

NALIBALI

Ke nako ya go buisetsa kwa godimo!

Letsatsi la Lefatshe la Puisetsogodimo le ketekiwa ngwaga le ngwaga go rotloetsa bana, basha, le bagolo go abelana maatla a mafoka. Le re gopotsa gape le gore re na le tshwanelo ya go buisa, go kwala le go bolelela mainane a rona.



It's time to read aloud!

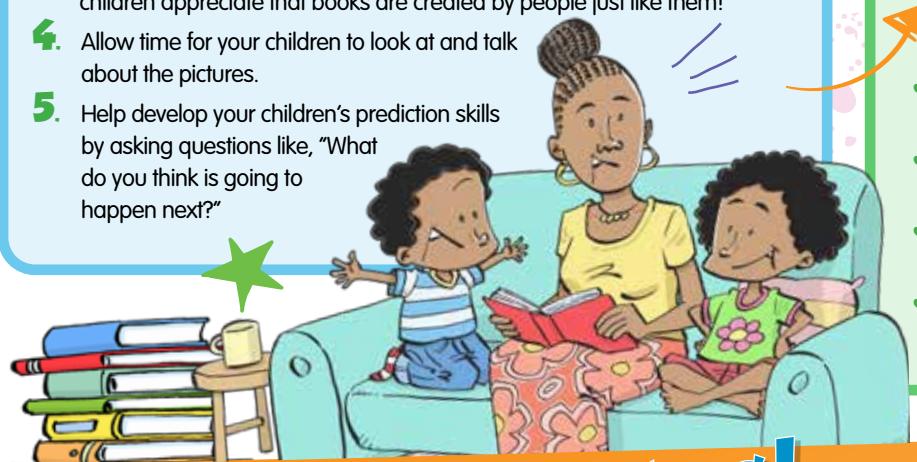
World Read Aloud Day is celebrated each year to encourage children, teenagers, and adults to share the power of words. It also reminds us that we all have the right to read, to write and to share our stories.

Dikakantsho tsa go buisetsa kwa godimo

1. Go buisetsa kwa godimo gantsi ke tiragatso! Tsenya maikutlo a mantsi mo lentsweng la gago go bontsha se se diregang.
2. Ithapisetse go buisetsaleinane kwa godimo ka makgetho a sekae pele ga o le buisetsa bana ba gago.
3. Simolola ka go buisa leina la mokwadi le motshwantshi gore bana ba gago ba tlhologanye gore dibuka di kwadiwe ke batho ba ba tshwanang fela jaaka bone!
4. Dira gore bana ba gago ba nne le nako ya go lebelela le go bua ka ditshwantsho.
5. Thusa go tokafatsa bokgoni jwa bana ba gago jwa go bonela dilo pele ka go ba botsa dipotso tse di jaaka, "O akanya gore go tla direga eng morago ga seno?"

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?"



Kopanela mo monateng!

1. Ya go www.nalibali.org go kwadisa balelapa la gago, setlhophapha sa go buisa kgotsa sekolo mme o thuso go dira tiragalo eno e kgolo go gaisa ya Letsatsi la Lefatshe la Puisetsogodimo mo Aforika Borwa.
2. Ka February 7, 2024, buisetsa bana botlhe mo botshelong jwa gago leinane la rona (*Katsana e e timetseng*) la Letsatsi la Lefatshe la Puisetsogodimo
3. Bontsha ba bangwe dinepe le dibideo tsa gago tsa ditiragalo tsa Letsatsi la Lefatshe la Puisetsogodimo mo metswedding ya rona ya dikgang o dirisa hashtag ya #nalibaliwrad2024



TheNalibaliChannel



nalibaliSA



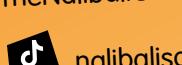
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The Nal'ibali Trust



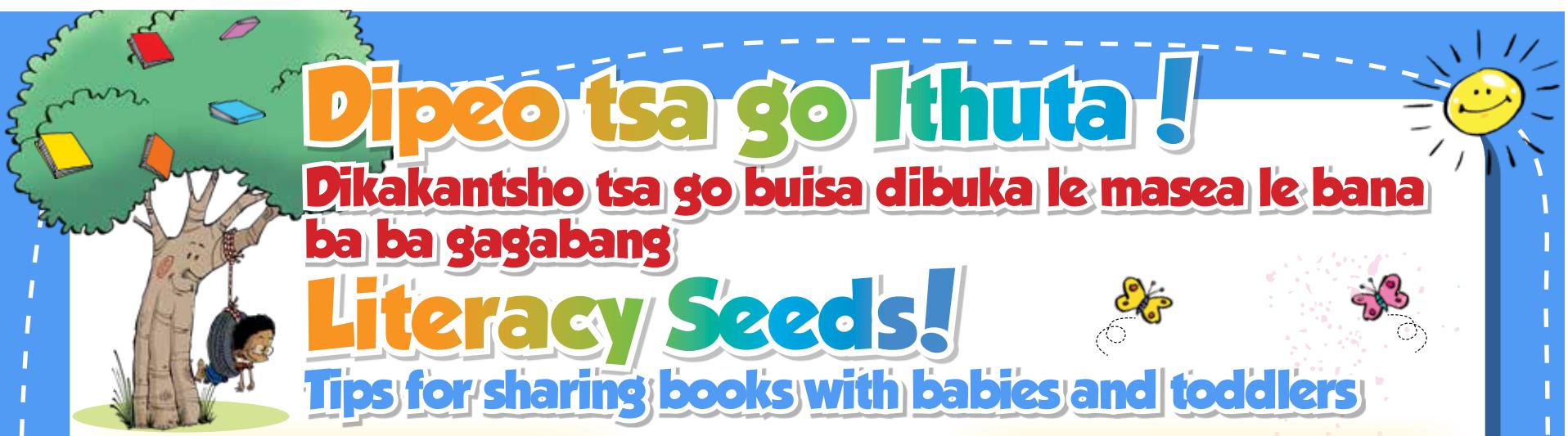
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Join in the fun!

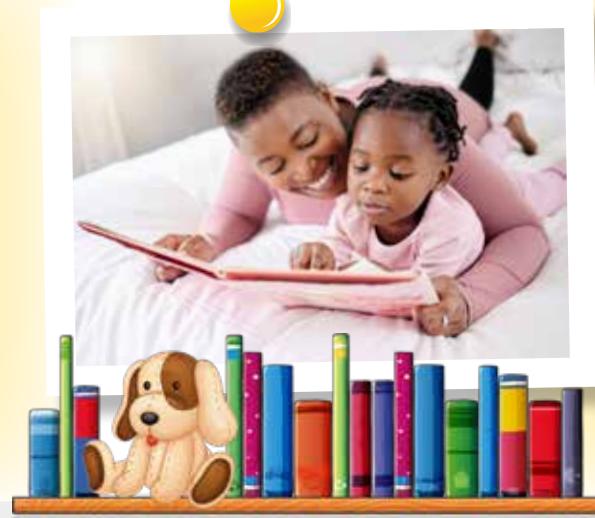
1. Go to www.nalibali.org to sign up your family, reading club or school and help make this the biggest World Read Aloud Day event in South Africa.
2. On 7 February 2024, read our World Read Aloud Day story (*The lost kitten*) to all the children in your life.
3. Share photos and videos of your WRAD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



IT STARTS WITH
A STORY.
GO SIMOLOLA
KA LEINANE.



Batsadi le batlhokomedi ba ba rategang ba bana ba bannye, ga go na tsela e e siameng kgotsa e sa siamang ya go dirisa dibuka le masea le bana ba ba gagabang. Ke kgang ya go itumelela nako e lo e dirisang le bone le go latela ketapele ya bone malebana le go swetsa gore ke eng se sengwe se lo ka se lekang. Buisang buka mmogo ka nako e khutshwane kgotsa ka nako e telele ka mo lona ka bobedi lo battlang ka teng – ga lo tlhoke go fetsa buka! Lo ka leka gape moragonyana, kgotsa ka tsela e nngwe – kgotsa lekang buka e farologaneng.

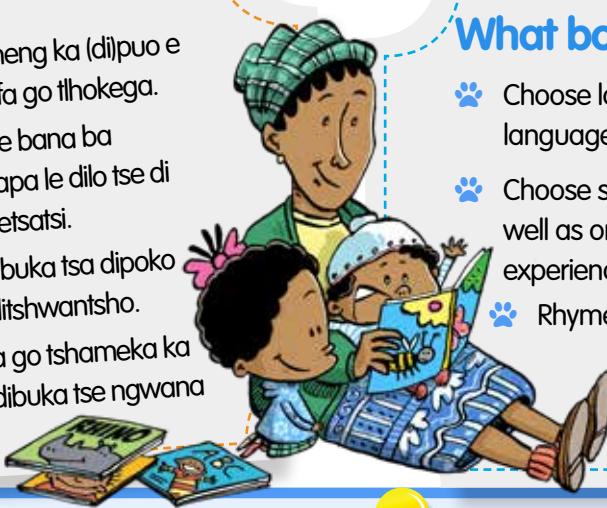


Dear parents and caregivers of young children, there's no right or wrong way to use books with babies and toddlers. It's more about enjoying the time you spend together and following their lead in deciding what to try next. Share a book together for as short or as long a time as you both want to – you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

Nka tlhopha dibuka dife?

- ▶ Tlhopha dibuka tse dintsi tse di farologaneng ka (di)puo e ngwana wa gago a e buang kwa gae, fa go tlhokega.
- ▶ Tlhopha mainane mangwe a go hang le bana ba bangwe mo go one le a a buang ka lelapa le dilo tse di tlwaelegileng tse di diregang letsatsi le letsatsi.
- ▶ Bana ba ba gagabang ba rata thata dibuka tsa dipoko tsa bana le tse di nang le memeno le ditshwantsho.
- ▶ Dira gore go nne le dinako tse dintsi tsa go tshameka ka dibuka le go nna o boletsa go buisa dibuka tse ngwana wa gago a di ratang!

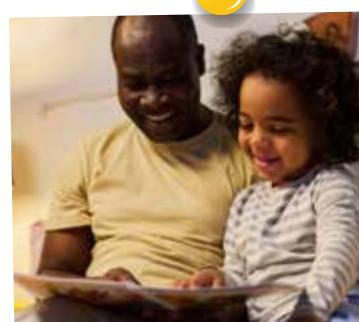
What books do I choose?



- ▶ 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!

Se o ka se dirang fa o ntse o buisa buka

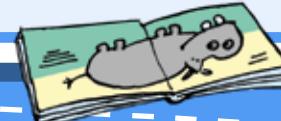
- ▶ Iketle mme o dule monate o harile ngwana wa gago, kgotsa dira gore a nne gaufi le wena, fa o buisa dibuka.
- ▶ Dira gore ngwana wa gago a tlhome mogopolo mo ditshwantshong mme lo bue ka se di se kayang, badiragatsi le gore go diragala eng mo bukeng. Supa mongwe kgotsa sengwe mme o bo o tlhalosa gore ke eng kgotsa ke mang le gore ba dira eng.
- ▶ Supa mafoko fa o ntse o ba buisetsa. Seno se thusa ngwana wa gago go ithuta gore mafoko ke eng le gore mafoko a o a buang a "tswa kae".
- ▶ Dirisa ditebeglo tsa sefatlhego le go itshikinya ga mmele go dira goreleinane le nne le botshelo.
- ▶ Botsa dipotso tse di malebana le se se diregang mo bukeng. Di arabe ka bowena kgotsa letla ngwana wa gago go araba, fa a kgona le fa e le gore wa batla.
- ▶ Reetsa ka kelothoko gore ngwana wa gago a reng kgotsa lebelela ka kelothoko gore o dira eng mme o bo o tsibogela seo. Seno se dira gore se lo se dirang se kgatlhise thata mo go lona ka bobedi e bile go thusa go tokafatsa puo ya ngwana wa gago.
- ▶ Batla dikarolo tsa leinane tse ngwana wa gago a ka nnang le seabe mo go tsone. Ka sekai: go bua dieele tse di boelediwang mo leinaneng kgotsa go dira medumo e badiragatsi ba e dirang kgotsa e e dirwang ke dilo tse di mo bukeng.



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.





Kafa o ka dirisang leinane la Katsana e e timetseng ka teng

1. Laletsa – le ka motlha o se ka wa pateletsa – ngwana wa gago go buisa le wena.
2. Batla lefelo lengwe le le didimetseng le le siametseng go buisa. Timo radio, telebishesene, le founo ya selula.
3. Nna gaufi le ngwana wa gago kgotsa mo hare.
4. Simolola ka go lebelela le go bua ka khabara e e kwa pele ya buka. Buisa setlhogo sa leinane le maina a mokwadi le motshwantshi.
5. Lebelela ditshwantsho tse di mo tsebeng nngwe le nngwe. Rotloetsa ngwana wa gago go nkga, go tshwara kgotsa go ama ditsebe.
6. Dira gore leinane le nne le botshelo! Dirisa medumo e e farologaneng ya lentswe mo go Neo, Bella, batsadi ba ga Neo, le Gina.
7. Botsa jaana, "O akanya gore go tla direga eng morago ga seno?" mo dikarolong tse di farologaneng tsa leinane. Dipotso tse di ntseng jalo di tla thusa gore ngwana wa gago a dirise bokgoni jwa gagwe jwa go bona dilo ka leithlo la mogopololo.
8. Buang ka leinane. Tlotlang ka dipotso tse di jaaka, "A o rata dikatsana? Ke eng fa Noodle a ne a bogola katsana? Ke eng fa Bella a ne a hutsafetse fa Gina a ne a tla go tsaya katsana?"
9. Bolelela ngwana wa gago gore ke eng se o se ratang ka ditshwantsho. Botsa ngwana wa gago gore ke eng se a se ratang ka ditshwantsho.
10. Se se bothokwa le go feta, itumelele go buisa buka mmogo, mme ka metlha leka ka bojolhe go dira gore go buisa go nne monate!



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!

Megopolo ya ditiro tse di ka dirwang tsa Katsana e e timetseng

Mo tsamaong ya letsatsi (tota le fa o ntse o dira ditiro tsa mo gae!), o ka dira dilo tseno tse di monate le bana ba gago:

- ✿ Opela pina e e kaga diphologolo le medumo e di e dirang.
- ✿ Lebelela bana ba gago mme o bo o re, "Dumelang! Leina la me ke Ginger. Meow, meow, meow!" kgotsa "Dumelang! Leina la me ke Noodle. Woof, woof, woof!". Akaretsa diphologolo tse dingwe le medumo e di e dirang.
- ✿ Rotloetsa bana ba gago go leka go torowa katse, ntša, kgotsa phologolo epe e nngwe.
- ✿ Kopa bana ba gago go bolela mainane a a kaga dikatse, dintša, kgotsa sengwe le sengwe se sele se se ba kgatlhang.



Activity ideas for *The lost kitten*

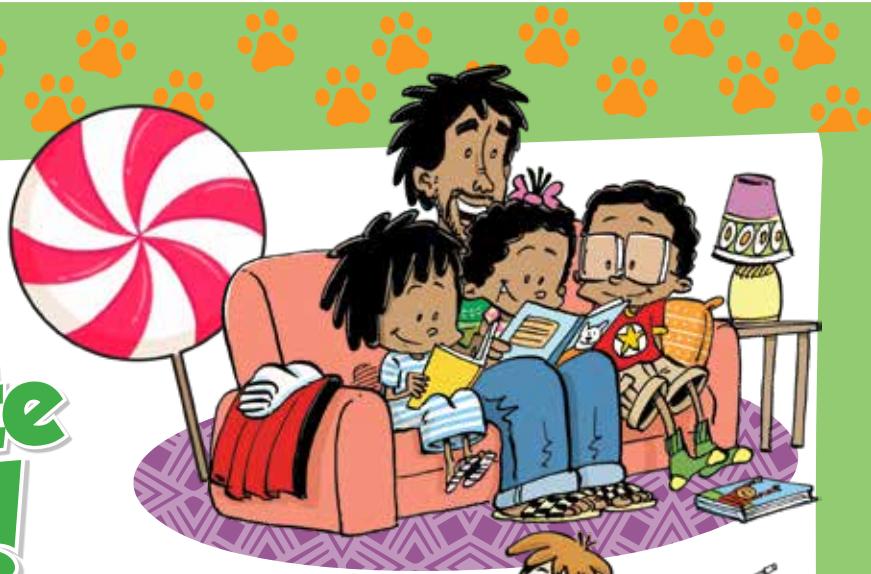
Throughout the day (even when you are doing chores!), you can do fun activities with your children:

- ✿ 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.



Malatsi a a ka ketekiwang ka February!

Days to celebrate in February!



February 2

Letsatsi la Lefatshe la Mafelo a a Tletseng Metsi

Dira gore batho ba itse kafa go leng botlhokwa ka teng go nna le mafelo a a tletseng metsi a siameng go sireletsa baagi le tsamaiso ya tikologo mo ditlamoragong tsa go fetoga ga tlaemete.

World Wetlands Day

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



February 14

Letsatsi la Baratani

Bolelela ba bangwe kafa o ba ratang ka teng!



Valentines Day

Let others know how much you love them!

February 11

Letsatsi la basadi le basetsana ba ba ithutang saense

Leisholo la go dira gore basadi le basetsana ba ba oketsegileng ba nne le seabe mo saenseng.

Day of women and girls in science

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



February 13

Letsatsi la Lefatshe la Radio

Keteka botlhokwa jwa dikgaso tsa radio tse di bolelelang batho ka dikgang, mmno, le ka megopolole maitemogelo a a tswang go ralala lefatshe.

World Radio Day

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

February 20

Letsatsi la Lefatshe la Tolamo ya Setshaba

Bolelela ba bangwe ka dikakantsho tse o nang le tsone malebana le go Iwantsha botlhoka tiro, lehuma le melao le maitswaro a a dirang gore go nne thata gore batho ba bangwe ba nne karolo ya setshaba.

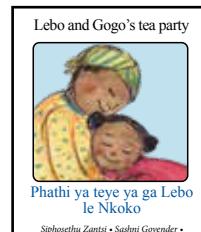


World Social Justice Day

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.

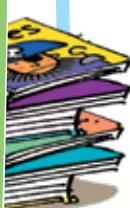
Godisa laeborari ya gago. Itirele dibuka tsa sega-o-boloke tse PEDI

1. Ntsha ditsebe 5 go fittha ka 12 tsa tlaleletso e.
2. Letlhare la ditsebe 5, 6, 11 le 12 le dira buka e le nngwe. Letlhare la ditsebe 7, 8, 9 le 10 le dira buka e nngwe.
3. Dirisa lengwe le lengwe la matlhare a go dira buka. Latela ditaelo tse di fa tlase go dira buka nngwe le nngwe.
 - a) Mena letlhare ka bogare go lebagana le mola wa dikhutlo tse dintsho.
 - b) Le mene ka bogare gape go lebagana le mola wa dikhutlo tse di tala.
 - c) Seg a go lebagana le mela ya dikhutlo tse dikhibidu.



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.

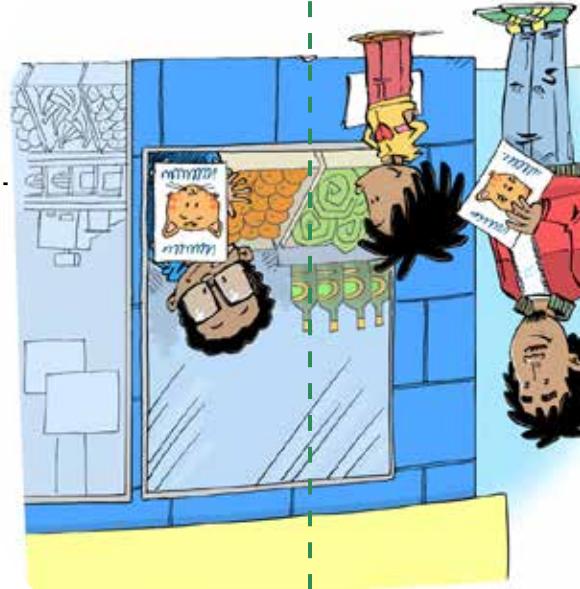


sekolong ka Mantaga.
lwa dilitiso kwa
pega mo lomafing
le nungwe mme ba
boloka posetara e
ya gagwe. Ba ne ba
posetara mo hekeung
ne a ba letla go pega
moagelani wa bone o
teseling ya go ja gae
mme fa ba le mo
kwa lebenkelen,
go tswa foo ba ja
ja kwa laboarring
Sa nthiha ba ne ba



"Mma re simolole," ga rialo Neo.
Fa ba setse ba dirile diposetara di le
nne, Papa a re, "ke akanyia gore di
lekan. Mma re je go di pega."

Ka Matlhatsi mo mosong, Bella o ne
a fitha phakela mo mosong. "Ke tlie
ka pamphir le dileryone gore re dire
tamparela katsana.



First they went to
the library, then they
went to the shop and
on their way home
they put a poster on
the neighbour's
shop window.



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

"Let's get started!" said Neo.
On Saturday morning, Bella arrived
very early. "I brought paper and
crayons to make posters," said Bella
as she hugged the 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 le Noodle ba ne ba iketile mo tshingwaneng ya ga Neo e e fa pele. Ba sa lebelala, Noodle o a tlola mme o simolola go bogola. Ka yone nako eo go ne ga tlaha katsana e nnye e tswa kafa tlase ga dithatsana. Ka bonako fela Bella a rata katsana eno. Mme go lebega e le ya motho yo mongwe. Neo le Bella ba tla dira eng?

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.

Nna le mathagathaga a leinane!

- Torowa setshwantsho sa karolo e o e ratang thata ya leinane.
- Ke eng o sa leke go diragatsa leinane leno kgotsa karolo ya lone le setthopha sa ditsala tsa gago kgotsa balelapa la gaeno? O ka nna wa ba wa itira e kete o Ginger kgotsa Noodle. Dirisa go itshikinya ga mmele, mafoko le mantswe go dira gore go nne monate!
- Dira posetara ya seruiwa sa gago sa mo gae kgotsa seruiwa sa mo gae se o ka ratang go nna le sone. Torowa setshwantsho sa seruiwa sa gago sa mo gae. Kwala kgotsa kopa mongwe gore a go thuse go kwala bogolo, mmala le leina la seruiwa sa gago sa mo gae.

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 ke letsholo la boisetshaba la go buisetsa monate go rotloetsa le go jala mowa wa go buisa go ralala Afrika Borwa. Go bona tshedimosetso e e oketsegileng, etela mo www.nalibali.org

on the school's notice board on Monday.
They saved one poster and put it
on her gate. They put a poster on
the neighbour's shop window.



"I think that's enough. Let's
go put them up."

The lost kitten



Katsana e e timetseng

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?

Megopol o re ka buang ka yona: A wena kgotsa mongwe yo o mo itseng o na le seruiwa sa mo gae? O ne o tla ikutwa jang fa seruiwa seo se ne se ka timela? O ka dira eng go leka go bona seruiwa se se timetseng? O ne o ka ikutwa jang fa o ne o ka bona gape?



Papa o ne a tsholesta thigo a tilogela go leba mo bukeng e a neng a e buissesta Mbali. "Re tshwanetse tsheungyigile thata ka go bo ba latthegetswé ke go leka go batla beng ba jyone. Gonqwe ba katsana yia bone," a rialo.

"Go thairi thata go ba batla bosigong jono," Mama a rialo. "Mme kamoso mo mosong re ka dira diposetra tsakatsana e e timetseng mme re di pegg. Gonqwe mong wa jyone o tla bona diposetra tseso."

Fa Mama a ntsé a tsumaaya le Bella le Noodle go ba isa gae, Neo o ne a bona lebokoso la ditshako le jersei yia bogologolo go dirla katsana bolao jo bo bothito. Papa o ne a fepea mme a e nayga metsi a a phepa ka sejana se segolo. Go ise go yé kae katsana e ne e kgotsé e bille e ilé ka boroko.



"Hello, my name is Gina," said the girl. "She looked worried." I think the kitten you found may be your poster at the library. "Hello," said Neo when he saw a girl he had not met before standing at the door. "Oh, hello," said Neo when he saw a girl he had not met before standing at the door. All the noise gave the kitten such a fright that it ran and hid under the couch. Noodle barked excitedly. "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! On Tuesday afternoon, Neo, Bella, Noodle and the kitten were playing in the lounge. Knock, knock, knock! "Hello, my name is Gina," said the girl. "She looked worried." I think the kitten you found may be your poster at the library. "Hello," said Neo when he saw a girl he had not met before standing at the door. All the noise gave the kitten such a fright that it ran and hid under the couch. Noodle barked excitedly. "Who is it, Neo?" asked Bella. Neo ran to open the door.

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.

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.



Sefatlhego sa ga Bella se ne sa apoga. "Ke a leboga!" a rialo. "Nna le Neo re ka rata go eta kamoso thapama." "Mme gone," Neo a rialo, "Ke akanya gore Noodle o tshwanetse go sala mo gae." Mme mongwe le mongwe o ne a dumela gore gongwe eo ke kakantsho e ntle.



mogolo thata, mme ke tla lapa thata.”
“Ke maswabi nka se kgone. Mmolo o
ditshamekisi tse dindle le asekerimi!”
Go na le mabenkele a le mantsi a nang le
eng gompienol! Re ka ya kwa mmolong.
“Nkoko, Nkoko, ke a itse gorre re ka dira
Lebo o sianela kwa phaposing ya bonno.
Ikhusta mo soufaren.

Fa ba goroga kwa gagaboo Lebo, Nkoko o

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

Lots more free books at bookdash.org



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.

Nna le mathagathaga a leinane!

- ★ Ipone ka leitho la mogolo o ttle go direla balelapa la gaeno le ditsala phathi ya teye. Dira lenaane la dijо tse o tla di apayang.
- ★ Kwala molaetsa go laletsa balelapa la gaeno le ditsala mo phathing ya gago ya teye. O ka ba laletsa ka karata ya taletso, lekwalo, SMS kgotsa molaetsa wa WhatsApp.
- ★ Jaanong torowa setshwantsho sa gago le balelapa la gaeno le ditsala lo le mo phathing ya teye.

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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Lebo and Gogo’s tea party



Phathi ya teye ya ga Lebo le Nkoko

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?

Megopolو e re ka buang ka yona: A o kile wa ya phathing ya teye? O akanya gore go tshwanetse ga nna le mofuta ofe wa dijо kwa phathing ya teye? Phathi ya teye e farologane jang le diphathi tse dingwe?

di lekletsang wa toropong.
kgathang tse ene le Nkoko ba ta
sa gagwe. O akanya ka dillo tse di
Lebo o a tolatala mo setulong
Fa ba ntsé ba tasmaya ka kolo,
rialo, ka botumelo.



Re tla jiesa monate tota! Lebo a
“Nkoko, o tschwante se go da.
She thinks of all the wild
Lebo bounces on her seat.
During the drive,
fun! Lebo says, excitedly.
We will have so much
“Gogo, you must come.
adventures she and Gogo will
have in the city.



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 o kwa polasing ya ga
Nkoko. O lapisitswe ke go
lelekisa diphologolo.

“A e nne wena o
ntelekisang jaanong, Nkoko!
Lebo a goa jalo fa a ntse a feta
a taboga.

“Iketle tthe, Lebo,” Nkoko a
rialo, a ithaganelela go fitlha fa
a leng teng.

Nkoko a kgopiwa ke leje
fa a ntse a lelekisa Lebo.

“Ishu!” a goa jalo. Nkoko o
gobaditse legwejane la gagwe.



“Ke maswabi seo se ka se kgonege.
parakeng!”
Dintsa tse di kwa parakeng di ta tabogaka
mme di bo di dira gore ke we gappe.”

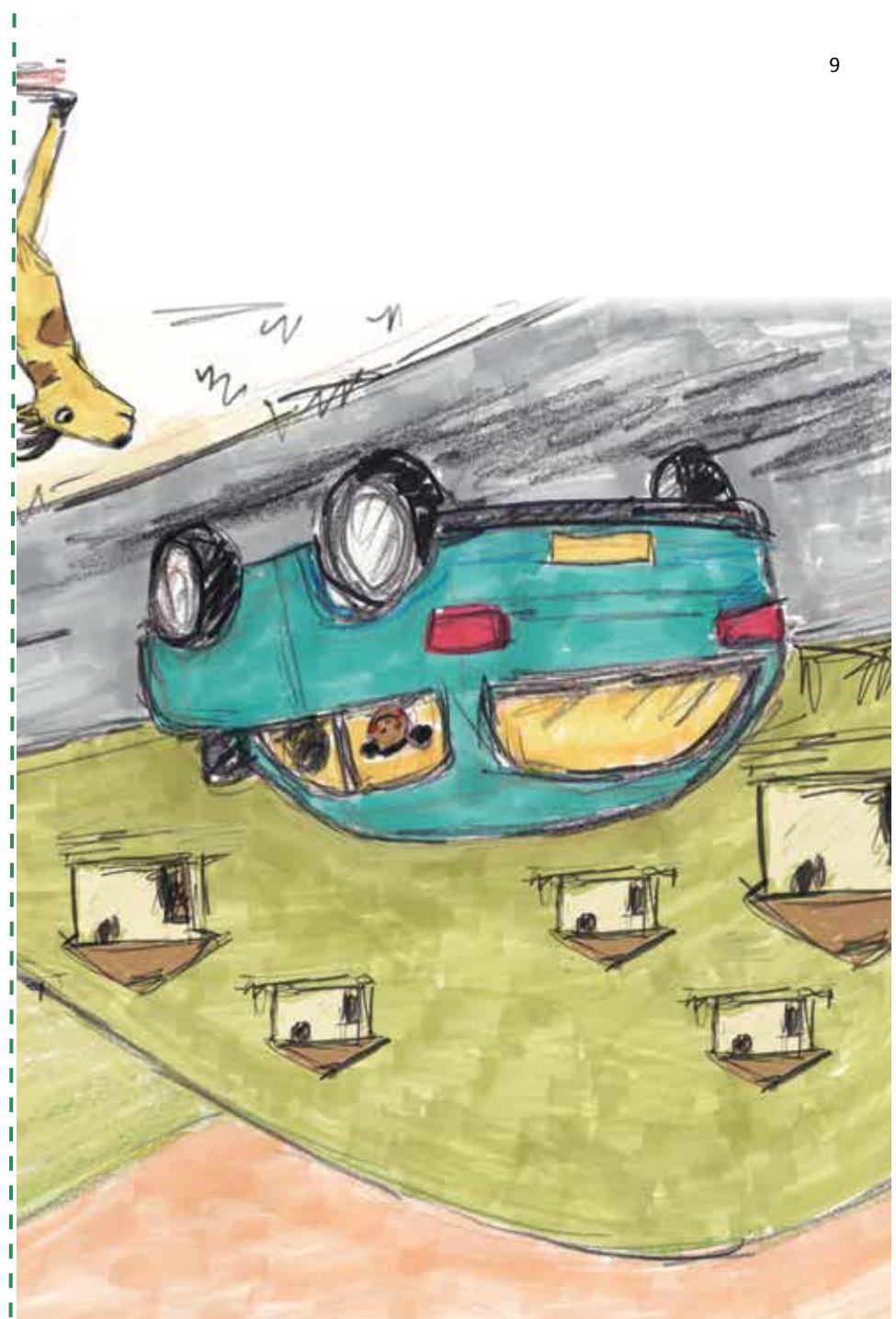
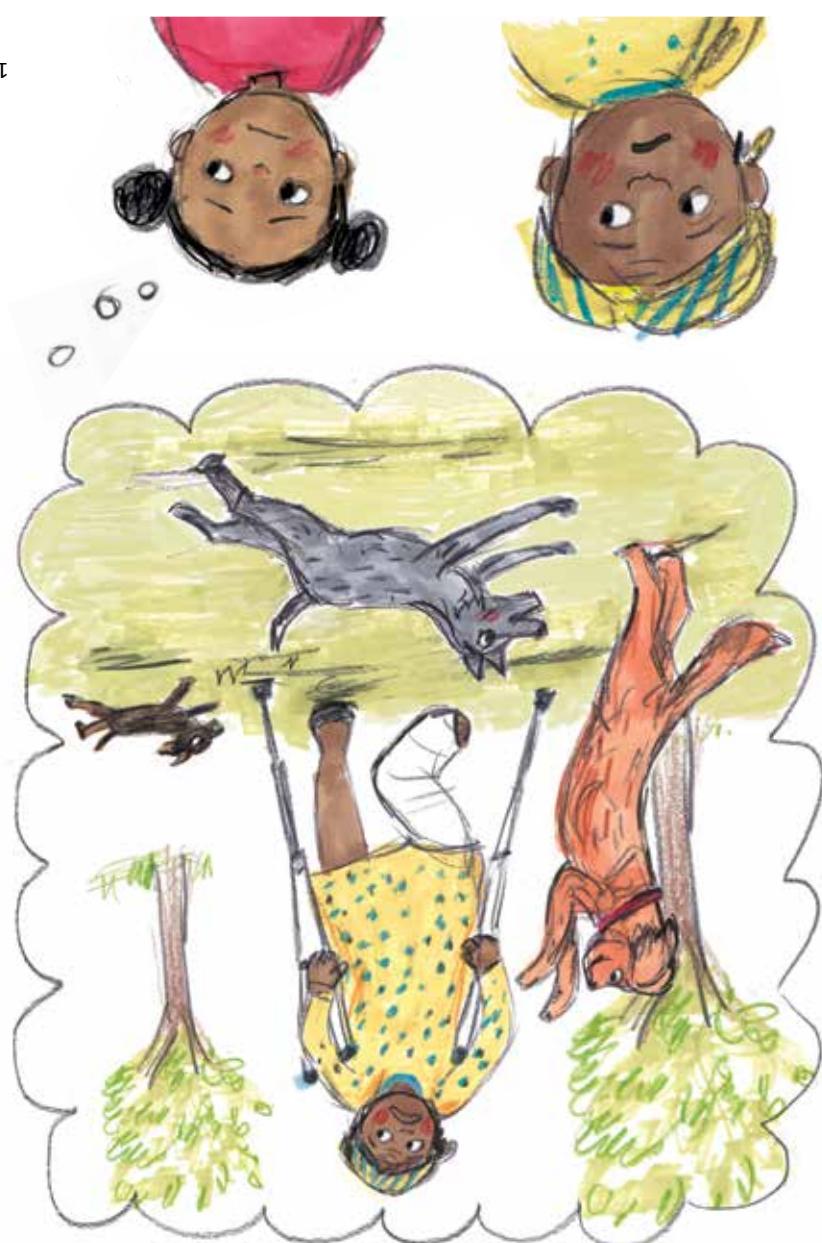
“Nkoko, Nkoko, ke a itse gore re
ka dira eng gompieno! Re ka ya kwa

make me fall again.”
in the park will run around and could
do today! We can go to the park!”
“Gogo, Gogo, I know what we can

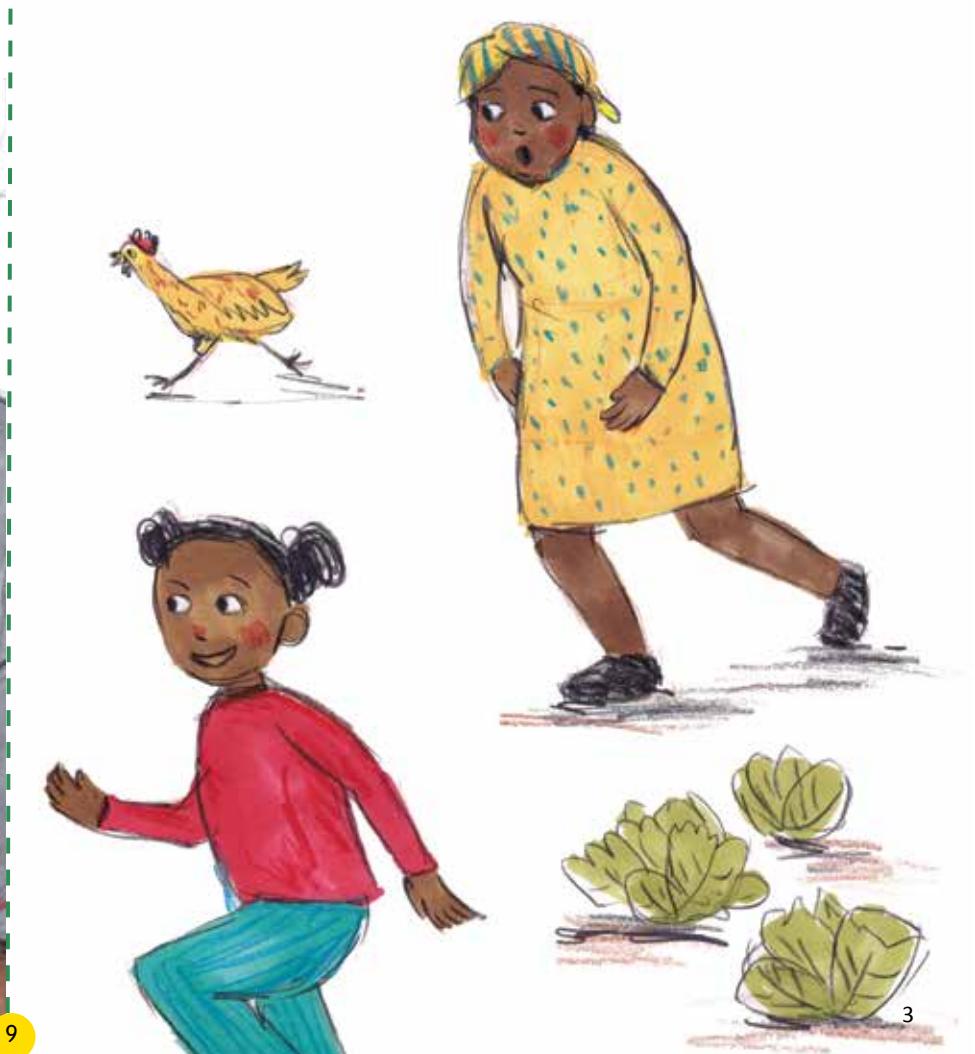


Lebo o didimetse fa Nkoko a ntse a loga.
Ka bonako fela a nna le kakantsho!
“Nkoko, Nkoko, ke a itse gore re ka dira
eng gompieno! Mma re nne le phathi ya
teye. Nkoko, o ka nna fano. Ke tla tlisa
sengwe le sengwe mo go wena ka gonno
o gobetse.”





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."





Nkoko, boela le rona kwa toropong
dilokotelo. Nkoko o boa kwa ngeakening a rwelé
butshe e e kgéthegileng e bille a na le
gore re te re go tlhokoméle, "ga rialo
Nkoko, boela le rona kwa toropong
dilokotelo.

"Nkoko se dogele polase ya me. Ke da
mماagwe Lebo.
"Nkoko ke le nosi" Nkoko a araba jalo, ka
bothogoechata.

Motsotswana fela moragonyana,
Lebo o ne a gotola mattho a gagwe ka
botumélo. "Nkoko, Nkoko, ke a itsé
gompíeno. Mma re ye kwa losing lwa
gore ke eng se sengeve se re ka se dirang
Lebo. "Nkoko, Nkoko, ke a itsé
Motshabeng o o boluta."

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."

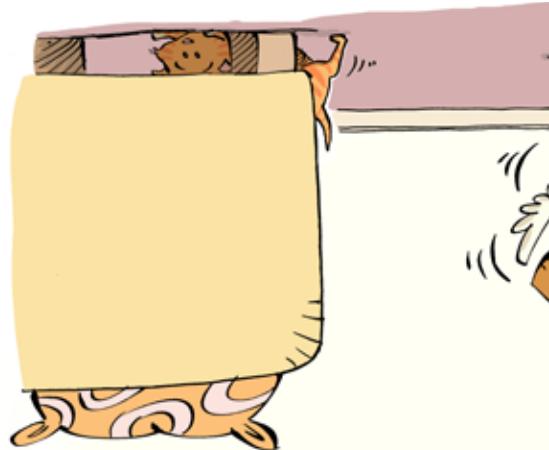


Gogo comes back from the doctor with a special boot and crutches.

"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.





"Dumela, ke nna Gina," mosetsana yoo a rialo. O ne a ja me. Leina la gagwe ke Ginger mme o na le kholar a laboarring, ke akanya gore katsana e lo e boneng ke lebegaa a tshwenyegile. "Ke bone posetara ya lona kwa 'Dumela, ke nna Gina,'" mosetsana yoo a rialo.

"Oo, dumela," Neo a rialo fa a bona mosetsana yoo a iseng a ko a mmona eme mo kgoring.

Medumo eo jothie e ne ja tshosa katsana thata jaana mo e leng gore e ne ja sia ja iphittha kafra tlae ga soufara.

Noodle o ne a bogola ka botumelo.

"Ke mang, Neo?" Bella a botsa jalo.

Neo o ne a taboga a ja go bula kgoro.

Kokotang.

Ka Labobedi thapama, Neo, Bella, Noodle le katsana koo, koo koo, koo koo! Go ne go na le mongwe yoo ba ne ba tshameka mo phaphosing ja bonno. Koo



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.

Lost kitten and put them up. Maybe the owner will see the posters." It's too late to find them tonight," said Mom. "But tomorrow morning we can make posters about the kitten and try to find their lost kitten," probably very worried about their lost kitten. Dad looked up from the book he was reading to Mbali. "We should try to find the owners. They are he said.

Ka Labotlano thapama, Neo le Bella ba ne ba tshameka mo tshingwaneng ya ga Neo. Noodle o ne a robetse monate mo letsatsing.



Ka tshoganyetso fela Noodle o ne a tlola mme a simolola go bogola. Wou, wou, wou!

Mathata ke eng, Noodle?" Bella a botsa jalo.

"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! Ke ne ke go tlholegetse," Gina a rialo a ntse a tlamparetse katsana ya gagwe. Le ene o ne a itumetse thata. "Ke a leboga go bo lo ile lwa mo tlhokomela sentle jaana, Bella le Neo."

"Ke a itumela go bo o bone katsana ya gago," Bella a rialo. "Mme ke hutsafetse go sekaenyana ka go bo re ka se tlhole re bona Ginger."

Neo o ne a tlamparela Bella. O ne a bona gore o tla tloga a lela.

"Ao tlhe, o se ka wa tshwenyega!" Gina a rialo. "Ke nna fa gaufi. Lo ka nna lwa tla go etela Ginger nako nngwe le nngwe fa lo batla."

"Re akanya gore e timete, mme e tshwanente
ya bo e le ya mongwe ka gonne e na le kholara e
tabogela mo teng ga phaposi ya bonno.
"Mama, Papa, bonang! Re bone katsana mo
tshingwaneeng!" Neo a goa jalo fa ba ntsé ba
pududu mo thamong ya yone," ga rialo Bella.



"We think it's lost, but it must belong to someone
because it has a blue collar around its neck,"
shouted Neo as they ran into the lounge.
"Mom, Dad, look! We found a kitten in the garden!"
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.

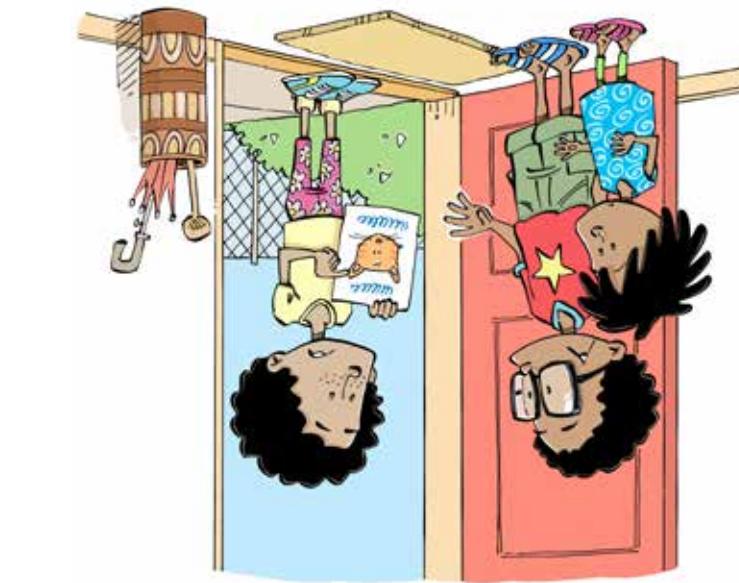
Noodle wanted to see too, but his barking scared the kitten, so Neo and Bella took it inside.



Ba ne ba utwa modumo o
mongwe o tswa mo dithatsaneng. Meow,
meow, meow! Katsana e nnye wa mmala wa namune e ne ya tla e gagaba go tswa mo dithatsaneng. Bella o ne a itlhaganel a mme a e tsholetsa ka kelothoko. "Bona sefatlhegonyana sa yone se sentle se se boboanyana," a rialo a bontsha Neo.
"Mme e na le kholara e ntle e pududu mo thamong ya yone," Neo a rialo.

Noodle le ene o ne a batla go bona, mme go bogola ga gagwe go ne go tshosa katsana, ka jalo Neo le Bella ba ne ba e isa kwa ntlong.

Pelo ya ga Bella e ne ya ema go sekauenyana. Ruri o ne a tsheela katsana a bo a ne a tshwenyegile thata ka katsana ya tsheela go itsela katsana eno, mme o ne a tse gore Gina o batta go tsheela katsana a bo a ne a tshwenyegile thata ka katsana ya gagwe. "Tsenka," Bella a rialo.



"Isn't lost again!"
But when they walked into the lounge, the kitten was nowhere to be seen. "Oh no!" said Bella. "I hope the kitten was worried about her kitten. "Come in," said Bella.
Bella's heart skipped a beat. She really wanted to keep the kitten, but she knew that Gina must have been very

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 le Gina ba ne ba batla gongwe le gongwe mo phaposing ya bonno, mme ba ne ba sa kgone go bona katsana gope. Gina o ne a lebega a hutsafetse thata.

Mme ba ne ba utwa Noodle mo kitshining. Wow, wow!
Mme ga latela modumo o mogolo wa KGOTLO!

Bana ba ne ba sianela kwa kitshining. Katsana ke ele e dutse fale. E ne ya thula sejana sa yone sa metsi fa Noodle a bogola mme jaanong yone e ne e le metsi. Bella o ne a e phamola mme a e omisa ka bonako. Morago ga foo a naya Gina katsana. Purr, purr, purr. Katsana e ne e itumetse thata!

Dikgang tsa Nal'ibali

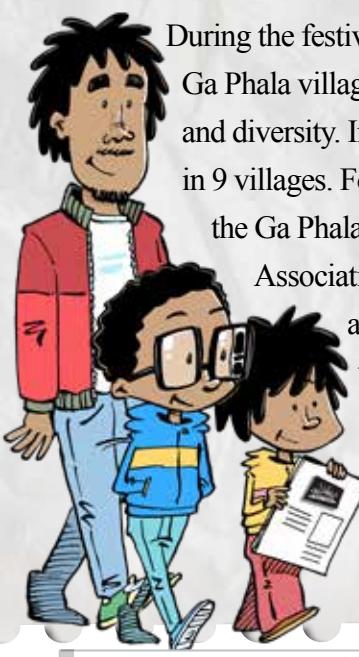


Nal'ibali News

GO KETEKA PHITLHELELO E KGOLLO (CELEBRATING MILESTONES)

Porojeke ya go Kwala ya Lebalelo e ne ya simololwa ka May 2023. Ka nako ya dipuisano le batsadi, re ne ra sekaseka ditsela tsa kafa re ka dirang gore bana ba nne le ditshono tse di oketsegileng tsa go rutiwa le tsa go ithuta tse di monate le tse di dirang gore ba nne le seabe. Re ne ra swetsa gore re tla nna le moletlo wa bana ka September 2023, e re ka e tla bo e le Kgwedi ya go Ithuta go Buisa le go Kwala le ya Ngwaoboswa. Moletlo wa rona o ne o tla akaretsa metshameko e go tshamekiwang mmogo mo go yone, nako ya go tlotla ka mainane, go bina le ditiro tse dingwe tse di ka dirang gore bana ba ba leng teng ba itumele le gore ba tshege.

Ka nako ya moletlo, o o neng o tshwerwe kwa Sekolong sa Poraimari sa Kwata kwa motseng wa Ga-Phala, re ne ra tlhoma mogopolo thata mo go direng gore batho ba nne le kitso ka setso le go farologana ga batho. Go ne go na le baithuti ba le 160 go tswa kwa dikolong di le 12 mo metseng e le robongwe. Batho ba bogolo ba le 49, go akaretsa le barutabana, maloko a Bolaodi jwa Setso ba kwa Ga-Phala, Mokgathlo wa Badirisi ba Metsi a Lebalelo, le Batlhokomedi ba Laborari ba Masepala wa Fetakgomu le bone ba ne ba kopanela le rona go bontsha kafa ditso le dingwao di farologaneng ka teng gore bana ba kgone go ithuta le go anaanelo tsela e setso sa Aforika Borwa se humileng ka teng. Ka go dira dilo tse di jaaka go opela le go bina, bana ba ne ba kgona go bontsha le go tokafatsa bokgoni jwa bone le go kgona go bona dilo ka leitlho la mogopolo.



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 Fetakgomu 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.

Ditlamorago dingwe tsa go baakanyetsa moletlo wa rona e ne ya nna go ntshiwa ga buka e e kwaletseng bana mme e kwadilwe ke bana le batsadi ba bone. Re re ra kopa dikolo tsa mafelo a a farologaneng go tlhophua bana gore ba thapiswe ke barotloetsi ba rona ba mainane ba Nal'ibali le ke Realance Mashigo, yo e leng mokwadi gore ba kgone go kwala mainane le go torowa.

Ka July 2023, mainane a a neng a kwadilwe ke bana ba sekolo le batsadi ba bone mmogo le ditshwantsho dingwe tse di torowilweng ke bana di ile tsa romelwa gore di gatisiwe e le buka e e nang le setlhogo se se reng "Ke Leeto story collection", e e ileng ya ntshiwa ka September 30, 2023 ka nako ya Moletlo wa Bana wa 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 Realance 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.



Meletlo eno e ka dira gore bana ba nne mo tikologong e e babalesegileng e ba ka kgonang go dirisana le balekane ba bone go tswa kwa dikolong tse di farologaneng, gore ba dire ditsala tse disha le go tlhagolela bokgoni jwa go dirisana le batho ba bangwe.

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.



Meletlo ya bana e ka kgona go kopanya baagi ka go dira gore dikgwebo, dikolo le mekgatlo di nne le seabe. Seno se dira gore baagi ba ikutlwé ba le motlotlo.

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

Bana ba tsamaya le barutabana ba bone.

The children are accompanied by their teachers.





Selo se Rre Matsane a se ratang thata



Ka Siphiliselwe Makhanya ■ Ditshwantsho ka Magriet Brink le Leo Daly

Duma o ne a rata kgwele ya dinao tota. Fa a ne a sa tshameke kgwele ya dinao kgotsa a e lebeletse mo thelebisheneng, o ne a segolola ditshwantsho tsa batshameki bottle go tswa mo makasineng wa bogologolo wa ga rraagwe mme a bo a di kgomaretsa ka kwa godimo ga bolao jva gagwe. Ka malatsi a ka one pula e neng e na, Duma le tsala ya gagwe e bong Simphiwe ba ne ba dira batshameki ba bannyne ba kgwele ya dinao ka pampiri mme ba bo ba tshameka metshameko e mentsi ya kgwele ya dinao ka tsone.

Motho a le mongwe fela yo o neng a rata kgwele ya dinao go gaisa Duma e ne e le rraagwe, e bong Rre Matsane. Rre Matsane o ne a rata kgwele ya dinao thata jaana mo e leng gore o ne a reeleta morwawe ka leina la motshameki yo a mo ratang thata e bong – Duma “Legadima” Nyavo. Fa Rre Matsane a ka bona Legadima a tshameka mo thelebisheneng, o ne a ema ka dinao. Fa mampodi wa kgwele ya dinao a ntse a terebola bolo a e isa kwa dipaleng tsa go nosa nno, ka metlha o ne a goa a re, “BASHAAAAYE! NGEZULU! Ba iteye ka legadima!” Go tswa foo a bo a leta, a sekamela kwa thelebisheneng e kete Legadima o mo utwile a le mo sekerining sa galase.

Fa Legadima a ka fosa dipale tsa go nosa nno, Rre Matsane o ne a itshwara tlhogo a bo a ngunanguna, a dira fela jaaka barati ba bangwe bottle ba kgwele ya dinao mo thelebisheneng. Mme fa Legadima a ne a nosa nno, Duma le rraagwe ba ne ba duduetsa ba bo ba tlamparelan. Ba ne ba tlola ba bo ba dira motantshonyana o o neng o felela ka gore ba tsholetsa matsogo ka tsela e e kgethegileng. Morago ga foo ba bo ba itatlhela gape mo godimo ga soufara, ba tshega.



Mo phaposing ya bone ya bonno, go ne go na le khaboto e e nang le mabati a galase, rraagwe Duma o ne a beile sengwe se a se ratang thata mo lefatsheng lotlhelo – bolo ya kgwele ya dinao e e saenlweng ke Legadima ka boene. “Yoo ke mosimane wa kwa gae!” Rraagwe Duma o ne a tle a rate go bolelela ditsala tsa gagwe jalo fa ne a ba bontsha bolo ya gagwe. “O golelse ka kwa ga thotana e e gaufi le lelapa la gaetsho. Bona fela gore ke mampodi yo o ntseng jang gone jaanong!”

Simphiwe le ene o ne a rata kgwele ya dinao thata fela jaaka Duma le rraagwe. Ka letsatsi lengwe, ditsala tse pedi tseno di ne di tshameka kgwele ya dinao kafa morago ga ntlo ya gagabo Simphiwe. Jarata e ne e felela gaufi le noka.

“Ke mang yo e leng motshameki yo o botoka wa kwa pele – a ke Maake kgotsa Zondi?” ga botsa jalo Duma.

“Papa a re Maake ke ene motshameki yo o botoka go gaisa,” ga rialo Simphiwe. “O kgona go raga ka leoto la molema le la moja. Zondi ene o raga fela ka leoto le lengwe.”

“Mme Zondi ene o kgona go raga a le kgakala thata,” a rialo Duma.

“Go ka nna jang fa wena o ka dira e kete o Zondi mme nna ke tla dira e kete ke Maake, mme re gaisane?” ga akantsa jalo Simphiwe.

“Go siame!” Duma a dumela.

Basimane ba ne ba dirisa kgwele ya dinao e e dirilweng ka seretse, lokwalodikgang le dikgetsana tse dintsia tsa polasitiki. Simphiwe o ne a leka go dirisa leoto lwa gagwe la molema go ragela bolo mo gare ga mafika a ba neng ba a dirisetsa go nna dipale tsa go nosa nno. “Go thata go dira seno,” a rialo. “Bolo ga e batle go dira se ke batlang gore e se dire! Ke eng fa go le thata jaana?”

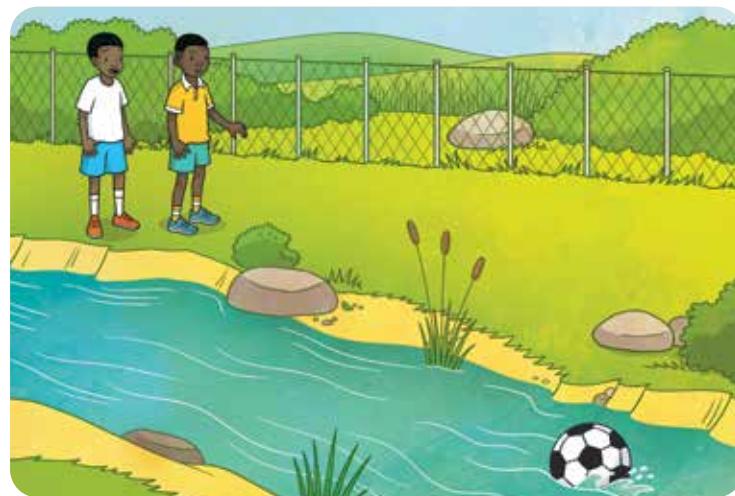
“Ke akanya gore ke bolo eno,” ga rialo Duma. “Papa a re moyo o o mo teng ga bolo o ka dira gore motshameko o nne monate kgotsa o se ka wa nna monate.”

“Mme ga re na bolo e e nang le moyo,” ga rialo Simphiwe. “Gongwe re tshwanetse go leta go fitlhela re nna le bolo ya mmatota gore re nne le kgaisano eno.”

Duma o ne a sa batle go leta. O ne a sosobana sefatlhego mme a akanya go sekaenyana. Ka tshoganyetsa fela, a nyenya mme a bondla a itumetse. “Ke a itse gore nka bona kae bolo!” a rialo. “Leta fela fa, nka se diege.”

Go ise go ye kae Duma o ne a boa, a tshwere selo se rraagwe a se ratang thata – bolo ya kgwele ya dinao e Legadima a e saenlweng. Jaanong motshameko o ne o le monate tota. Duma o ne a dira e kete ke ene Zondi, a terobola bolo a e fetisa mo batshameking ba bangwe. Ee! Zondi o ne a kgona go bona gore o na le tshono ya go nosa nno. Duma o ne a raga bolo thata ka mo a ka kgonang ka gone. E ne ya fetela kwa dipaleng tsa go nosa nno mme ya tlolela ka kwa ga nngwe ya mafika. Go tswa foo ya fofa, ya fologela ka tlhamalalo kwa nokeng kwa bofelong jwa jarata.

“NNYAA TLHE!” Duma a ngunanguna jalo a ntse a lebile bolo. O ne a tshogile thata jaana mo e leng gore o ne a sa kgone go sutu. Simphiwe o ne a taboga mo morago ga bolo, mme e ne e tsamaya ka lobelo lo logolo. PHASHA! Bolo ya wela mo teng ga noka. Duma o ne a tabogela kwa tsaleng ya gagwe. Bobedi jwa bone bo ne jwa lebela bolo e ntse e nna nnye le go feta fa metsi a ntse a e kgoromeletsa kgakala le go feta.



Fa basimane ba ne ba sa boele gae thapama eo, batsadi ba bone ba ne ba simolola go tshwenyega. Baagelani bottle ba ne ba thusa go batla Duma le Simphiwe ka diura di le dintsia, mme basimane ba ne ba sa bonale gope.

Kgabagare, fa letsatsi le simolola go phirima, Rre Matsane o ne a bitsa mapodise. Ba ne ba tla le ntsha e kgolo e e bidiwang Jopie gore e ba thuse go batla Duma le Simphiwe. Jopie A SUNETSA, A SUNETSA, A SUNETSA, a dupelela diaparo tsa basimane, A SUNETSA, A SUNETSA, A SUNETSA. Ka bonako fela fa a sena go utlwa monko wa basimane, a kgatikanya mogatla wa gagwe mme a taboga, mme bagolo bottle le bone ba taboga mo morago ga gagwe. Motabogo ono o ne wa ba isa kwa lefeleng lengwe kafa tlase ga borogo jo bo yang kwa nokeng. Duma le Simphiwe ke bale ba dutse fale. Ba ne ba khutagane mmogo, ba roroma, ba gogetse dikipa tsa bone mo mangoleng a bone go ithutafatsa. Lebone la ditošhe tsa mapodise le ne la bonesa mo godimo ga difatlhego tsa bone tse di tletseng dikeledi.

“Ke maswabi, Papa,” Duma a rialo fa ba sena go goroga kwa gae ba sireletsegile. “Ke ne ke sa ikaeleta go timetsa selo se o se ratang thata, se se bothokwa thata. Re ne re tla e busetsa gape.” O ne a simolola go lela gape mme a lela thata le go feta.

Rre Matsane o ne a solasola Duma mo mokwatleng mme a nyenya. “O bua ka eng?” a botsa jalo. “Bolo eo ya bogologolo ya kgwele ya dinao e ne e le ntle, mme ga e ise e ko e nne selo se se bothokwa thata mo botshelong jwa me.” Mme morago ga foo Rre Matsane o ne a obegela kwa tlase mme a tlamparela Duma ka lorato. “Duma, ke wena selo se se bothokwa thata mo botshelong jwa me!” a rialo. Mme seno se ne sa dira gore Duma a batle go dira motantshonyana.

Nna le mathagathaga a leinane!

Paw print icon: A go na le motshameko o o o ratang thata? A go na le motshameki yo o mo ratang thata mo motshamekong oo?

Paw print icon: A o na le sengwe se o se ratang thata? Ke eng se se dirang gore e nne sengwe se se kgethegileng?

Paw print icon: Torowa ditshwantsho tsa dilo tse o di ratang thata. E ka tswa e le diaparo tse o di ratang thata, dijo, phologolo kgotsa motho yo o mo ratang thata.





Mr Matsane's favourite thing

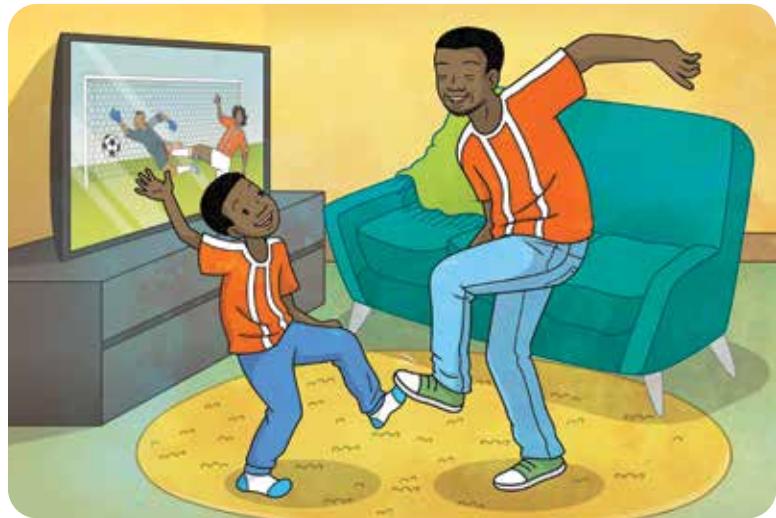
By Siphiliselwe Makhanya ■ Illustrations by Magriet Brink and Leo Daly

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, "*BASHAAAAYE! 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.

