

# HALIBALI

## Support beginner readers!

Between the ages of six and nine, most children learn to read for themselves. So, what can you do to help them develop as readers? Well, the most important thing you can do is to keep reading to them! Here are some ideas for doing that.

### WHICH BOOKS TO CHOOSE

1. Let your children select books that appeal to them. Children very often find an author, a type of story or a series they like, and this might inspire them to read more books.
2. As they start to read on their own, help your children choose books that are not too difficult so that they are able to have lots of successful reading experiences.
3. Keep more difficult books for you to read to your children.
4. Expose older children to longer books with chapters. Try to read a chapter or two each day.

### DIPUKU TŠE O KA DI KGETHAGO

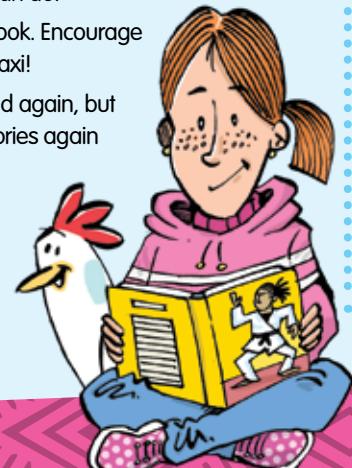
1. E re bana ba gago ba kgethe dipuku tše di ba kgahlago. Gantši bana ba hwetša mongwadi, mohuta wa kanegelo goba kgatšo ye ba e ratago, gomme se se ka ba futueša go bala go tšwela pele ka go bala.
2. Ge ba thoma go ipalela ka bobona, thuša bana ba gago go kgethe dipuku tše go se be bothata gore ba be le maitemogelo a go bala a go atlega a mantši.
3. E ba le dipuku tše go bala tše bothata tše dintši gore o ba balele tšona.
4. Hlohlomišetša bana ba bagolwane go dipuku tše diteletšana tše go ba le dikgaolo. Leka go bala kgaolo e tee goba tše pedi ka letšatši.

### More tips

- Sing songs, say tongue twisters (such as: red lorry, yellow lorry) and read rhymes together to get children used to the different sounds in words. This helps them master the skills they need for their own reading and writing.
- Create some opportunities for your children to read to you. For example, once a week take turns reading aloud to each other just before bedtime. Or, suggest that they try out their new skills by reading to younger siblings. This helps children to feel proud of what they can do.
- Don't let your children leave home without a book. Encourage them to read everywhere – even in the car or taxi!
- Read the stories your children ask for again and again, but also encourage them to read their favourite stories again themselves. This helps them to become more confident readers.
- Remember that the most important thing is to make reading a relaxed, meaningful and satisfying experience.



Drive your imagination



## Thekga babadi bao ba sa thomago!

Bana ba bantši ba thoma go ithuta go ipalela ge ba le mengwaga ya magareng ga ye tshela le ye senyane. Gomme, o ka dira eng go ba thuša go hlabologa bjalo ka babadi? Selo se bohlokwa se o ka se dirago ke go tšwela pele go ba balela! Fa ke dikeletšo tša go dira seo.

### Talk about stories

- Help your children make connections between the things they are reading about, and real life. For example, if they are reading about school, link it to their own experience of school.
- Extend stories by asking your children to think about why characters behaved in certain ways, and what your children might have done if they were in the same situation.

### Bolelang ka dikanegelo

- Thuša bana ba gago go tswalanya dilo tše ba di balago le bophelo bjano. Mohlala, ge ba bala ka sekolo, tswalanya seo le maitemogelo a bona sekolong.
- Katološa dikanegelo ka go kgopela bana ba gago go nagana gore ke ka lebaka la eng baanegwa ba itshvara ka ditsela tše itšego, le gore bona ba be ba tlo dira eng ge nkabe ba le maemong aa.



### Dikeletšo tše dingwe

- Opelang dikoša, bolelang diraragantša maleme (bjalo ka: monna wa molora, o rwala molora) le be le bale meromokwano mmogo gore bana ba tlwaele medumo ya go fapano mantšung. Se se ba thuša go ba le mabokgoni ao ba a hlokago gore ba tsebe go bala le go ngwala.
- Hlamela bana ba gago menyetla ye mengwe ya go go balela. Mohlala, šidišanang ka go balelana gatee mo bekeng pele le eya malaong. Goba, šisinya gore ba leke mabokgoni a bona a maswa ka go balela bana ba gabonba ba bannyane. Se se thuša bana gore ba ikgantše ka se ba ka se dirago.
- O se dumelele bana ba gago ba etšwa ka gae ntle le puku. Ba hlohlioletše go bala gohle – le ka sefatanganeng goba ka thekesing!
- Balela bana dikanegelo tše ba di kgopela gantši le gantši, efela le bona o ba hlohlioletše go ipalela dikanegelo tše ba di ratago gantši. Se se ba thuša go ba babadi ba go itshepa.
- Gopola gore sa bohlokwa ke go dira gore go bala e be maitemogelo a boiketlo, a go kwagalaga gape a go kgotsofatsa.



IT STARTS WITH  
A STORY.  
GO THOMA KA  
KANEKOLO.

# Let's celebrate!

The month of May is filled with special opportunities for children to use reading and writing in meaningful and fun ways! Here are some ideas for the different celebrations this month. Rather than trying to do all of them, choose one or two that you think will most interest your children.



## Mother's Day (12 May)

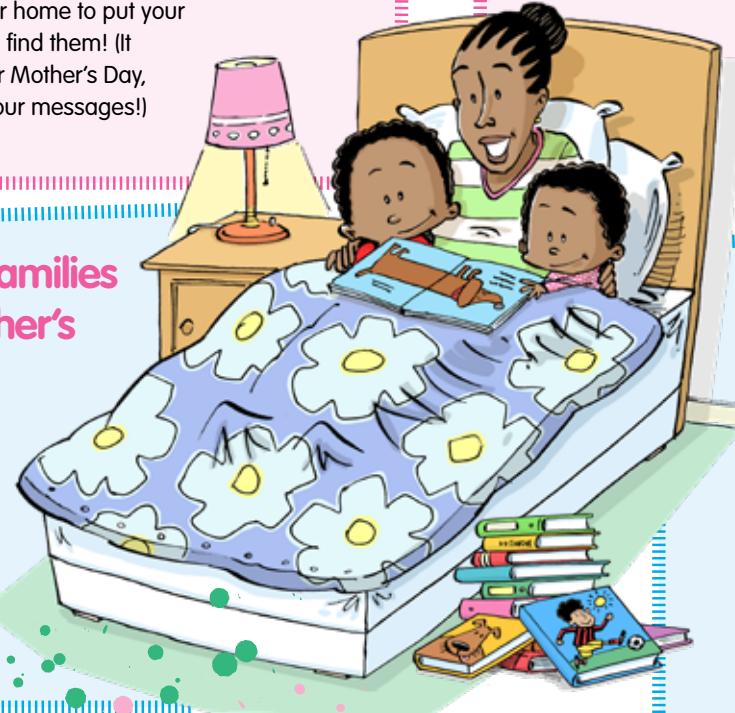
Invite the mothers of the children at your reading club (or people who are like mothers to them) to join you at the reading club session which is closest to Mother's Day. Read or tell a story about a mother-child relationship to everyone and then invite the mothers and their children to spend time reading stories and looking at books together.

Instead of giving cards to their mothers, suggest that the children follow the steps below to create special Mother's Day messages for their moms!

1. Cut out the three rectangles on page 3 by cutting along the black dotted lines.
2. Fold each rectangle along the blue line.
3. Glue the two parts together.
4. Write a different message to your mom on the blank side of each rectangle. Then decorate both sides.
5. Find three different places in your home to put your messages so that your mom will find them! (It doesn't matter if you do this after Mother's Day, your mom will still love finding your messages!)

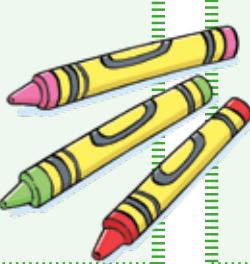
## International Day of Families (15 May) and Biographer's Day (16 May)

Explain that a biography is a book written by an author about someone else's life. Encourage the children to choose a member of their family to write a biography about. Before they start writing, suggest that they do some research by talking to people who know this person.



## Drawing Day (16 May)

Give your children some sheets of blank paper and challenge them to create a storybook by drawing pictures only! They will need to write the title of the story and their names on the front cover, but the rest of their book should be only the pictures they have drawn. Invite them to share their finished story with you!

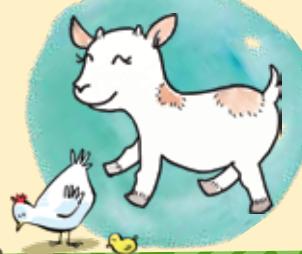


## Letšatši la go Thala (16 Mopitlo)

Efa bana ba gago matlakala a pampiri ya go se ngwalwe o ba hlottle go hlama puku ya dikanegelo ka go thala diswantšho fela! Ba tlo swanela go ngwala thaetlele ya kanegelo le maina a bona lekgateng la puku la ka pele, efela ka gare ga puku go swanetše go ba diswantšho tše ba di thadilego. E re ba go abelane le wena ka dikanegelo tše ba di feditšego!



## WIN! FENYA!



For a chance to win some Book Dash books, write a review of the story, *Little Goat* (pages 7 to 10), and email it to [team@bookdash.org](mailto:team@bookdash.org), or take a photo and tweet us at [@bookdash](#). Remember to include your full name, age and contact details.



Go hwetša monyetla wa go thopa dipuku tše Book Dash, ngwala tshekatsheko ya kanegelo ya, *Putšane* (matlakala a 7 go fihla ka 10), o e emeilele go [team@bookdash.org](mailto:team@bookdash.org), goba tše senepe o re romele tweet go [@bookdash](#). O gopole go akaretša maina a gago ka bottalo, ngwaga le dintlha tše kgokaganyo.

**LETŠATŠI LA  
BOMMA LA  
LETHABO!**

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY!**

Phello/Turn over →



**LETŠATŠI LA  
BOMMA LA  
LETHABO!**

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY!**

Phello/Turn over →



**LETŠATŠI LA  
BOMMA LA  
LETHABO!**

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY!**

Phello/Turn over →





"NNGWE! NNGWE! NNGWE!"

tsenya ya matomo ...  
Sa matomo, Thoko o hlatswitsé dipapro tsa gagwe. Ka  
morigo a ungega roko ya tantshi ya Nichelle mothalading wa  
diaparo. Sa go latele a bula lepokisi la diphetra, efela pefle a  
o montsi.  
"Go ka se kgonege", a realo Thoko, "Ke na le mosomo  
"O rata go mo kuaka?" Mma a botisia.  
"Agaal" a realo Mma. "Povere ya ka morago! Blale o thabile"  
Thoko a mo fa mongato wa go hlveka.  
"Mongato wa go hlveka hle", Mma a kgopela. Gomme  
powere ya masaa.



We publish what we like

This story written by Niki Daly is from *Sharp-Sharp! Thoko*, published by Jacana Media and available in bookstores and online from [www.jacana.co.za](http://www.jacana.co.za). *Sharp-Sharp! Thoko* is available in English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa and isiZulu. Jacana publishes books for young readers in all eleven official South African languages. To find out more about Jacana titles go to [www.jacana.co.za](http://www.jacana.co.za).

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"WHE! WHE! WHE!"  
box of beads, but before she could thread one ...  
Nichelle's ballgown on the line. Next, she opened her  
First, Thoko did her washing. Then she pegged  
"No way," said Thoko, "I've got lots to do."  
"Would you like to hold him?" asked Mama.  
Mama picked up baby Bongi and looked at Thoko.  
he's happy!"

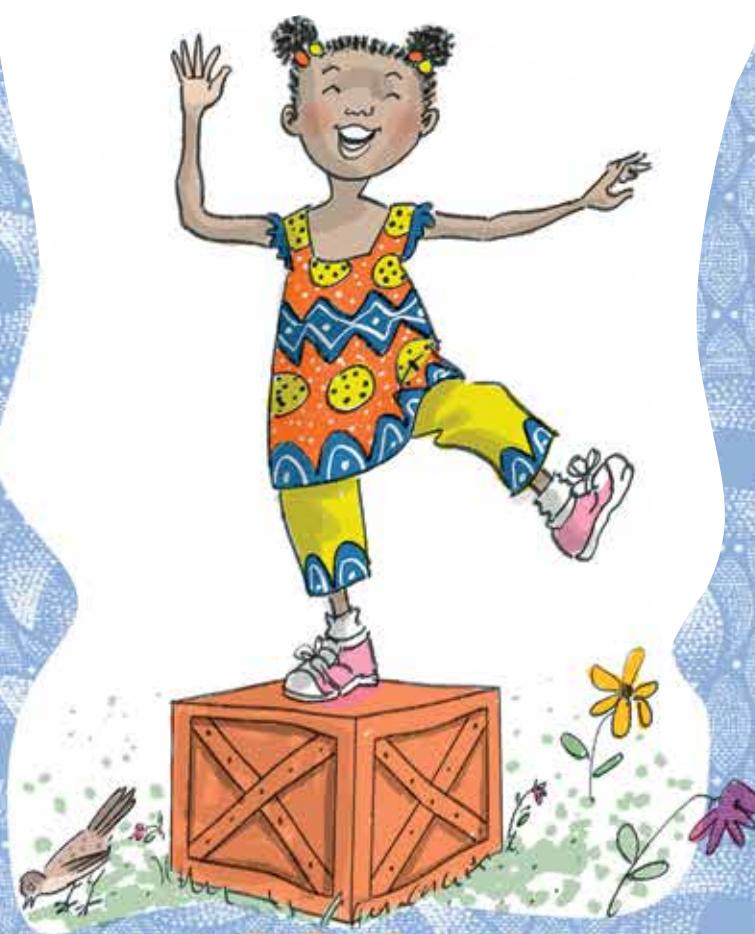
"There!" said Mama. "Powder bum! Now  
handed her a clean nappy.  
"Clean nappy, please," asked Mama. And Thoko  
handed her the baby powder.

"Powder, please," asked Mama. And Thoko  
with warm water to wipe baby Bongi's bottom clean.  
she removed his smelly nappy and dropped it into a  
plastic carrier bag. She sent Thoko off to fill a bowl  
Mama laid baby Bongi down on a towel. Then

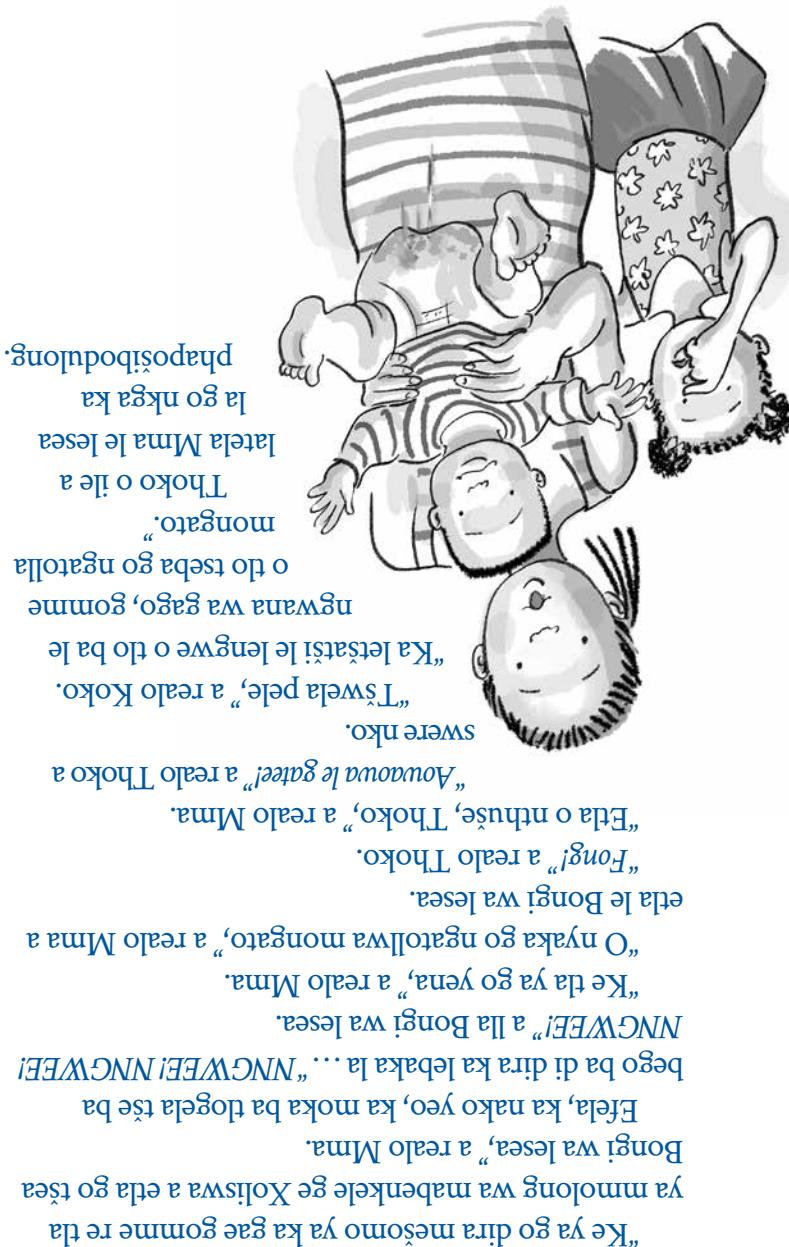


## Thoko, the babysitter

### Thoko, wa moledi



Niki Daly



It was a Saturday morning when baby Bongi arrived.

"Aunty Xoliswa has to be at the morning market to sell her necklaces, so I've offered to babysit," Mama explained to Thoko.

"Thoko can help," said Gogo.

"Why can't Aunty Xoliswa take her baby with her?" asked Thoko, who had plans of her own.

"Because if he cries, I can't see to my customers," explained Aunty Xoliswa.

"It will be fun to have a baby in the house," said Mama.

"But babies cry all the time," said Thoko.

"Oh, I remember when *you* were a baby," said Gogo.  
 "It was *whe, whe, whe* all the time!"

And the minute Aunty Xoliswa left, that's exactly what baby Bongi did.

"WHE! WHE! WHE!"

"With baby Bongi? I have so many things still to do."

"Thoko," asked Mama, "will you please play between fluffy pillows."

"WHE! WHE! WHE!" This time baby Bongi was hungry. So, Mama fed him and sat him on the floor to check if Nichelle's dress was drying on the line. It from Thoko and settled him back in his buggy.

After a while, Mama took sleepy baby Bongi to sleep baby boy!"

"Lala bhabha lala!"

"Let's sing Lala bhabha to him," said Gogo.

So, Gogo switched off the TV. And Mama showed Thoko how to hold baby Bongi safely on her lap.

Baby Bongi needs a song."

Mama said, "Thoko, will you please help me



E rile ge Mmane Xoliswa a boa, ya ba Thoko o lapile kudukudu ka lebaka la go bapala le Bongi wa lesa.

"Tsea mpho ya 'go go leboga' ka go ba moledi wa makgonthe," a realo Mmane Xoliswa a bofa ye nngwe ya dipheta tsa molaleng go dikologa molala wa Thoko.

"Ke a leboga," a realo Thoko, ka moedimolo o MOGOLO.

Mma a lebelela Koko a re, "Ijoo moratiwa, Thoko o lapile kudu go ka ya le rena mabenkeleng lehono."

Ee! Mahlo a Thoko a thoma go tswalelega.

Koko a sega. "Ijoo! Go bonala e ke moledi wa lesa le yena o nyaka moledi le yena," Koko a dira metlae.

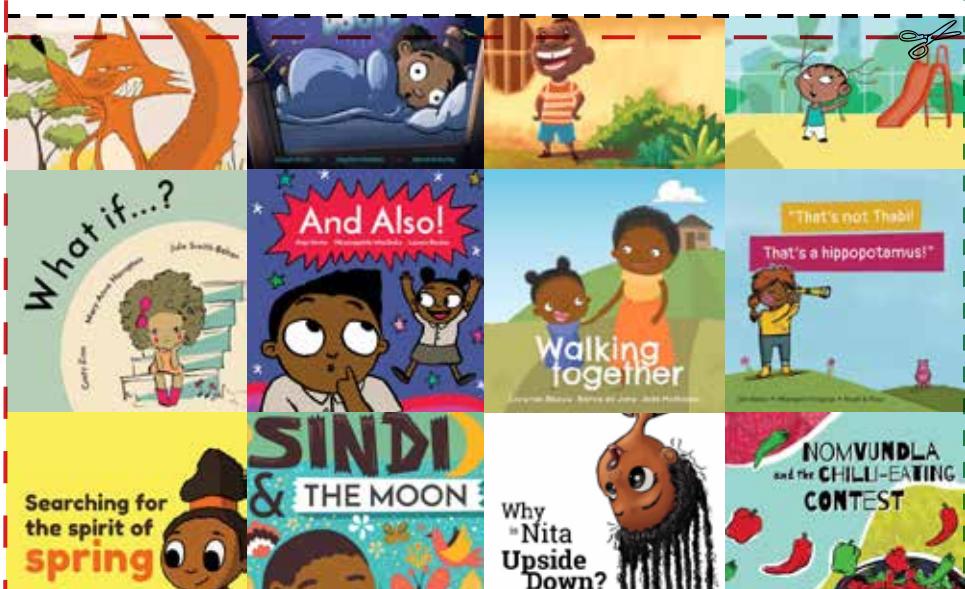
Gomme Koko a šala gae ...

Mola Thoko a robetsé ... a robala ... a robala.





E lebelētše temeng ya mafela, efeła Putšane  
Goat was not there.  
She looked in the meadow patch, but Little  
Goat e se fao.



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Drive your  
imagination



Mma e be e maketeše goré Putšane e ilé kae.  
E sebelētše kgole le Pudi ya Mma. Pudi ya

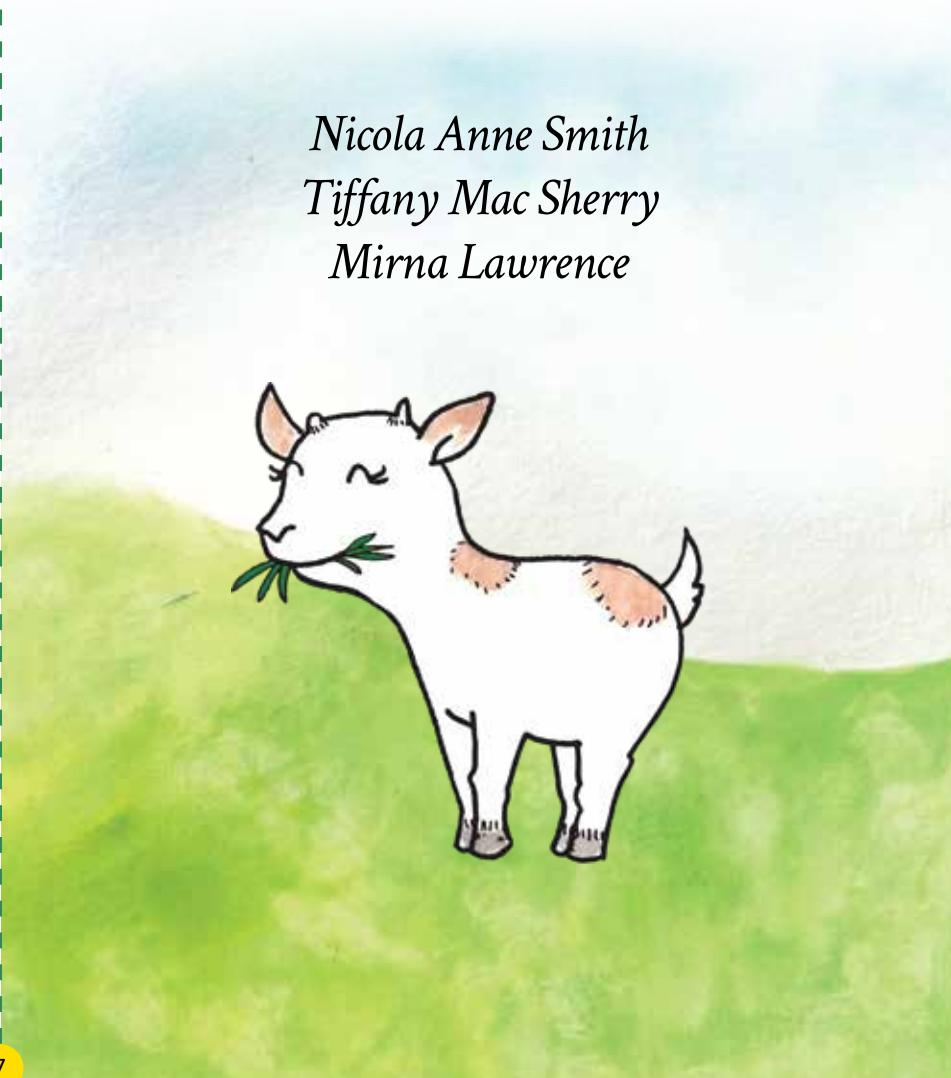
Goat wondered where Little Goat had gone.  
She had walked far from Mother Goat. Mother



Putšane e ilé ya  
hwetša biang biā  
bose. E ilé ya ja, ya ja.  
Little Goat found the  
sweetest grass. She ate  
and ate.

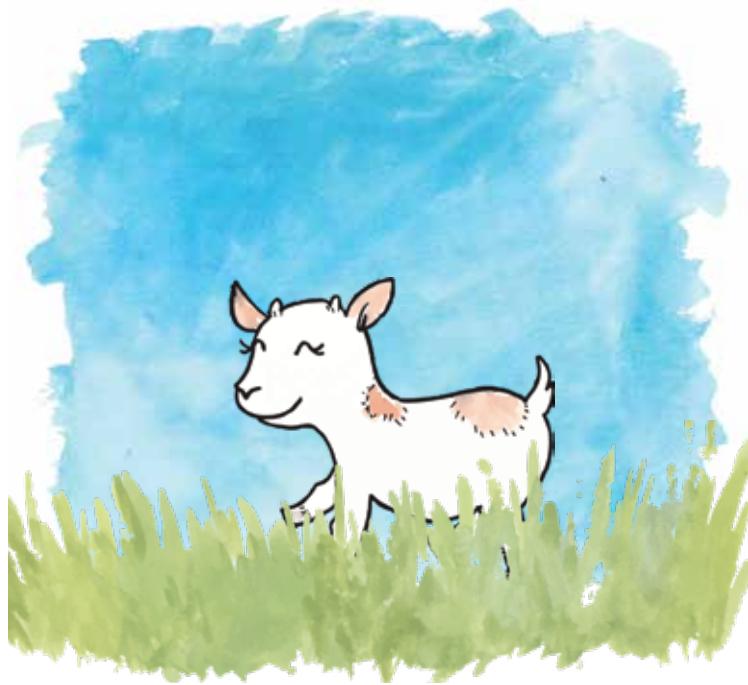
## Little Goat Putšane

Nicola Anne Smith  
Tiffany Mac Sherry  
Mirna Lawrence





Putšane ge e dutse e sepelea, ya sepelela kgoole  
Le Pudi ya Mma.



Little Goat went to find the sweetest grass.  
The sky was blue above. But she did not  
look up.

Putšane e ile ya ya go nyaka bjang bja  
bose. Lefaufau e be e le le letalalerata kua  
godimo. Efela ga se ya lebelela godimo.

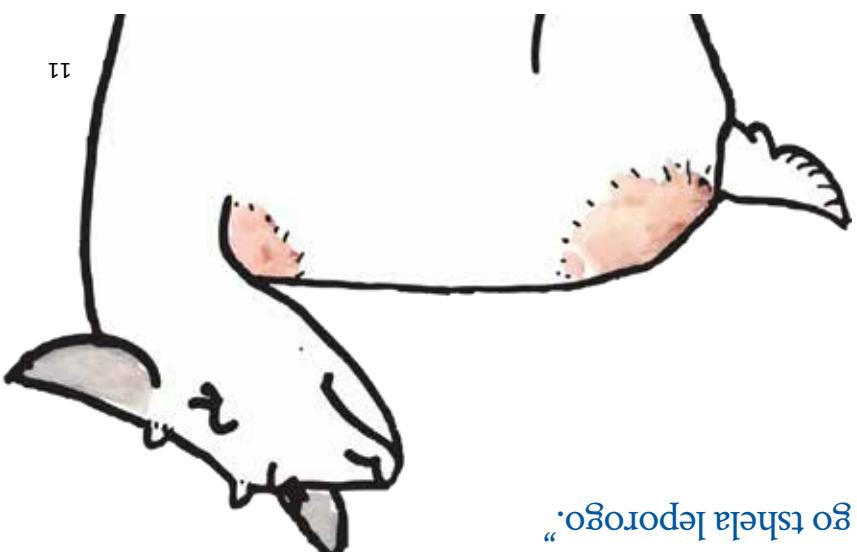


Mother Goat ran to the river. But Little  
Goat was not there. "Where are you,  
Little Goat?" bleated Mother Goat.

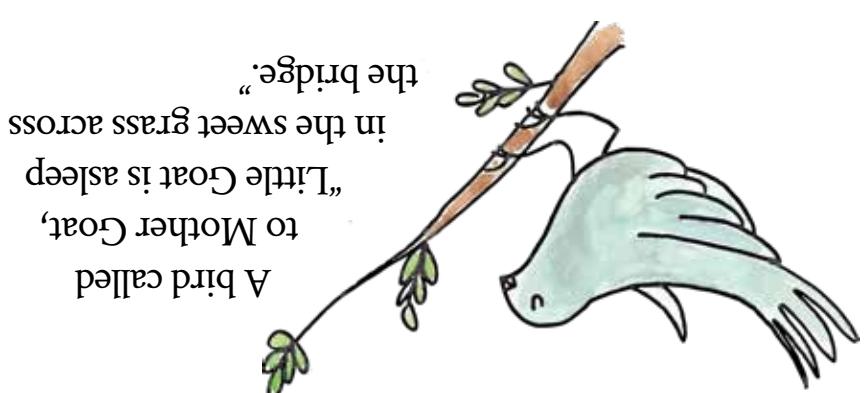
"I wasn't lost ... I have been here all the  
time!" said Little Goat.



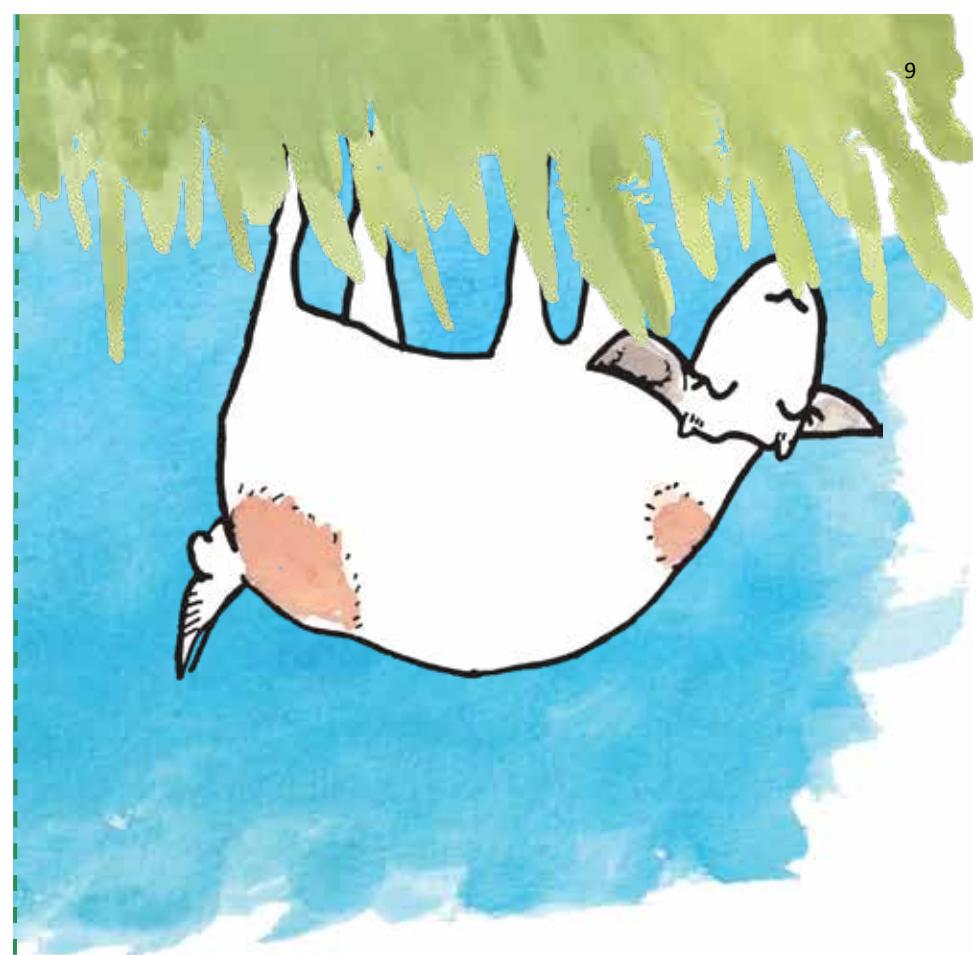
"Ke be ke sa timela ... Ke be ke le fa ka  
dinako tšohle!" a realo Putšane.



Nonyana e ilé ya bítša  
Pudi ya Mma, "Putšane e  
robeteše býanyeng býa bose  
go tshele leporogo."



"Little Goat is asleep  
in the sweet grass across  
the bridge."

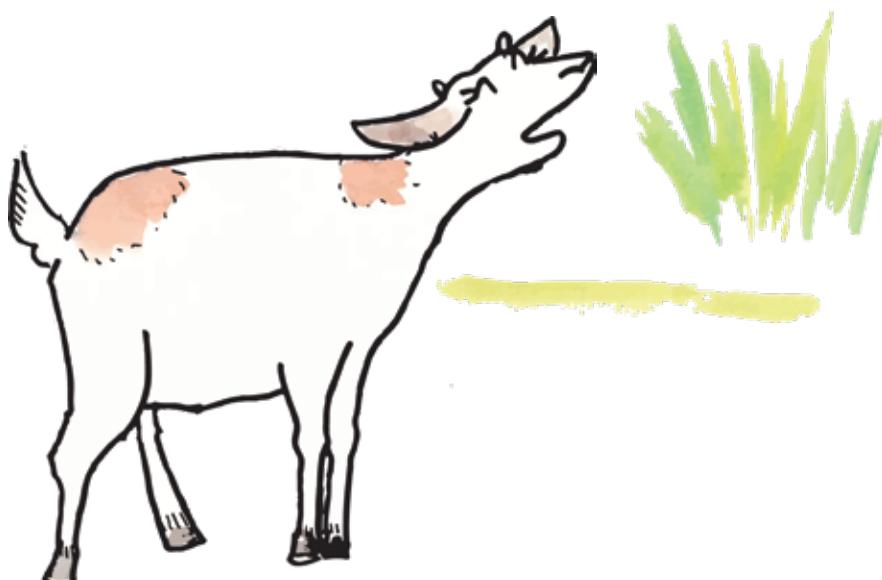


As she walked along, Little Goat moved  
further and further away from Mother Goat.

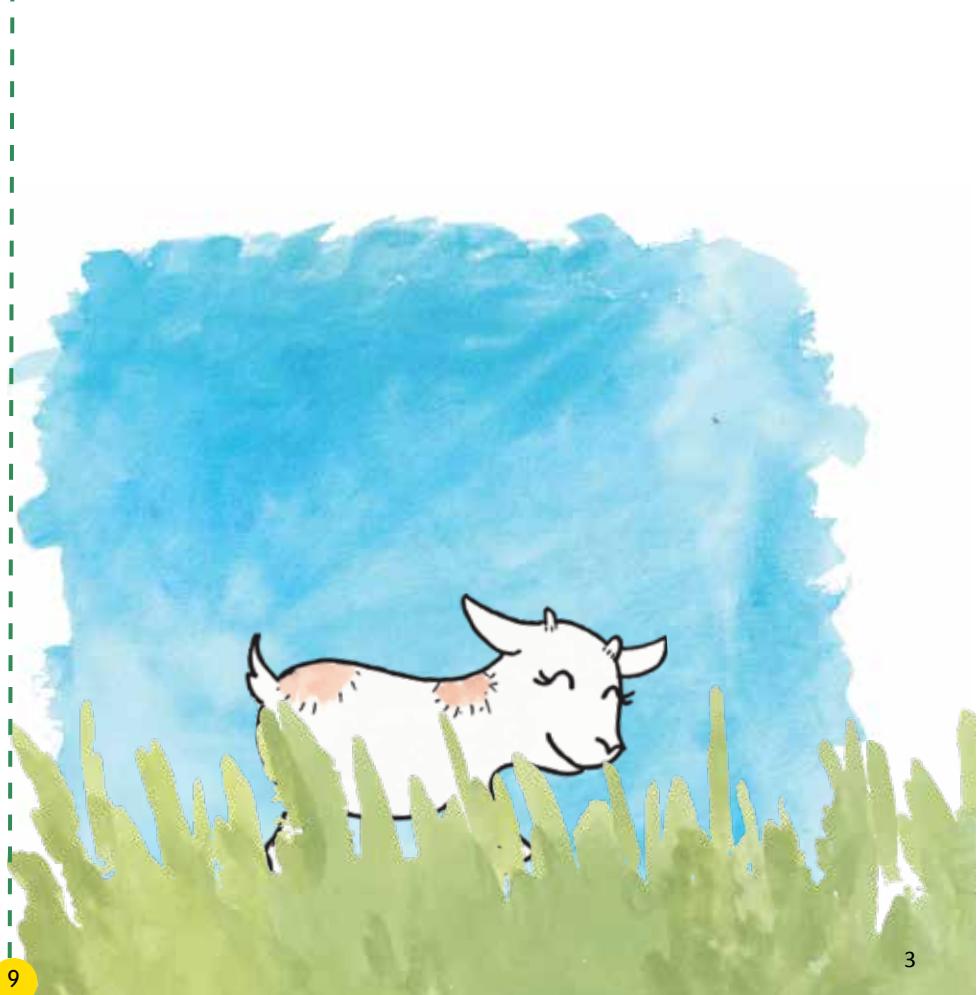
"Wake up, Little Goat," said Mother Goat  
gently. "You were lost!"

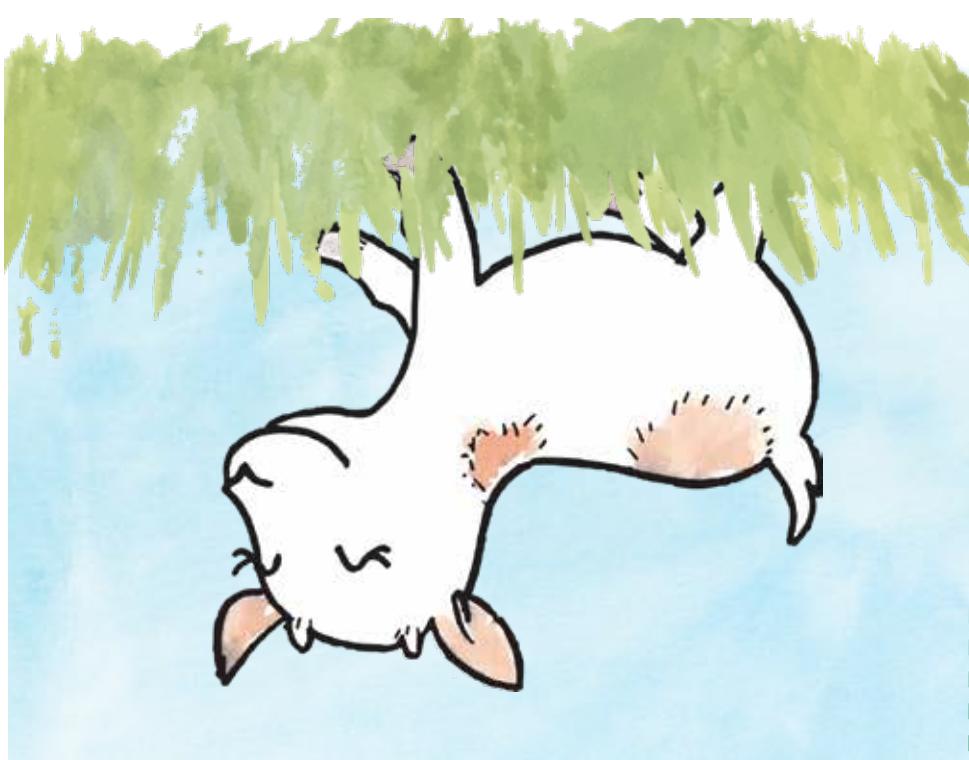
The river gurgled below. But Little Goat  
did not listen to its song.

Noka e be e bopa ka tlase. Efela Putšane  
ga se ya theeletša koša ya yona.



"Tsoga, Putšane," ya realo Pudi ya Mma  
ka boleta. "O be o timetše!"





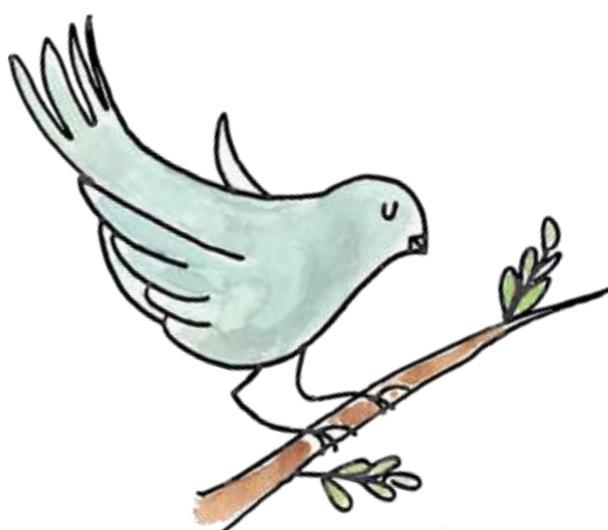
E tsweetse pele ka go sepele e nyaka  
She just walked along looking for the  
sweet grass.

bjang bjo botala.



Pudi ya Ma e ile ya tshele Leporogo go  
ya go bjang bja bose.

Mother Goat crossed the bridge to the  
sweet grass.



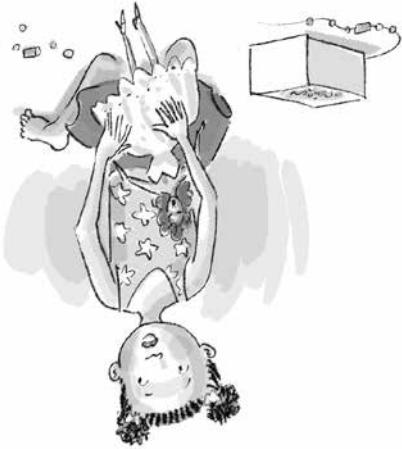
A bird called to her, saying, "How do you  
do?" But Little Goat didn't answer.

Nonyana e mmiditše ya re, "Go bjang?"  
Efela Putšane ga se ya araba.

There she found Little Goat fast asleep.

E hweditše Putšane e swerwe ke boroko fao.





“Thoko, gwa kgopele Mama, ‘raloka le Bongi wa lesa o le? Ke sa na le dilo tse dimsti tse ke swanetšego go di dira.’ “NNGWEE! NNGWEE! NNGWEE!” Gabjale Bongi wa gomme a mma garé ga messamélo ya go koko möga.

“Koko a tswela pele go bogela TV. Gomme Thoko mouthalidng. E be omile, gomme a pësa Nichelle. o ilé a ya go lekola ge eba roko ya Nichelle e a oma musëtsa ka phoremeng ya gagwe.

Ka morago Mama a tseá Bongi wa lesa yo a bego a swarwa ke boroko diadeng tsa Thoko gomme a gëore a sware Bongi wa lesa biang ka polokego diropenge nyaka kosa.”

Mma a re, “Thoko, nthuse hle! Bongi wa lesa o

the lounge.  
Thoko followed Mama and the smelly baby into a nappy.”

“Go on,” said Gogo. “One day, you’ll have your own baby and then you’ll know how to change ‘No way!’ said Thoko holding her nose.

“Come and help me, Thoko,” said Mama.

“Poo!” said Thoko.

“He needs his nappy changed,” said Mama.

“I’ll go see to him,” said Mama.

“But just then, they stopped doing what they were all doing because . . . ‘WHÉ! WHÉ! WHÉ!’ went up baby Bongi,” said Mama.

“I’m going to do some housework and then we can all go to the shopping mall when Xoliswa picks baby Bongi.”



By the time Aunty Xoliswa returned, Thoko was very, very tired from playing with baby Bongi.

“Here’s a ‘thank you’ present for being such a sweet babysitter,” said Aunty Xoliswa as she tied one of her beautiful beaded necklaces around Thoko’s neck.

“Thank you,” said Thoko, with a BIG yawn.

Mama looked at Gogo and said, “Oh dear, Thoko is too tired to come shopping with us today.”

Yebo! Thoko’s eyes had started to close.

Gogo giggled. “Eish! It looks as though the babysitter needs a babysitter,” joked Gogo.

So Gogo stayed at home . . .

While Thoko slept . . . and slept . . . and slept.

E be e le meso ya Mokibelo  
ge ngwana wa go bitšwa  
Bongi a fihla.

“Mmane Xoliswa o be a swanetše go ba mmarakeng wa mesong go rekisa diphetia tsa molala, gomme ke rile ke tla šala le ngwana,” Mma a hlalošetša Thoko.

“Thoko a ka thuša,” a realo Koko.

“Nkane Mmane Xoliswa a sa sepele le ngwana wa gagwe?” gwa botšiša Thoko, yo a nago le mabaka a gagwe.

“Ka gobane ge a lla nka se kgone go thuša bareki ba ka,” gwa hlaloša Mmane Xoliswa.

“Go tlo ba bose go ba le ngwana ka ntlong,” a realo Mma.

“Efela bana ba rata go phela ba lla,” a realo Thoko.

“Ee, ke gopola ge o be o sa le ngwana,” a realo Koko.  
“E be e le nngwee, nngwee, nngwee ka dinako tšohle!”

E rile ge Mmane Xoliswa a fetša go sepela, ngwana Bongi a dira seo.

“NNGWEE! NNGWEE! NNGWEE!”





"Thoko, a sikiuya phoremaya lesaea. Mlesea a rata go sikiuywa," a realo Koko. "Gomme, Thoko a sikiuya phoremaya lesaea. "E segoo ka madda . . ." a realo Koko, "... ka boletea." "Agaa," gwa hebahbeba Koko. "O swarwa ke boroko." "Dijo tsa go filola di lokaile," a realo Mma. "Ka go nanaabea, Thoko le Koko ba latela monkgo wa mae le peikhone ka moraleng."

"Biale, lenaneo la gagao la mesong ye le eme biang?" Ma a bortsisa Thoko.

"Ke ya go hlatswa roko ya tanishi ya Nichelle," a realo Thoko. A nagaana go ya Pele, "Le go tsenya bogela TV."



And whenever he went, "WHE! WHE!" him blow bubbles something to make "WHE", Thoko did giggle.



Nichelle into his gobby mouth. She even let baby Bongi put baby Bongi. She tickled baby Bongi. She sang all her school songs for baby Bongi.



Mama, so . . . she also liked to help with baby Bongi. She pulled funny faces for baby Bongi. She clapped hands with baby Bongi. She lots of things to do, but baby Bongi.



"Thoko, please rock the baby buggy. Babies like being rocked," said Gogo. So, Thoko rocked the baby buggy.

"Not so hard . . ." said Gogo, "... gently." Thoko did it gently, and baby Bongi stopped crying.

"There," whispered Gogo. "He's falling asleep."

"Breakfast is ready," called Mama.

On tippy-toes, Thoko and Gogo followed the yummy smell of eggs and bacon into the kitchen.

"So, what are your plans for this morning?" Mama asked Thoko.

"I'm going to wash Nichelle's ballgown," said Thoko. Then she thought some more, "And thread beads . . . and . . . and . . ."

"What busy mornings you are both going to have," said Gogo. "I'm going to put my feet up and see what's on TV."

Gabotsebotse, le Thoko o na le dilo tse dintsi tse a swanetsego go di dira, efela o rata le go thusa Mma, gomme . . .

O ile a phaphatha diatla le Bongi wa lesea. O hlagisitse difahlego tsa mankana go Bongi wa lesea.



O opeletse Bongi wa lesea dikoša ka moka tsa sekolong. O ile a tsikiditla Bongi wa lesea.



Gape a dumelala Bongi wa lesea gore a tsenye Nichelle ka molomong wa gagwe.

Gomme gohle mo a yago, "NNGWEE! NNGWEE! NNGWEE!", Thoko o dirile se sengwe sa go dira gore a budule dipudula gomme a be a sege.

## Get story active!



## Dira gore kanegelo e be le bophelo!

Here are some activities for you to try. They are based on all the stories in this edition of the Nal'ibali Supplement: *Thoko, the babysitter* (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12), *Little Goat* (pages 7 to 10) and *The tale of Oxpecker and Buffalo* (page 14).

### Thoko, the babysitter

Be a word detective and find these words in the story.

1. The sound that a baby makes. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The name of a song. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A day of the week. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A time of day. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Something we do with our bodies. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The name of something you wear around your neck. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A word that describes something that smells or tastes nice. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The name of something you carry things in. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The name of something you push a baby in. \_\_\_\_\_
10. A word that rhymes with "nappy". \_\_\_\_\_
11. A word ending with the letters *-ful*. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Something you do with beads. \_\_\_\_\_
13. The name of a place with lots of shops. \_\_\_\_\_
14. The opposite of "dirty". \_\_\_\_\_
15. The name of Thoko's doll. \_\_\_\_\_



Fa ke mešongwana ye o ka e lekago. E theilwe dikanegelong ka moka tša kgatišo ye ya Tlaleletšo ya Nal'ibali: *Thoko, wa moledi* (matlakala a 5, 6, 11 le 12), *Putšane* (matlakala a 7 go fihla go 10) le *Kanegelo ya Modisa le Nare* (letlakala la 15).

### Thoko, wa moledi

E ba monyakisši wa mantšu gomme o hwetše mantšu a ka kanegelong.

1. Modumo wa go dirwa ke lesea. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Leina la koša. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Letšatši la beke. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Nako ya letšatši. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Selo se re se dirago ka mebele ya ren. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Leina la selo se o se aparago molaleng. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Lentšu la go hlaloša selo sa go nkga goba go ba le tatso ye bose. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Leina la selo se o lokelago dilo ka gare. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Leina la selo se o se kgarametšago o tsentše lesea ka gare. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Lentšu la morumokwano wa "mongato". \_\_\_\_\_
11. Lentšu la go felela ka *-ng*. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Selo se o se dirago ka diphet. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Leina la lefelo la go ba le mabenkele a mantši. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Leganetši la "ditšila". \_\_\_\_\_
15. Leina la popi ya Thoko. \_\_\_\_\_



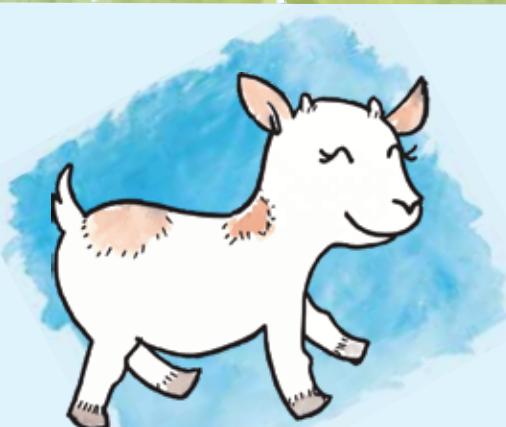
### The tale of Oxpecker and Buffalo

Do you have any suggestions for what Oxpecker and Buffalo could do to get along better? Write a letter to them in which you share these ideas. (Do this with a group of friends or on your own!)



### Kanegelo ya Modisa le Nare

O na le tše o ka di šišinyago gore Modisa le Nare ba phedišane bokaone? Ba ngwalele lengwalo gomme o abelane ka dikgopolole tše. (Dira se le sehlopha sa bagwera goba o le tee!)



### Little Goat

- ♥ Discuss with your children what it means to be lost by asking, "Do you think Little Goat was lost? Why/why not?"
- ♥ Invite your children to draw a picture that shows what it feels like to be lost.
- ♥ Challenge older children to retell the story using human characters in place of Mother Goat and Little Goat.

### Putšane

- ♥ Boledišana le bana ba gago ka ga go timela gomme o ba botšiše dipotšišo tše, "O nagana gore Putšane o be a timetše? Ka lebaka la eng/goreng go se bjalo?"
- ♥ E re bana ba gago ba thale seswantšho sa go bonišha gore motho o ikwa bjang ge a timetše.
- ♥ Hlotla bana ba bagolwane go anega kanegelo leswa ba diriša baanegwa ba batho go emela Pudi ya Mma le Putšane.



Drive your imagination



# The tale of Oxpecker and Buffalo

By Kai Tuomi ■ Illustrations by Samantha van Riet



In the old days, Oxpecker had a bright yellow bill. He lived in a little hut in a patch of long grass. Each day he would sweep his hut before setting off into the grass to catch his favourite food. At night he would climb into his nest-bed, his belly full of green grasshoppers, flies and wriggly worms.

If anyone came into the patch of long grass, Oxpecker would fly up and shout at them. He would peck them and make a fuss until they went away. He liked to live alone, and he didn't want to share with anyone.

One day, while Oxpecker was out searching for insects, he heard a low rumble, like the sound of thunder rolling in the hills, and something blocked out the sun.

"What now?" shrieked Oxpecker, flying up out of the long grass to get a better view.

A big, black animal with heavy horns was walking through the long grass.



"Hello," said Buffalo. "I haven't eaten anything in weeks. This long grass is exactly what I need. May I have some?"

"No! Go away!" shouted Oxpecker.

"Well, I'll die if I don't eat something. There hasn't been any rain for months. This is the only patch of long grass around here. Won't you let me eat some of it, please?"

"Didn't you hear me? Go away!" said Oxpecker flying around Buffalo's head.

"But you don't even eat grass," Buffalo said. And then he tried again, "We could share the grass."

"I don't share! This is mine! Mine! Mine! Now go away!" shouted Oxpecker.

Buffalo's forehead wrinkled and his eyes narrowed to slits. He got so angry that his tail swished back and forth, making a loud clapping sound as it struck the sides of his rump. "Well, if you are going to be rude, I'm going to eat it anyway. I eat grass, that is what I do, and I am hungry, so here I GO, you rude bird," said Buffalo about to chomp on some grass.

"You wouldn't dare!" shrieked Oxpecker.

"How are you going to stop me? Look at how big I am. And because you're being so rude, I've decided that I'm going to eat and eat and eat until I'm full." And with a loud *MUNCH! CRUNCH!* Buffalo started to eat.

This made Oxpecker so angry that the end of his beak turned bright red. Oxpecker flew around Buffalo's head shouting and shrieking and whooping, but Buffalo just kept on eating. Soon all the long grass was gone. To make matters worse, Buffalo put his big hoof right through the roof of Oxpecker's hut.

Oxpecker flew up onto Buffalo's back and started pecking away at his skin.

"That's not going to work," said Buffalo. "My skin is very thick. Even Lion has tried to bite me with his sharp teeth and I got away. You are too small, Oxpecker. And you deserved what you got. I was willing to share."

"Well, that's it then," said Oxpecker growing suddenly quiet. "I was only angry and rude because that was my home. Now I have no home and no food – all those delicious green grasshoppers, flies and wriggly worms that lived in the long grass are gone! Everything's gone."

Buffalo looked back at Oxpecker, who was crying, and then to the bare patch of earth and the broken hut. "I'm sorry I destroyed your home," he said, "but maybe I can make it up to you. I have a problem with insects, you see. I mean, just take a look at my back. There are always far too many insects hanging on and crawling all over me. You could eat them, and it would be really nice to have someone finally get rid of them for me."

Oxpecker looked up and down Buffalo's body and noticed all the little insects clinging to Buffalo's skin. The bird's tummy rumbled, but the thought of doing Buffalo a favour after everything he had done, made Oxpecker angrier and angrier. His yellow bill grew redder and redder.

"First you ate all my lovely grass!" shouted Oxpecker. "Then you wrecked my house. You actually put your big hoof right through the roof! Now you want me to eat all these insects as a favour!" He walked up and down Buffalo's back, pecking at the insects as he talked. "You really are the worst, Buffalo! As if I would help you," he said with his little mouth full of insects.



Buffalo simply shrugged and walked off with Oxpecker riding on his back, shouting and eating insects. And they are still doing that to this day, but Oxpecker never forgave Buffalo, and his yellow beak stayed red forever.



Drive your  
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# Nal'ibali fun

## Boipshino bja Nal'ibali



1.



### Tell a story!

- Look at this picture. What do you think Priya and her mom are doing? Where do you think Priya's little brother, Rahul, has come from? Why is he running? What do you think is going to happen next?
  - Use the picture to help you tell your own story about Priya, Rahul and their mom. This picture could be where your story starts or where it ends!
  - Share your story with a family member or a friend.
- .....

### Anega kanegelo!

- Lebelela seswantšho. O nagana gore Priya le mmagwe ba dira eng? O nagana gore ngwana wa gabo Priya wa mošemane, Rahul, o tšwa kae? O kitimela eng? O nagana gore go tlo direga eng sa go latela?
- Diriša seswantšho go go thuša go anega kanegelo ya gago ka ga Priya, Rahul le mmago bona. Seswantšho se e ka ba mathomo goba mafetšo a kanegelo ya gagwe!
- Abelana kaneglo le leloko la lapa goba mogwera.

2.

### Give a clue. Take a guess!

Here is a game that celebrates Get-Caught-Reading Month to play with a partner.



- On the lines below write a list of the ten craziest places where you would like to read. Don't let your partner see what you are writing.
- Now give your partner a clue for each place on your list that helps him or her to guess the place you wrote down.
- How many places did your partner guess correctly? Was that because you gave such good clues, or because your partner made good guesses – or a bit of both?

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### Efa mohlala. Akanya!

Fa ke moraloko wa go keteka Kg wedi ya H wetšwa-o-Bala wo o ralokwago le modirišani.

- Methalading ya ka tlase ngwala lenaneo la mafelo a go se tlwaelege a lesome ao o ka ratago go bala go ona. Modirišani wa gago a se bone se o se ngwalago.
- Bjale efa modirišani wa gago mohlala wa lefelo le lengwe le le lengwe leo le lego lenaneong la gago go mo thuša go akanya lefelo leo o le ngwadilego.
- Modirišani wa gago o akantše mafelo afe ka nepagalo? E kaba ke ka lebaka la ge o file mehlala ya botse, goba ka lebaka la gore modirišani wa gago o akantše gabotse – goba gannyane go bobedi bjø?

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3.

### Where do you think these people were caught reading?



### O nagana gore batho bao ba swerwe ba bala kae?



Nal'ibali is here to motivate and support you. Contact us by calling our call centre on **02 11 80 40 80**, or in any of these ways:

Nal'ibali e fa go go hlohlleletša le go go thekga. **Ikgokaganye le rena** ka go lletša lefelo la rena la megala go **02 11 80 40 80**, goba ka efe goba efe ya ditsela tše:  
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Daily Dispatch

The Herald

Sunday Times

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