Explore the world through books

Have you noticed how naturally curious children are? Given the chance, they will ask question after question! Use books to help them discover answers to their questions and to explore different topics together – you’ll find yourself asking questions too and you’ll learn things together.

Different kinds of books explore topics in different ways. Here are a few examples:

- **Realistic stories** focus on real-life problems that the characters have to solve, like how to stop someone from being bullied or how to escape a fire.
- **Biographies** tell the stories of real people, like pop stars or famous scientists. These books are written by authors who have spent time finding out about someone else’s life.
- **Traditional stories** tell tales with a message or moral, like how we should treat the earth and one another.
- **Information books** contain information and facts, for example, about the beliefs, rituals and practices of different religious groups, or how one should treat the earth and one another.
- **Information books** work differently. Here are some ideas on how to share them with children.

**On the cover.** Read the title and draw children’s attention to the pictures on the cover. Can they use these to predict what the book is about? Find the author’s name together – this helps to remind children that all books are written by real people!

**What’s inside?** Start by reading the part of the book that most interests your children. If you’ve found the information they were looking for, or if they ask new questions, or if something else in the book interests them more, stop reading and skip to another part.

**Different types of information.** Start, stop and skip. Look at the contents page at the beginning of the book to help you choose sections that grab your children’s interest.

When you read storybooks, you usually start at the beginning and read through to the end so that you get the whole story! Information books work differently. Here are some ideas on how to share them with children.

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- **What’s inside?** Start by reading the part of the book that most interests your children. If you’ve found the information they were looking for, or if they ask new questions, or if something else in the book interests them more, stop reading and skip to another part.
- **Different types of information.** Start, stop and skip. Look at the contents page at the beginning of the book to help you choose sections that grab your children’s interest.

Celebrate Book Lovers Day, 9 August

Whatever books you choose to explore with your children, enjoy the journey of discovery together!

Sibolla lefatshe ka ho bala dibuka

Na o lemolohi kamoo bana thahong ya bona e leng batho ba dulang ba batla ho ithutha dintho ka teng! Ha ba ka tuwa monyella, ba botsa dipotso kamara dipotso tse ding! Sebedisa dibuka ho ba thuwa ho iphumanele dikarabbi bakeng sa dipotso tsa bona le ho sibolla megogo e fapanang mmoho – o tla iphumana o botsa dipotso le wena mme le tla ithutha dintho mmoho.

Mefuto a fapanang ya dibuka e sibolla megogo ka ditsela tse fapanang. Mefuto e mmalwa ke ena:

- **Dipotse tse thoilweng dinnedeng** di teispamisa makhulu ho matha hante a mme a bophelo ab a bophetsea ba lekaleng ho a ranle, jwoluka ka hore a hlaebra hwabe ho a se ke a tshweuwenya ke bonwipo, kopa kamoo a o mhalung ra mme ka teng.
- **Dibuka tsa maphelo a batho – dlokoeradi** – di pheta dipotse tse batho ba mme, jwoluka dinaledi tsa mma kopa boswa seme ba thweuwenya. Dibuka tana e ngotswa ke bongolong ba gigi le nao a ngota ba botliso tsa tse batho ba mme a mhalung.
- **Dipotse tse bokholoko** – di pheta dipotse tse nang le mokete kopa bokholo bo ba bote, jwoluka kamoo re lekaleng ho twana lefatsho le le ho tshwara ka teng.
- **Dibuka tsa thahlelogose ding** – di le tsa thahlelogose ding le dintho, ho e tsa hale, botsa dipotse tsa batho ba le tsebo e tshwara ka teng.

Mefuto a fapanang ya thahlelogose ding le la bekho le fetsaleng la phata, ho e tsa hale, botsa dipotse tsa batho ba le tsebo e tshwara ka teng.

FUMANA BONGATA BA TSEO O DI BATLANG!

Batwadi le bokholoko: Skiena khoutha ena mme a fetsa le tla le tsa dipotse la mototsa o 1 ho re basella hore re ka e tsa hwabe ho ntla fetsa fetsa le a lona.
Your story
We asked Nal'ibali team members how books and stories had made a difference in their lives. Here’s the first two replies.

“Your story
My grandfather was not an educated man, but he was blessed with the ability to tell great stories. He would tell stories about how he grew up and the places he had been to. And sometimes he told the most fantastical, original stories. This, more than anything else, is the link to my love of books and who I am. My love led me to receiving the prestigious University of Johannesburg Mardene Marais Literary Award for my contribution to literature. The tales and fables my grandfather shared at bedtime were meant to get me to engage with stories, to bond with my family and to fall asleep talking. After all, who wants to sleep when there is one more chapter to read or one more book to pick up from the To-be-read pile? Listening to my grandfather’s stories every evening gave me an inspiring and educational childhood with many happy memories as I now sit and read books like The Education of Little Tree with my mom. My grandfather was not an educated man, but he was blessed with the ability to tell great stories. He would tell stories about how he grew up and the places he had been to. And sometimes he told the most fantastical, original stories. This, more than anything else, is the link to my love of books and who I am. My love led me to receiving the prestigious University of Johannesburg Mardene Marais Literary Award for my contribution to literature. The tales and fables my grandfather shared at bedtime were meant to get me to engage with stories, to bond with my family and to fall asleep talking. After all, who wants to sleep when there is one more chapter to read or one more book to pick up from the To-be-read pile? Listening to my grandfather’s stories every evening gave me an inspiring and educational childhood with many happy memories as I now sit and read books like The Education of Little Tree with my mom.

Richard le Roux, Mpumalanga Provincial Coordinator

Pale ya Hao
Re le ra bota ditho tsa seholefa sa Nal’ibali hore ebe dibuka le dipole di tisitse phapang e kae maphelang o bona. Dikarabo tsa pele tse pedi ke tsetse.

“Pale ya Hao
Ntatemoholo wa ka o ne a sa ruteho, empo o ne a NtshonyanaLalaLale la bakwena ba le pheta dipole tse monate haholo. O ne a rata ho pheta dipole tse kameko a hotsega ka tseeng le ndi la tse tshaka tseo a lelwa ka a lela. Ngwana wa ka a li a ntlela tseo ho kweneng tseo la mokgadi lo ka mafela. Hape empo ho mokgadi la lela le mafela tseo la mokgadi le lela la mokgadi la lela. Hape o mo mokgadi la lela la mokgadi la lela.

Righardt le Roux, Mohokahanyi wa Provensi wa Mpumalanga Programme Coordinator, VW Uitenhage

I did not choose to be in the literary space; my love of words led me here. There is one night that I will always cherish. My grandmother told me to turn off the paraffin lamp and go to sleep. But I continued to read. I held the book up where the moon shone until my hands and wrists grew tired. That was the turning point in my love of reading. When I joined Nal’ibali, I took part in events like the Puku Story Festival and wrote my first book, Umshato wedlwazi neNkulule, which was translated and published in the Nal’ibali supplement so that children all over South Africa could read it.

I have trained hundreds of teachers and ECD practitioners to rekindle their love of books and teaching and was listed by Avance Media as one of the 100 most influential young people in South Africa. This year, I released two new books, Iingcinga zendoda (a collection of poems) and Mhla latsh’ iBhayi (a collection of short stories). My original stories. This, more than anything else, is the link to my love of books and who I am. My love led me to receiving the prestigious University of Johannesburg Mardene Marais Literary Award for my contribution to literature. The tales and fables my grandfather shared at bedtime were meant to get me to engage with stories, to bond with my family and to fall asleep talking. After all, who wants to sleep when there is one more chapter to read or one more book to pick up from the To-be-read pile? Listening to my grandfather’s stories every evening gave me an inspiring and educational childhood with many happy memories as I now sit and read books like The Education of Little Tree with my mom.

Madoda Ndlakuse, Programme Coordinator, VW Uitenhage schools

PAPATSO YA HAO MONA!
Selema se le se sa Nal’ibali e abile ditlatseto tse dikarabo tse dimo tse 3,5 ka dipole tse 9 malapong le ditloko tseo tse bo bolos Arika Bonwa ka bopha.
6 ideas for celebrating Book Lover’s Day

1. Nursery rhymes and songs are a great way to get very young children involved in Book Lover’s Day. Find books that have traditional rhymes and songs for babies and children in your home language and share them with your children.

2. Read the experiences of Righardt le Roux and Madoda Ndlakuse on page 2 to children and talk to them about how having books in your life makes a difference. Then ask them to draw a picture, create a poster or a song or dance, or write a poem or rap to share their ideas with others. Remember to find an opportunity to display the children’s pictures or posters, or to let them perform their songs, dances, poems or raps!

3. Provide some paper, pencil crayons and pens, and get older children to create their own picture books. Then set up a time for them to read their books to a group of younger children.

4. Have a readathon and see how many books each of you can read in a week!

5. Get everyone to draw a picture of a character from one of the stories in this supplement or from a book they have enjoyed.

6. Take photographs of you and your children enjoying one of the above activities (or any other Book Lover’s Day activity) and send it to us at info@nalibali.org, or post them on Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #BookLoversDay. We’d love to share what you did with others on our Facebook page or in the Nal’ibali supplement!

Mehopolo e 6 bakeng sa ho keteka Letsatsi la Barati ba Dibuka

1. Dirae me le dipina tsa sekalong sa bana ba banyenyane ke tsasa e ntle ha etso hore bana ba banyenyane ba be le seabo ka Letsatsi la Barati la Dibuka. Balla baka balele le dipina tse nang le dirae me le dipina tsa kglele bakeng sa masaee le bana ka puo ya lona mme a di etse mmoho le bana ba hao.

2. Balla bana baiphihlela ba Righardt le Roux le Madoda Ndlakuse koppa koppa le 2 mme a bue le bana mabapi le kamos ho baa le dibuka baphelihlo le hao ho olatseng le lipapang. Jwale ho baka ho hao haka setshwamane, ho etso pheuse tse kopa pina kopa mokwane, kopa ba ngale ftokise kopa pina ya sebe bakeng sa ho abalana mehopolo ya bana le ba bong. Kopala ho fumana moceng wo ho mane la diph윴shamane le diphuse tse bana, kopa e re baa dipina tsa bana, ba tantshe, ba etse ditshokise le direpe tsa bana!

3. Fana ka pampiri, dikeryene tsa dipintlele le dipine, mme o re bana ba baholwanyane ba iketsetse dibuka tsa bana tsa ditshwayane. Jwale o ka baka nako e tshong ea ho ka bafa a dikhapha le dipina le dibuka tse bana le bana ba hao.

4. Elsa thosiana ya ho bala mme o bone hore e mong le e mong a ka bala dibuka tse ka e kal beke!

5. E re e mong le e mong a take setshwamane sa mopethwa ya tswang ha e ngwe ya dipate ha e flatetsa ena kopa ya tswang bukeng e ba natefetseng.

6. Nka dipene tsa hao le bana le baa le nswe le natefetsa ke e ngwe ya diketsahelo tse ka hodimo (kopa ketsahelo eke eke eke e ngwe ya Letsatsi la Barati la Dibuka) mme o re romelle tsona ho info@nalibali.org, kopa o di pose ho Facebook kopa Twitter o sebedisa hashtag #BookLoversDay. Re ka thabhe ho abalana seko o se entseng le baa le bong lesekefeng le rona la Facebook kopa ka hara flatetsa ya Nal’ibali!

Did you know?

Our Read-Aloud Story Collection is now available at Ethnikids!

Did you know that our Read-Aloud Story Collection is now available in all official South African languages and is also available for free online at www.ethnikids.africa? Order your copy today! Kenyans Kopali e kal yara ya ho: www.ethnikids.africa!
Writing book reviews

When you ask children to write book reviews, it is a great way to get them to connect with what they read, to think critically about it and to express their opinions.

Here are some ideas of how to use book reviews in your classroom and at your reading club:

- Encourage children to write down their opinion of a book they have read.
- Good book reviews help people decide whether they want to read the book or not. In their reviews, the children should therefore give the basic story outline, but not give away too much about the story!
- Reviews can be long or short and can also include drawings of parts of the book by the reviewer.
- You can use the children’s book reviews to start conversations about books.
- Remind the children always to write the title of the book, the author’s name and their own name on their review. They should also include the illustrator’s name, if there are pictures in the book.
- Sometimes children need a little help with what to put in a book review. Try giving them some of these sentences to complete:
  - This story is about …
  - The main characters are …
  - My favourite part of this book was …
  - My favourite character was …
  - I think you would enjoy this book if you like stories that …
  - My rating for this book is ⭐⭐⭐
- You can use the children’s book reviews to start conversations about books.

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.

Iketsetsa dibuka tse sehwang-le-ho-ipolokelwa tse PEDi

1. Ntsha leqephe la 5 ho isa ho la 12 tlatsetsong ena.
2. Leqephehadi le nang le maqephe ana 5, 6, 11 le 12 ho lona le etsa buka e le ngwwe. Leqephehadi le nang le maqephe ana 7, 8, 9 le 10 ho lona le etsa buka e ngwwe.
   a) Mena leqephehadi ka halolo hodima mola wa matheba o matheba.
   b) Le mene ka halolo hope hodima mola wa matheba o matheba.
   c) Seho hodima mela ya matheba a mofubedu.
Money stories talk

Money stories talk about values and resources. The values are:

- Honesty
- Diligence
- Thrift

In this third collection of stories, we bring you nine stories to entertain and educate children aged 6 - 12 about values. These stories are written by Tshepo Mokono and Vusi Malindi.

Stories can be read aloud for younger children, and are written for older children. They can be used to start conversations about values in family and classroom settings.

Visit www.heartlines.org.za to download the stories for free.
But Young Lion secretly still wanted that gift. So, in the middle of the night, when the sky was empty but covered with darkness, Young Lion put on his running shoes and ran to the monkey’s house.

When he got there he could hear a crowd of monkeys joking with Little Brown Monkey about his gift. “At least one of the family will be able to sing beautifully. We all know that monkeys have been terrible singers until now.” They fell around laughing.

One morning, just as the sun was about to come up, Lion, King of the jungle, ordered the village Kgosa to blow on the horn. As the sound of the horn went “Vooooo! Vooooo!” all the animals knew that the day had arrived when they were to receive gifts from the Great King.

They gathered at the King’s royal place. Young Lion was there, pushing his way to the front of the crowd. But Little Brown Monkey was first in the queue, and he received the best gift ever!

Little Brown Monkey got the gift of singing. The gift was inside a small green bottle. King Lion said, “Whenever you drink this, you’ll be able to sing beautifully. You’ll be famous and rich. You’ll be a great musician, or a great Gospel star.”

One now, “I don’t sound anything.” We all know that monkeys have been terrible singers. Least one of the family will be able to sing beautifully.” Joins with Little Brown Monkey about his gift. “At least one of the family will be able to sing beautifully.”

When he got there he could hear a crowd of monkeys crowing on the house. Men in the monkey’s house.

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Hoseng ho hong, ha letsatsi le se le ka tla e ho lotha, Tau, Morena wa meru, a laela Kgosa ya mothe ho lela lenaka. Ha modumo wa lenaka o nse o ya “Vooooo! Vooooo!” diphoofolo tsohle tsa tle bae hore letsatsi le fihile le lo ka lona ba lokelang ho amothele dimpho ho tswa ho Morena e Moholo.

Tsagobokana paleising ya Morena. Ledinyane la Tau o ne a le teng, a ntsa itshohloemetsa ho ya ka pelepele ho shlopho se moo. Empa Tshwenenyana e Sootho e ne e le yona e ka pelepele moleng, mme he ya fuma dimpho e ntle ho feta se ding!
Tinny Tim carried on looking for the owner of the button. “Whoa!” 
At least he’s friendly,” thought Tinny Tim.

“Jowee!”
The owner of the button. Tim Roboto a tswela pele a batlana le monga konopo.

Whose button is this?
Ke konopo ya mang ena?

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 or www.nalibali.mobi.


Paul Kennedy
James Woolley
Louise Gale
He just turned red.

"What a rude person," thought Tinny Tim.

Tinny Tim was standing on the side of the road when a button bounced his way.

"I've got to get to the other side of the road. I'm sure that's where this button comes from."

SPLASH!

"That was close," said Tinny Tim. He waited for the cars to pass before he carried on.

"Phakga!"

"Ke lokela ho tshelela ka nqane ho mmila. Ke tshepa hore ke moo konopo ena e tswang teng."

"E batlile e ntjhaisa," ha rialo Tim Roboto. A emela dikholo hore di badiile e nthloa. "Ha rulde Tim." He got to go to the other side of the road, Tim said.
“Thank you, little robot. Can we be friends?”

“Ke a leboha, roboto e nyane. Na re ka ba metswalle?”

“I wonder where this comes from,” he said. He wanted to find out.

“Ke a ipotsa hore ebe ntho ena e tswa kae,” a rialo. O ne a batla ho batlisisa.
Then Tinny Tim saw someone coming. Maybe this was who he was looking for.

"Hello, who are you?" he asked.

"It's scary out here," he said.

"I'm Ruby Rags," said the someone.

"I think this is yours," said Tinny Tim as he gave her the button.

It was busy on the side of the road.

"Woah!"

Tinny Tim nearly got squashed!

"I'm Ruby Rags," said the someone.

"I think this is yours," said Tinny Tim as he gave her the button.

"Ke Ruby Rekese," ha bua motho e mong.

"Ke nahana hore ntho ena ke ya hao," ha rialo Tim Robot o batlile a tšhaiswa!
Later that day, Young Lion bumped into Springbok on the road and shouted, “Howzit, Sister Springbok?” They hurried through their greetings so that they could get to the topic of the gift. Springbok, just like Young Lion, and Antbear, wished the monkey’s gift was hers.

“But I am sad to say, the gift belongs to Little Brown Monkey and I can’t change that,” Springbok sighed.

“Out of all the animals, how come the monkey, I mean … the ugly little monkey … is the one that got such a special gift? Tell me, Sister Springbok!” Young Lion asked.

“Well, which animal deserves that gift?” Springbok asked in turn.

“Me, Young Lion, the future king. I deserve it. I deserve that singing gift,” Young Lion answered.

“Wait your turn until next year when the King brings gifts; maybe you will get it next year. Good things are always worth waiting for,” Springbok advised.

Young Lion said, “You are right. I should wait for next year.” The two animals waved goodbye and went their separate ways.

Young Lion sat outside and waited until the other monkeys had gone home. He waited until he was sure Little Brown Monkey was fast asleep. Then he crept in, took the small green bottle from the top of the table, and tiptoed out the room. He had stolen the gift. It was his now!

And so, after a long time thinking … Young Lion decided to return the gift.

He ran as fast as his running shoes would take him back to Little Brown Monkey’s place. He sneaked into the house and returned the bottle of singing gift to the table where it had been before.

Then he crept out and headed home. As he ran, his heart felt light and his feet felt free – freer than he had felt all day!

And so, after a long time thinking … Young Lion decided to return the gift.
Thakadi a jwetsa Ledinyane la Tau hore le yena o ne a lakatsa ha mpho ya ho bina e ne e filwe yena. “Jwale ke eng e o thibang ho e nka, mme Thakadi.” Ho botsa Ledinyane la Tau.

Thakadi a re, “Ke batla ho etsa ba bang ka tsela eo le nna ke lakatsang eka ba ka nketsa ka yona. Ha ke batle ha dintho tsa ka di ka utsuwa, ka tsela eo ha ke a lokela ho utswetsa ba bang.”

Ledinyane la Tau a dumela ka hlooho. A utlwisisa seo.

Young Lion started to run. He ran as though something was chasing him. As he ran, he remembered what Mother Antbear had said about treating others in the way you want them to treat you. The thought made him stop running, and he stood still and thought. He thought about how he would feel if he was Little Brown Monkey and somebody stole his gift. “I would not like it. I’d feel sad and angry,” he thought.

As he stood, he recalled what Jackal had said. Jackal was right − everybody knew that Young Lion was also a bad singer. It would be easy for them to spot him as the one who had stolen Little Brown Monkey’s gift.

Young Lion sat on a rock and thought more about the gift in the bottle. “Maybe Springbok is right too; maybe the gift will be mine next year.”

Ledinyane la Tau a le tseleng a nna a korotla a re, “Mpho eno ya ho bina e lokela ho ba ya ka, ya ka, ya ka, ya ka. Ke tlo e amo tsa Tshwenenyana e Sootho.”

Ha a le tseleng, Ledinyane la Tau la kopana le Thakadi. Ba dumedisana. Ba bua ka tsebo di jeligeng dijong tsa hoseng, le ka maemo a lehodimo, le ka tsa selemo se setjha tsebo, le ka koi kaledi di hlooho ho di phethahatsa sake le ka kopano ya dimpho e neng e le la Morena.
Get story active!

Here are some activities for you to try. They are based on all the stories in this edition of the Nal’ibali Supplement: Young Lion and Little Brown Monkey (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12), Whose button is this? (pages 7 to 10) and You’re too small (page 14).

**Young Lion and Little Brown Monkey**

After listening to or reading Young Lion and Little Brown Monkey, think and talk about some of these things.

- Why did Young Lion think he deserved the gift? Do you think this is a good reason?
- What advice did Young Lion get from Antbear, Springbok and Jackal? Whose advice do you think was best?
- Why did Young Lion return the gift eventually?
- If you had been Young Lion, would you have given the gift back? Why or why not?
- How do you think Young Lion felt when he put the gift back? Why do you think he felt like this?
- Have you ever thought about taking something that belonged to someone else without asking their permission? What did you do about it? Why did you feel this way?
- Do you think honesty is important? Why or why not?

**Whose button is this?**

- Follow the instructions on page 4 to make the cut-out-and-keep books.
- Celebrate National Colouring Book Day on 2 August by colouring in the pictures for the story Whose button is this?
- Use sheets of newspaper, old buttons and socks, pieces of fabric, some wool, and glue. Make the doll from the story.

**Ke konopo ya mang ena?**

- Sebedisa maepeke a koranta, dikonopo tsa kgale le dikasausa tsa kgale, diketjlanga tsa masela, uku, le sekgomarela. Esa papi e poleng.

**You’re too small**

- Everyone in Thapelo’s family does something special for their mom’s party. What would each of your family members do for a special party?
- Draw a picture of your family from the tallest person to the shortest one.

**O monyane haholo**

- E mong le e mong lapeng ka haba Thapelo o etsa rinie e ikgethling bakeng sa moketjana wa mme wa boni. Moloho ka mong lapeng leno a ka etsa eng bakeng sa moketjana a ikgethling?
- Taka setshwantsho sa lekopa leno ka hoko ho moloho e molele a ka fetlisa ho isa ho e mokutyshwane ho kagetse.
You’re too small

Written by Dorothy Dyer  Illustrated by Magriet Brink and Leo Daly

Mama Tau was coming home! She had been away for a long time studying, and her family missed her. Everyone was very excited. But Thapelo, the youngest of all her children, was the most excited.

On the day of Mama Tau’s arrival, the family spent the morning preparing. The sun was shining outside. Thapelo kicked his ball around on the grass. He wanted to show his mother how much better his soccer was since the last time she had seen him. “Catch this one, Bless,” he shouted to the dog. But Bless just looked at the ball and went inside.

Thapelo followed the dog and went to find his older sister, Refilwe. Refilwe was a DJ. She was so cool that she wore her sunglasses even inside the house. Refilwe was in her room getting music to play for when Mama walked through the front door. “I’m not going to play any of that rap she complains about,” Refilwe said. “Today we will only hear jazz. Just how Mama likes it.” She took off her sunglasses and winked at Thapelo. “Maybe you can dance with Mama.”

Then Refilwe put on her headphones and started nodding her head to the music.

“Can I help you?” asked Thapelo.

“What?” said Refilwe, taking off her headphones. “What did you say?”

“Can I help you?” Thapelo shouted.

“No need to shout,” Refilwe said. “I can hear you perfectly.” Then she shook her head. “This is all on the computer, Thapelo. So, you can’t help. You’re too small.

Thapelo went to find his brother, Saul. He was in the kitchen, baking one of his very special cakes. Whenever there was a special occasion, Saul made a cake. For Thapelo’s last birthday, he had made a chocolate cake with Smarties on top.

Saul was wearing a striped apron and was stirring the cake mixture in a big bowl. “This is a lemon cake,” he told Thapelo. “Mama’s favourite.”

“Can I help you?” asked Thapelo.

“No,” he said. “Last time you dropped an egg. Sorry, Thapelo. You’re too small.”

He went to find his other sister, Mampotoko, who was putting up decorations in the lounge. There were paper chains and balloons. “Can I help you?” he asked.

“Here, see if you can blow these up,” she said, handing Thapelo some balloons. He chose a red one and started blowing. He tried and he tried but he couldn’t get enough air into it.

“Oh no,” he said sadly. “I’m too small.”

So Thapelo went to find Ntate. He was sitting at the table, wrapping up a bead necklace for Mama. “This necklace has her favourite colours,” he said. “Purple and green. Isn’t it beautiful?”

Thapelo saw the wrapping paper with stars on it.

“Can I help you wrap the necklace?” asked Thapelo.

“No, sorry, Thapelo, you’re too small,” his father said.

Thapelo felt sad. He looked at their dog, Bless, sitting next to Ntate. “Come, Bless,” he called. But Bless just sat there. “Even Bless thinks I’m too small,” Thapelo thought.

Thapelo went outside and sat on the front step. “I wish I could grow as tall as a giant;” he thought. “Then they’d all be scared of me and nobody would say, ‘You’re too small.’”

Just then he heard a loud shout from inside the house. “Bless! Bless, come back!” Bless ran past Thapelo and around the corner of the house. And after Bless ran Ntate. Then Saul. Then Refilwe. And then Mampotoko. “That dog has stolen Mama’s present!” Ntate shouted as he passed Thapelo. Thapelo joined them and ran after Bless too.

Bless jumped through a hole in the fence, into the yard next door. “Come back, Bless!” they called. And after a while Bless did come back … but without the present!

“Oh no, he’s left it next door!” Ntate groaned. “And the Sitholes are away till tomorrow! So, it’s stuck on the other side of the fence till they come back!”

“I could climb through the hole and fetch it,” suggested Thapelo.

“No,” they all said together. “You’re too small!” They stopped. They looked at Thapelo.

“Will you fit?” asked Refilwe.

“Are you small enough?” asked Saul.

Thapelo crouched down and squeezed himself through the hole. He just fitted through. There, on the grass in the Sithole’s yard, was the wrapped present, with just a little bit of the wrapping paper torn. He picked up the present and squeezed back to the other side of the fence.

“Oh, Thapelo,” said Ntate. “You are a star!”

“Three cheers for Thapelo!” Saul said, and they all hugged him.

Later that afternoon there was a knock on the door. It was Mama! Thapelo rushed into her arms.

“How you’ve grown, my boy,” she said. “Look at how tall you are now.”

“But I’m still too small, Mama,” he said.

“No!” everyone shouted.

“No, you’re not!” said Ntate. “You’re just the right size!”

Drive your imagination
Thapelo a bona pampiri ya ho phuthela e nang le dinaledi.
"O perese le o motala. Se setle, ha ho jwalo?" sa molaleng bakeng sa Mme. "Sefaha sena se na le mebala eo a e ratang," a Thapelo o ya ho batla Ntate. O ne a dutse tafoleng, a ntse a phuthela sefaha "Ao tjhe," a rialo a utlwile bohloko. Ke monyane haholo.

dibalunu tse ding. Thapelo a kgetha e kgubedu mme a qala ho butswela. A leka "Nka, ha re bone hore na o ka kgona ho butswela tsena," a rialo, a fa Thapelo feta, o ne a ile a etsa kuku ya tjhokolete e nang le diSmarties ka hodimo.

o ikgethang, Saul o ne a baka kuku. Ka letsatsi la tswalo la Thapelo le sa tswa ngwe ya dikuku tsa hae tse kgethehileng. Kamehla ha ho ena le moketjana Thapelo a ya batla moholwane wa hae, Saul. O ne a le ka kitjhineng, a baka e kgona ho thusa. O monyane haholo."

Yaba o sisinya hlooho. "Ntho tsohle di khomputeng, Thapelo. Kahoo, o keke wa "Na nka o thusa?" Thapelo a buela hodimo.

"Eng?" ha botsa Thapelo. "Na nka o thusa?" ha botsa Refilwe, a rola dimamedisi tsa hae.

"Nka nna ka kena le lesobeng leno ka se lata," Thapelo a etsa tlhahiso. "Ha re opeleng Thapelo hararo!" ha rialo Saul, mme bohloko ba mo haka.

"Oho, Thapelo," ha rialo Ntate. "O mampodi!"

"Ha re opeleng Thapelo hararo!" ha rialo Saul, mme bohloko ba mo haka. Hammorao mantsiboyeng ao ha eba le ho kokota monyako. E ne e le Mme! Thapelo a matheto e le kgethehileng ho fihlela ba kgutla!"

"Kgutla wena Bless!" ba holetsa. Mme kamora nakwana Bless a kgutla … empaa a sa tsimana thelang.

"Jowee! O e siile ha moahisane!" Ntate a honotha. "Mme ba ha Sithole ha ba ya ba kgutla hose! Kaaah, o a hotla ka kgona ho terata ho fihla ba kgutla!"


"Na o monyane ho lekaneng?" ba botsa Saul.

"Na nka o thusa ho phuthela sefaha sa molaeng?" ha botsa Thapelo.


Thapelo a tswela ka ntle mme a dula setupung se ka pele. "Ke lokatsa eka nika hola ka ba motlele walokwa lehloko," a nannaho balo. "Mme k godelela ba hano ba ne ba tla ntsabana mme ha ho motho ya neng o a ne ho nna, o monyane haholo."

"Na yona nako ea o utlwa motho a holetsa ka flung. "Bless! Bless, kgutla!" Bless a matha a feta Thapelo mme a potela ka mora ntle. Mme ka mora Bless ho o ne ho matha Ntate. Ya eba Saul. Ya eba Refilwe. Mme ya eba Mampotoko. "Ntse eno a uitswate mpho ya Mme!" Ntate a holetsa a feta Thapelo. Thapelo le yena a ba sala mora a lelekisa Bless.

Bless a tloa a tsa le lesobeng lo terata, a toloa ka jareletse ya baobishane. "Kgutla wena Bless!" ba holetsa. Mme kamora nakwana Bless a kgutla … empaa a sa tsimana thelang.

"Jowee! O e siile ha moahisane!" Ntate a honotha. "Mme ba ha Sithole ha ba ya ba kgutla hose! Kaaah, o a hotla ka kgona ho terata ho fihla ba kgutla!"

"Nka nna ka kena le lesobeng leno ka se lata," Thapelo a tswa tholo.


"Na o monyane ho lekaneng?" ha botsa Saul.

"Na nka o thusa?" ha botsa Refilwe, a rola dimamedisi tsa hae, "O itseng?"

"Na nka o thusa?" ha botsa Saul.

"O monyane haholo."


"Ha re opeleng Thapelo hararo!" ha rialo Saul, mme bohloko ba mo haka. Hammorao mantsiboyeng ao ha eba le ho kokota monyako. E ne e le Mme! Thapelo a matheto e le kgethehileng ho fihlela ba kgutla!"

"Kgutla wena Bless!" ba holetsa. Mme kamora nakwana Bless a kgutla … empaa a sa tsimana thelang.

"O holedi hakaakoang, mshanyana wa ka," a rialo. "Bona feelo hore o se o le motlele hakae."

"Empa ke nte ke le monyane haholo, Mme," a araba.

"Tjhe!" bohlo ba holetsa.

"Tjhe, ha o monyane!" ha rialo Ntate. "O boholo ba lekaneng hante!"
**1. Make a badge**

1. Cut along the red dotted line to cut out the badge.
2. Colour in the picture.
3. Cut a circle the same size as the badge from some thin cardboard, for example, a cereal box.
4. Use glue to paste the badge onto the cardboard.
5. Use sticky tape or masking tape to attach a safety pin to the back of the badge. Or make a hole at the top and thread some wool or string through it so that you can hang it around your neck.
6. Enjoy wearing your badge as you read your books on Book Lover’s Day.

**Etsa betjhe**

1. Seehá ho diamá mola wa mothebo a mafábedu mme o ntíse betjhe.
2. Kenya setshwantsho mebala.
4. Sebedisa thepi e kgomarelekgá káa masking thepi ho konapela sepeletse bokáamorong a betjhe. Káa o e tsa leeboho diamá mme o kenye ulu. Káa kgwedi lekgábe le sa le bá a le se leba le lo a le será a la lekgábe le sepete. Sebedisa sekgomaretsi ho manamasa betjhe ho diamá khatebóto.
5. Sebedisa thepi e kgomarelekgá káa masking thepi ho konapela sepeletse bokáamorong a betjhe. Káa o e tsa leeboho diamá mme o kenye ulu. Káa kgwedi lekgábe le sa le bá a le se leba le lo a le será a la lekgábe le sepete. Sebedisa sekgomaretsi ho manamasa betjhe ho diamá khatebóto.

**2. Make a list of 5 reasons why you love reading.**

Etsa lenáne la mabáka a 5 a hore ke hobáaneng a rata ho bála.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason 1</th>
<th>Reason 2</th>
<th>Reason 3</th>
<th>Reason 4</th>
<th>Reason 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The title of my favourite book is

Seholóoho sa buka eo ke e ratang ka ho fetisisa ke

My favourite author is

Mongodi eo ke mo ratang ka ho fetisisa ke

**3. Draw a picture of yourself reading a book. Colour in the picture.**

Taka setshwantsho sa háo moo o balang buka. Kenya setshwantsho seo mebala.