

With babies, young children, and even older children who have to learn through an additional language like English at school, it's best to share books in the language or languages you speak at home with them. It takes many years to learn your mother tongue well, and reading and talking about books in your mother tongue enriches your children's language – and it gives your children the head start they need for successful learning

In South Africa, many homes are bilingual or multilingual. This is not a problem - in fact, it is a wonderful resource for children! They can transfer the concepts, knowledge and language that they learn in one language to another one. Children are also able to learn in two languages at the same time! So if, for example, Mom's mother tongue is isiXhosa and Dad's mother tongue is Sesotho, and each of them usually speaks their language to their baby, he or she will grow up learning two languages. If you and other adults in your home each want to use your mother tongue to share books with your children, this is fine. The important thing is to make sure that your baby or child understands you, and is having an enjoyable and satisfying time.

And there is even better news! Did you know that although it's a good idea to keep reading to your children in their mother tongue, when they start to learn an additional language at school, reading picture books in this "new" language will help them to learn the language more easily. So, if you are able to, once your children are of school-going age, don't be afraid of reading in your mother tongue plus other languages your child may be learning at school.

So, to help your children have the very best chance at success at school, here's the golden rule: start talking and reading to them in your mother tongue/s when they are babies, keep doing this throughout their lives and as they learn other languages at school, start reading to them in these languages too!

Kwiintsana, kubantwana abancinane kunye nakwabo badadlana ekufuneka befunde olunye ulwimi olufana nesiNgesi esikolweni, okona kulungileyo kukwabelana nabo ngeencwadi ngolwimi okanye ngeelwimi enizithetha ekhaya. Kuthatha iminyaka emininzi ukufunda ulwimi lwasekhaya ngokugqibeleleyo, kwaye ukufunda nokuthetha ngeencwadi ezibhalwe ngolwimi lwenkobe lwakho kutyebisa ulwimi lwabantwana bakho - kwaye kunika abantwana bakho isiqalo abasifunayo ukuze baphumelele xa sele befunda esikolweni.

Amakhaya amaninzi eMzantsi Afrika athetha iilwimi ezimbini okanye iilwimi ezininzi. Oku akuyongxaki – eneneni, ngumthombo omangalisayo ebantwaneni! Bangakwazi ukukhuphela kolunye ulwimi ingcingane, ingqikelelo, ulwazi kunye nolwimi abathe balufunda baziweze bazise kolunye. Kananialo abantwana bayakwazi ukufunda besebenzisa iilwimi ezimbini ngexesha elinye. Ngoko ke, ukuba umzekelo ulwimi lwasekhaya lukaMama sisiXhosa luze olukaTata lube siSesotho, kwaye inqulowo ethetha ulwimi lwakhe nosana lwabo, olo sana luza kukhula lufunda iilwimi ezimbini. Ukuba wena kunye nabanye abantu abadala ekhaya *nifuna* ukusebenzisa ulwimi lwasekhaya ukwabelana ngeencwadi nabantwana, oko akuyongxaki kwaphela. Okubalulekileyo

> kukuainisekisa ukuba usana lwakho okanve umntwana wakho uvakulandela oko umnika kona, kwaye ufumene ixesha lokuzonwabisa nelimkholisayo ngoko.

Both you and the children can have fun learning to read in two languages. Try first reading the minibooks in the Nal'ibali supplement in your most familiar language and then in the other language.

Wena kunye nabantwana bakho ningakonwabela ukuzuza isakhono sokufunda ngeelwimi ezimbini ngokuthi

weNal'ibali ngolwimi oluqhelekileyo kuni kuqala, nize emva koko nifunde nangolunye ulwimi.

Kukho neendaba ezimnandi! Ubusazi ukuba nangona iyingcinga elungileyo ukuhlala ubafundela ngolwimi lwasekhaya abantwana bakho, xa begala ukufunda ulwimi olongezelelweyo nolutsha esikolweni, ukufunda iincwadi ezinemifanekiso ngolu lwimi 'lutsha' kuza kubanceda balufunde kamsinyane ngaphezulu. Ngoko ke, ukuba uyakwazi, xa abantwana bakho bekwixabiso lokuya esikolweni, musa ukoyika ukubafundela ngolwimi lwakho kunye nezinye iilwimi abantwana bakho abanokuthi bazifunde esikolweni.

Ngoko ke, ukunceda abantwana bakho babe nelona thuba likhulu lempumelelo esikolweni, nanku owona mthetho ungqingqwa: qalisa ukuthetha nokubafundela ngolwimi lwakho/ ngeelwimi zakho xa bezintsana, uze uqhube usenza oko ubomi babo kwaye njengokuba befunda ezinye iilwimi esikolweni, qalisa ukubafundela nangezi lwimi zintsha bazifundayo!



Join us on Facebook every Monday for Multilingual Mondays. Go to www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA for a new post in English and a different South African language each week. Add your translations so we can learn from one another and celebrate the rich collection of languages in our country.

Zibandakanye nathi kuFacebook rhoqo ngeMivulo sabelane ngeMivulo yeeLwimi iinzi. Ndwendwela kule webhusayithi www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA ufumar okutsha okubhaliweyo ngesiNgesi kunye nolunye ulwimi kwiilwimi zaseMzantsi Afrika kwiveki nganye. Yongeza iinguqulelo zakho ukuze sifunde omnye komnye kwaye sibhiyozele ingqokelela etyebileyo yeelwimi zelizwe lethu.



Read to me. Again! Again! Ndifundele. Phindaphinda, ungadinwa!





Q: We speak isiZulu at home. My youngest child is in Grade 2 and I'm happy that, although he is learning English at school, all his other lessons are in isiZulu. His older sister is in Grade 6. When she went to Grade 4 suddenly all her lessons were in English even though she still did isiZulu as a subject. It was very difficult for her, and her marks dropped a lot. I want to help prepare my son for the switch to English in two years' time so that he does not struggle as much as she did. Do you think I should help him by speaking and reading to him only in English and not in isiZulu like I am doing at the moment?

Thokozile Dlungwana, Kwamashu

A: It is extremely difficult for children to do well at school when they have to learn in a language that they have not yet mastered properly. One of the ways you can help prepare your son for the "switch" to English is to continue doing what you are already doing – use his mother tongue, isiZulu, at home! Use it for everyday conversations and reading and writing! Being able to use his mother tongue well will build a firm foundation for him to learn another language. You can also help him make the connections to English by sometimes reading English picture books to him and by singing and saying English songs and rhymes together. In this way you will be growing his mother tongue and adding to his language skills by helping him learn a new language in a natural and fun way.

Q: Sithetha isiZulu ekhaya. Oyena mntwana wam mncinane ufunda kwiBanga le-2 kwaye ndiyavuya kuba, nangona efunda isiNgesi esikolweni, zonke ezinye izifundo zakhe uzifunda ngesiZulu. Udade wabo omdala ufunda kwiBanga le-6. Xa wayeqala iBanga le-4, ngequbuliso zonke izifundo zakhe wazifunda ngesiNgesi nangona wayesasifunda isiZulu njengesinye sezifundo zakhe. Kwakunzima kakhulu kuye kwaye namanqaku awayewafumana ehla kakhulu. Ndifuna ukulungiselela unyana wam ukuze xa lifika kuye elo xesha lokuguquka kwezifundo zakhe zibe sisiNgesi kwiminyaka emibini ezayo angasokoli kakhulu njengodade wabo. Ucinga ukuba ndingamnceda ngokuthetha kunye nokumfundela ngesiNgesi kuphela ndingamfundeli ngesiZulu njengokuba ndisenza ngoku?

Thokozile Dlungwane, KwaMashu

A: Kunzima kakhulu ukuba abantwana benze kakuhle esikolweni xa kufuneka befunde ngolwimi abangekalwazi ncam. Enye yeendlela onokunceda ngayo ukulungiselela unyana wakho xa lifika elo xesha lokuguquka kwezifundo zakhe zibe sisiNgesi kukuqhubeka usenza konke oku ukwenzayo – usebenzisa ulwimi lwasekhaya, isiZulu, ekhaya! Sisebenzise kwiincoko zemihla ngemihla kunye nokufunda nokubhala! Ukukwazi ukusebenzisa ulwimi lwasekhaya kakuhle kuza kwakha isiseko esiluqilima ukuze akwazi ukufunda nolunye ulwimi. Ungamnceda akwazi ukudibanisa akufundileyo nesiNgesi ngokuthi ngamanye amaxesha umfundele iincwadi ezinemifanekiso nokumculela iingoma zesiNgesi kunye nezingqisho okanye izicengcelezo ngaxeshanye. Ngolu hlobo uza kuba ukhulisa ulwazi lwakhe lolwimi lwasekhaya kwaye wongeza izakhono zakhe zolwimi ngokumnceda afunde ulwimi olutsha ngokwendalo nangendlela yokuzonwabisa.

Saxonwold, 2132 or letters@nalibali.org

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Download free multilingual stories from our website: www.nalibali.org

Zikopele simahla amabali abhalwe ngeelwimi ezininzi kwiwebhusayithi yethu edilesi ithi:



### Create your own mini-book

- 1. Take out pages 3 to 6 of this supplement.
- 2. Fold it in half along the black dotted line.
- 3. Fold it in half again.
- 4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

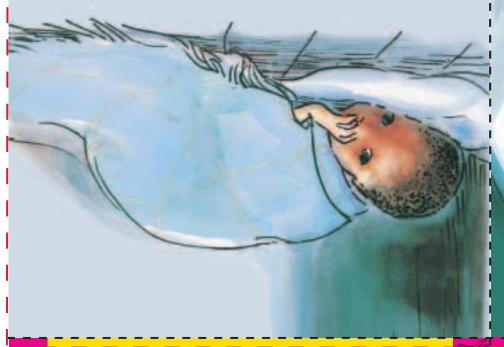
#### Zenzele eyakho incwadana encinane

- 1. Thabatha amaphepha ama-3 ukuya kwisi-6 kolu hlelo.
- 2. Wasonge esiphakathini kumgca wamachaphaza amnyama.
- 3. Phinda uwasonge esiphakathini kwakhona.
- 4. Sika kwimigca yamachaphaza abomvu.



eyoyikekayo! Inja yakhonkotha. Ikati yakhala. Inkukhu zakhala. Ndaza ndeva into

> It was a very dark night. The dog barked. The cat called. The chicken clucked. And then I heard something scary!





One dark, dark night is one of 36 stories available in the Little Library Kits for Numeracy, Literacy and Life Skills. Each kit contains 60 readers (5 copies of 12 stories), 12 big books, 12 posters and a comprehensive teacher's guide. The readers and the big books are available in all 11 official languages. For more information please visit our website www.cup.co.za.

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Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to get people in South Africa – children and adults – passionate about telling and reading stories. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org



Fold

INal'ibali liphulo lesizwe lokufundela ulonwabo lokwenza abantu eMzantsi Afrika – abantwana nabantu abadala – bakuthakazelele ukubalisa nokufunda amabali. Ukuze ufumane inkcazelo ebanzi, ndwendwela ku-www.nalibali.org

Xa kumnyama, sivala ucango. Sikhuselekile endlwini yethu. Sonke sivala amehlo ethu. Kodwa ndingqengqile. Ndiyamamela, ukuba ndingqengqile. Ndiyamamela, ukuba

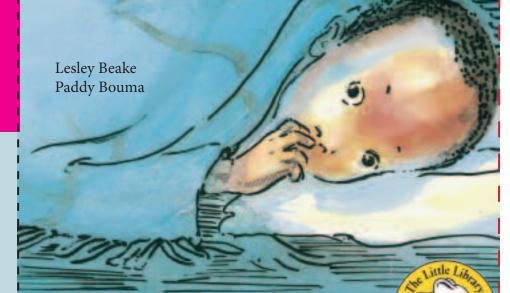
> When it's dark, we shut the door. We are safe in our house. We all close our eyes. But sometimes I lie awake. I listen, in case something comes.



CAMBRIDGE

One dark, dark night

Ngobunye ubusuku obabumnyama thsu









"leance!" zouke, "Mka, Siyakhwaza

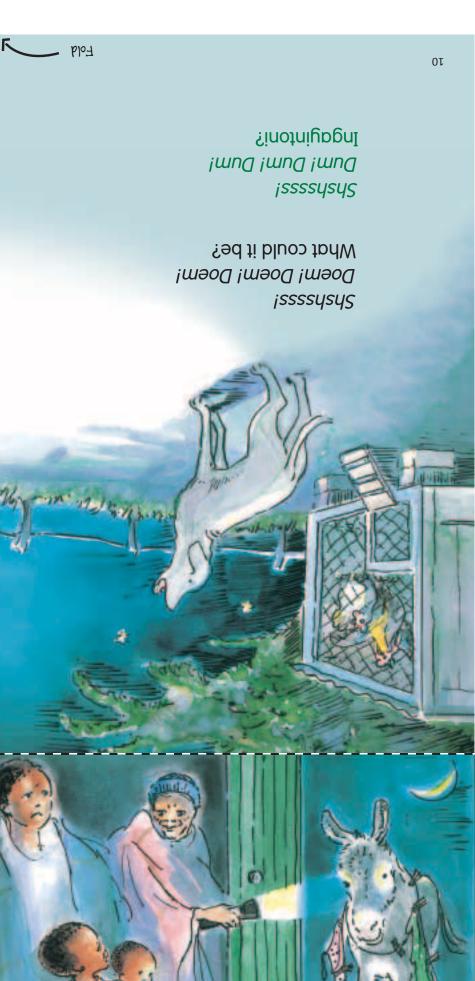


"leance!" "Go away, all shout, 9w bnA



My Grandmother is old and thin. My Mama is young and fat.

UMakhulu wam waluphele yaye ubhityile. UMama wam mtsha yaye utyebile.



... Nuisance, the donkey. He wanted to say goodnight!

... nguNuisance, idonki. Wayefuna ukuthi busuku benzolo!

Inyoka! Iza kutya iinkukhu zam!" "Yho-o-o-o!" watsho uMama. "Inyoka! Waza watsiba wavuka uMama.

ττ

It will eat my chickens!" "Yoooo!" Mama said. "Snake! Snake! Then Mama jumped up.



"¡ydss-ydss-ydss" Ndibiza ikati, Kuza uMuisance. UMama ubiza inja. Kuza uMuisance. "!dqiyt-dqiyt-dqiyT" iinkukhu ebusuku. **UMakhulu ubiza** 

22K-25Ki" I call the cat, "Ssk-

comes. dog. And Nuisance Wama calls the Nuisance comes. "Kip-kip-kip!" And at night. calls the chickens Grandmother

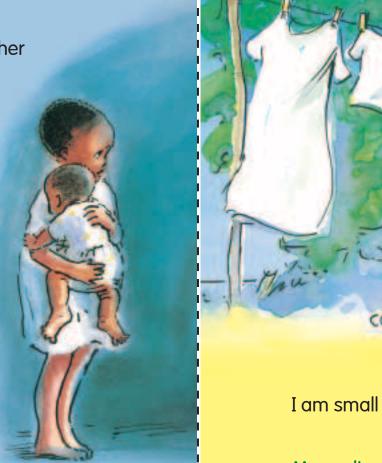


I held the baby. Grandmother opened the door slowly. Was it a snake? Was it an elephant? Grandmother switched on the torch. What was it?

It was ...

Mna ndabamba usana. UMakhulu wavula ucango kancinci. Yayiyinyoka? Yayiyindlovu? UMakhulu walayita itshotshi. Yayiyintoni?

Yayi- ...





I am small and short.

Mna ndimncinci yaye ndimfutshane.

Folg

Sikwanayo nedonki ebizwa ngokuba

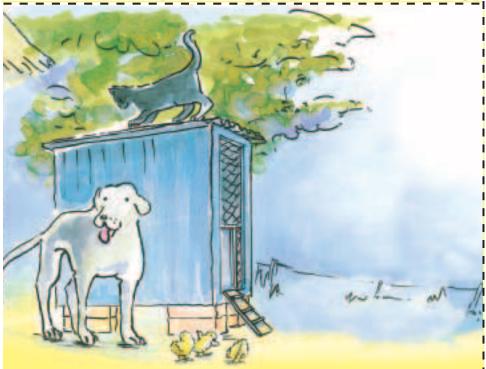
And we have a donkey called Nuisance.



Waphakama uMakhulu. "Awu-u-u-u!" watsho uMakhulu. "Indlovu! Indlovu! Iza kududla iwise indlu yethu!"

Grandmother sat up. "Ooooo!" Grandmother said. "Elephant! Elephant! It will knock down our house!"





We have a big dog. We have a small cat. We have many chickens.

Sinenja enkulu. Sinekati encinci. Sineenkukhu ezininzi.



Grandmother got the torch. Mama got the big stick.

UMakhulu wathatha ithotshi. UMama wathatha intonga enkulu.



### Get story active!

After you and your children have read *One dark, dark night,* try out some of these ideas.

#### If you have 10 minutes...

 Look at the illustrations together and talk about them. For example, ask your children if they can tell how many chickens the family has by counting them on pages 4 and 5. And ask them to suggest what the dog is howling at on page 10.

#### If you have 30 minutes...

- Play a detective game together! Ask your children if they know who is telling the story. (You might need to read the story together again so that they can work this out!) Then, together, write down what you know about the little girl from the information given in the story.
- Read the story again and ask your children to make the noises of the different animals when you read about them. They could act out being those animals too.

#### If you have one hour...

 Make up a story with your children, that begins with "One dark, dark night...". Take turns adding different bits to this new story. When you have finished, ask your children to draw or paint a picture to illustrate a scene from it.

### Yenza ibali linike umdla!

Emva kokuba wena nabantwana bakho nifunde ibali elisihloko sithi *Ngobunye ubusuku obabumnyama thsu,* zama ezinye zezi ngcinga.

#### Ukuba unemizuzu elishumi...

 Jongani imifanekiso ninonke nize nithethe ngayo. Umzekelo, buza abantwana bakho ukuba zingaphi iinkukhu usapho olunazo ngokuthi bazibale kwiphepha le-4 nele-5. Bacele baqashele ukuba inja ikhonkotha ntoni na kwiphepha le-10.

#### Ukuba unemizuzu engama-30...

- Dlalani umdlalo wokuba ngabecuphi! Buza abantwana bakho ukuba bayazi kusini na ukuba ngubani obalisa ibali. (Kusenokufuneka ukuba uphinde ulifunde ibali kwakhona ukuze bakwazi ukwenza lo mdlalo!) Emva koko, ninonke, bhalani konke enikwaziyo nenikufumene ebalini malunga nentombazana encinane
- Funda ibali kwakhona uze ucele abantwana bakho benze izikhalo zezilwanyana ezohlukileyo xa ubafundela. Bangazenza babengathi bazezo zilwanyana.

#### Ukuba uneyure...

 Nikunye nabantwana yenzani ibali eliqala ngamazwi athi: "Ngobunye ubusuku obabumnyama thsu.." Nikanani amathuba nifakelele apha ebalini lenu elitsha. Xa nigqibile, cela abantwana bakho bazobe okanye bapeyinte umfanekiso ukubonakalisa umboniso ophuma kweli bali lenu litsha.



## Story corner

Here is the first part of a story about a very special bird for you to read aloud or tell.

## The rain bird (Part 1) Retold by Joanne Bloch

A little village stood at the edge of a forest. In the heart of this forest, in the highest branches of an enormous tree, lived a very special bird – the bird that made rain. The villagers had always taken the time to keep this bird happy. Every week they would take pieces of bread and fruit, and fresh coconut milk to lay at the base of the tree. Then someone would play a simple tune on the thumb piano and the bird would fly down to the ground to eat and drink. When it had finished, it would raise its dark, shiny blue wings and sing a beautiful song. Within minutes, rain would begin to fall.

For many years rain fell regularly, the crops grew abundantly and there was plenty of food for everyone. But gradually things began to change ... the villagers started to neglect the rain bird. "It will rain anyway," they decided.

But gradually the rain stopped falling. Their crops began to die and their animals grew thin and weak. But still nobody went into the forest to feed the bird that brought the rain - they were all too busy trying to find money to buy food in a neighbouring town.

One day, Ketti went into the forest. She walked and walked until she came to the tall tree in which the rain bird lived. Ketti stared up at the tree, remembering how her granny used to take her into the forest to feed the bird. She took a piece of bread out of her bag and laid it at the base of the tree. Then, because she had no thumb piano, she sang a song.

The rain bird swooped down and began to eat the bread. When it had finished, it sang a few high notes and raised its shiny wings. Then Ketti heard the rumble of thunder and by the time she reached home, giant rain drops were pelting down.

Ketti told her parents what had happened. "Nobody believes in that bird anymore! Don't waste your bread on it!" scolded her mother.

"If only Granny were alive," thought Ketti, "she would have believed me!" But Ketti's granny had died a few years ago leaving Ketti only her old thumb piano.



Find out next week whether the rain bird really does have magical powers.

Funda kwiveki ezayo ufumanise ukuba ingaba ngenene intaka yemvula inawo amandla okwenza umlingo.

# In your next Nal'ibali supplement:

- Join our celebration of World Read Aloud Day
- Story stars: find out about children who enjoy reading aloud to other children
- Read a story especially written for us by one of South Africa's most loved children's authors, Niki Daly
- Story time activities
- The final part of the story, The rain bird

Can't wait until next week for more reading and story tips, tools and inspirational ideas? Visit www.nalibali.org or find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA

## Indawo yamabali

Nantsi inxalenye yokuqala yebali onokulifundela ngaphandle ngokuvakalayo okanye ulibalise elimalunga nentaka ekhethekileyo.

### Intak'emvula (Inxalenye 1) Libaliswa kwakhona nguJoanne Bloch

Kwakukho ilali encinane eyayimi kwinyele lehlathi. Esizikithini seli hlathi, kwawona masebe aphezulu omthi omkhulu kunene, kwakuhlala eyona ntaka ikhethekileyo – intaka eyenza imvula. Abahlali bale lali, babethe gqolo bezinika ithuba lokugcina le ntaka yonwabile ngamaxesha onke. Babegcina iingququ zesonka, amaqhekeza eziqhamo kunye nobisi olutsha lwekhokhonathi, kwaye rhoqo ngeveki iqela labahlali bale lali bebethatha ezi zimuncumuncu bazise ehlathini bafike bazibeke phantsi kwalo mthi. Bayakuthi ke emva kokuba bezandlele phantsi kwalo mthi, aze omnye adlale ngonyana ithile ngepiyano edlalwa ngeminwe. Kuya kuthi ethubeni, ubone loo ntaka ibhabha isiza ezantsi ukuza kutya ize isele kananjalo. Iya kuthi yakugqiba, uyive iqalisa ukucula eyona ngoma imyoli. Icula njalo uza kuyibona inyusa amaphiko ayo azuba amenyezelayo, kungekudala emva koko, imvula iqalise ukuna.

Iminyaka emininzi imvula yayisina rhoqo, izityalo zikhula ngokwaneleyo kangangokuba kwakukho ukutya okuninzi kuloo lali. Kodwa ke kungekudala, izinto zaqala ukutshintsha ... abahlali baloo lali basuka bathanda ukuxakeka zezinye izinto, kwaze oku kwabangela ukuba balibale ngentaka yemvula. "Kuza kunetha nokuba kutheni," babesitsho.

Kodwa ke ngelishwa, abantu babewuphosile umhlola. Bathe bakuyeka ukuyikhathalela intaka, imvula yayeka ukuna. Izityalo zaqala ukoma nokubuna, nezilwanyana zayimidyubha ebuthisayo. Nangona kunjalo, kwakungekho mntu kuloo lali waphumayo ukuya ehlathini ukuze ondle intaka eyayibazisela imvula. Eyona nto babexakeke yiyo ngoku kukwenza imali ukuze baye kuthenga ukutya kwidolophu abamelene nayo.

Ngaminazala ithile intombazana encinane egama linguKetti yagqiba ekubeni iye ehlathini. Uhambile, wahamba, kwaze emva kwethutyana, wafika kumthi omde eyayihlala kuwo intaka yemvula. UKetti uqwalasele phezulu emthini. Kusenjalo, wakhumbula ngelaa xesha umakhulu wakhe wayehamba naye ukuya apho ehlathini ukuze bondle intaka, nangona yena wayesemncinane. Kwangoko uvule itasi yakhe wakhupha amaqhekezana esonka ebishiyekile. Ngenkathalo nangobunono, ubeke eso sonka phantsi kwaloo mthi. Nanjengoko ke ebengaphethanga piyano edlalwa ngeminwe, uye wacula ingoma.

Ngesandi esidandulukayo esikhulu, intaka yemvula yathi gqi emasebeni phezu kwentloko kaKetti yaze yaqalisa ukutya isonka. Ithe yakugqiba ukutya le ntaka, yavula umlonyana wayo yaze yacula iinowuthi eziphezulu zengoma ngokucwengileyo yaze kwangoko yanyusa amaphiko ayo akhazimlayo. Kwangoko uKetti weva ukundila kwezulu waza wathi efika kowabo, kwabe sele kusiwa amachaphaza amakhulu emvula.

UKetti waxelela abazali bakhe ukuba kwenzeke ntoni. "Akusekho mntu ukholelwayo kulaa ntaka! Musa ukudlala ngesonka sakho uphisa ngaso kuyo!" wamngxolisa njalo umama wakhe.

"Akwaba umakhulu ebesaphila," wacinga njalo uKetti, "yena ebeza kundikholelwa!" Kodwa ke kwakusele iyiminyaka eliqelana eswelekile umakhulu kaKetti. Inye kuphela into awayesayigcinile uKetti kwezo zikamakhulu, yayiyipiyano yeminwe kamakhulu wakhe.

# Kuhlelo lwakho olulandelayo lweNal'ibali:

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- Imidlalwana nemisetyenzana yexesha lebali
- Inxalenye yokugqibela yebali elisihloko sithi Intak'emvula

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The Herald

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