula xinhwangetana xa kona. A xi vonaka xi karhatekile. “Ndzi vone phostara ya n’wina elajiburari. Xikatsana lexi mi nga xi kuma swi vonaka ku ri xona xa mina. Vito ra xona i Ginger naswona xi na bandi ra wasi enhan’wini.”



Dad looked up from the book he was reading to Mballi. “We should try to find the owners. They are probably very worried about their lost 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.

Hi Ravuntlhanu nindzhenga, Neo na Bella a va ri karhi va tlanga exirhapani xa ka va Neo. Noodle a a etelele hi ku rhula edyambyini.



“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.”

“Ginger! A ndzi ku kumbuke ngopfu,” ku vula Gina a ri karhi a vukarha xikatsana xakwe. Na yena a a tsake ngopfu. “Ndza nkhenisa ku va mi xi khathalele hi ndlela leyi, Bella na Neo.”

“Ndza tsaka leswi u nga kuma xikatsana xa wena,” ku vula Bella. “Kambe swa ndzi vavisa leswi hi nga ta ka hi nga ha voni Ginger nakambe.”

Neo u khome Bella ekatleni. U swi vonile leswaku a a lava ku rila.

“U nga rili ka!” ku vula Gina. “A hi tshami kule na le kule. U nga ta u ta vona Ginger nkarhi wun’wana ni wun’wana.”

Hiloko Noodle a ku bulumuku, a sungula ku vukula. *Huu, huu, huu!*

“I yini, Noodle?” ku vutisa Bella.

“Mama, Papa, vonani! Hi kume xikatsana exirhapheni!” ku huwelela Neo loko va nghena hi ku tsutsuma ekamareni ro tshama eka rona.

“Xi vonaka xi lahlekile, kambe xi lahlekele munhu hikuva xi na bandi ra wasi enhan’wini,” ku vula Bella.



“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.

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.

Hiloko va twa mpfumawulo wun’wana wu ta hi le khwatini. *Miyewu, miyewu, miyewu!* Xikatsana xa buraweni xi khokhovela xi huma ekhwatini. Bella u hatlise a ya xi tlakula hi vukheta swinene. “Vona xikandza xa xona xo saseka lexi nga ni voya,” a vula a ri karhi a xi komba Neo.

“Naswona xi na bandi ro saseka ra wasi enhan’wini,” ku vula Neo.

Noodle na yena a a lava ku vona, kambe ku vukula ka yena a ku chavisa xikatsana, hiloko Neo na Bella va nghena na xona endlwini.



Mbilu ya Bella yi lave ku yima. A a swi lava hi mbilu hinkwayo ku hlajisa xikatsana, kambe a a swi tiva leswaku Gina a a karhateke ngopfu ha xona. “Nghena,” ku vula Bella.

Kambe loko va nghena ekamareni ro tshama eka rona, xikatsana a xi nga ri kona. “Hawu!” ku vula Bella. “Ndza tshemba a xi lahlekanga nakambe!”



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!



Neo, Bella na Gina va lavalave hinkwako ekamareni, kambe xikatsana xi nga kumeki. Gina a a tshoveke mbilu ngopfu.

Va twe Noodle ekhixini. *Huu, huu!* Hiloko ku landzela huwa ya ku *FAYEKA* ka xin’wana!

Vana va tsutsumele ekhixini. Va kume xikatsana xi titshamele kwalaho. A xi wise nkambana wa xona wa mati loko Noodle a vukula, naswona a xi tsakame miri hinkwawo. Bella u xi tlakurile ivi a hatlisa a xi sulasula mati. Hiloko a xi nyiketa Gina. *Purr, purr, purr.* Xikatsana a xi tsake ngopfu!

Mahungu ya Nal'ibali

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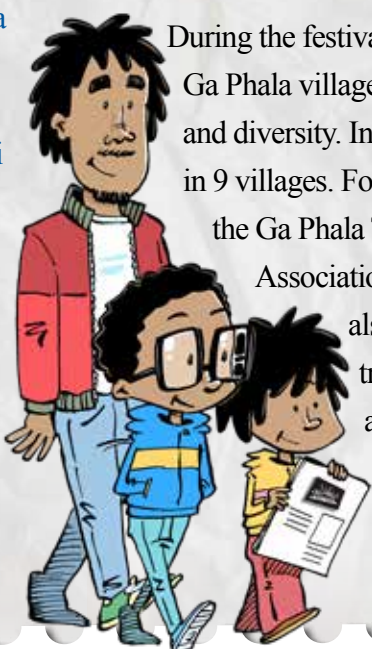
KU HOYOZELA LESWI FIKELERWEKE (CELEBRATING MILESTONES)

Ntirho wa Vutsari wa Lebalelo wu simekiwe hi May 2023. Hi nkarhi wa ku kanerisana na vatswari, hi kambisise leswi swi nga endliwaka leswaku vana va swi tsakela swinene ku dyondza. Hi endle xiboho xa ku va na xinkhubyana xa vana hi September 2023, tanihileswi yi nga N'hweti ya Dyondzo ni ya Ndzhaka. Xinkhubyana xa hina a xi ta katsa mintlangu, ku hlamuselana mintsheketo, ku cina, na swin'wana leswi a swi ta tsakisa swi tlhela swi hlekisa vana lava nga kona.

Hi nkarhi wa xinkhubyana xa kona, lexi khomeriweke eXikolweni xa Purayimari xa Kwata le mugangeni wa Ga-Phala, hi vulavule ngopfu hi ku namarhela ndhavuko wa wena ni ku amukela ndhavuko wa van'wana. A ku ri na swichudeni swa 160 leswi humaka eswikolweni swa 12 swa le migangeni ya kaye. Nakambe ku ve na vanhu van'wana va 49, lava katsaka mathicara, swirho swa le Vuhosini bya ka Ga-Phala, Nhlanguano wa Matirhiselo ya Mati wa ka Lebalelo, ni Vatrhi va le Layiburari ya Masipala wa ka Fetakgomo, lava endleke minkombiso ya mindhavuko yo hambanahambana leswaku vana va dyondza va tlhela va xixima mindhavuko leyi fuweke ya laha Afrika Dzonga. Vana va humese vutshila ni vuswikoti bya vona byo vona swilo hi tihlo ra mianakanyo, va endla tano hi swilo swo tanihi vuyimbeleri ni ku cina.

The Lebalelo Writing Project was launched in May 2023. During a workshop with parents, we looked at how we could create more educational and learning opportunities for children that were fun and engaging. We decided that we would have a children's festival in September 2023, as it is both Literacy and Heritage Month. Our festival would include interactive games, storytelling sessions, dance and other activities that would bring joy and laughter to the young attendees.

During the festival, which was held at Kwata Primary School in Ga Phala village, we focused on promoting cultural awareness and diversity. In attendance were 160 students from 12 schools in 9 villages. Forty-nine adults, including teachers, members of the Ga Phala Traditional Authority, the Lebalelo Water User Association, and the Fetakgomo Municipality Librarians also joined us to showcase different cultures and traditions so that the children could learn about and appreciate South Africa's cultural richness. Through activities like music and dance performances, the children expressed and developed their artistic and imaginative abilities.



Vuyelo byin'wana bya ku lunghiselela xinkhubyana xa hina a ku ri ku endliwa ka buku leyi tsaleriweke vana hi vana van'wana ni vatswari va vona. Hi kombele swikolo swa le migangeni ya kwalaho leswaku swi hlalula vana lava a va ta leteriwa ku tsala mintsheketo ni ku dirowa, hi vasunguri va mintsheketo ya Nal'ibali, na Reallance Mashigo, loyi a nga mutsari.

Hi July 2023, mintsheketo leyi tsariweke hi vana va xikolo na vatswari va vona, kun'we na swifaniso leswi diroyiweke hi vana van'wana swi rhumeriwile leswaku ku ta endliwa buku leyi nge **"Ke Leeto story collection"**, leyi humesiweke hi ti-30 ta September 2023, hi nkarhi wa Xinkhubyana xa Vana xa Lebalelo.



One of the outcomes of our festival preparations was the development of a book written for children by children and their parents. We invited local schools to select children who would be trained in story writing and drawing by our Nal'ibali story sparkers and Reallance Mashigo, an author.

In July 2023, the stories written by the school children and their parents as well as some children's drawings were submitted for publishing as a book titled **"Ke Leeto story collection"**, which was launched on 30 September 2023 during the Lebalelo Children's Festival.



Swinkhubyana swi nga endla leswaku vana va titwa va ntshunxekile ku tihlanganisa na tintangha ta vona to huma eswikolweni swin'wana, va endla vanghana lavantshwa ni ku dyondza ku hanyisana kahle na van'wana.



Swinkhubyana swa vana swi nga hlanganisa miganga yi va nyandza yin'we loko ku rhambiwa van'wamabindzu, swikolo, ni minhlanguano ya le migangeni ya kona. Leswi swi byala moya wa ntirhisano ni ku tinyungubyisa hi swilo leswinene emigangeni.

Children's festivals can bring communities together by involving local businesses, schools, and organisations. This helps build a sense of community and pride.

Vana va heleketiwa hi mathicara ya vona.

The children are accompanied by their teachers.



Festivals can provide a safe and social environment for children to interact with their peers from different schools, make new friends and develop social skills.





Nchumu lowu Nkulukumba Matsane a wu rhandzaka ngopfu

Hi Siphiliselwe Makhanya ■ Swifaniso hi Magriet Brink na Leo Daly



Duma a a rhandza ngopfu ntlango wa bolo ya milenge. Loko a nga ri eku tlangeni ka bolo kumbe ku yi hlalela eka TV, a a tsemelela swifaniso swa vatlangi hinkwavo eka timagazini ta khale ta tata wakwe ta ntlango wa bolo, ivi a swi namaketa etinhlokweni ta mubedwa wakwe. Loko ku na mpfula, Duma na munghana wakwe Simphiwe a va endla tipopayi ta vatlangi hi maphepha ivi va tlanga mintlango yo tala ya bolo ya milenge ha tona.

Munhu un'we ntsena loyi a a rhandza bolo ku tlula Duma a ku ri tata wakwe, Nkulukumba Matsane. Nkulukumba Matsane a a rhandza bolo swinene lero va a nyika n'wana wakwe vito ra mutlangi loyi a n'wi rhandzaka ngopfu – Duma "Lightning" Nyawo. Rini na rini loko Nkulukumba Matsane a vona Lightning a tlanga eka TV, a a yima hi milenge. Loko xitlangi lexi xi drivula vatlangi xi kongoma tipala, minkarhi hinkwayo a huwelela a ku, "BASHAAAAAYE! NGEZULU! Va vandlamule hi ndlati!" Kutani a a ta rindza, a voyamela eka TV onge hiloko Lightning a n'wi twile a ri exikrinini xa thelevhixini.

Loko Lightning a hupa tipala, Nkulukumba Matsane a a tikhoma nhloko a konya, hilaha vahlaleri hinkwavo a va endla hakona eka TV. Kambe loko Lightning a howisa, Duma na tata wakwe a va ba huwa hi ku tsaka ivi va angarhana. A va tlulatlula va cinanyana, va hetelela hi ku kowetana hi ndlela ya vona. Kutani a va ta tshama esofeni, va hlekelela va tiphina.



Ekamareni ro dzumba eka rona, ekhabodweni ya mavanti ya nghilazi, tata wa Duma a a veke nchumu lowu a wu rhandzaka swinene ku tlula hinkwaswo emisaveni – bolo leyi sayiniweke hi Lightning hi byakwe. "I jaha ra le kaya leri!" Tata wa Duma a a rhandza ku byela vanghana va yena loko a va komba bolo. "U kulele emugangeni wun'we na le kaya. Vona leswaku namuntlha i xitlangi xa njhani!"

Simphiwe na yena a a rhandza bolo ku fana na Duma na tata wakwe. Siku rin'wana, vanghana lavambirhi a va ri karhi va tlanga bolo endzhaku ka yindlu ya ka va Simphiwe. Jarata ra kona a ri gimeta ekusuhi na nambu.

"I mani wo antswa eka vatlangi va le mahlweni – i Maake kumbe Zondi?" ku vutisa Duma.

"Papa u vula leswaku Maake hi yena wo antswa," ku vula Simphiwe. "U tirhisa xinene na ximatsi. Zondi yena u tirhisa nenge wun'we."

"Kambe Zondi u kota ku raha a ri ekule," ku vula Duma.

"Swi nga va njhani wena u va Zondi, mina ndzi va Maake, ivi hi phikizana?" ku ringanyeta Simphiwe.

"Hi swona!" ku pfumela Duma.

Vafana lava va tlanga hi bolo leyi nga endlwa hi ridaka, nyusiphepha, ni tiplastiki to tala. Simphiwe u ringete ku rahela bolo exikarhi ka maribye lawa a va ma tirhisa ku fana na tipala, a tirhisa nenge wa ximatsi. "A swi endlwa swona," ku vula yena. "Bolo leyi a yi tlangeki! Ha yini yi endlwa so?"

"Timhaka ti na bolo hi yoxe," ku vula Duma. "Papa u te moya lowu nga ebolweni wu nga lawula ntlango wu famba kahle kumbe wu nga fambi kahle."

"Kambe bolo leyi a yi na moya," ku vula Simphiwe. "Swa antswa hi tlanga loko se hi ri na bolo yinene."

Duma yena a a nga lavi va rindza. U khwanyanise ngohe a ehleketanyana. Hiloko a n'wayitela a languteka a tsakile swinene. "Ndzi tiva lomu hi nga yi kumaka kona bolo yinene!" ku vula yena. "Ndzi rindze, ndza ta sweswi."

A swi tekanga nkarhi Duma a nga si vuya, a khome nchumu lowu tata wakwe a wu rhandzaka ngopfu – bolo leyi Lightning a yi sayineke. Hiloko ntlango wu sungula ku hisa. Duma a a ri Zondi, a drivula vatlangi hinkwavo a hundza hi le xikarhi ka vona. Ina! Zondi a a ri kusuhi ni ku howisa. Duma u rahe bolo hi matimba. Yi kongome tipala yi fika yi ba rin'wana ra maribye. Hiloko yi bamba yi kongoma enambyeni enkoveni ka jarata.

"ISHH" ku konya Duma a langute bolo. A a chuhile lero va a nga koti na ku tshukunyuka. Simphiwe u sale bolo endzhaku, kambe a yi khunguluka hi ku hatlisa. *DLUMU!* Bolo yi nghene enambyeni. Duma u tsutsumele eka munghana wakwe. Va lo ntsee, va languta bolo yi ya yi nyamalala yi famba na maboboma ya mati.



Loko vafana lava va nga vuyanga ekaya hi ndzhenga wolowo, vatswari va vona va sungule ku karhateka. Vaakelani hinkwavo va hete tiawara to tala va pfuneta ku lavana na Duma na Simphiwe, kambe va nga kumeki.

Loko dyambu ri sungula ku pela, Nkulukumba Matsane u tivise maphorisa. Wona ma te na mbyana leyikulu leyi vuriwaka Jopie leswaku yi va pfuna ku kuma Duma na Simphiwe. *RISEMA, RISEMA, RISEMA*, Jopie yi nun'hwetele swimbalo swa vafana, *RISEMA, RISEMA, RISEMA*. Loko se yi khome risema ra vona, yi yimise ncila wa bulubulu ivi yi nghena endleleni, hiloko vanhu hinkwavo lavakulu va yi sala endzhaku. Yi va kongomise endhawini yin'wana ehansi ka buluho le nkoveni ka nambu. Duma na Simphiwe a va ri kwalaho, va tshame ehansi. A va te kukununu, ndhawu yin'we, va ri ku rhrhumeleni, va koke swikipa swi pfala matsolo leswaku va kota ku kufumela. Loko maphorisa ma va tlhava hi tiithochi, swikandza swa vona a swi xiririka mihloti.

"Ndzi khomele Papa," ku vula Duma loko va fika ekaya. "A ndzi nga tiyimiselanga ku lahla nchumu wa nkoka lowu u wu rhandzaka swinene. A hi ta yi vuyisa." Hiloko a sungula ku rila nakambe hi xiviti lexikulu.

Nkulukumba Matsane u swoswaswoswe Duma enhlaneni ivi a n'wayitela. "U vulavula hi yini?" ku vutisa yena. "Bolo liya ya khale a ndzi yi rhandza, kambe a yi nga ri nchumu wa nkoka *ngopfu* evuton'wini bya mina." Hiloko Nkulukumba Matsane a korhama a vukarha Duma hi rirhandzu. "Duma, *hi wena* nchumu wa nkoka swinene evuton'wini bya mina!" ku vula yena. Sweswo swi endle leswaku Duma a lava ni ku cinanyana.

Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

🐾 Xana ku na ntlango lowu u wu rhandzaka ngopfu? Xana ku na mutlangi wa ntlango wa kona loyi u n'wi rhandzaka ngopfu?

🐾 Xana ku na nchumu lowu u wu rhandzaka ngopfu? I yini xi wu endlaka wo hlawuleka?

🐾 Dirowa swifaniso swa swilo leswi u swi rhandzaka. Ku nga va swiambalo, swakudya, xiharhi kumbe munhu.



Mr Matsane's favourite thing

By Siphiliselwe Makhanya ■ Illustrations by Magriet Brink and Leo Daly

Story
corner



Duma was crazy about soccer. When he wasn't playing soccer or watching it on TV, he cut out pictures of all the players from his dad's old soccer magazines and stuck them above his bed. On rainy days, Duma and his friend Simphiwe made tiny soccer players out of paper and played many soccer games with them.

The only person who loved soccer more than Duma was his dad, Mr Matsane. Mr Matsane loved soccer so much that he gave his son the same name as his favourite player – Duma "Lightning" Nyawo. Whenever Mr Matsane saw Lightning playing on TV, he stood up. As the soccer star dribbled the ball towards the goal posts, he always shouted, "BASHAAAAAYE! NGEZULU! Strike them with lightning!" Then he waited, leaning towards the TV as though Lightning had heard him through the glass screen.

If Lightning missed the goal posts, Mr Matsane held his head and groaned, just like all the soccer fans on the TV did. But when Lightning scored, Duma and his dad cheered and grabbed each other. They jumped up and did a little dance, ending with a special wave. Then they flopped back onto the sofa, laughing.



In their lounge, in a cupboard with glass doors, Duma's dad kept his favourite thing in the whole world – a soccer ball signed by Lightning himself. "That's my homeboy!" Duma's dad liked to tell his friends when he showed them the ball. "He grew up just over the hill from where my family lived. Look what a star he is now!"

Simphiwe was just as soccer mad as Duma and his dad. One day, the two friends were playing soccer in the backyard of Simphiwe's house. The yard ended near the river.

"Who is a better striker – Maake or Zondi?" asked Duma.

"My father says Maake is the best striker," said Simphiwe. "He can kick with the left foot or the right foot. Zondi always kicks with the same foot."

"But Zondi can kick from very far away," said Duma.

"How about you pretend that you're Zondi and I'll pretend that I'm Maake, and we can have a contest?" suggested Simphiwe.

"Okay!" agreed Duma.

The boys were using a soccer ball made of mud, newspaper and lots of plastic shopping packets. Simphiwe tried using his left foot to kick the ball between the rocks they used as goal posts. "This is hard," he said. "This ball won't do what I want it to do! Why is it so difficult?"

"I think it's the ball," said Duma. "My dad says the air in the ball can make the game good or bad."

"But we don't have a ball with air inside it," said Simphiwe. "Maybe we have to wait until we get a proper ball to have this contest."

Duma didn't want to wait. He frowned and thought for a little while. Suddenly, he smiled and looked excited. "I know where we can get a ball!" he said. "Wait here, I won't be long."

Soon Duma came back, carrying his dad's favourite thing – the soccer ball that Lightning had signed. Now the game was very exciting. Duma pretended he was Zondi, dribbling the ball past all the other players. Yes! Zondi could see his chance to score. Duma kicked the ball as hard as he could. It shot towards the goal posts and bounced off one of the rocks. Then it flew away, spinning straight towards the river at the bottom of the yard.

"OH NO!" groaned Duma as he watched the ball. He was so scared that he couldn't move. Simphiwe rushed after the ball, but it rolled too fast. *SPLASH!* The ball landed in the river. Duma ran to his friend. Together they watched the ball growing smaller and smaller as the rushing water carried it further and further away.

When the boys didn't come home that afternoon, their parents started to worry. All the neighbours helped search for Duma and Simphiwe for hours and hours, but the boys were nowhere to be found.



At last, as the sun was setting, Mr Matsane called the police. They brought a big dog named Jopie to help them find Duma and Simphiwe. *SNIFF, SNIFF, SNIFF*, went Jopie, smelling the boys' clothes, *SNIFF, SNIFF, SNIFF*. As soon as she caught the boys' scent, she wagged her big tail and raced off, and all the adults ran along behind her. The chase led them to a place under the bridge further down the river. There sat Duma and Simphiwe. They were huddled together, shivering, with their T-shirts pulled over their knees to keep warm. The light from the policemen's torches shone on their tear-streaked faces.

"I'm sorry, Dad," said Duma once they were safely home. "I didn't mean to lose your favourite, most important thing. We were going to put it back." He started to cry all over again and he cried harder and harder.

Mr Matsane rubbed Duma's back and smiled. "What are you talking about?" he asked. "That old soccer ball was nice, but it was never the *most* important thing in my life." Then Mr Matsane leaned down and gave Duma a big hug. "Duma, you are the most important thing in my life!" he said. And this made Duma want to do a little dance.

Get story active!

- Do you have a favourite sport? Do you have a favourite player in that sport?
- Do you have a favourite thing? What makes it special?

- Draw pictures of your favourite things. It can be your favourite clothes, food, animal or person.

Swo tsakisa hi Na'ibali

Na'ibali fun

1.

Endla beji

1. Tsema eka ntila wo **tshwuka** hi ku tsema u humesa beji.
2. Penda xifaniso.
3. Tsema xirhendzevutani ku fana na beji eka bokisi ro vevuka, xikombiso, bokisi ra swakudya swa tisirili.
4. Tirhisa xinamarheti xa glu ku namarheta beji eka bokisi.
5. Tirhisa selotheyipi ku namarheta phini ya vuhlayiseki endzhaku ka beji. Kumbe u endla mbovo ehenhla kutani u bohelela wulu kumbe xintambyani eka xona leswaku u kota ku hakarha enhan'wini.
6. Tiphini hi ku ambala beji ya wena loko u ri karhi u hlaya na ku yingisela mitsheketo eka Siku Ro Hlayela Ehenhla Swi Twakala.

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.



2.

Tsala maletere kahle leswaku u kuma marito ya ntlhanu eka *Xikatsana lexi lahlekeke* lama hlamuselaka xikatsana.

RWUENIAB

KHEELELAK

NESTOXLOI40

ESKAAS

VYAO

Unscramble the letters to find five words from *The lost kitten* that describe the kitten.

NGIREG

TSOL

YTNi

ECTV

RYUFR

3.

Languta swifaniso leswi swi tekiweke eka *Xikatsana lexi lahlekeke*. Tsala tinomboro leti kombisaka swiendlekalo swa ntsheketo hi ku landzelelana ka swona. Kutani hlamusela ntsheketo hi ku tirhisa swifaniso sweswo ntsena.

Look at these pictures from *The lost kitten*. Number them so that they match the order in which things happened in the story. Now use the pictures and retell the story.



Tihlamlulo: 2. buraweni, lahlekeke, lexitsongo, saseka, voya; 3. 2, 1, 4, 3. **Answers:** 2. ginger, lost, tiny, cute, furry; 3. 2, 1, 4, 3.

Na'ibali yi kona ku ku hlohotela na ku ku seketela. **Tihlanganisi na hina** hi yin'wani ya tindlela leti:

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UMLAZI
EYETHU

POLOKWANE
OBSERVER