Stories of Africa
By Gcina Mhlophe

My grandmother was the first person to tell me stories. She encouraged my imagination to run wild, and I really believed in those laughing crocodiles and flying tortoises that she told me about. I loved her tales about the scary amaZimzim – the man-eating ogres – and many more fantastic creatures. Because of the way my grandmother told those stories to me, I learnt at a very young age to love language and to understand its power. But sometimes, when I have to express myself in English, which is the language I now use most often, I find that some things are not possible to say. Then I get frustrated and catch myself wishing that everyone spoke my mother tongue. Yet that never stops me from continuing to tell the wonderful stories of my people and share their imaginative richness with others.

Many of the stories I tell are taken from well-known traditional tales that the people of Africa have been telling to each other since the world began. Some of these stories from my childhood I have found in stories told and written in many other parts of the world. This is proof to me of the way in which people have always tried to make sense of life's mysteries and used stories to explain them to each other.

Is there still room for these ancient stories in our lives today? I say, “Yes!” Because any of these stories can be retold in different ways, so that it is possible for people of different ages and cultures to find what they need in it.

One of my favourite stories is about the woman who went down to the bottom of the sea to look for stories to bring back for the human world. I have told this tale to audiences in different countries all over the world, and so many times I have had the response: “You know, that story has made me realise that to find the answers I am looking for in my life, I need to look deep inside myself. I must search the depths of the ocean that is my own heart and soul.” Now what does a storyteller say to that?

Let's keep passing on the magic of Africa!

This article is adapted from the “Author’s note” of Stories of Africa by Gcina Mhlophe, and published by University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
Africa Day is celebrated each year on 25 April. It is the day on which we celebrate the start of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, as well as the freedom fought for by African countries. Here are a few of the latest children’s books that celebrate Africa, published by some South African publishers.

**The African Orchestra**

**Author:** Wendy Hartmann  
**Illustrator:** Joan Rankin  
**Publisher:** Jacana

With magical illustrations from Joan Rankin, and poetry from masterful storyteller, Wendy Hartmann, the rhyme lyrically captures the magic of the African sounds of nature. From the clicking of crickets to the crackle of the fire, follow the journey that celebrates these sounds, in the rhythm and music of Africa. The African Orchestras is also available in Afrikaans, isiXhosa and isiZulu.

**To stand a chance of winning a copy of The African Orchestra send your name, address and the title of the book in the language you would like it in to info@nalibali.org.**

**Dudu's Basket**

**Author:** Dianne Stewart  
**Illustrator:** Elizabeth Pulles  
**Publisher:** Jacana

When Dudu finishes weaving her first basket, by the light of the plump full moon, her uncle Jojo tells her that a first basket should always be given away. This is the story of Dudu’s basket and its journey through a number of cultures. It is also available in Afrikaans, isiXhosa and isiZulu.

**To stand a chance of winning a copy of Sing, Africa! send your name, address and the title of the book to info@nalibali.org.**

**Sing, Africa!**

**Author:** Patricia Schonstein  
**Publisher:** African Sun Press

This is a vibrant and magical collection of poems and songs based on themes of Africa, animals, peace and nature. It contains hand-action and counting rhymes and has a strong focus on ecology to stimulate in children a joyful awareness of the world around them. The drawings inside were done by children.

**To stand a chance of winning a copy of Sing, Africa! send your name, address and the title of the book in the language you would like it in to info@nalibali.org.**

**How Dassie Missed Getting a Tail**

**Author:** Sindiwe Magona  
**Illustrator:** Nicole Blomkamp  
**Publisher:** David Philip

All was well in the big, big forest. The king of the animals was very happy; his subjects were happy and they served him very well. Indeed. They served him so well that the king asked himself what he could do to make his people happier still. But one of the animals misses out on this opportunity. This story is available in all eleven official languages.

**Ka Moo Pela e Ileng ya Hloko Mohatla ka Teng**

**Author:** Dianne Magona  
**Illustrator:** Nicole Blomkamp  
**Publisher:** David Philip

Tshihle di ne di tsama ya hithile horong u mohobalohi. Mhorena wabo, dipholo a ho ne a thabile hulolo, bopo ba hae ba ne bo thabile mme bo sa sebeletsa hantle hulolo e le ka nne. Ba ne bo sa sebeletsa hantle horo morena a ileng a positse hore na ake a e ka elfa eng hore a tie a thabile ba hae bo sa le la. Empe a e imong wabo, dipholo a ile ya foswa ke monyetla ona. Pole ena e a tshihle sa dipuo tshihle le leloso a le mong tsa semusano.
Books have been available for some time in English, storyteller, Gcina Mhlophe. The stories are beautifully and original stories told by South Africa’s renowned African oral tradition. Each book features well-known of enchanting tales, steeped in the richness of the they are now also available in all eleven official languages.

Stories of Africa and Our Story Magic are collections of enchanting tales, steeped in the richness of the African and tradition. Each book features well-known and original stories told by South Africa’s renowned storyteller, Gcina Mhlophe. The stories are beautifully illustrated by a variety of local artists. Although these books have been available for some time in English, they are now also available in all eleven official languages.

It is the end of a long, hot day. The village friends had been in the fields planting milies, and are now on their way home. But there is a big surprise waiting for them. There, on the road near the village, a great big was before Lunga arrived … This story is available in all eleven official languages.

Today, We Plant a Chief

Author: Sindiwe Magona
Illustrator: Nicole Blomkamp
Publisher: Tafelberg

Nyaniso used to like going to Sunday School, but that was before Lunga arrived … This story is available in all eleven official languages.

The Name of the Tree is Bojabi

Author: Dianne Hofmeyr
Illustrator: Piet Grobler
Publisher: Human & Rousseau

The animals are so, so hungry. Then they see a beautiful tree, covered in ripe fruit smelling of the sweetest mangoes, fat as melons, juicy as pomegranates … But wrapped around the tree is the largest python they have ever seen. And Python will drive your imagination.
Get creative!

Here are some fun activities to grow your children's creativity and encourage them to have fun with reading and writing.

After you’ve read Kasanko’s dream, talk about some of these things with your children.

- How did Kasanko, King Dobulamani and Senzo each behave in good ways in the story?
- Who do you think the real hero of the story is? Why?
- Who of all the characters would you want as a friend? Why?

Can you retell the story? I will help you in your own way? Begin with, “Once upon a time there was a mother heron …” and then let everyone have a turn to add a piece of the story. Add your own interesting details and words to the story as you retell it.

Suggest that your children use scrap materials, Plasticine or playdough, glue and paint to recreate the glass mountain, magic daisies and the purple flowers he was sitting on from The glass mountain. Encourage them to think of ways to make the mountain look as if it is made of glass.

25 May is Africa Day and 1 June is International Children’s Day. Celebrate these days together by encouraging your children to make their own “Children of Africa” poster (like the one on page 1) with their friends. They will need a large sheet of paper or cardboard, smaller pieces of paper or photographs, glue, scissors, kokas and/or pencil crayons. Let them start by finding photographs of themselves or drawing pictures of themselves on small pieces of paper. Next, they should arrange the photographs or pictures on a large sheet of paper so that there is space to write under or next to each photograph/picture. After they have pasted down the pictures or photographs, let them take turns writing a few interesting facts about each other.

We are all Africans and together our memories create the story of Africa! Make your own memory cards to capture your stories. You will need pieces of cardboard that are about the size of a quarter of an A4 page, sheets of paper the same size, pencil crayons or crayons, scissors and glue. Start by spending some quiet time in which you each think of a memory that is special and important to you. Now think about six to eight moments in that memory that will help you tell the story of that memory. Draw a picture on a sheet of paper for each of these moments. Paste the pictures on the cardboard to create memory cards. Let everyone have a turn to show their memory cards one at a time as they tell the story of their memory.

Together with your children, have fun with poetry puzzles. Cut out words from magazines or newspapers, or write down some of your favourite words (including ones you have made up!) on slips of paper. Lay them out in front of you and then arrange some or all of the words in different combinations to create as many different poems as you can!

Tsena ke diketsa tse dingo tsa bothibasiso bakeng sa ho eketse boiqapelo ba hano ba hao le hao la kgohaletsa ho natefelwa ke holo le ho ngola.

Ha o qeta bo hala Toro ya Kasanko, bwa ka tse ding dingo tse dintha tsetra mmohlo le bana ba Hao.
- Kasanko, Morena Dobulamani le Senzo ba hlo la bo ishimwana hwangwa ka tsebela tse ntle paleng e, le mung e le mung wa bana?
- O nahaone hore mohale wa mene paleng ke e ke? Habaneng?
- Ke ofentse wa baphethwa bana bohle o a ka ratang ha e ka bota motswale wa hao? Habaneng?

Na o a qeta pheta hape pale a reng Xe a o thuza ka tsebela ya hao? Qala ka “Ba re e ne ne, ho kile la ebo la ebe le hore Hero ...” “membe e se fo a mung le e mung sebalaka sa ho konya karadwa e tseng paleng ena. Kenya dintho tsa hao tse kgohlhong le mantswe a monate paleng e ha o nito e o qeta pheta hape.

Etsa ithatho ya hore bana ba hao ba sebebedie dintho tse khohlelweng. Plasticine kopa letsopa la hapa botlaka, sekgomaretsi le lela ho bopa thaba ya galase, memufo wa methlho le diphalesa tse pere ntere a o a gilute ho tsamo ho Thaba ya galase. Bga kgohaletsy wo phana ditsela tse e o ebo ho hore hapha hape ga bohlole ho khwele tsa ka gadikeho.

La 25 Motshengan e Lesitsa la Afrika mmle la 1 Phuphane ke Lesitsa la Matlhuba la Bana. Ketekeng matsatsi ana mmmohlo ka ho kgohaletsenetsa bana ba Hao ho khetsetsha hovhutanga ya “Bana ba Afrika” le kbang le ekepheng la 11 mmmohlo le metswele wa yona. Bana fetsa lesephane le leho le impiri kopa letsa le tsebela ka diphakatsa, dikgetjana tsa impiri kopa diphaka, sekgomaretsi, sekeke, diklawi ka/heraka dikeraenyane tsa pentshele. E re ba qale ka ho ballo diphaka tse bana kopa kopa le tse ditshwankho tsa tsebela tsa impiri. Kamara mla bo lokota ho hlophisa diphaka tsebela ka ditshwankho le ke leho le metswele wa leho le metswele le bohlole la leho le metswele la hapa metsa le e leho le metswele la hapa.

Mmohlo le bana ba Hao, ithatho ba diphakatsa tsetse tse ho ditshwankho. Sehoang mantswele be kaleng se tsetse tse ditshwankho le metswele tse ditshwankho tse metswele tse metswele tse ditshwankho tse ditshwankho.

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.

Nal'ibali on Radio!
Tune in to your favourite SABC radio station and enjoy listening to children's stories! To find out the days and times that Nal'ibali is on the radio, go to www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.

Nal'ibali RadioYong!
Bulela seteishene sa radio se o se ratanga sa SABC mme o natefelwa ke ho mamele dipala tse bana. Ho fumana mantsatsi le dintho tsa Nal'ibali le ekgogong ka tsetse e ke leho, eey ho - www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.

NALIBALI ON RADIO!
Tune in to your favourite SABC radio station and enjoy listening to children's stories! To find out the days and times that Nal'ibali is on the radio, go to www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.

NALIBALI RADIYONG!
Bulela seteishene sa radio se o se ratanga sa SABC mme o natefelwa ke ho mamele dipala tse bana. Ho fumana mantsatsi le dintho tsa Nal'ibali le ekgogong ka tsetse e ke leho, eey ho - www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.

Lalelani Mbhele
Gcina Mhlophe
Olivia Villet

Andrea Abbott          Olivia Villet          Fathima Kathrada

I Will Help You
Toro ya Kasanko
Ke tla o thusa
I will help you

ISBN 9780992235734
English

www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/

Who of all the characters would you want as a friend? Why?

Who do you think the real hero of the story is? Why?

Now think about six to eight moments in that memory that will help you tell the story of that memory. Draw a picture on a sheet of paper for each of these moments. Paste the pictures on the cardboard to create memory cards. Let everyone have a turn to show their memory cards one at a time as they tell the story of their memory.

Together with your children, have fun with poetry puzzles. Cut out words from magazines or newspapers, or write down some of your favourite words (including ones you have made up!) on slips of paper. Lay them out in front of you and then arrange some or all of the words in different combinations to create as many different poems as you can!
Kasanko had always liked Senzo. He called the man over to come and sit beside him. Soon, he found himself pouring out all his troubles. Senzo listened quietly to his story, and sat frowning in thought for a long while. Then he said: “If I were you, Kasanko, this is what I would do.”

The English versions of Stories of Africa and Our Story Magic, colourfully illustrated by artists from KwaZulu-Natal, continue to offer a feast of enjoyment for young and old readers alike. Steeped in the imaginative richness of African oral tradition and featuring well-known and original tales told by the popular Queen of Storytelling, Gcina Mhlophe, they are now available in translation in isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Tshepo, Tsotsi, Setswana, SiSwati, Setsoto, isiNdebele and Afrikaans.
Once there lived a man called Kasanko, who was a very well-liked and respected ironmonger. He made all sorts of wonderful things out of iron – tools and special metal boxes, unusual bracelets, necklaces and rings. Most of all, he enjoyed making things that others could not make. Kasanko took great pride in his work and everything he made was so special to him that he sometimes found it hard to part with his things. His work was always in demand and he was often asked to make special items for the King.

Whenever King Dabulamanzi called him to the Great Palace, Kasanko was never sure what to expect. The King often got bored and sometimes, just to amuse himself, he would ask people to do the most impossible things for him. When they failed, he chased them out of his Kingdom. So far, Kasanko had escaped this fate. He was one man the King really respected, so people said.

"You can go home now, Kasanko. The bags of hair will be delivered to your house in the next few days and the 100 litres of tears will soon follow." And so the King made his promise. But Kasanko could see that Dabulamanzi was not as excited as before. Kasanko said goodbye and left.

A few days later, the 50 bags of hair arrived on Kasanko's doorstep. The King's soldiers had gone from village to village shaving everybody – men, women and children – on the King's orders.

Then the news spread all over the kingdom that the King needed 100 litres of tears to help make a living iron man. Big clay pots were brought for people to cry into. As commanded, everyone walked around looking very sad. Some people managed to cry as instructed, but others just could not cry on command.

So the King ordered his soldiers to beat the people up and make them cry. Yes, thousands of people were reduced to tears by the painful beatings. This soon had them fighting back. Even the soldiers hated the stupidity of what they were being ordered to do. In the end, it did not help very much anyway, because it was almost impossible to collect the tears. People wiped their tears away from habit. Or the hot African sun dried the tears on their cheeks as fast as they flowed.

"Ka kopo Ntate, matshwafo fatshe, moya fatshe!" ha kopa mosadi wa hae. "Ho tla jwang morena a lebelle hore wena o etse ntho e sa etsahaleng?" "O a di bona ditshepe tseo tsa kgale tse ka ntle? Ke tsona hee tse tla etsa mmele! Ha a bolela hore na dikarolo tse ding ke lokela ho di etsa jwang. Tseba hore ha nka se kgone, ke ya shweleng." Kasanko o ne a halefisitswe ke boitshepo ba Morena. O ile a kwalla kgalefo ka hare ho yena, ha a ntse a nahana seo a tla se etsa. Matsatsi a nna a tsamaya, feela monahano wa hae o bohlale o ne o sa tle ka thuso. Mosadi wa hae o ne a kgathatsehile haholo ka yena.
Get involved at bookdash.org

We believe every child should own a hundred books by the age of five.

Become a book-sponsor and help change the world.

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


On the way, he stops to play with his friends in the river.

Andrea Abbott
Olivia Villet
Fathima Kathrada

The next day, Gogo sends Lungile to the shop to buy bread.

I will help you
Ke tla o thusa
“I will help you,” says Lungile.

“Thank you, Lungile!”

“Ke a leboha, Lungile.”

“Ke a leboha, Lungile!”

“Thank you, Lungile.”

“Ke a leboha, Mme Heron.”

“Ouch!” Mama Heron hurts her wing and leg on barbed wire.

“Eish! The money is gone.”

“Jowee! Tlhelele e nyamele.”

“Thank you, Mama Heron.”

“Ke a leboha, Mme Heron.”
Mama Heron’s sharp eyes see the coins shining in the water.

Mahlo a bohale a Mme Heron a bona tjhelete e benyang ka metsing.
“Why are you crying, Lungile?” asks Mama Heron.

“I lost the money Gogo gave me to buy bread. We have no supper now.”

“I will help you,” says Mama Heron.

“I am hurt. I can’t get home to my children,” she says.

“Ke lemetse. Ha ke kgone ho ya lapeng baneng ba ka,” o rialo.

“Ke tla o thusa,” Ho rialo Mme Heron.

“Ke kopa thuso hle.”

“Ke lahlile tjhelete eo Nkgono a neng a itse ke ilo reka bohobe ka yona. Jwale ha re na dijo tsa mantsiboya.”

“Please help me.”
“You see all that scrap iron outside? Well that is for the body. How he expects me to do the rest he did not say. But if I fail, I am a dead man.”

Kasanko was furious with the arrogant King. He kept his anger to himself, however, while he tried to work out what to do next. Days went by, but his usually clever imagination did not come to his rescue. His wife was desperately worried about him.

One day, Kasanko went walking alone in the hills. He sat down on a hilltop to rest, grateful for the cool breeze on his hot face as he tried to think of some way out of his dilemma. All at once, he saw someone coming up the path towards him. It was a man called Senzo, who the people of the village called “crazy Senzo”. This was because he talked to himself, laughed out loud at nothing, and sometimes did strange things. But since he never harmed anyone, everyone left him alone. Sometimes, people said, he could help you laugh on a sad day.

Kasanko was very proud of his school and the achievements of its talented pupils. And remember “crazy” Senzo? Well, he became one of Kasanko’s closest friends. He was known from then on as Senzo the Wise, and treated with a lot more respect by everyone.

As for King Dabulamanzi, he learnt to respect his people. He stopped dishing out impossible commands that no one could carry out and became one of the most popular kings of all time.

Kasanko was very proud of his school and the achievements of its talented pupils. And remember “crazy” Senzo? Well, he became one of Kasanko’s closest friends. He was known from then on as Senzo the Wise, and treated with a lot more respect by everyone.

As for King Dabulamanzi, he learnt to respect his people. He stopped dishing out impossible commands that no one could carry out and became one of the most popular kings of all time.
One day the King’s messenger arrived to summon Kasanko to the palace, instructing him to be there first thing the following morning. Kasanko wondered what awaited him. He rose early the next day, and went to the Great Palace, where King Dabulamanzi was waiting for him. He told Kasanko that he wanted him to take these long used. He told Kasanko that he wanted him to take these things away, and out of them, make a person. Yes, a person – with a mind to think, a voice to speak and lungs to breathe. In every way just like a human, except that he would have an iron body which would never grow old.

Kasanko stood shocked and dismayed by the King’s request. “I must tell you right now that I can’t perform this task for you. It is impossible, O King, to make a living person out of iron. So you might as well kill me right now!”


But the King just laughed at his words and said: “Oh you are so modest with a mind to think, a voice to speak and lungs to breathe. In every way just like a human, except that he would have an iron body which would never grow old.

One day the King’s messenger arrived to summon Kasanko to the palace, instructing him to be there first thing the following morning. Kasanko wondered what awaited him. He rose early the next day, and went to the Great Palace, where King Dabulamanzi was waiting for him. He told Kasanko that he wanted him to do something very special for him. The King then led him outside, to a large pile of broken iron chairs, spears, knives and all kinds of old tools that were no longer used. He told Kasanko that he wanted him to take these things away, and out of them, make a person. Yes, a person – with a mind to think, a voice to speak and lungs to breathe. In every way just like a human, except that he would have an iron body which would never grow old.

Kasanko stood shocked and dismayed by the King’s request. “I must tell you right now that I can’t perform this task for you. It is impossible, O King, to make a living person out of iron. So you might as well kill me right now!”

But the King just laughed at his words and said: “Oh you are so modest Kasanko! Of course you can do this thing. I know your special talent. You can do anything you put your mind to. I am counting on you – so please, don’t disappoint me.”

Kasanko tried to protest further. But the King would not listen to anything he said. Instead, he ordered his servants to carry the big pile of scrap metal off to Kasanko’s home. The whole village stared in open-mouthed amazement as the royal party arrived bearing the mountain of old iron junk. Kasanko’s wife took one look at her husband’s distraught face and knew that something very bad was happening.

“If I was a child, I would throw myself on the ground and cry!” Kasanko told her. “The King has gone too far this time. He has ordered me to make a human. Am I God, I ask myself?”

Kasanko’s wife took one look at her husband’s distraught face and mouthed amazement as the royal party arrived bearing the mountain of old scrap metal off to Kasanko’s home. The whole village stared in open-mouthed amazement as the royal party arrived bearing the mountain of old scrap metal off to Kasanko’s home.
Children of Africa

To celebrate Africa Day on 25 May and International Children’s Day on 1 June, here is a special poster of the Nal’ibali children for you to cut out and keep.

Name: Bella
Age: 5 years
Brothers/sisters: none
Languages: IsiXhosa, English
Favourite colour: green
Favourite snack: bananas
Favourite books: stories about animals, queens and witches
Favourite activity: reading to her dog, Noodle

Lebitso: Bella
Dilemo: 5
Baholwane/dikgaitsedi: IsiXhosa, English
Dipuo: IsiXhosa, English
Mmala ao o a ratisisang: o matlapedu
Senaeke seo a se ratisisang: o dikang
Dibuka tseo a di ratisisang: dipalo tse mabapi le diaphofofa
Ketsa eo a e ratisisang: ho bapala bolo ya moale

Name: Neo
Age: 8 years
Brothers/sisters: Mbali
Languages: IsiXhosa, English
Favourite colour: red
Favourite snack: ice cream
Favourite books: stories about pirates
Favourite activity: playing soccer

Lebitso: Neo
Dilemo: 8
Baholwane/dikgaitsedi: Mbali
Dipuo: IsiXhosa, English
Mmala ao o a ratisisang: o motlapedu
Senaeke seo a se ratisisang: o dikang
Dibuka tseo a di ratisisang: dipalo tse mabapi le diaphofofa
Ketsa eo a e ratisisang: ho bapala bolo ya moale

Bana ba Afrika

Ha keteka Letsatsi la Afrika ka la 25 Motshoaneang le Letsatsi la Bana la Lefatshe ka la 1 Phupane, phoasetara e ikethiling ka ena ya bana ba Nal’ibali eo o ka e seheng le ho ipoleka yona.

Name: Bella
Age: 2 years
Brothers/sisters: Neo
Languages: IsiZulu
Favourite colour: pink
Favourite snack: pink cupcakes
Favourite books: rhymes
Favourite activity: dressing up

Lebitso: Bella
Dilemo: 2
Baholwane/dikgaitsedi: Neo
Dipuo: IsiZulu
Mmala ao o a ratisisang: pinki
Senaeke seo a se ratisisang: dikgwakhwikoe tse pinki
Dibuka tseo a di ratisisang: ts’a diphakwe
Ketsa eo a e ratisisang: ho bapala bolo ya moale

Name: Mbali
Age: 2 years
Brothers/sisters: Neo
Languages: IsiZulu
Favourite colour: pink
Favourite snack: pink cupcakes
Favourite books: rhymes
Favourite activity: dressing up

Lebitso: Mbali
Dilemo: 2
Baholwane/dikgaitsedi: Neo
Dipuo: IsiZulu
Mmala ao o a ratisisang: pinki
Senaeke seo a se ratisisang: dikgwakhwikoe tse pinki
Dibuka tseo a di ratisisang: ts’a diphakwe
Ketsa eo a e ratisisang: ho bapala bolo ya moale

Name: Neo
Age: 9 months
Brothers/sisters: Mbali
Languages: Sesotho
Favourite colour: doesn’t have one yet
Favourite snack: strawberry yoghurt
Favourite books: books with pictures of babies and animals
Favourite activity: splashing in water

Lebitso: Neo
Dilemo: dikgvedi tse 9
Baholwane/dikgaitsedi: Mbali
Dipuo: Sesotho
Mmala ao o a ratisisang: ho na boa
Senaeke seo a se ratisisang: yakele ya sebona
Dibuka tseo a di ratisisang: dibuka tse nang le diphwoanahlo ho bana le diaphofofa
Ketsa eo a e ratisisang: ho bapala bolo ya moale

Name: Mbali
Age: 9 months
Brothers/sisters: Neo
Languages: Sesotho
Favourite colour: pink
Favourite snack: pink cupcakes
Favourite books: rhymes
Favourite activity: dressing up

Lebitso: Mbali
Dilemo: 2
Baholwane/dikgaitsedi: Neo
Dipuo: Sesotho
Mmala ao o a ratisisang: pinki
Senaeke seo a se ratisisang: dikgwakhwikoe tse pinki
Dibuka tseo a di ratisisang: ts’a diphakwe
Ketsa eo a e ratisisang: ho bapala bolo ya moale

Name: Josh
Age: 10 years
Brothers/sisters: none
Languages: Afrikaans, English
Favourite colour: blue
Favourite snack: salt and vinegar chips
Favourite books: teen novels and books about aeroplanes
Favourite activity: building and flying kites

Lebitso: Josh
Dilemo: 10
Baholwane/dikgaitsedi: ha a na bona
Dipuo: English, Afrikaans, IsiZulu
Mmala ao o a ratisisang: Parelse
Senaeke seo a se ratisisang: dikgwakhwikoe tse kassel
Dibuka tseo a di ratisisang: diolahla tse mabapi le bana le kagetsing le yena
Ketsa eo a e ratisisang: ho bapala kareto

Name: Bella
Age: 5 years
Brothers/sisters: none
Languages: IsiXhosa, English
Favourite colour: green
Favourite snack: bananas
Favourite books: stories about animals, queens and witches
Favourite activity: reading to her dog, Noodle

Lebitso: Bella
Dilemo: 5
Baholwane/dikgaitsedi: ha a na bana
Dipuo: IsiXhosa, English
Mmala ao o a ratisisang: o matlapedu
Senaeke seo a se ratisisang: o dikang
Dibuka tseo a di ratisisang: dipalo tse mabapi le diaphofofa, matumahadi le bolo
Ketsa eo a e ratisisang: ho bapala bolo ya moale
A long time ago, the place at the foot of Table Mountain that we now call Cape Town, was dry and empty. At that time, it was said that Table Mountain was made of glass and that a magic dassie who granted wishes, lived at the very top.

Men and women came from all across South Africa and tried to climb the glass mountain to get to the magic dassie, but the sides of the mountain were very slippery and no matter how hard they tried, no one could make it to the top.

One day, a young boy called Khwezi arrived in Cape Town. He wanted to get to the top of the mountain. That night, he went into the veld and found Leopard.

“Leopard,” Khwezi said, “I need to ask you a favour. If you help me, I promise that I will fill this dry, empty land with plants and animals. You will never go hungry again.”

Leopard looked hungrily at the boy. “Why should I help you? I could just eat you, you know,” said Leopard licking his lips. And then Leopard thought some more about Khwezi’s offer and said, “Actually a land filled with plants and animals sounds wonderful. I accept. What do you need?”

“You are very good at climbing, and with your sharp claws, we should be able to get to the top of the glass mountain,” said Khwezi, getting onto Leopard’s back.

They walked through the veld, across the dry land, all the way to the glass mountain.

At the bottom of the mountain, Leopard dug his claws into the slippery glass sides, and started to climb up. It took a long time and they had to climb very slowly. When they were about halfway up, Leopard sighed. “I’m too tired to carry on,” he said, lying down against the glass. “It’s impossible to get to the top, even with my claws.”

Vulture, who was a big scary bird, circled in the sky above them.

“I have an idea,” said Khwezi, “let’s lie here and pretend to be dead.”

So they lay down on the glass and pretended to be dead. Soon, Vulture landed, thinking he had found something good to eat.

“How tasty,” said Vulture. “What good luck!”

“How!” shouted Khwezi, jumping from Leopard’s back and grabbing hold of Vulture’s claws. He held on tightly. Vulture shrieked in surprise and flew into the sky, carrying Khwezi off with him. Leopard watched them go and then slid slowly back down the side of the mountain.

On his way down the mountain, Khwezi found Leopard sleeping in the shade of a tree.

“Well done,” said Leopard, half asleep.

Khwezi patted him and carried on walking down the mountain. When he reached the bottom, Khwezi was met by a crowd of people who cheered and lifted him onto their shoulders. Then they had a big party to celebrate. After a long time more and more people came to live in the land around Table Mountain, and they made a city that would later be called Cape Town.
Mehleng ya kailekgale, sebaka se tlase ho Table Mountain se jwale re se bitsang Cape Town, se ne se omme mme se se na letho. Ka nako eo, ho ne ho thwre Table Mountain ene e entswa ka galase mme mmutla wa mehiolo o neng o fana ka tseo batho ba di lakatsang, o ne o dula hodimo qhoweng ya thaba.

Banna le basadi ba na ba etla ba tswa ka makgalo oihle a Afrika Borwa mme be leka ho palama thaba ya galase ho ya ho mmutla wa mehiolo, empa mahlakore a thaba a ne a thella haholo mme le ha ba ne ba ka leka ka thata jweng kapa jweng, ho ne ho se na ya finyellang ka hodimo.

Ka tsatsi le leng, moshanyana e mong yo bitsang Kwedi le hofela thaba ya galase ho ya ho mmutla wa mehlolo o neng o fana ka tseo batho ba di lakatsang, o ne o dula hodimo qhoweng ya thaba.

“Lengau,” Kwedi a rialo, “ke batla ho o kopa molemo o itseng. Ha o ka nthusa, ke o tshepisa hore ke tla tlatsa naha ena e omme, e se nang letho ka dijalo le diphoofolo. O keke wa hilo o lopa le kgale.”

Lengau a shebella mme a kopana le Lengau.

“Lengau!” Kwedi a rialo, “ke batla ho o kopa molemo o itseng. Ha o ka nthusa, ke o tshepisa hore ke tla tlatsa naha ena e omme, e se nang letho ka dijalo le diphoofolo. O keke wa hilo o lopa le kgale.”

Lengau a shebella mme a kopana le Lengau.

“Lengau!” Kwedi a rialo, “ke batla ho o kopa molemo o itseng. Ha o ka nthusa, ke o tshepisa hore ke tla tlatsa naha ena e omme, e se nang letho ka dijalo le diphoofolo. O keke wa hilo o lopa le kgale.”

Lengau a shebella mme a kopana le Lengau.

“Lengau!” Kwedi a rialo, “ke batla ho o kopa molemo o itseng. Ha o ka nthusa, ke o tshepisa hore ke tla tlatsa naha ena e omme, e se nang letho ka dijalo le diphoofolo. O keke wa hilo o lopa le kgale.”

Lengau a shebella mme a kopana le Lengau.

“Lengau!” Kwedi a rialo, “ke batla ho o kopa molemo o itseng. Ha o ka nthusa, ke o tshepisa hore ke tla tlatsa naha ena e omme, e se nang letho ka dijalo le diphoofolo. O keke wa hilo o lopa le kgale.”

Lengau a shebella mme a kopana le Lengau.

“Lengau!” Kwedi a rialo, “ke batla ho o kopa molemo o itseng. Ha o ka nthusa, ke o tshepisa hore ke tla tlatsa naha ena e omme, e se nang letho ka dijalo le diphoofolo. O keke wa hilo o lopa le kgale.”

Lengau a shebella mme a kopana le Lengau.

“Lengau!” Kwedi a rialo, “ke batla ho o kopa molemo o itseng. Ha o ka nthusa, ke o tshepisa hore ke tla tlatsa naha ena e omme, e se nang letho ka dijalo le diphoofolo. O keke wa hilo o lopa le kgale.”

Lengau a shebella mme a kopana le Lengau.
Use your imagination to tell the rest of this story.

Neo put the book under his pillow and got out of bed. He crept quietly to the front door so that he wouldn’t wake anyone up. He opened the door slowly. On the front doorstep was …

Sebedisa boinahanelo ba hao ho pheta karolo e setseang ya pale ena.

Neo o ile a bea buka ka tla ka mosamo wa hae mm e a theoha betheng. A kgoa ga ha ya lematleng le ka pele e le horo a tle a se ke a tsosa batho. A bula lemati butle. Ka ntle ho mongako o ka pele ho ne ho ena le …

Be a word detective and find these words in the story, “Kasanko’s dream”.

Choose any word:
• that describes Kasanko __________________________
• that describes Senzo ____________________________
• that describes a feeling __________________________
• that names a place ______________________________
• that rhymes with “night” _________________________
• that starts with the letters pr- ____________________
• that ends with the letters -ness ____________________
• with 7 letters __________________________________
• with more than 10 letters _________________________
• that is new to you _______________________________

Eba lefokisi mme o batlane le mantswe ana paleng ena, “Toro ya Kasanko”.

Kgatha lefokisi lele ka lefe:
• le hlalosang Kasanko __________________________
• le hlalosang Senzo ____________________________
• le hlalosang makutla __________________________
• le bolelang sebaka ____________________________
• le raemang le “bohale” _________________________
• le qalang ka ditlhaku tse ka bath- __________________
• le fellang ka ditlhaku tseka -tsake __________________
• le nang le ditlhaku tse 7 ________________________
• le nang le ditlhaku tse tsetheng 10 ______________
• leo o qalang ho le utlwa ________________________