

Dads, make a difference!

We've known for a long time that fathers have an important role to play in the lives of their children. And research over the last twenty years tells us that fathers strengthen their children's development when they are actively involved and interested in the lives of their children. There is no single "right" way for fathers to do this. Nor do fathers have to live with their children to make a positive difference.

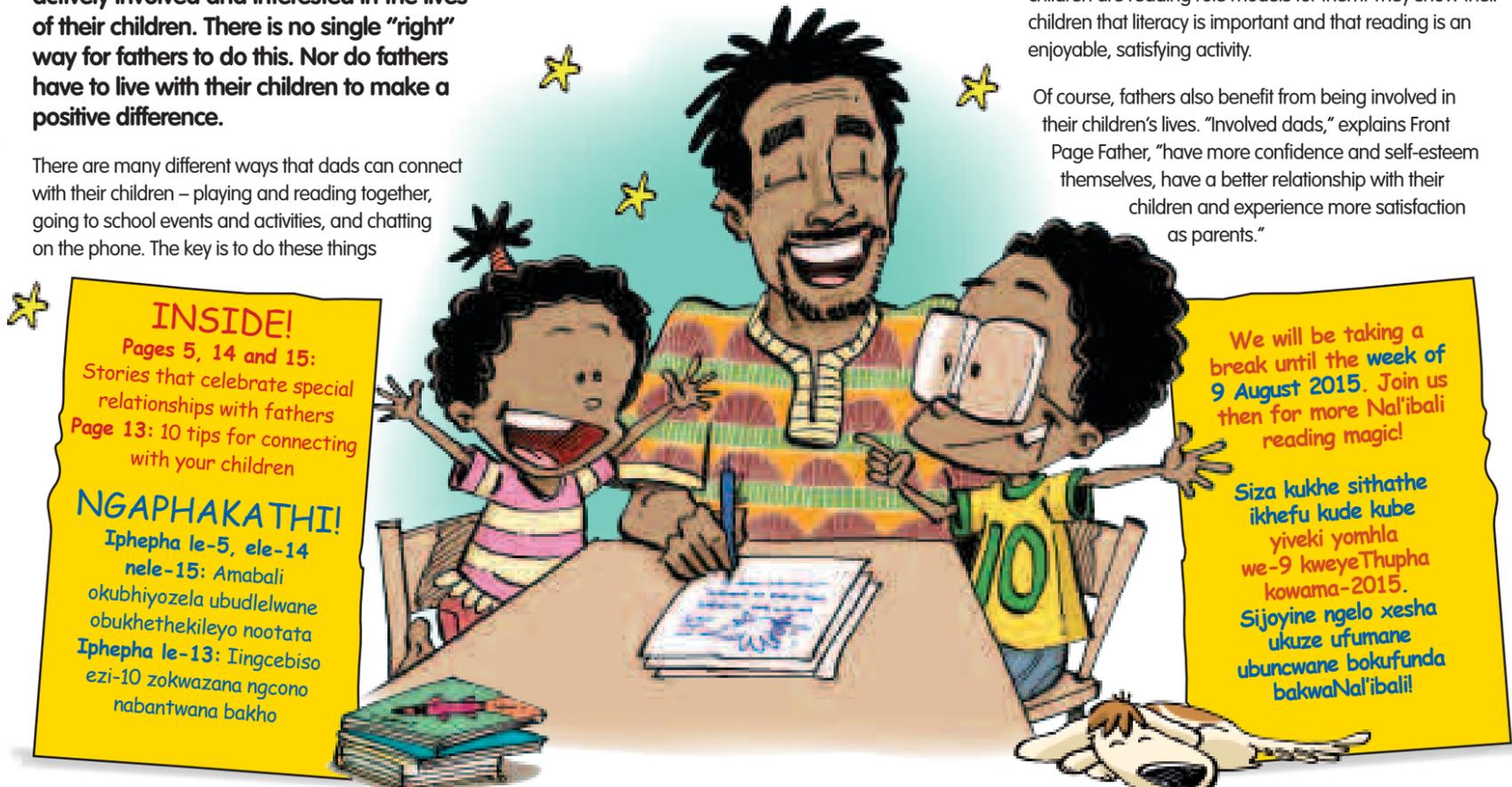
There are many different ways that dads can connect with their children – playing and reading together, going to school events and activities, and chatting on the phone. The key is to do these things

regularly. (For more ideas, see our "10 tips for connecting with your children" on page 13.) Even small amounts of time spent together are special, and help you bond and make memories. And, although it is best for dads to be involved from early in their children's lives, it's never too late to re-connect with your children.

For children, one of the main benefits of having a close relationship with their fathers, is that it helps them to feel wanted and secure. Quality father-and-child time increases children's self-esteem, confidence and social skills. And it is as important for girls as it is for boys.

There are also academic benefits when fathers are involved in their children's lives. "The amount of time that fathers spend with their children day-to-day, has a greater effect on school marks than the amount of money they earn," says Front Page Father. This is an organisation that works to create awareness of the value of involved fathers, and who also wants to empower men to become more involved in the lives of their families and children. "And, the amount of time fathers spend reading with their children, is one of the best ways of predicting how well their children will read and write." Dads who read to their children are reading role models for them. They show their children that literacy is important and that reading is an enjoyable, satisfying activity.

Of course, fathers also benefit from being involved in their children's lives. "Involved dads," explains Front Page Father, "have more confidence and self-esteem themselves, have a better relationship with their children and experience more satisfaction as parents."



INSIDE!

Pages 5, 14 and 15:
Stories that celebrate special relationships with fathers
Page 13: 10 tips for connecting with your children

NGAPHAKATHI!

Iphepha le-5, ele-14 nele-15: Amabali okubhiyozela ubudlelwane obukhethekileyo nootata
Iphepha le-13: Iingcebiso ezi-10 zokwazana ngcono nabantwana bakho

We will be taking a break until the week of 9 August 2015. Join us then for more Nal'ibali reading magic!

Siza kukhe sithathe ikhefu kude kube yiveki yomhla we-9 kweyeThupha kowama-2015. Sijoyine ngelo xesha ukuze ufumane ubuncwane bokufunda bakwaNal'ibali!

Ootata benza umahluko!

Sekulixesha elide sisazi ukuba ootata badlala indima ebalulekileyo ebomini babantwana babo. Uphando kule minyaka ingama-20 igqithileyo lusixelela ukuba ootata bayalomeleza uphuhliso lwabantwana babo xa bezibandakanya kwaye benomdla ebomini babantwana babo. Akukho ndlela ithile "elungileyo" ootata abanokwenza ngayo le nto. Kwaye kungekho bungqina bokuba ootata kufuneka bahlale nabantwana babo ukuze benze umahluko owakhayo.

Kukho iindlela ezahlukileyo ootata abanokuqinisa ngazo unxibelelwano nabantwana babo – ukudlala nokufunda kunye, ukuya kwimisitho yesikolo neminye imisebenzi yesikolo, kunye nokuncokola emnxebeni.

Okuphambili kukuba ukwenze rhoqo oku. (Ukuze ufumane iingcebiso ezingaphezulu, funda "iingcebiso ezi-10 zokwazana ngcono nabantwana bakho" kwiphepha le-13.) Nkqu ixeshana nje elifutshane enilichitha nikunye libaluleke kakhulu, kwaye linceda ukuba nibambane nakhe iinkumbulo eziya kuhlala naphakade. Kwaye, nangona iyinto elungileyo ukuba ootata babandakanyeke kwasekuqalekeni kobomi babantwana babo, alipheli ixesha lokuzama ukuphinda wakhe ubudlelwane nobumbano nabantwana bakho kamva.

Ebantwaneni, enye yezinto abazibona ziyinzuzo xa benobudlelwane obuhle nootata babo, kukuba bazibona kwaye baziva bedingeka kwaye bekhuselekile. Ixesha elixabisekileyo utata alichitha nomntwana wakhe landisa ukuzithemba, ukuzimisela kunye nezakhono zezentlalo emntwaneni. Kwaye eli xesha libaluleke emantombazaneni ngendlela efana nqwa nasemakhwenkweni.

Kananjalo kukho iinzuzo nasezifundweni xa ootata bezibandakanya kubomi babantwana babo. "Ixesha lemihla ngemihla ootata abalisebenzisa

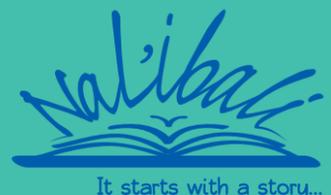
kubantwana babo, linefute elibalulekileyo kumanqaku abawafumana esikolweni kunesixa semali eyimivuzo yabo," kutsho abakwaFront Page Father. Lo ngumbutho ofundisa ukuqonda ixabiso lokuzibandakanya kootata kubomi babantwana babo, kwanofuna ukuxhobisa ootata ukuba bazibandakanye ngaphezulu ebomini beentsapho zabo nabantwana babo. "Kananjalo, ixesha ootata abalisebenzisa befundela abantwana babo, lelinye lezona ndlela zinamandla zokuqikelela indlela abaza kufunda kakuhle okanye babhale kakuhle ngayo abantwana." Ootata ababafundelayo abantwana babo bayimizekelo emihle yokufunda ebantwaneni. Babonisa abantwana babo ukuba ilitheresi ibalulekile kwaye ukufunda ngumsetyenzana omnandi kakhulu nowanelisayo.

Liyinene ke nelokuba ootata bazuzak kakhulu ngokuzibandakanya kwabo kubomi babantwana babo. "Ootata abazibandakanyayo," kucacise abakwaFront Page Father, "bazithemba kakhulu kwaye bayazihlonipha, ze bathi kananjalo babenobudlelwane obungcono nabantwana babo, ze ke ngolo hlobo amava obuzali kubo abonelise kakhulu."



Drive your imagination

Story Power.
Bring it home.
Wazise ekhaya amandla ebal.





Get story active!

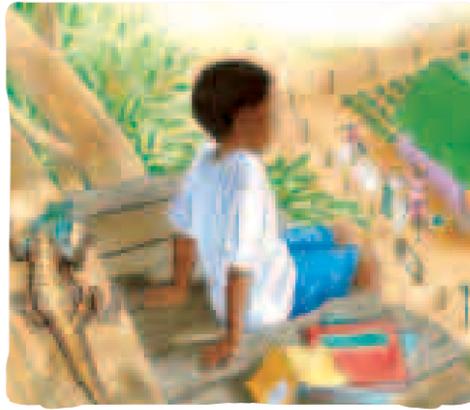
Here are some ideas for using the stories in this supplement. Choose the ones that best suit your children's ages and interests.

Topo's tree house

This story is best suited to children at primary school. If you are using this story with very young children, you may want to read the story on your own first, and then retell it in your own words while showing them the pictures.

In *Topo's tree house*, Topo shows compassion and caring towards the dove even though she builds her nest in his tree house. Topo's father shows caring and compassion towards Topo when he needs help with understanding his feelings.

- ★ Have your children ever seen a bird's nest? Explain that nesting birds are sensitive and do not like to be disturbed. If they are, they may leave the nest and the eggs will not hatch.
- ★ With your children, talk about:
 - ✿ how Topo chose to leave his tree house for a while so that the dove could nest there. Ask your children whether they think this was a good choice and what they would have done.
 - ✿ Topo's relationship with his father. Ask them how we can tell that Topo's father loves him and cares about his feelings.
- ★ Encourage your children to draw a picture for a part of the story that does not have an illustration and to write the story's words under their pictures.



Yenza ibali linike umdla!

Nazi ezinye zeengcebiso zokusebenzisa amabali akolu hlelo. Khethe ezo zilungele ubudala kwanemidla yabantwana bakho.



Indlu kaTopo esemthini

Eli bali lilungele kakhulu abantwana abakwisikolo samabanga aphantsi. Ukuba eli bali ulisebenzisa nabantwana abancinane kakhulu, mhlawumbi kuya kufuneka ukuba uzifundele ibali eli kuqala, ze ke emva koko ulibalise kwakhona ngawakho amazwi lo gama ubabonisa imifanekiso abantwana.

Kwibali elisihloko sithi, *Indlu kaTopo esemthini*, uTopo ubonakalisa uvelwano nenkathalo kwihobe nangona lisakhela indlwane yalo endlwini yakhe esemthini. Utata kaTopo ubonakalisa inkathalo kunye novelwano kuTopo xa efuna uncedo ukuze aqonde imvakalelo zakhe.

- ★ Ingaba abantwana bakho bakhe bayibona indlwane yentaka? Cacisela abantwana ukuba iintaka ezifukamayo zinochuku kwaye aziithandi kuphazanyiswa. Ukuba zithe zaphazanyiswa, zingayishiya indlwane leyo ze amaqanda lawo angabinakuqanduselwa.
- ★ Ukunye nabantwana bakho, ncokolani malunga:
 - ✿ nendlela uTopo awakhetha ngayo ukushiya indlu yakhe esemthini okomzuzwana ukuze ihobe likwazi ukuzalela amaqanda alo apho ukuze liwafukame. Buza abantwana bakho ukuba bacinga ukuba oku yayisisigqibo esilungileyo kusini na kwaye bona ngebabenze njani.
 - ✿ nobudlelwane bukaTopo notata wakhe. Babuze ukuba sibona njani ukuba utata kaTopo uyamithanda uTopo kwaye neemvakalelo zakhe uzikhathalele.
- ★ Khuthaza abantwana bakho ukuba bazobe umfanekiso inxalenye yebali engenamfanekiso yona baze babhale amazwi ebali elo phantsi kwemifanekiso yabo.

Monkey business

Monkey business is also best suited to children who are of primary school age. If you read it to younger children you may need to explain to them what happens to the monkeys and how this happens.

- ★ With your children, discuss what lessons you think this story teaches us.
- ★ Talk about copying the example of others. For example, ask your children: "Why do you think the monkeys copied the people in the story? Do you think that sometimes people should copy animals? Can you think of examples of where this might work well, or not work well?"
- ★ Have you or your children ever seen or heard about a fire caused by people which has damaged the environment? First talk about these fires together. Then suggest that your children write about them and/or draw fire pictures.



Umsebenzi wenkawu

Ibali elisihloko sithi, *Umsebenzi wenkawu* nalo lilungele abantwana abakwixabiso lokufunda kwisikolo samabanga aphantsi. Ukuba ulifundela abantwana abancinane mhlawumbi, kuya kufuneka ubacacisele ukuba kwenzeka ntoni ezinkawini nendlela oko okuthi kwenzeka ngayo.

- ★ Ukunye nabantwana bakho, xoxani ngokuba zifundo zini enicinga ukuba eli bali lisifundisa zona.
- ★ Ncokolani malunga nokulinganisa abanye abantu. Umzekelo, buza abantwana bakho wenjenje: "Nicinga ukuba kutheni iinkawu zilinganisa abantu nje kweli bali? Nicinga ukuba ngamanye amaxesha abantu kufuneka balinganise izilwanyana? Ningakhe nicinge ngemizekelo apho oku kunokusebenza kakuhle khona, okanye kungangasebenzi kakuhle khona?"
- ★ Ingaba wena okanye abantwana bakho nakhe neva okanye nabona umlilo ophenjwe ngabantu waze wonakalisa okusingqongileyo? Qalani nincokele ngale mililo nikunye. Emva koko ke cebisa abantwana bakho ukuba babhale ngale mililo ze/okanye bazobe imifanekiso yale mililo.

A birthday present for Dad

In this story Alex has fun creating a home-made birthday present for his dad! Enjoy reading the story aloud or retelling it.

- ★ Suggest that you and your children make presents for someone special using things you collect from outside.
- ★ Re-read the paragraph that describes what Alex drew in his picture. Can your children draw Alex's picture?



Isipho sikaTata sosuku lokuzalwa

Kweli bali u-Alex uzonwabisa ngokwenza ikhadi elinguzenzele naza kulinika utata wakhe njengesipho sosuku lokuzalwa! Yonwabela ukufunda ngokuvakalayo okanye ubalise kwakhona eli bali.

- ★ Cebisa ukuba wena kunye nabantwana bakho nenze izipho zabantu abakhethekileyo nisebenzisa izinto eniziqokelele nje phandle.
- ★ Phinda ufunde kwakhona umhlathi ocacisa into ezotywe ngu-Alex emfanekisweni wakhe. Ingaba abantwana bakho bangakwazi ukuzoba umfanekiso ka-Alex?



Have you signed up for the Nal'ibali app on Mxit yet? Here are some of the questions that people have sent us through this app – as well as our advice to them.

I have a problem with my son. He is 7 years old. He is very shy and he can't read. I want to help him. What should I do to help him?

Sometimes shy children find school challenging. The best thing you can do is to spend time with him in a relaxed way, doing fun things together, such as playing, telling stories, reading with him and looking at books together. If you know or can find out what interests him most, try and get stories or other books on these subjects. Also share the stories in the Nal'ibali supplement with him. Remember that its best to read to him in the language he understands best to help him gain confidence.

Do you know of any stories about single mothers that I can share with my children?

The best way to find stories about particular themes, is to visit a library near you and ask the librarian for help. You can also tell your children your own stories about the things you have done together with them. Start like this: "Once upon a time, there lived a mommy and her children named ...". Most young children love hearing simple stories about themselves and the people who care for them. You could even write down these stories to read together again on another day.

How can I help my daughter understand words in English?

You don't say how old your daughter is, but for anyone learning words in a new language, it is easier if they are given lots of clues! So, for example, looking at a picture of an apple, hearing the word, saying the word and pointing to it in the picture, reading about an apple in a story, eating a real apple and writing the word, would all help your daughter to learn and remember the word! It would also help if you told her what the word for "apple" is in her home language. Rhymes and songs are also great for helping children to learn a language. It is even better if you can find these songs or rhymes in picture books, because the pictures give clues about what the words are. If your daughter is old enough, share the bilingual stories in the Nal'ibali supplement with her – first read the story in your home language, and then in English.

Here's how to sign up for the Nal'ibali reading-for-enjoyment app:

- Download Mxit on your cellphone by going to m.mxit.com.
- Go to Apps, then Search and then Nalibali.

Nantsi indlela onokuthi ujoyine ngayo ukuze ufumane i-app yakwaNal'ibali yokufundela ukuzonwabisa:

- Kopela uMxit kwiselula yakho ngokuya ku-m.mxit.com.
- Yiya ku-Apps, ze emva koko uye ku-Search ulandamise ngo-Nalibali.



**Dear Nal'ibali...
Nal'ibali endimthandayo...**

**Write to Nal'ibali at
PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17,
Waverley Business Park, Wycroft
Road, Mowbray, 7700, or at
letters@nalibali.org.**

**Bhalela uNal'ibali kwidilesi
ethi: PRAESA, Suite 17-201,
Building 17, Waverley Business Park,
Wycroft Road, Mowbray, 7700, okanye
ku-letters@nalibali.org.**

Ingaba sele ujoyinile ngokutyikitya kwi-app yeNal'ibali eku-Mxit? Nantsi eminye yemibuzo abantu abasithumelele yona ngale app – kwakunye neengcebiso esithe sabanika zona.

Ndinengxaki ngonyana wam. Uneminyaka e-7 ubudala. Uneentloni kakhulu kwaye akakwazi ukufunda. Ndifuna ukumnceda. Ndenze ntoni ukuzeancedakale?

Ngamanye amaxesha abantwana abaneentloni basifumana singumngeni omkhulu isikolo. Eyona nto ilungileyo unokuyenza kukuchitha ixesha kunye naye nizipholele, nisenza izinto ezinonwabisayo nikunye, njengokudlala, ngokubalisa amabali, ngokufunda kunye naye kwanokubuka iincwadi nikunye. Ukuba uyazazi okanye ungaphanda ngezona zinto anomdla kuzo, zama ukufumana amabali okanye ezinye iincwadi ezingezo zinto anomdla kuzo. Kananjalo ungabelana naye ngamabali akuhlelo lweNal'ibali. Khumbula ukuba kubalulekile ukumfundela ngolona lwimi aluqondayo nalwaziyo ukuze akwazi ukuzithemba.

Ingaba ninawo kusini na amabali amalunga noomama abakhulisa abantwana babo bebodwa nendinokwabelana ngawo nabantwana bam?

Eyona ndlela ilungileyo yokufumana amabali malunga nomxholo othile, kukundwendwela iihala leencwadi elikufutshane nawe uze ucele usothala ukuba akuncede. Kananjalo ungabalise abantwana bakho awakho amabali amalunga nezinto enizenze kunye. Mhlawumbi ungaqala ngolu hlobo: "Kudaladala, kwakukho umama owayehlala nabantwana bakhe ababizwa ngokuba ..." Uninzi lwabantwana abancinane luyakuthanda ukumamela amabali alula namalunga nabo kwakunye nabantu ababakhathalelayo. Usenokuwabhalala phantsi la mabali ukuze niwafunde kwakhona ninonke ngenye imini.

Ndingayanceda njani intombi yam ukuze iqonde amagama esiNgesi?

Awusixeleli ukuba indala kangakanani na intombi yakho, kodwa kuye nabani na ofunda ulwimi olutsha, kulula kakhulu xa unikwa izikhokelo nemiqondiso eliqela! Umzekelo, ujonge umfanekiso we-apile, umamele igama elithi *apple* libizwa, nawe ke ulibize elo gama lo gama ulolathe emfanekisweni, ufunde ibali malunga ne-apile, utye i-apile lokwenene uze ulibhale igama elo, konke oko kungayanceda intombi yakho ifunde kwaye ilikhumbule igama! Kananjalo mhlawumbi kunganceda ukuba umxelele ukuba lithini na igama "le-apile" ngolwimi lwakhe lweenkobe. Izicengelezo kunye neengoma zezinye zezinto ezikulungele kakhulu ukunceda abantwana ukuba bafunde ulwimi.

NAL'IBALI ON RADIO!

Enjoy listening to stories in isiXhosa and in English on Nal'ibali's radio show: Umhlobo Wenene FM on Monday to Wednesday from 9.30 a.m. to 9.45 a.m. SAfm on Monday to Wednesday from 1.50 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.



UNAL'IBALI KUNOMATHOTHOLO!

Yonwabela ukuphulaphula amabali ngesiXhosa nangesiNgesi kwinkqubo kanomathotholo yeNal'ibali: Ku-Umhlobo Wenene FM ngoMvulo ukuya ngoLwesithathu kusasa, ukususela ngo-9.30 ukuya ngo-9.45. Kwi-SAfm ngoMvulo ukuya ngoLwesithathu emini, ukususela ngo-1.50 ukuya ngo-2.00.



Celebrating our fathers!

Every year in June, we celebrate how important fathers are in our lives. Follow the instructions to make a card for your dad or for someone who is like a father to you.



Ukubhiyozela ootata bethu!

Minyaka le kweyeSilimela, sibhiyozela indlela ababaluleke ngayo ootata ebomini bethu. Landela le miyalelo ukuze wenzele ikhadi utata wakho okanye umntu omthatha njengotata ebomini bakho.

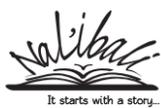


Make a Father's Day card

1. Cut out the card along the red line.
2. Fold the card along the dotted black line.
3. Glue the two parts together.
4. On the side with the picture, write a message to the person you will give the card to. Colour in the picture.
5. On the other side, draw a picture of you and this person together, or write a poem or longer message.

Yenza ikhadi loSuku looTata

1. Sika ikhadi ulandela umgca obomvu.
2. Lisonge ikhadi ulandela umgcana ongamachaphaza amnyama.
3. Dibanisa la macala omabini ngeglu.
4. Kwicala elinomfanekiso, bhala umyalezo oya kulo mntu uza kulinika yena ikhadi elo. Qaba ngombala ikhadi elo.
5. Kwelinye icala, zoba umfanekiso wakho ukunye nalo mntu liya kuye ikhadi, okanye ubhale umbongo okanye umyalezo omdana.



Create your own cut-out-and-keep books

1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement.
2. Separate pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 from pages 7, 8, 9 and 10.
3. 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.
 - c) Cut along the red dotted lines.

Zenzele ezakho iincwadana onokuzisika-ze-uzigcine

1. Thatha iphepha le-5 ukuya kwele-12 kolu hlelo.
2. Wohlule amaphepha ukuqalela kwele-5, ele-6, ele-11 nele-12 kumaphepha aqalela kwele-7, ele-8, ele-9 nele-10.
3. Landela imiyalelo engezantsi ukwenza incwadi nganye.
 - a) Songa iphepha phakathi kumgca wamachaphaza amnyama.
 - b) Phinda ulisonge phakathi kwakhona.
 - c) Sika ke ngoku ulandela imigca yamachaphaza abomvu.



Drive your imagination



Utopo wahala wathi cwaka ecinga kwisitephu esingema sendlu yakowabo. Uta wakhc weza kuhala ecaleni kwakhc. Uta wayesazi ngendlwana yentaka namaganda ayo, kwaye wabonakala esazi ngeengcinga zikaTopo ezimenza azive enomisingo futhi aphinde abe nosizi.

“Ngamanye amaxesha, Topo” watsho utata wakhc “kuyafuneka sizincame izinto sincamele abanye abantu abangenako ukugqina nokomelela ngenathi. Maxa wambi, kuyafuneka siluyeke uluvo lokukhathalalana ibe lulo olubalulekileyo ngaphexu kwemisingo yethu. Luqine nangaphexulu kokuzisizela kwethu.”

Uta wamgona wamanga nTopo, wabuva wangena endlwini. UTopo wahlala wathi cwaka wacinga ngezinto azithethileyo utata.

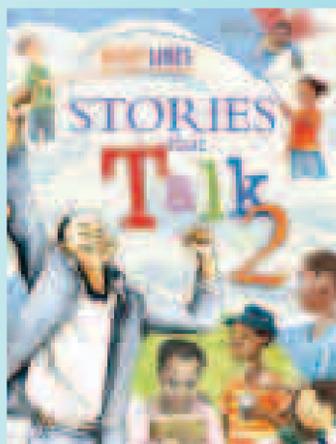
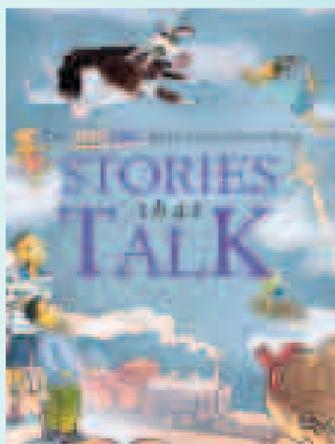
Topo sat still and thoughtful on the back step. Father came to sit next to him. Father knew about the nest and the eggs, and he seemed to know about Topo’s angry and sad feelings. “Sometimes, Topo,” said his father, “we need to give things up for others who are not as strong as us. Sometimes, we have to let the caring feeling be stronger than our anger. And stronger than our sadness for ourselves.”

Father hugged Topo and went inside. Topo sat still and thought about what he had said.

Utopo waziva elusizi kakhulu. Waziva enomisingo. Wazibona engamcingeli omnye umntu. Indlu yaseemthini yayiyeyakhc kwaye wayengafuni ukuphuma kuyo.



Topo felt sad. He felt angry. He felt selfish. The tree house was his place and he did not want to move out.



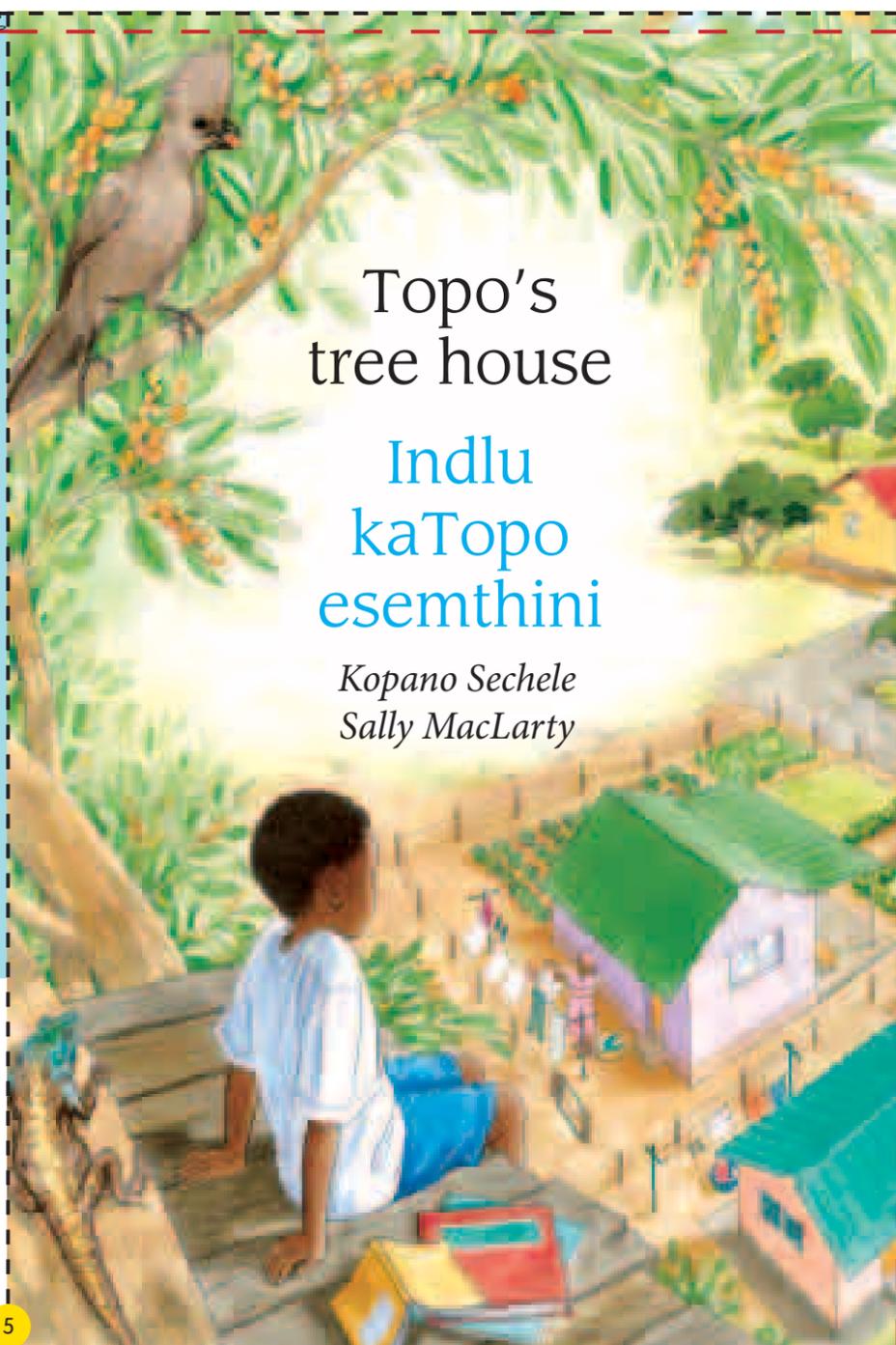
HEARTLINES

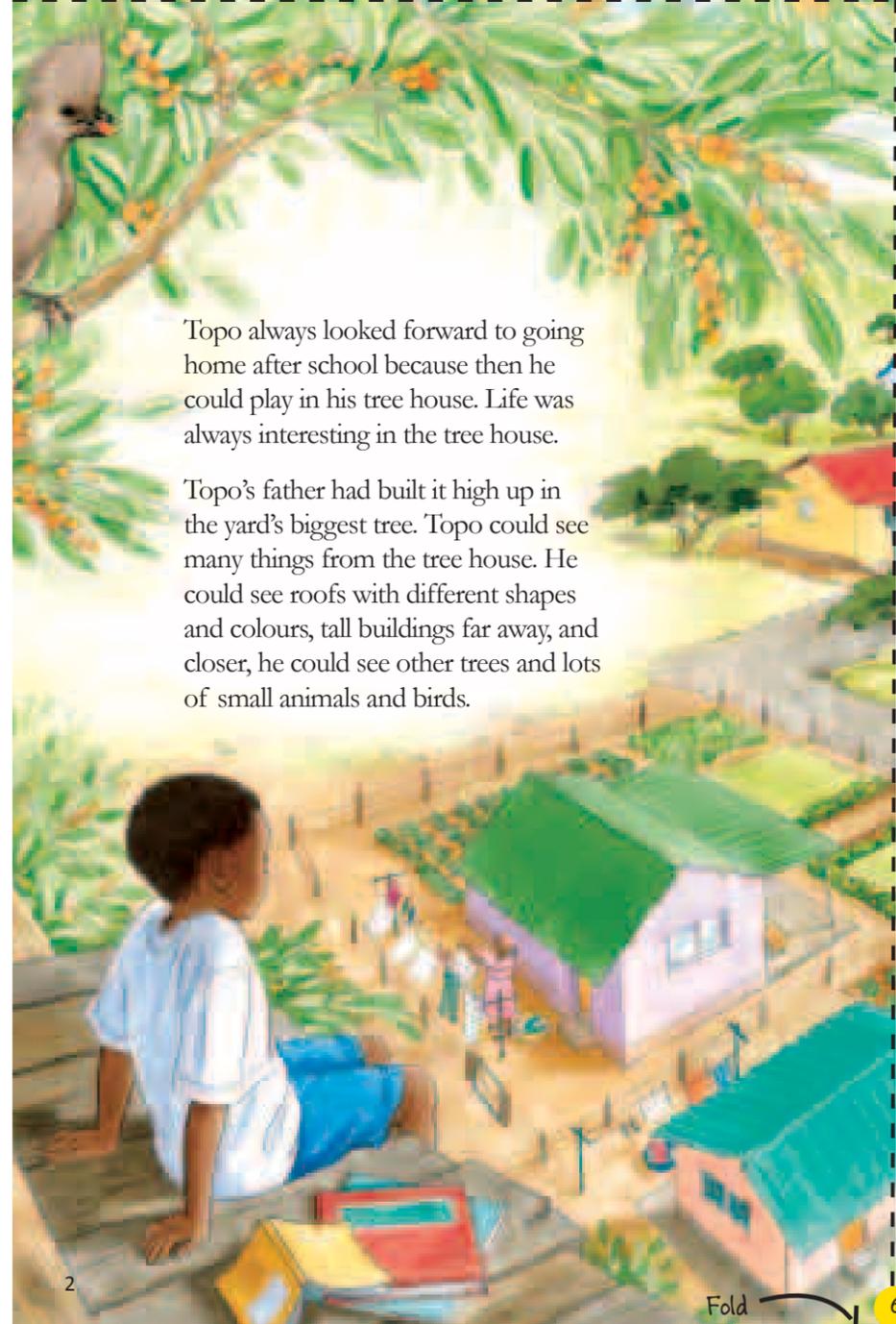
Topo’s tree house is one of ten stories covering different values in Heartlines’ *Stories that Talk* book. There are a further nine beautifully illustrated, values-based stories in *Stories that Talk 2*. For copies of these books, please email orders@heartlines.org.za or phone (011) 771 2540. *Stories that Talk Money*, due out later this year, will contain nine more stories relating to money values.

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi



UNal’ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukozonwabisa nokuvuselela umdla ebantwaneni ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda. Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe, ndwendwela ku-www.nalibali.org okanye ku-www.nalibali.mobi





Topo always looked forward to going home after school because then he could play in his tree house. Life was always interesting in the tree house.

Topo's father had built it high up in the yard's biggest tree. Topo could see many things from the tree house. He could see roofs with different shapes and colours, tall buildings far away, and closer, he could see other trees and lots of small animals and birds.

U'Topo wayewathanda amaqanda amahle. Kodwa wayesazi ukuba xa athe wahlala phaya kwindlu yasemthini naye, amaqanda ayengasayi kuganduselwa. Ngoko ke wathatha isigqibo ... ihobe maliyithathe indlu yakhe yasemthini kangangoko lityituna, yena uza kuhlala kwisetyana elikhude kufuphi alibukle. Uthe ngoko ke u'Topo wafumana isebe kweinye icala lendlwana esemthini, wahlala wabukela. Waqaphela ukuba ihobe lalingawashyhi ithuba elide amaqanda. Ixesha elininzi belhlala phezu kwamaganda, liwakhusela. Kodwa ngenye imini, xa kanye ihobe lalisathe tshalala, kwasuka kwakho umoya omkhulu, aze amasebe omthi aphephuka, enyuka esihla, aphinde aye ngapha nangapha macala omke. Ihobe lalingekho endlwameni yalo. U'Topo wayekhathazekile ecinga ukuba indlwana yentaka iza kumka nomoya. Walinda, walinda elindele ukuba ihobe libuye.

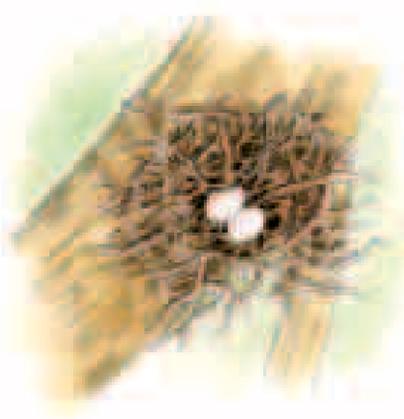
Topo loved the beautiful eggs. But he knew that if he was in the tree house, the eggs would not hatch. So he made a decision ... the dove could have his tree house for as long as she needed it, and he would sit on a branch nearby to watch her. So Topo found a branch on the other side of the tree house, and sat and watched. He noticed that the dove never left the eggs for long. She spent most of the time sitting on them to protect them. But one day, while the dove was away, it became very windy, and the branches waved up and down and from side to side. The dove was not at her nest. Topo was worried that the nest would be blown away. He waited and waited for the dove to come back.

Just as Topo was getting tired, the little dove flapped its wings harder than ever and flew up higher and higher. This time, it did not come down. Topo stopped running, and watched. He watched as the little bird flew further and further and higher and higher. He was so happy he shouted out loud. It felt like he had just learnt to fly too!

Wathi xa kanye aqalisa ukudinwa u'Topo, ihobe elincinci lawaphakuzelisa amaphiko alo ngamandla kakhulu kunangaphambili, lanyuka ukuya phezulu, phezulu. Kweli thuba, alizange libuye ihobe elincinci. U'Topo wema wayeka ukubaleka, wabukela. Wabukela ngethuba ihobe elincinci libhabha lisiya kude, linyuka ngokunyuka. Wayevuya kakhulu, wakhwaza kakhulu. Waziva ngokungathi naye ukufundile ukubhabha!



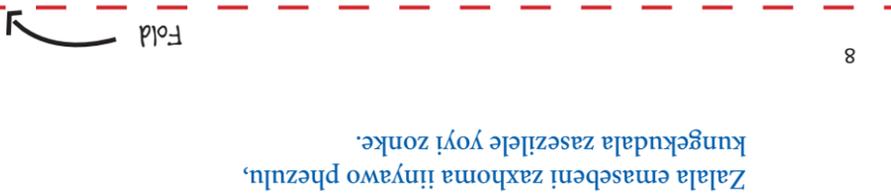
Wathi xa kanye wayesazama ukujongisisa kakuhle, labhabha langena kwakhona ihobe elingumzali wamaqanda. "Hamb' umke apha," labonakala ngokungathi litsho. "Hamb' umke apha." "Yindlu yam le," wacinga wenjenjalo u'Topo. "Ndiza kuhambelani ke kuyo?" Kodwa u'Topo wayesazi ukuba akazukukwazi ukuhlalisana nehobe endlwini yakhe. "Iza kuba ngamaganda, okanye ibe ndim," wacinga njalo u'Topo.



But just as he tried to see better, the mother bird flew into the tree again. "Go away," she seemed to say. "Go away." "This is my tree house," thought Topo. "Why should I go away?" But Topo knew that he couldn't share his tree house with the dove. "It's the eggs or me," he thought.



Ngamanye amaxesha zibonela izinto
 Inkawu zithand' ukudlala kwaye zithand' ukwazi.
Qhashu! Qhashu!
 Kwakuvakala olunye uhlobo lwesandi!
 Zathona zorhona, kodwa phantsi kwazo
Rhrrr! Rhrrr!
 They snored and they snored,
 but from the ground came another sort of sound!
Crack! Crack!
 Monkeys are playful and curious too.
 Sometimes they copy what humans do.



The monkeys giggled and tumbled about,
 until at last they wore themselves out.
 So they lay in the branches and put up their feet,
 and in no time at all they were all fast asleep.
 Inkawu zagqithetheka zaqikaqikeka, zigxadazela
 apha naphaya, de zadinwa.
 Zalala emasebeni zaxhoma iinyawo phezu,
 kungekudala zasezilele yoyi zonke.



The Little Library



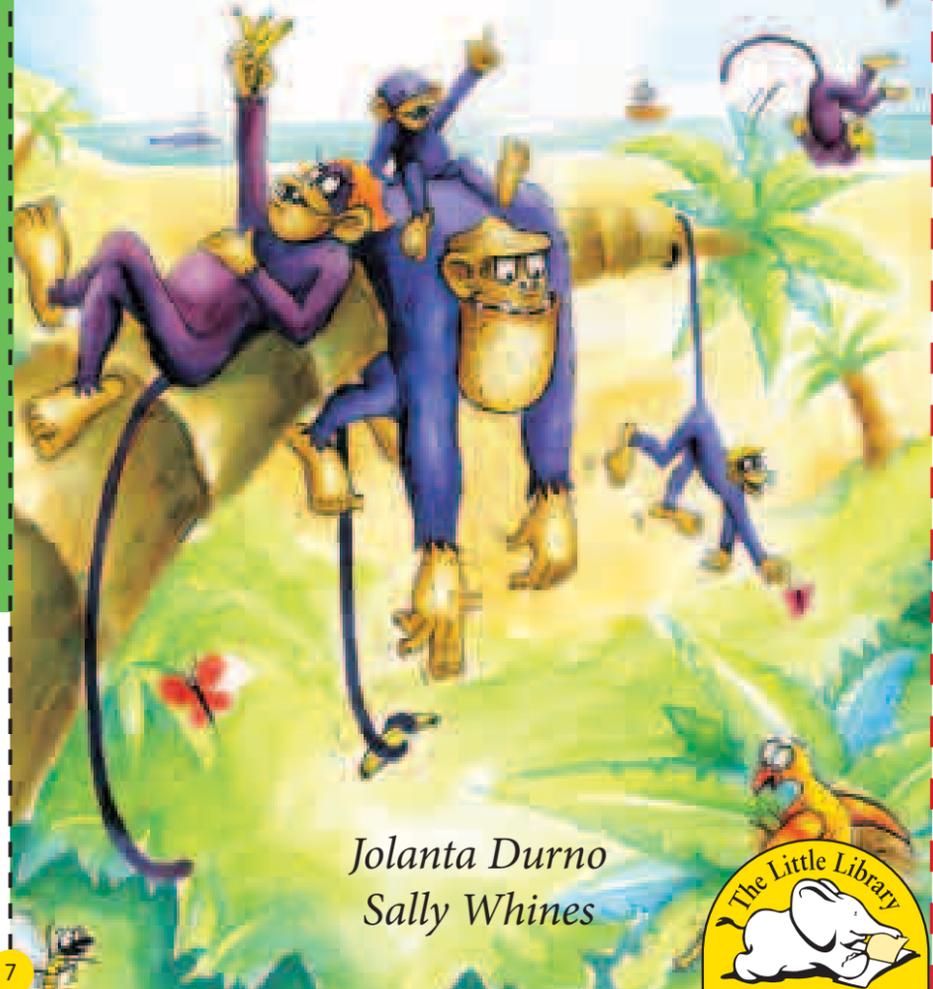
Monkey business is one of 36 stories available in the Little Library Kits for Numeracy, Literacy and Life Skills. Each kit contains 60 readers (5 copies of 12 stories), 12 big books, 12 posters and a comprehensive teacher's guide. The readers and the big books are available in all 11 official languages.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

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 Email info@cup.co.za



CAMBRIDGE

Monkey business Umsebenzi wenkawu



Jolanta Durno
 Sally Whines



Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi



UNal'ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukozonwabisa nokuvuselela umdla ebantwaneni ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda. Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe, ndwendwela ku-www.nalibali.org okanye ku-www.nalibali.mobi





UMntwana wenkawu wafumana istompi secuba. Wasithatha wasimpakuza waze waziva egula. Ukuthaya kwamqambisela ngesifuba, umqala wakhe woma nko, waza wasithi jwi-i-phaya eso sitompi.

Baby monkey found a smoking stick. She took it and puffed it and she felt rather sick. It made her throat dry and it made her chest pain, so she threw it onto the ground again.



Monkeys are playful and curious too, sometimes they copy what humans do. A monkey family that lived near the sea, was jumping and swinging from tree to tree. One sunny day they came to a stop, above a messy picnic spot.

Iinkawu zithand' ukudlala kwaye zithand' ukwazi. Ngamanye amaxesha zibonela izinto ezenziwa ngabantu.

Usapho lweenkawu olwaluhlala kufuphi nolwandle, lwalutsiba lujinga ukusuka kumthi ukuya komnye umthi. Ngenye imini eshushu zema kude kufuphi nendawo yepikniki emdaka.



Isigarethi yagalisa ukuqhuma kwaze kwathi kwakamsinya iinkawu zaqala ukutsarhwa. Kwanyuka idagaty, lanyukela phezulu kakhulu, kungekudala idangatyana laba ngumlilokazi!

The cigarette started to smoke and soon the monkeys began to choke. A flame went up, higher and higher and soon the flame became a fire!



... monkeys are playful, and curious too, perhaps humans should copy what monkeys do!

... iinkawu zithand' ukudlala, kwaye zithand' ukwazi, mhlawumbi abantu kufuneka babonele izinto ezenziwa zinkawu!



Ma monkey mumbled,
 Pa monkey moaned,
 The young monkeys huddled
 together and groaned.

UMama unkawu wakhwina,
 uTata unkawu wagquma,
 Inkawu ezincinci zabuthelana
 ndawonye zancwina.



The sweet made Ma monkey's teeth hurt.
 The beer made Pa monkey fall in the dirt.
 Monkeys are playful and curious too,
 sometimes they copy what humans do.

Ilkese yenza izinyo likaMama unkawu
 labuhlungu. Ibhiya yenza uTata unkawu ukuba
 awele emhlabeni. Inkawu zithand' ukudlala
 kwaye zithand' ukwazi. Ngamanye amaxesha
 zibonela izinto ezenziwa ngabantu.



Then they tidied the spot where the humans had been
 and wrote in the sand: "Please keep our home clean!"
 Because ...

Emva koko zacoca indawo apho abantu bebhkhona
 zabhala esantini: "Nceda gcina ikhaya lethu licocekile!"
 Kuba ...

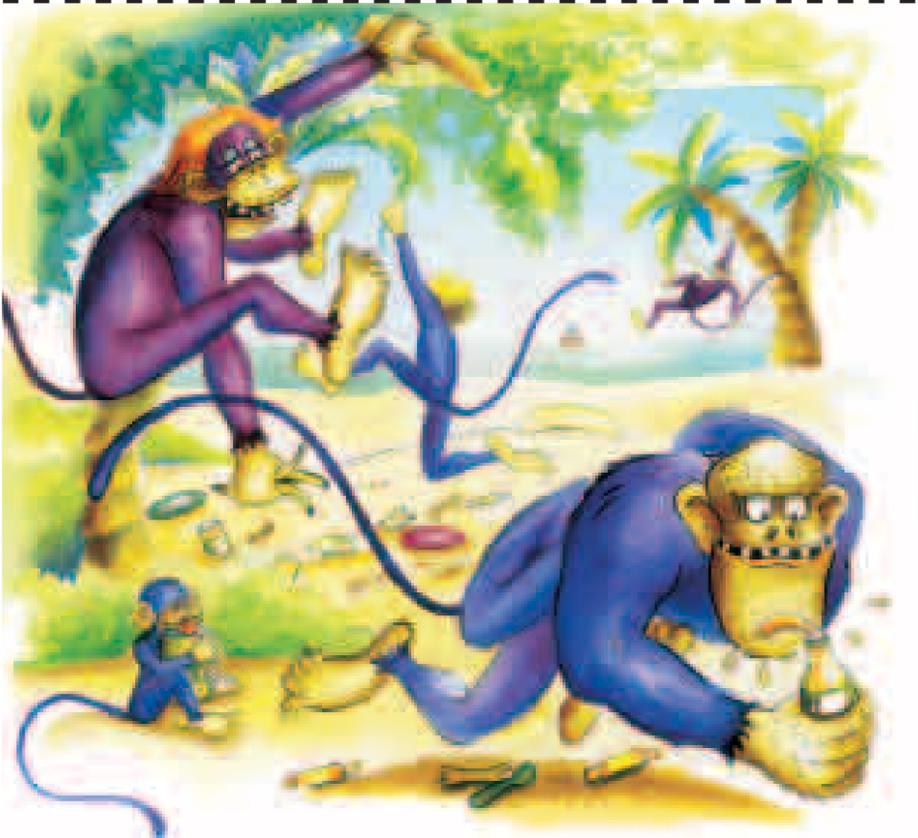


They peered through the leaves and heard
munch, slurp, burp. It sounded like fun!
 So the monkeys waited till the humans had gone.

Zakroba ngaphaya kwamasebe zeva *ukrum-krum,*
gongqo-gongqo, bho. Oku kwakuvakala kumnandi!
 Ngoko ke iinkawu zalinda de abantu bahamba.

Krum. UMama unkawu wahlafuna
 ilekese ethambileyo enesanti neswiti.
 Yayincangathi kwaye ithambile
 bubushushu basehlotyeni.
Gongo. UTata unkawu waqongolozela
 intwana yebhuya, emva koko wancumela
 ibhotile ngolubanzi lona uncumo olu.

Munch. Ma monkey chewed on a soft, sandy sweet,
 It was sticky and gooey from the summer heat.
Slurp. Pa monkey gulped some bubbly beer,
 then grinned at the bottle from ear to ear.



The monkeys jumped and swung to the ground,
 and they looked at what was lying around.
 Monkeys are playful and curious too.
 Sometimes they copy what humans do.

Iinkawu zatsiba, zajinga zehlela phantsi,
 zajonga ukuba ibiyintoni le ibilapho.
 Iinkawu zithand' ukudlala kwaye zithand' ukwazi.
 Ngamanye amaxesha zibonela izinto ezenziwa ngabantu.

Then they all jumped into the smoking spot,
 hopping about, because it was hot.

Emva koko zonke zatsibela kwindawo eqhumayo,
 zingcileza, kuba kwakutshisa.



And they worked together,
 using their hands,
 to put out the fire
 with large leaves and sand.

Zasebenza kunye, zisebenzisa izandla zazo,
 ukucima umlilo ngamagqabi amakhulu nesanti.

Kanye ngele xesha labuya ihobe laya kuhlala phezu kweqanda elishiyekileyo endlwaneni.
 UTopo wajonga ezantsi. Phaya phantsi emhlabeni, nalo iqandana elimhlophe ligubekwe apho lazizicwili. UTopo waziva ekhathazake kakhulu.

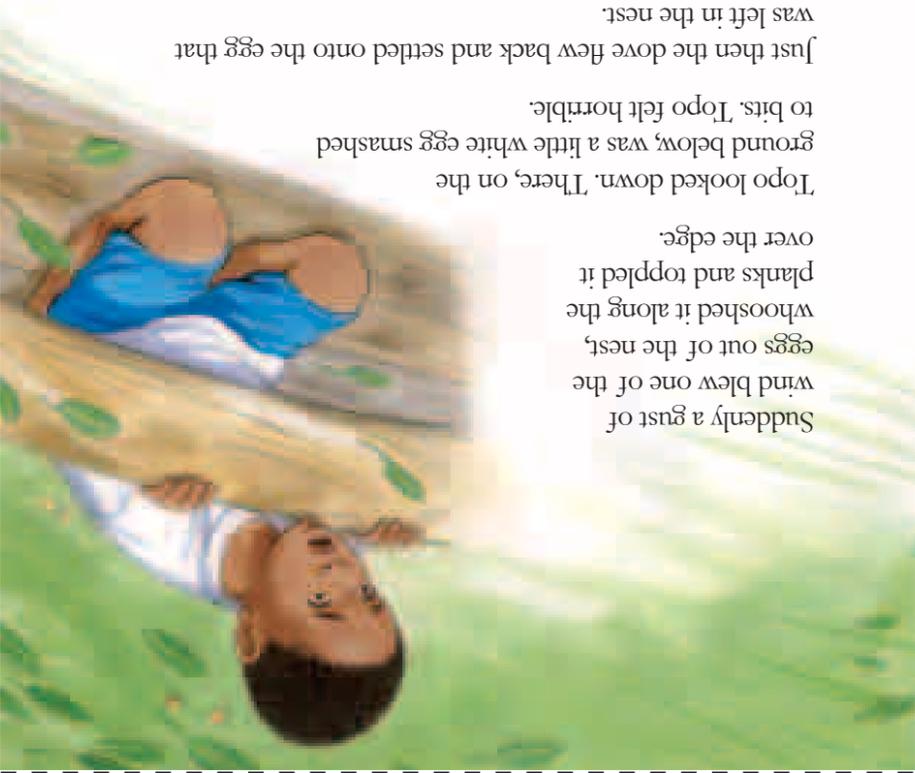
Ngaphanyazo isivutho-vutho somoya salithatha elinye iqanda lawela ngaphandle kwendlwana yentaka, lagengqeleka emaplangeni laya kuwa ezantsi.



Just then the dove flew back and settled onto the egg that was left in the nest.

Topo looked down. There, on the ground below, was a little white egg smashed to bits. Topo felt horrible.

Suddenly a gust of wind blew one of the eggs out of the nest, whooshed it along the planks and toppled it over the edge.



The next day after school Topo crept up into the tree house and looked into the nest. He saw two eggs there. The eggs were beautiful; they made Topo happy. He knew that young doves would hatch out of those eggs.

Ngemini elandelayo akuba ebuyile esikolweni uTopo warhubululaza apho kwindle yakhe esemthini, wachwacha ekroba indlwana yentaka leyo. Wabona amqanda amabini elapho. La maganda mahle kakhulu; amonwabisa kakhulu uTopo. Wayesazi ukuba kuloo maganda kuza kuphuma amahotyazana amancinci.

After school each day Topo sat and watched the nest. The mother dove spent most of her time with her little dove. It grew bigger and bigger. It spent a lot of time flapping, flapping, flapping its wings.

One morning, as Topo was walking out of the kitchen, he stopped suddenly. There was the little dove in front of him on the grass, trying, trying, trying to fly. Topo was very excited, but he stood very still and watched.

The little dove flapped its wings very hard and flew up into the air for a short distance, then came down again. Topo followed the little dove across the yard and over the fence. The little dove tried over and over and over again.

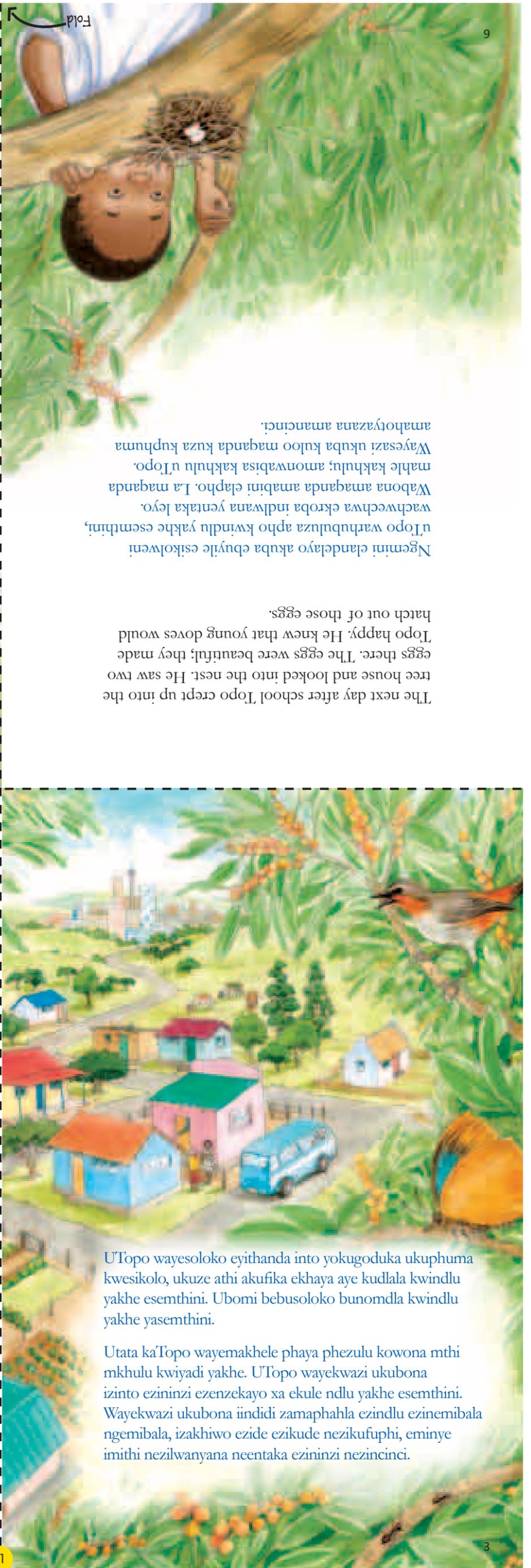
Yonke imihla ukubuya kwakhe esikolweni uTopo wayesiya kuhlala emthini agade indlwana yehobe. Umama wehobe wayechitha ixesha elininzi ehleli nentshontsho lakhe. Ihobe elincinci laya likhula ngokukhula. Ixesha elininzi lalilichitha ngokuphaphazela, liphaphazele, liphaphazelisa amaphiko alo.

Ngenye intsasa, xa uTopo wayephuma ekhitshini, wasuka wema bunxe. Nalo ihobe elincinci phambi kwakhe engceni, lizama, lizama, lizama ukubhabha. UTopo wavuya kakhulu akubona oku, kodwa wema ethe cwaka, wabukela.

Ihobe elincinci laphaphazelisa amaphikwana alo kakhulu lanyuka laya phezulu, ixeshana elifutshane, labe labuyela phantsi. UTopo walilandela ihobe elincinci kuloo yadi yakowabo, liqabela nasecingweni. Ihobe elincinci lamana lizama, liphinde lizame, liphinde lizame.

UTopo wayesoloko eyithanda into yokugoduka ukuphuma kwesikolo, ukuze athi akufika ekhaya aye kudlala kwindlu yakhe esemthini. Ubomi bebusoloko bunomdla kwindlu yakhe yasemthini.

Utata kaTopo wayemakhele phaya phezulu kowona mthi mkhulu kwiyadi yakhe. UTopo wayekwazi ukubona izinto ezininzi ezenzekayo xa ekule ndlu yakhe esemthini. Wayekwazi ukubona iindidi zamaphahla ezindlu ezinemibala ngemibala, izakhiwo ezide ezikude nezikufuphi, eminye imithi nezilwanyana neentaka ezininzi nezincinci.





Fold

U'Topo wahlala ixesha elide kwisitephu sangasemva sendlu yakowabo ngaloo mini. Kwakhona utata wakhe waphinda wafika wahlala ecaleni kwakhe. "Owu 'Topo,'" watsho utata, "ubomi busoloko budonakala njengento engenanceda. Asingekhe sisoloko sisazi ukuba kutheni na izinto zisuka zenzeke ngohlobo oluthile. Kodwa kuhle xa ubonakalisa inkathalo. Ndiyazi ukuba ngenye imini uyakukhula ude ngutata olungileyo oya kubathanda abakhusel abantwana bakhe."

Bobabini bahlala apho bacinga ngeqanda elaphukileyo, nehobe elabuya lahlala ngobugorha likhusela iqanda elishiyek endlwameni.

Topo sat for a long time on the back step that afternoon. Once again, Father came and sat beside him. "Oh, 'Topo,'" he said, "life often seems unfair. We cannot always understand why things happen the way they do. But it is good that you care. I know that one day you will grow up to be a good father who will love and protect his children."

Together they sat and thought about the broken egg and the little dove who sat bravely protecting the egg that was still in the nest.

Ngenye imini u'Topo waqaphela ukuba kukho inqumbana encinci eyenziwe ngeentsasana zomthi kwelinye lamasebe awayekufuphi nendlwana yakhe esemthini. Ihobe labhabha leza emthini landandazela iphezu kwaloo ndawo. Kodwa lathi lakubona u'Topo loyika. Laphinda labhabha lemka. Kungoko ke u'Topo wabona ukuba makazimlel kwisebe lomthi elikwelinye icala athi cwaka. Laphinda labuya ihobe, labona ukuba akukho ngozi ngoku kuthi cwaka, laphinda lapakisha ezinye iintsasana kwakula nqumba.

Yathi yakuba nkulu inqumba, lahlala zole phezu kwayo ihobe. Lalikhangeleleka ihleli kamnandi kakhulu ngalo mzuzu.

Sometimes Topo would take his books into the tree house and read. It was good to read there because it was quiet, with just the birds singing. Other times he just sat and watched. He wondered how far the birds flew and what stories they were telling other birds about the distant places they had been to.

One day, Topo noticed a small pile of twigs on one of the branches that grew very near to his tree house. A dove flew into the tree and fluttered about. But it had seen Topo and was afraid. It flew away again. So Topo crept to a branch on the other side of the tree house and sat very still. The dove came back, saw that it was safe, and piled on more twigs.

When the pile was big enough, the dove settled on it. She looked very comfortable.

Maxa wambi ebede athathe iincwadi zakhe akhwele nazo kule ndlwana yasemthini afundele apho. Kwakumnandi kakhulu ukufundela phaya kuba kwakuzolile kuvakala intsholo yeentaka kuphela. Maxa wambi ebeye ahlale nje abukele. Ebeye amane ecinga imimangaliso yokuba ingaba iintaka ezi zibhabha ziye kuma phi, kwaye mabali mani eziye ziwabalisele ezinye iintaka xa zibalisa ngeendawo ezikude ezikhe zaya kuzo.



Each day when Topo came back from school he checked the nest to make sure that the egg was there.

One day, as he peeked into the nest, he saw an ugly creature with a big mouth. It was very small and had no feathers. Topo slid down the tree and ran to tell his father.

Mini nganye ukubuya kwakhe esikolweni, u'Topo wayekroba endlwaneni eqinisekisa ukuba iqanda lisekho kusini na.

Ngenye imini wathi xa ekroba endlwaneni, wabona into embi enomlomo omkhulu. Yayincinci kakhulu ingenazo neentsiba. U'Topo waqengqeleka ukwehla oku emthini, wabaleka ukuya kuxelela utata wakhe.

10 tips for connecting with your children

Here are ten easy ways to help you build a close relationship with your children.

1. Read to your child regularly – no matter how old they are! Reading stories together opens your children's eyes, minds and hearts to different people and situations. It expands your children's horizons, develops their literacy and helps you to build a strong and loving relationship.
2. Write a note encouraging your child and put it in their lunchbox or in a textbook of their most difficult school subject. Children appreciate this, especially during exam or test times.
3. Praise your children often for things that they do so that they know you notice and care.
4. Make a regular time to sit and chat together. When you're doing this, sit facing your child so that you can maintain eye contact. Or, sit close together.
5. Show your children that you love them by giving them lots of hugs!
6. With older children, use social media like Facebook and Whatsapp to stay in touch with them.
7. Make a date with each of your children for one-on-one time and then do something together that you know they love doing.
8. Create family rituals that help build feelings of belonging. These can be simple acts like eating breakfast together every day or washing the dishes together after supper.
9. Just be there! Watch your children play sport, or go see them in the school play. This shows them that you are interested in their lives and their achievements.
10. Tell your children stories about when you were their age. Or, tell them the stories that you enjoyed as a child.



These tips were adapted from ideas supplied by Front Page Father. Go to www.frontpagefather.co.za for more ideas and information about fathering.

From 15-21 June 2015, Front Page Father will be running Fathers' Story Week. This programme aims to get fathers throughout South Africa reading to their children as a way of encouraging children's intellectual development and strengthening the emotional bond between fathers and their children.

Iingcebiso ezi-10 zokwazana ngcono nabantwana bakho

Nazi iindlela ezilishumi ezilula zokunceda ukwakha ubudlelwane obuqinileyo phakathi kwakho nabantwana bakho.

1. Fundela umntwana wakho rhoqo – akukhathaliseki nokuba mdala kangakanani na! Ukufunda amabali ndawonye kuvula umntwana wakho amehlo, ingqondo kunye nentliziyo ukuze amkele abantu kunye neemeko ezahlukileyo. Kwandisa umda wolwazi nomdla womntwana wakho, kuphuhlise ilitheresi yabo ze kunceda ekwakheni ubudlelwane bothando oluqinileyo.
2. Bhala umyalezo okhuthaza umntwana wakho uwufake kwibhokisana yesidlo sakhe sasemini okanye kwincwadi yesona sifundo simzimelayo esikolweni. Abantwana bayakuthanda oku, ngakumbi ngexesha leemviwo okanye lovavanyo.
3. Bancome abantwana bakho rhoqo ngezinto abazenzayo ukuze bazi ukuba uyayiqaphela imizamo yabo kwaye ubakhathalele.
4. Bekela bucala ixesha elisisigxina lokuhlala nincokole nabantwana bakho. Xa usenza oku, hlala ujongane ngqo naye ukuze nikwazi ukudibanisa amehlo. Okanye, nisondelelane xa nihleli ecaleni komnye.
5. Bonakalisa ukuba uyabathanda abantwana bakho ngokubanga, ubagona amaxesha amaninzi!
6. Kubantwana abadlalana, sebenzisa amajelo onxibelelwano afana no-Facebook kunye no-Whatsapp ukuhlala ninxibelelana rhoqo.
7. Yenza idinga nomntwana wakho ngamnye ukuze nibe nexesha lokuthetha nokwenza into kunye oyaziyo ukuba umntwana wakho uthanda ukuyenza.
8. Yenza izithethe zosapho ezinceda ekwakheni umoya wokuziva usekhaya. Ezi ingazizinto ekulula ukuzenza njengokutya isidlo sakusasa ndawonye yonke imihla okanye ukuhlamba izitya kunye emva kwesidlo sangokuhlwa.
9. Yiba ngumntu okhoyo nobonakalayo ngalo lonke ixesha! Bukela abantwana bakho xa bedlala, okanye uye kubabukela xa besenza umdlalo weqonga esikolweni. Oku kubonakalisa ukuba unomdla ebomini babo nakwizinto abaziphumezayo.
10. Balisela abantwana bakho amabali ngokukhula kwakho nexesha owawungangabo. Okanye, ubabalisele amabali owawuwonwabela ebuntwaneni bakho.

Ezi ncebiso zithatyathelwe kwiingcingane ezinikezelwa ngumbutho obizwa ngokuba yiFront Page Father. Yiya ku-www.frontpagefather.co.za ukuze ufumane iingcebiso ezininzi nengcaciso ngokuphathelene nobutata.

Ukususela ngomhla we-15 ukuya kowama-21 kweyeSilimela kowama-2015, abakwaFront Page Father baza kuqhuba iVeki yamaBali yooTata. Le nkqubo ijolise ekwenzeni ootata, kuwo wonke uMzantsi Afrika, ukuba bafundele abantwana babo ukwenzela ukukhuthaza uphuhliso lwengqondo kunye nokomeleza ityathanga leemvakalelo phakathi kootata nabantwana babo.



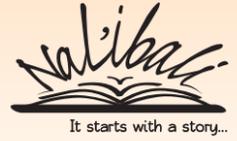


A birthday present for Dad

Story by Ann Walton



Illustrations by Magriet Brink



"It's Dad's birthday today," said Mom.

"Oh, I want to get him a present!" said Alex. "What should I give him, Mom?"

"We have to go to the shop to buy some flour for Dad's birthday cake," said Mom. "We will try to think of a present for Dad on the way to the shop."

"Okay! I'll carry the shopping bag," said Alex.

So Alex and his mother set off. Alex ran ahead of his mother on the well-trodden path. It was a lovely day. The sun was shining through the pine trees, and onto the pine nuts that had fallen to the ground. Alex picked one up.

"Look, Mom. What is this?" he asked.

"It's a pine nut," said Mom.

"It looks as if it has a wing," said Alex.

"That's so it can float on the wind and find a good place to grow into another pine tree," said Mom. "All these pine nuts on the ground have fallen from the pine cones on the trees."

"Can I taste one?" asked Alex.

"Yes, but we have to get it out of its shell first," said Mom, and she crushed the shell with a stone.

"Here you are," said Mom, and she gave Alex the little nut.

"It tastes good!" he said. "Do you think Dad would like some pine nuts for his birthday, Mom?"

"Maybe," said Mom.

So Alex picked up lots of pine nuts and put them in the shopping bag. As they walked along, Alex noticed the sun reflecting off some stones. He picked one up.

"Look at this brown stone, Mom," he said. "It is so smooth. Do you think Dad would like it for his birthday?" asked Alex.

"Maybe," said Mom.

So Alex put the smooth brown stone in the shopping bag and off they went. Then Alex saw some wild blue flowers next to the path.

"Look at these flowers, Mom," said Alex. "They're the same colour as the sky."

"They are little wild flowers, and they're facing the sun," said Mom.

Alex picked one. "Do you think Dad would like this blue flower for his birthday, Mom?" he asked.

"Maybe," said Mom.



Alex put the little blue flower in the shopping bag.

Just then Alex and his mother reached the shop. Mom bought flour to make Dad a birthday cake. She also bought little candles to put on top of the cake.

When they got home, Mom baked the birthday cake and Alex took the pine nuts and the smooth stone and the little blue flower out of the shopping bag.

"Oh, no! Look," said Alex, "the little blue flower is curled up, and its face is closed."

"Yes," said Mom. "Wild flowers like to show their faces to the sun, and they like to stay in the ground."

"Oh," said Alex.

"Why don't you draw a picture for Dad for his birthday?" said Mom.

"Good idea," smiled Alex. He fetched his crayons and some paper to draw a picture for Dad. He drew a house with a red roof. Then he drew a big green tree next to the house. He added a garden path all the way from the front door to the edge of the page, and he drew blue flowers all along the path. He drew the blue sky at the top of the page and also a big yellow sun. Then he drew green grass at the bottom of the page. Finally he drew Dad, Mom and himself standing on the grass.

Then Dad came home from work.

"Happy birthday, Dad," said Alex and gave him his presents. First he gave Dad the pine nuts. "I love pine nuts," said Dad.

Next he gave Dad the smooth brown stone. "What a special stone!" said Dad. "I'll keep it in my pocket for luck!"

Then he gave Dad the drawing. "Oh!" said Dad. "This is our house and our tree and here we are! You, Mom and me. And I really like the blue flowers along the garden path."

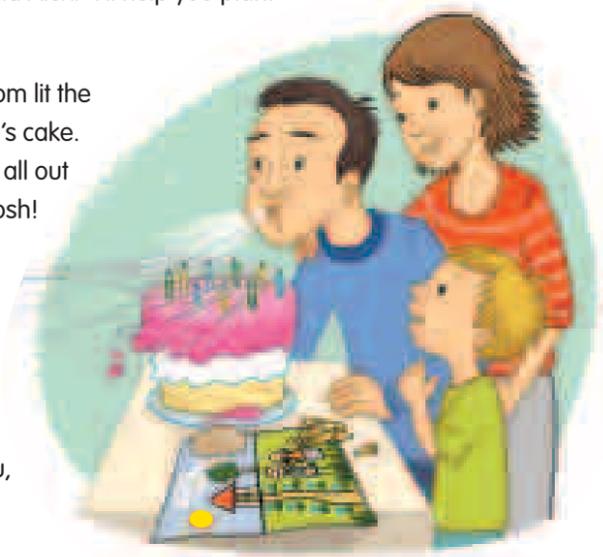
"Those blue flowers are the same blue as the sky," said Alex.

"Thank you for my birthday presents, Alex," said Dad, and he gave Alex a big hug. "I think we should plant some wild blue flowers," said Dad. "We'll plant them all along our garden path, just like the flowers in your picture."

"Good idea!" said Alex. "I'll help you plant them, Dad!"

After supper Mom lit the candles on Dad's cake. Dad blew them all out in one big whoosh! Alex and Mom sang "Happy Birthday" to Dad.

"I love finding presents for you, Dad," said Alex with a great big smile.





Ibali ngu-Ann Walton



Imifanekiso nguMagriet Brink

"Namhlanje lusuku lokuzalwa kukaTata," utshilo uMama.

"Ewe, ndifuna ukumnika isipho!" watsho u-Alex. "Ingaba ndingamnika ntoni, Mama?"

"Kufuneka siye evenkileni sithenge umgubo wengqolowa wokubhaka ikeyiki yosuku lokuzalwa kukaTata," watsho uMama. "Siza kuzama ukucinga ngesipho sikaTata endleleni eya evenkileni."

"Kulungile! Ndiza kuphatha isingxobo sokufaka izinto esizithengileyo," watsho u-Alex.

Wahamba ke u-Alex nomama wakhe ukuya evenkileni. U-Alex wayebaleka phambili kumama wakhe kulo ndledlana sele ide yombeka kukuhanjwa. Yayilusuku olumnandi kakhulu olu. Ilanga lalivelile ngaphaya kwaloo mithi yompayini, liqaqambisa amandongomane embewu yawo ewele phantsi emhlabeni. U-Alex wachola enye yaloo mbewu.

"Jonga, Mama. Yintoni le?" wabuza umama wakhe.

"Ngamandongomane embewu yompayini," watsho uMama.

"Akhangeleka ngathi aneempiko," watsho u-Alex.

"Okokwenzelwe ukuze imbewu ikwazi ukubhabha emoyeni, iye kufumana indawo efanelekileyo ize ikhule apho ukuze ibe ngomnye umthi wompayini," watsho uMama. "Onke la mandongomane ayimbewu asemhlabeni awe esuka kwimibhumbulu yemithi yompayini."



"Ndingangcamla elinye lawo?" wabuza u-Alex.

"Ewe, kodwa kufuneka silikhuphe eqokobheni lalo kuqala," watsho uMama, waza waligximfa ngelitye iqokobhe.

"Nalo ke," watsho uMama, waza wanika u-Alex indongomane elincinane.

"Linencasa emnandi!" watsho. "Ucinga ukuba uTata angawathanda amandongomane njengesipho sosuku lwakhe lokuzalwa, Mama?"

"Mhlawumbi," watsho uMama.

Waza ke u-Alex wachola amandongomane ompayini amaninzi wawafaka engxoweni yokufaka izinto ezithengiweyo. Njengokuba behamba nje, u-Alex waqaphela ukuba ilanga likhazimlisa amanye aloo matye. Waza wachola lalinye kuwo.

"Jonga eli litye limdaka ngombala, Mama," utshilo. "Ligude kakhulu. Ucinga ukuba uTata angalithanda njengesipho sosuku lwakhe lokuzalwa?" wabuza u-Alex.

"Mhlawumbi," watsho uMama.

Wathi ke ngoko u-Alex wafaka ilitye eligudileyo nelimdaka ngebala engxoweni yokufaka izinto ezithengiweyo, baza baqhubeka nohambo. Bathe besahamba, u-Alex wabona iintyatyambo zasendle ezizuba ecaleni kwendledlana.

"Jonga ezi ntyatyambo, Mama," watsho u-Alex. "Zifana nqwa nesibhakabhaka."

"Ziintyatyambo ezincinane zasendle, kwaye zijonge ngqo elangeni," watsho uMama.

U-Alex wakha yanye. "Ucinga ukuba uTata angayithanda le ntyatyambo izuba njengesipho sosuku lwakhe lokuzalwa, Mama?" wabuza.

"Mhlawumbi," watsho uMama.

U-Alex wafaka iintyatyambo ezuba kwingxowa yokufaka izinto ezithengiweyo.

Kanye ngelo xesha u-Alex nomama wakhe bagaleleka evenkileni. UMama wathenga umgubo wengqolowa wokwenza ikeyiki kaTata yosuku lokuzalwa. Waza kananjalo wathenga namakhandlela amancinane aza kufakwa ngaphezulu ekeyikini.

Bathi bakufika ekhaya, uMama wabhaka ikeyiki yosuku lokuzalwa kukatata waze u-Alex wakhupha amandongomane ompayini nelitye eligudileyo elimdaka kwakunye nentyatyambo encinane ezuba kwingxowa yokufaka izinto ezithengiweyo.

"Owu, hayini! Jonga," watsho u-Alex, "intyatyambo encinane ezuba izisongile, kwaye ubuso bayo buvalekile."

"Ewe kaloku," watsho uMama. "Iintyatyambo zasendle zithanda ukuveza ubuso bazo elangeni, kwaye ziyakuthanda ukuhlala emhlabeni."

"Owu," watsho u-Alex.

"Kutheni ungazobi umfanekiso njengesipho sikaTata sosuku lokuzalwa?" umbuzile ebucebisa uMama.

"Licebo elihle kakhulu elo," wancuma u-Alex. Walanda iikhrayoni zakhe kwakunye nephepha ukuze azobele uTata umfanekiso. Wazoba indlu enophahla olubomvu. Waza ke emva koko wazoba umthi omkhulu oluhlaza ecaleni kwendlu leyo. Uthe ke wongeza indledlana eya esitiyeni esuka kumnyango wangaphambili wendlu ukuya ekupheleni kwephepha, ze wazoba iintyatyambo ezizuba ecaleni kwale ndledlana. Wazoba isibhakabhaka esizuba phezulu ephepheni kunye nelanga elikhulu elityheli. Emva koko ke wazoba ingca eluhlaza ezantsi ephepheni. Ekugqibeleni wazoba uTata, uMama kunye naye bemi apho engceni.

Uye wade wabuza ke uTata emsebenzini.

"Mini emnandi, Tata," watsho u-Alex waze wamnika izipho zakhe. Kuqala uthe wamnika amandongomane ompayini uTata. "Ndiyawathanda amandongomane ompayini," watsho uTata.

Ulandelise ngokumnika uTata ilitye eligudileyo nelimdaka ngombala. "Wawu, ilitye elihle kangaka!" watsho uTata. "Ndiza kuligcina epokothweni yam ukuze lindizisele amathamsanqa!"

Emva koko wanika uTata umzobo wakhe. "Yhu!" watsho uTata. "Le yindlu yethu nomthi wethu, ze ibe sithi aba! Nguwe, nguMama kunye nam. Kwaye ndizithanda ngenene ezi ntyatyambo zizuba zisecaleni kwale ndledlana."

"Eziya ntyatyambo zizuba zifana nqwa nesibhakabhaka," watsho u-Alex.

"Enkosi kakhulu ngeziphos zam zosuku lokuzalwa, Alex," watsho uTata, waza wamanga ngothando olukhulu. "Ndicinga ukuba masityale iintyatyambo zasendle ezizuba apha," watsho uTata. "Siza kuzityala ecaleni kwendledlana eya esitiyeni, kanye njengeentyatyambo ezisemfanekisweni wakho."

"Yingcinga elunge kakhulu leyo!" watsho u-Alex. "Ndiza kukuncedisa sizityale, Tata!"

Emva kwesidlo sangokuhlwa uMama walayita amakhandlela asekeyikini kaTata. UTata wawavuthela onke ngaxeshanye, wawacima pam! U-Alex noMama bacula ingoma ethi, "Min' emnandi kuwe" beculela uTata.

"Ndiyakuthanda ukukhangelela izipho, Tata," watsho u-Alex ngoncumo olubanzi.



