

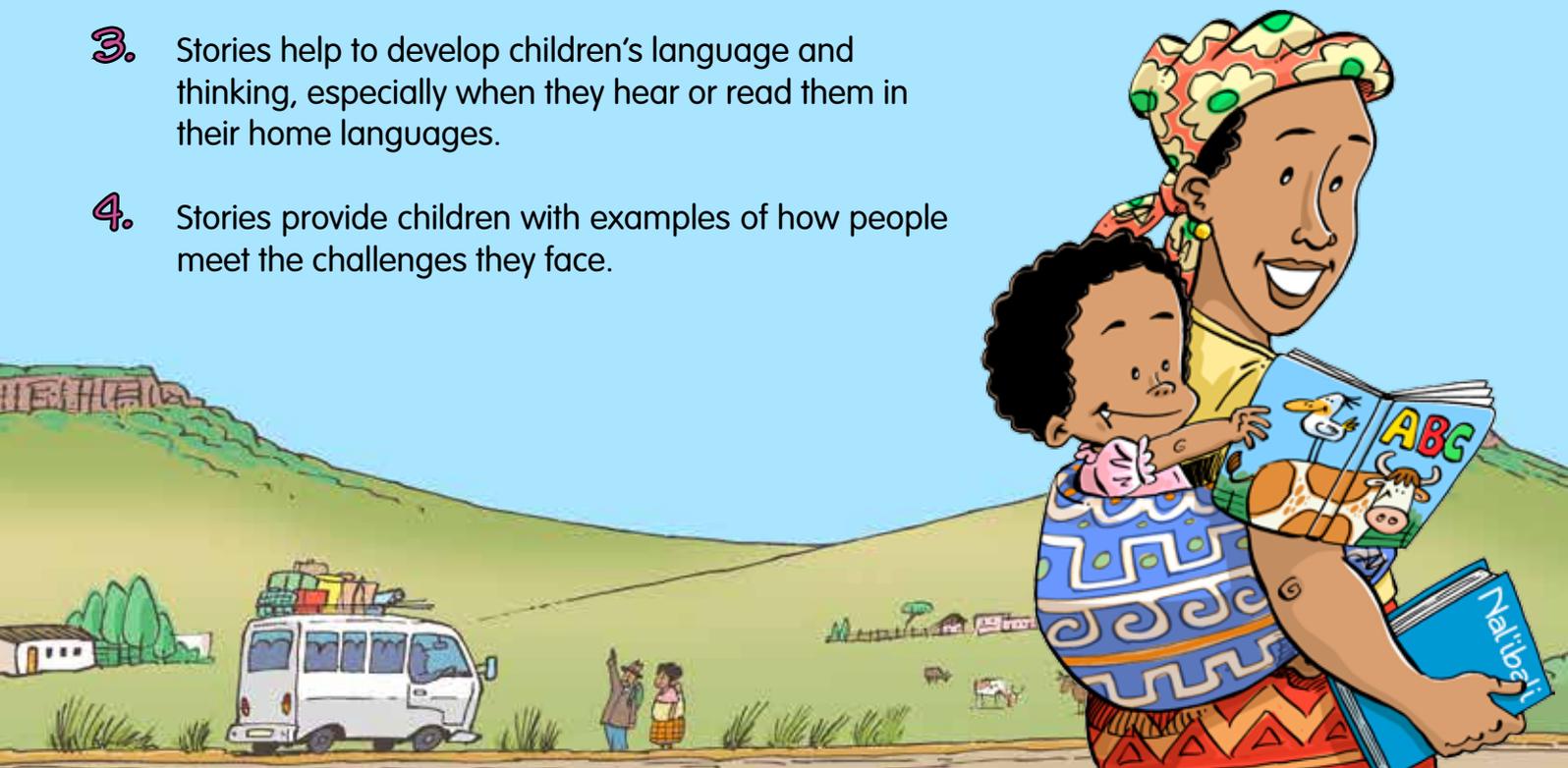
Story Power.

Bring it home.

Reading and telling stories with the children in your life is one of the most powerful gifts you can give them. The stories we hear and read as children help to shape us. But there are also many other benefits of sharing stories with children.

15 IMPORTANT BENEFITS OF STORIES

1. Sharing stories helps us to bond with our children. It lets them know that we think they are important enough to make the time to tell and read stories with them.
2. Stories help develop their imagination and creativity.
3. Stories help to develop children's language and thinking, especially when they hear or read them in their home languages.
4. Stories provide children with examples of how people meet the challenges they face.



TELL US YOUR STORY

How have books and stories shaped your life and your children's lives? Have they helped you to explain a difficult situation to your child? Or has discovering a favourite story encouraged your children to read and helped improve their reading at school? Tell us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA) or Twitter (www.twitter.com/nalibaliSA) using the hashtag **#StoryPower** and we could feature how stories have made an impact on your life in the Nal'ibali reading-for-enjoyment supplement or on our website.

5. Children who enjoy being read to at home, are more likely to be motivated to read themselves. When children are motivated, they learn more easily.
6. By the time children are two years old, they have learnt 75% of what they will learn in their lifetime. So, whether your baby is chewing on a board book or your toddler wants you to tell the same story over and over again, when you read and tell stories, your children are gaining essential knowledge about language and stories that will also benefit them later.
7. Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually need for learning to read.
8. Just 15 minutes of reading to your children each day can expose them to one million written words in a year!
9. Storytelling and reading expose children to a special form of language which is rich and complex. It deepens their knowledge of language and how we use it, and offers them new ways of expressing themselves.
10. Research shows that children who are read to at home before they begin school, are more likely to be successful at school.
11. Children are more likely to continue to be readers in homes where books and reading are valued.
12. Children who are told or read stories are the first to form abstract concepts in different subjects at school. In other words, being read to makes you more brainy!
13. Children who read a lot instead of watching television, can concentrate for longer.
14. Parents and caregivers who believe that reading is something you do for pleasure have children with more positive views about reading than parents who only think of reading as a set of skills.
15. When stories and reading feel good to children, they become readers. We all repeat things that are pleasurable.



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