



## Creating change through stories

By Wonder Chabalala

When last did you read a good book just to get lost in another world and stay there for some time learning new words or new ways of using words and simply savouring each moment? As a publisher and a book lover, I hate finishing a good book as it means having to find a new one – something which isn't always that easy!

I grew up around books. In my childhood, every household owned a Dover stove. In a typical scene, Mother would be making supper and the whole family would be gathered in the candle-lit kitchen listening to the radio or to our parents telling stories. We didn't worry about data or load shedding! It was this family time that bonded us as a family and instilled my love of words and stories.

I still share books with my sister and brothers today. When we meet, we speak about the books we've read and what we've learnt from them. It's a real book club moment when we realise that we have all learnt and experienced something different but equally valuable from a book.

It's important to me that we grow a nation of strong and powerful readers. But how do we change the phrase "black Africans don't read"? We have good books about South Africa written by black South Africans. Books that are illustrated and have great story lines about our country. This is how we share our cultures and tell our stories. Let's discover the treasures and knowledge which are hidden inside books so that we can share this with future generations.

Storytelling has been around for so many years; let's preserve that. Let's find time to read to our children and teach them how to read and write in their mother tongues. Let's build a culture of reading and sharing words and story worlds. Great leaders write and read books. What kind of leader are you? What kind of leader do you want your children to be?

*Wonder Chabalala has worked with and been inspired by books all his life. He is currently the Marketing Manager for the African branch of Cambridge University Press.*



## Ukudala utshintsho ngamabali

Kubhale uWonder Chabalala

Wagqibela nini ukufunda incwadi emnandi usenzela nje ukuba ube kwelinye ilizwe kwaye uhlale apho okwexeshana ufunda amagama amatsha okanye iindlela ezintsha zokusebenzisa amagama ze wonwabele kwaye unambithe umzuzu ngamnye, uduke kwelo hlabathi? Njengompapashi kwakunye nomthandi weencwadi, andikuthandi ukugqiba ukufunda incwadi emnandi kuba oko kuthetha ukuba kufuneka ndikhangelele enye – nto leyo ke engasoloko ilula!

Ndikhulele ezincwadini. Ebuntwaneni bam, yonke imizi endiyaziyo yayinesitovu seDover. Yayisisiqhelo into yokuba kubonwe uMama exakekile, epheka isidlo sangokuhlwa lo gama lonke usapho luqokelelene ekhithshini, phantsi kokukhanya kwekhandlela, kuphulaphulwe unomathotholo okanye abazali bethu bebalisa amabali. Sasingenaxhala lakuphelelwa ngumoya kwiiselula zethu okanye sisoyika ukucinyelwa umbane onkinkishwayo! Yayileli xesha ke elalisimanya njengosapho, ze laphemba umlilo wothando lwamagama kunye namabali kum.

Nanamhlanje oku ndisabelana ngeencwadi nodadewethu kunye nabantakwethu. Xa sihlangele, sincokola ngeencwadi esizifundileyo kunye neemfundiso esizifunde kwezo ncwadi. Elona xesha leklabhu yokufunda lokwenene kuxa sifumanisa ukuba sonke sifunde nto kwaye safumana amava ngezinto ezithile ezahlukileyo nezixabisekileyo kwezo ncwadi sihe sazifunda.

Kum kubalulekile ukuba sikhulise isizwe sezikhakhamela zabafundi abomeleleyo. Kodwa siyitshintsha njani intetho ithi, "ama-Afrika antsundu akafundi"? Sineencwadi ezimnandi ezingoMzantsi Afrika nezibhalwe ngabemi abantsundu boMzantsi Afrika. Ezi ziincwadi ezinemifanekiso emihle nezinemixholo enomdla emalunga neli lizwe lethu. Le yindlela esabelana ngayo ngeencwadi zethu nesibalisa ngayo amabali ethu. Sonke masifumane ubutyebi nolwazi olufihlwe ngaphakathi ezincwadini, ukuze sabelane ngalo nezizukulwana ngezizukulwana ezizayo.

Ukubalisa amabali yinto ekudala kakhulu ikhona; kwaye ifuna ukuba siyilondoloze. Kufuneka sizenike ixesha lokufundela abantwana bethu kwaye sibafundise indlela yokufunda nokubhala ngeelwimi zabo zeenkobe. Masakhe inkcubeko yokufunda neyokwabelana ngamagama kunye namabali ukuze singene siphuma kumazwe ngamazwe amabali. Iinkokheli ezihlonitshwayo zinkokheli ezibhalayo nezifunda iincwadi. Wena, ingaba uyinkokheli enjani? Ingaba unqwenela ukuba abantwana bakho bangaziinkokheli ezinjani?

*NguWonder Chabalala osebenza ngeencwadi novuselelwa ziincwadi ubomi bakhe bonke. Kungoku nje nguMlawuli wezeNtengiso kwisebe elise-Afrika leCambridge University Press.*



Drive your imagination

Story Power.  
Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.  
Naphi na. Nanini na. Nabani na.

*Nalibali*  
It starts with a story...



## Nal'ibali news

In June 2016, Nal'ibali announced an exciting new campaign called "FUNda Leader"! Could you be a FUNda Leader? Read on to find out more.

### What is the FUNda Leader Campaign?

The FUNda Leader Campaign is a call to all South Africans to be literacy activists! It supports people and connects them as they go about encouraging adults and children at work and/or in their communities to read for pleasure.

### How is this different from what Nal'ibali has done before?

Since 2012, Nal'ibali has partnered with other organisations to grow a reading culture in South Africa. Now, we are opening up this opportunity to members of the public.

### Who can be a FUNda Leader?

A FUNda Leader is someone who wants to:

- ♥ grow a love of storytelling and reading among adults and children
- ♥ pass on the power of reading and stories
- ♥ grow a nation of strong and powerful readers
- ♥ join the growing wave of literacy change that is sweeping across our country.

### How does it work?

You'll start by signing up to the Nal'ibali network.

- ♥ Then, Nal'ibali will give you the training and support you need to do simple things to grow literacy, and we'll proudly keep a record of all the great things you do!
- ♥ You'll be able to share your FUNda Leader experiences and photographs on Nal'ibali's social media platforms so that everyone can see what you're doing.
- ♥ Through social media we'll connect you with other FUNda Leaders so that you can share ideas, work together or just grow your network of people who are as passionate about helping children develop a love of reading as you are.
- ♥ Active FUNda Leaders will get special offers and be able to enter competitions. They could also have the opportunity to attend the annual conference of the FUNda Leader network.

### How do I join?

If you're ready to stand up and be a FUNda Leader, get in touch with Nal'ibali right away! Contact us by email on [info@nalibali.org](mailto:info@nalibali.org) or by phoning us on 02 11 804080. Find out more about the FUNda Leader Campaign at [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) or [www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi).



## Iindaba zakwaNal'ibali

KweyeSilimela kowama-2016, uNal'ibali ubhengeze iphulo elivuselelayo nelitsha, elibizwa ngokuba, "yiFUNda Leader"! Ingaba wena ungayiyi iFUNda Leader? Qhubeka, ufunde ukuze ufumane ngakumbi.

### Yintoni iphulo leFUNda Leader?

Iphulo leFUNda Leader likhwelo elijolise kubo bonke abemi boMzantsi Afrika ukuba babengamatsha-ntliziyi elitheresi! Lixhasa ze linxibelelanise abantu abaxakekileyo bezama ukukhuthaza abantu abadala, ulutsha nabantwana emisebenzini kunye/okanye nasekuhlaleni ukuba bafundele ukuzonwabisa.

### Eli phulo lahluke njani kwezinye izinto esele zenziwe nguNal'ibali ngaphambili?

Ukususela kowama-2012, uNal'ibali usebenzisene neminye imibutho ukuze aphuhlise inkcubeko yokufunda eMzantsi Afrika. Ngoku ke, sivulela eli thuba ukuze namanye amalungu oluntu abe nokuzibandakanya nokufunda.

### Ngubani onokuba yiFUNda Leader?

IFUNda Leader ngumntu ofuna:

- ♥ ukukhulisa aphuhlise uthando lokubalisa amabali kunye nokufunda phakathi kwabantu abadala kunye nabantwana
- ♥ ukudlulisa amandla okufunda kunye namandla amabali
- ♥ ukukhulisa isizwe esinobungangamsha kunye nabafundi abanamandla
- ♥ ukuzimanya notshintsho lwelitheresi olukhulayo nolutyhutyha kulo lonke eli lizwe lethu.

### Isebenza njani?

Kuza kufuneka uqale ngokubhalisa kwisixokelelwano seNal'ibali.

- ♥ Emva koko ke, uNal'ibali uza kukunika uqeqesho nenkxaso oyidingayo ukuze wenze izinto ezilula zokukhulisa, uphuhlise ilitheresi, ze ke sigcine irekhodi lazo zonke izinto ezintle ozenziweyo!
- ♥ Uza kubanakho nokwabelana nabanye ngamava akho kunye neefoto zakho zeFUNda Leader kumajelo oluntu onxibelelwano kaNal'ibali ukuze wonke umntu akubone ukuba wenza ntoni na.
- ♥ Ngamajelo onxibelelwano oluntu siza kukunxibelelanisa nezinye iiFUNda Leader ukuze nabelane ngeengcebiso, nisebenzisane okanye nandise isixokelelwano sabantu abakuthanda kakhulu ukunceda abantwana ukuze baphuhlise uthando lwabo lokufunda njengawe.
- ♥ IiFUNda Leader ezisebenzayo ziza kufumana izinto ezikhethekileyo kwaye zibenakho ukungenela iintlobo ezahlukileyo zokhuphiswano. Kananjalo zingafumana nethuba lokuzimasa inkomfa yonyaka yesixokelelwano seFUNda Leader.

### Ndingajoyina njani?

Ukuba ufuna ukuba yiFUNda Leader, qhagamshelana noNal'ibali ngawo lo mzuzu! Sithumelele i-imeyili ku-[info@nalibali.org](mailto:info@nalibali.org) okanye usitsalele umnxeba ku-02 11 804080. Fumana iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe malunga nephulo leFUNda Leader ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) okanye ku-[www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi).



## 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/](http://www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/).



## UNAL'IBALI KUNOMATHOTHOLO!

Khangela esona sikhululo sikanomathotholo usithandayo kwijelo losasazo lakwa-SABC ukuze wonwabele ukumamela amabali abantwana! Ukuze ufumane iintsuku kunye namaxesha uNal'ibali akunomathotholo ngawo, yiya ku-[www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/](http://www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/).



Drive your imagination

# Story stars

## Books in a flash!

Book Dash gets together volunteer professionals to create new, African storybooks that anyone can freely translate and distribute. Since they started in 2014, they've produced 52 new books, many of which have appeared in the Nal'ibali newspaper supplement. We spoke to this group of inspiring and passionate South Africans to find out more about the work they do.

### How does Book Dash make books?

We hold book creation events where we get fifty volunteers – writers, illustrators, designers and editors – together in one place. They work for over twelve hours straight in small teams to produce new children's storybooks.

### Where do you find these volunteers?

We call for applications before a Book Dash event and then we select people we think are best suited to the task! For each event, we look for great talent and a range of languages, backgrounds, ages and genders. We choose experienced professionals that are very good at what they do because we have to produce good books so quickly.

### Why do you do this?

We believe that all children should own a hundred books by the time they are five years old.

### How do you help to make this happen?

The books we produce can be downloaded for free from our website ([www.bookdash.org](http://www.bookdash.org)). We also fundraise so that we can give away printed copies of our books. So far, we have managed to give away 55 000 books.

### Why do you think stories are important for children?

Stories help us make sense of the world, which makes us happier people. There's also loads of science showing that children's brains develop better – especially in the first one thousand days of life – if they have lots of books.

### What kinds of books does Book Dash create?

We don't set out to make books that teach children a lesson. We want to create books that children will just enjoy, because that's how you encourage them to read – and actually, children learn best when they're enjoying something.

### What are some of your favourite children's books?

*I want my hat back* by Jon Klaasen and any books by Julia Donaldson and Dr Seuss.



You can find out more about Book Dash at [www.bookdash.org](http://www.bookdash.org) and download free children's books too!

Ungafumana ngakumbi malunga noBook Dash ku-[www.bookdash.org](http://www.bookdash.org) kwaye ungazikopela neencwadi zabantwana simahla kwalapho!



Children enjoying their Book Dash books

Abantwana besonwabela iincwadi zabo zakwaBook Dash

# Iimbilasane zamabali

## Senza amatshe ngeencwadi!

AbakwaBook Dash bahlanganisa amavolontiya aziingcali ukuze enze iincwadi zase-Afrika ezintsha zamabali nezinokuguqulwa kolunye ulwimi okanye zisasazwe nguye nabani na ofunayo, ngokukhululekileyo nasimahla. Ukususela mhla baqala ngowama-2014 ukuza kuthi ga ngoku, sele bebhale iincwadi ezingama-52 ezintsha, kwaye ezininzi kuzo sele zipapashwe kwiintlelo zikaNal'ibali eziphuma kumaphephandaba. Sithethe neli qela, livuselelayo nelizingcayo ngokuba ngabemi boMzantsi Afrika, ukuze sazi ngcono malunga nomsebenzi eliwenzayo.

### Bazenza njani iincwadi abakwaBook Dash?

Sisindleka imisitho yokwenziwa kweencwadi apho sidibanisa amavolontiya angama-50 – abanababhali, abazobi, abayili/ iidizayina kunye nabahleli – bonke ngaxeshanye nandaweninye. Xa besenza iincwadi ezintsha zamabali abantwana, basebenza ngokwamaqela amancinane iyure ezimalunga neshumi elinambini, bengaphumli.

### Niwafumana phi la mavolontiya?

Sihlaba ikhwelo lokuba kufakwe izicelo phambi komsitho wakwaBook Dash ze sichonge abantu esicinga ukuba ngabona bawufaneleyo lo msebenzi! Kumsitho ngamnye, sikhangele italente kunye neelwimi ezahlukileyo, imvelaphi eyahlukileyo, ubudala obahlukileyo kunye nesini esahlukileyo. Sikhetha iingcali ezinamava neziyazi kakuhle into eziyenzayo kuba kufuneka zivelise iincwadi ezisemgangathweni ngokukhawuleza.

### Kutheni nisenza oku?

Sikholelwa ukuba bonke abantwana kufuneka babe sebeneencwadi ezilikhulu xa begqiba iminyaka emihlanu.

### Ninceda njani ukwenza oku kube yimpumelelo?

Iincwadi ezizivelisayo zingakotshwa simahla kwiwebhusayithi yethu (ku-[www.bookdash.org](http://www.bookdash.org)). Kananjalo senza izinto zokwenyusa ingxowamali ukuze sikwazi ukuphisa ngeekopi zeencwadi zethu eziprintiweyo. Ukuza kuthi ga ngoku sesiphise ngeencwadi ezingama-55 000.

### Kutheni ucinga ukuba amabali abalulekile ebantwaneni bethu?

Amabali asinceda ukuba siliqonde kakuhle ihlabathi, nto leyo esenza sibe ngabantu abonwabileyo. Kananjalo kukho ulwazi oluninzi lwezizukulwazi olusibonisa ukuba iingqondo zabantwana zikhula kwaye ziphuhla ngcono – ngakumbi kwiintsuku zokuqala eziliwaka zobomi – ukuba baneencwadi ezininzi.

### Ingaba benza eziphi iindidi zeencwadi abakwaBook Dash?

Asisuseli kwinjongo yokwenza iincwadi ezifundisa abantwana izifundo zasesikolweni. Sifuna nje ukwenza iincwadi abaza kuzonwabela abantwana, kuba leyo yindlela obakhuthaza ngayo ukuba bafunde – kwaye enyanisweni, abantwana bafunda kakuhle kakhulu xa beyonwabela into abayifundayo.

### Zeziphi ezinye zezona ncwadi zabantwana ozithandayo?

Ngu-*I want my hat back* obhalwe nguJon Klaasen kwakunye nayiphi na iincwadi ebhalwe nguJulia Donaldson okanye uDr Seuss.



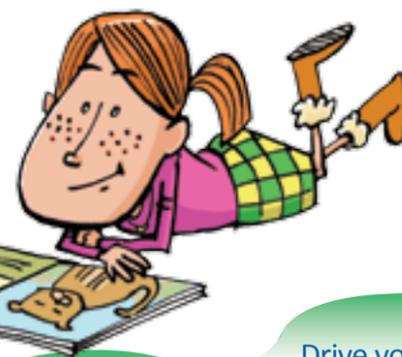
A Book Dash event in Durban

Umsitho wakwaBook Dash obe ubanjelwe eThekwini



Children enjoying their Book Dash books

Abantwana besonwabela iincwadi zabo zakwaBook Dash



Drive your imagination



## Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the two cut-out-and-keep books, *Stronger than Lion*, (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12) and *Is there anyone like me?* (pages 7, 8, 9 and 10), as well as the Story Corner story, *The best detective* (pages 13 and 15) – a story featuring the Nal'ibali characters. Choose the ideas that best suit your children's ages and interests.



### Stronger than Lion

All the animals are worried about Lion's appetite – it is so big that soon he will have eaten all the animals! Together they try to think of a plan to change things, but aren't able to. Then, a little mouse comes up with a brave, two-week plan to keep them safe from Lion.



- ★ Discuss these questions with older children:
  - ☉ When someone is called "mighty" it means that they are powerful. Who do you think was the most powerful in the story: Lion or Mouse? (Don't forget to share the reasons for your opinion!)
  - ☉ What lesson/s do you think this story teaches?
- ★ Use cardboard or paper plates, paint and string to create masks for the characters in the story. Then act out the story wearing your masks.
- ★ Write a play using the text from the story – then perform it with friends!

### Is there anyone like me?

This is a story about a young animal who searches for someone who is just like him, but then finds out that he is unique. It's a sweet and simple story that celebrates how each of us is unique.



- ★ As you read the book together, talk about the different animals and what they are doing in the pictures.
- ★ Look at the picture on the cover with your children and talk about how we can see our reflections in water and in mirrors too. Let your children look at themselves carefully in the mirror and have fun pretending to describe themselves to someone who has never seen them before.
- ★ Encourage your children to draw pictures of themselves and then to include the words on page 14 of the story with their pictures.

### The best detective

Oh no! Bella can't find Noodle anywhere! Bella's friends help her to look for him and land up getting a big surprise – Noodle and his friend, Trixie, and three new puppies!



- ★ Maybe Bella should have made a "Lost" poster so that if someone found Noodle they would know who to return him to! Create this "Lost" poster on a piece of paper. Remember to include a picture of Noodle and a phone number for Bella's mother, as well as anything else you think would be important for someone to know.
- ★ Think of names for Noodle and Trixie's puppies. Then draw a picture of each one and write its name under its picture.

For more story activities, go to page 16.

## Yenza ibali linike umdla!

Nazi ezinye zeengcingane onokusebenzisa ngazo iincwadi ezimbini onokuzisika-ze-uzigcine, ezizezi, *Isilo esoyisa iNgonyama* (kwiphepha le-5, ele-6, ele-11 nele-12) kunye no-*Ingaba ukhona na umntu ofana nam nqwa?* (kwiphepha le-7, ele-8, ele-9 nele-10) kunye nebali leNdawo yamaBali elithi, *Incutshe yomcuphi* (kwiphepha le-14 nele-15) – ibali elinabalinganiswa abaphambili bakwaNal'ibali. Khetha iingcingane neengcebiso ezifanele ubudala nemidla yabantwana bakho.

### Isilo esoyisa iNgonyama

Zonke izilwanyana zixhalatyiwe kukungahluthi kweNgonyama – isoloko ilihongohongo elilambileyo kwaye kukhangeleka ngathi iza kuzitya izigqibe tu izilwanyana kungekudala! Ngoko ke izilwanyana zihlanganisa iintloko ukuze zizame icebo lokutshintsha le meko, kodwa kumfiliba. Ekugqibeleni kuvela uMpukwana necebo elikrelekrele eliza kuzigcina zikhuselekile ekuqwenweni nguNgonyama zonke izilwanyana, licebo leeveki ezimbini.

- ★ Xoxani ngale mibuzo nabantwana abadlana:
  - ☉ Xa kusithiwa umntu othile "yingangalala" oko kuthetha ukuba unamandla. Ngubani ocinga ukuba wayenamandla kweli bali: yayinguNgonyama okanye yayinguMpukwana? (Ungalibali ukwabelana nabanye ngezizathu zempendulo noluvo lwakho!)
  - ☉ Sesiphi isifundo/Zeziphi izifundo ocinga ukuba eli bali lifundisa sona/zona?
- ★ Sebenzisa ikhadibhodi okanye iipeyinti zephepha, ipeyinti kunye nomtya ukwenza iimaski zabalinganiswa abakweli bali. Emva koko yenzani ulingisa ngeli bali, ninxibe iimaski zenu.
- ★ Bhalani umdlalo nisebenzisa umbhalo weli bali – nize ke emva koko nenze umdlalo weqonga kunye nabahlobo benu!

### Ingaba ukhona na umntu ofana nam nqwa?

Eli libali lesilwanyana esincinane esikhangela esinye esifana ncam naso, kodwa safumanisa ukuba sifana sodwa. Libali elilula nelimnandi, elibhiyozela ukungafani nokwahlukana kwethu.

- ★ Lo gama nifunda incwadi ninonke, thethani malunga nezilwanyana ezahlukileyo kwakunye nezinto ezizenzayo emifanekisweni.
- ★ Jongani umfanekiso oseqweqweni kunye nabantwana bakho ze nithethe malunga nendlela nathi esingayibona ngayo imifanekiso okanye imifuziselo yethu emanzini nasesipilini. Vumela abantwana bakho ukuba bazibuke kakuhle esipilini ze bonwabele ukwenza ngathi bachazela omnye umntu ongazange ababone ukuba banjani na.
- ★ Khuthaza abantwana bakho ukuba bazobe imifanekiso yabo ze bafakele namagama ahambelana nomfanekiso wabo akwiphepha le-14 ebalini.

### Incutshe yomcuphi

Owu Nkosi! UBella umkhangele engamfumani naphi na uNoodle! Abahlobo bakaBella bayamncedisa ekumkhangeleni kanti baza kufumana into abangakhange bayilindela – uNoodle kunye nomhlobo wakhe uTrixie, kwakunye nemibundlwane emithathu esandul'ukuzalwa!

- ★ Mhlawumbi uBella bekufanele ukuba enze ipowusta yento "eLahlekileyo" ukuze kuthi xa kukho umntu othile omfumeneyo uNoodle, ayazi ukuba makamse phi na! Yenza le powusta yento "eLahlekileyo" ephepheni. Ungalibali ukufaka umfanekiso kaNoodle kunye nenombolo yomnxeba kamama kaBella kunye nayo nayiphi na enye into ocinga ukuba kubalulekile ukuba abantu bayazi.
- ★ Cinga amagama emibundlwane kaNoodle noTrixie. Emva koko ke zoba umbundlwane ngamnye uze ubhale igama lawo phantsi komfanekiso.

### 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.



### Zenzele iincwadana EZIMBINI onokuzisika-ze-uzigcine

1. Khupha iphepha le-5 ukuya kwele-12 kolu hlelo.
2. Uxwebhu olunamaphepha aqala kwele-5, ele-6, ele-11 nele-12 lwenza incwadi yokuqala. Uxwebhu olunamaphepha aqala kwele-7, ele-8, ele-9 nele-10 lwenza eyesibini incwadi.
3. Sebenzisa uxwebhu ngalunye kula mabini ukwenza iincwadana. Landela imiyalelo engezantsi ukwenza incwadi nganye.
  - a) Songa iphepha phakathi kumgca wamachaphaza amnyama.
  - b) Phinda ulisonge phakathi kwakhona ulandela umgca wamachaphaza aluhlaza.
  - c) Sika ke ngoku ulandela imigca yamachaphaza abomvu.

ibonakala ingenaloyiko konke. Phofu naleyo wayibeka kulo myalezo iwuphathisisisweyo, umyalezo ongekuthweswa kwakhe njengokumkami wazo zonke izilo zehlathi.

“Mhlekez’ omhle!” wakhahlela watsho uMpukwana. “Ndiza nodaba olothusayo, Nkosi yam.”

“Daba luni olo?” wabuza watsho uNgonyama ebucaphuka.

“Kuthe kanti kukho silo singaphaya kwakho ngamandla, Mhlekezazi wami!”

Watsho ngowoyikekayo umgqomo uNgonyama, waxhumama waya phezu, ewuvule ng’ a umlomo, loo mazinyo akhe oyikekayo eqhahazela. Zawuva nezinye izilwanyana loo mgqomo, sasethuka. Isilwanyana singena nokuba umngxuma ayingowaso kuba sisesaba kumsindo ozayo.

“UTHI kutheni?”

Nangona efile kukoyika uMpukwana, waziqinisa. Waphendula watsho, “Uxolo, Mhlekezazi, uxolo! Mina, ndize kukuxelela olu daba ndiluthunywiyeyo nje kuphela.”

“Siphi eso silo?” wagragrama watsho uNgonyama. “Ndise kuso, ngoku!”

U’Mpukwana watsho, “Naso siphi singavuya nidibene.” Emva koko ke nanko uMpukwana ekhokela uNgonyama, emsa kumqolomba ebesele ewulungisile.

Bakufika apho, walatha nje kuphela uMpukwana esithi, “Ngena ke, Mhlekezazi. Mina ndiza kulinda apha ngaphandle. Lo mhlekazi ukulindleleyo uhe ufuna wena wedwa.”

Wangena ke uNgonyama. Kwa oko uMpukwana wagenqqa iityekazi amaqhekez’ engqele!

Akuya loo mbuzo uMpukwana, ngaphandle phaya, wasondela kumnyango lowo. Kwaye kukho sikotyana sikhoyo kwelli ityge avale ngalo. Wabeka umlonyana wakhe apho kweso sikroba, wakhwaza watsho, “Linda, wena, Mhlekezazi wam. Siza kufika esi silo kungekudala, linda.”

“WHAAT?” Lion roared. “Wha-at did you say?”

And, although Little Mouse trembled in her shoes, she made her voice as brave as she could and said, “I beg your pardon, My Lord, I am merely the messenger.”

“Where is this animal you say is stronger than Mighty Lion?” Lion asked. But, before Little Mouse could answer, he ordered her to take him to that animal.

Little Mouse said, “Sir, this animal has also expressed a wish of seeing you.”

So they set off, Mighty Lion following Little Mouse. She led him to a cave she knew was nearby. It was the perfect place for her plan.

When they got there, she said, “Your Lordship may enter. I will wait just outside the door. The animal stronger than Your Lordship said the meeting must be between just the two of you.”

Growing, Mighty Lion entered the cave. As soon as he was safely inside, Little Mouse closed the mouth of the cave with a huge rock she’d put nearby for that purpose. It was dark inside. Mighty Lion narrowed his eyes the better to see. But, hard as he looked, he could not see anyone in the cave.

After a while, in a loud voice Mighty Lion asked, “Where is this goofy animal I will crush to bits and pieces? When I’m through with him, I swear not even his mother will recognise him!”

When Little Mouse heard Mighty Lion’s question, she put her mouth to a little crack between the rock and the door of the cave and said, “Patience, Your Lordship. This animal will soon show itself.”

By now, the sun was setting. Soon, night fell and Little Mouse went home for the night. She left Lion fuming and growling in the cave.

At the crack of dawn, the next day, Little Mouse was back at the door of the cave. Again she put her little mouth to the little crack between the rock and the door of the cave.

The animals of the jungle decide that a meeting is long overdue. The meeting is to be no ordinary meeting, and each animal is to attend. So the day, time and place is set. All the animals are invited – except Lion ...



**dp davidphilip**  
Trading as **New Africa Books**

This version of *Stronger than Lion* has been specially adapted for use in the Nal’ibali Supplement. The published storybook, *Stronger than Lion*, is available in English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Ndebele, Xitsonga, Siswati, Tshivenda and Setswana from Exclusive Books, Bargain Books and all good bookstores countrywide.

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](http://www.nalibali.org) or [www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi)

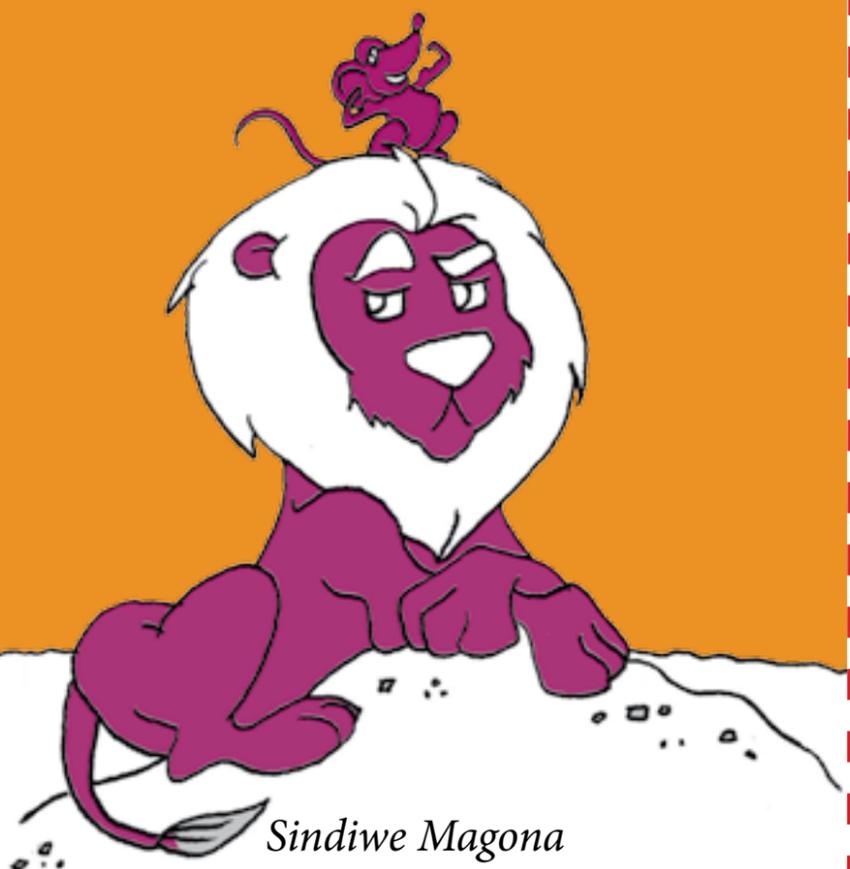


UNal’ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukuzonwabisa nokuvuselela umdla ebantwaneni ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda. Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe, ndwendwela ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) okanye ku-[www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi)



# Stronger than Lion

## Isilo esoyisa iNgonyama

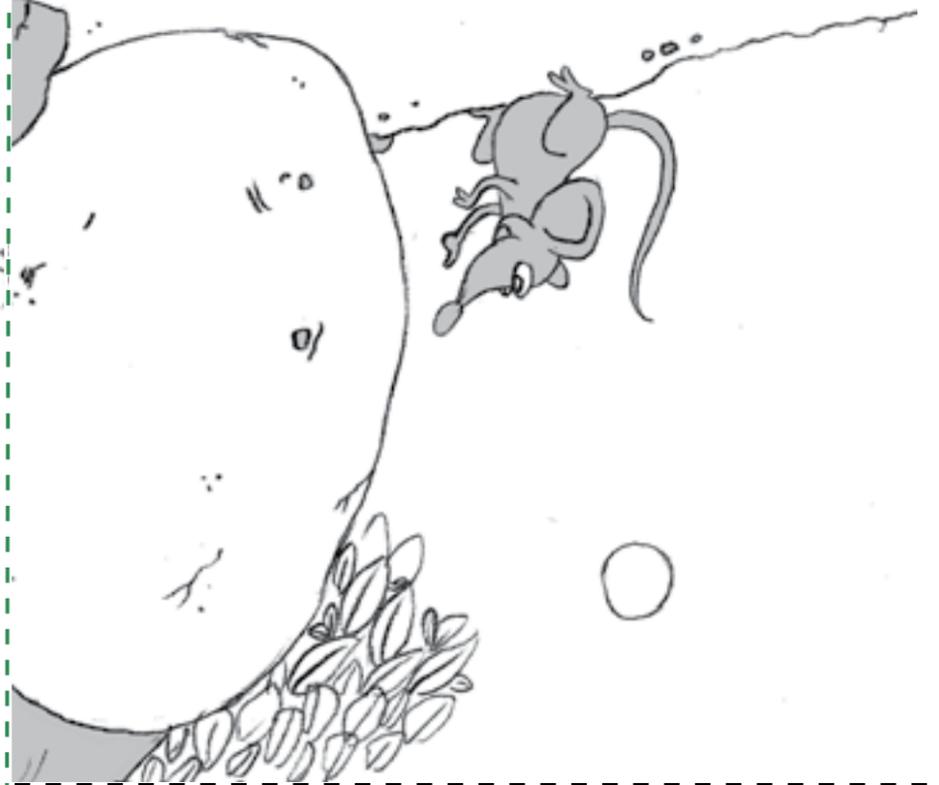


Sindiwe Magona  
Nicole Blomkamp

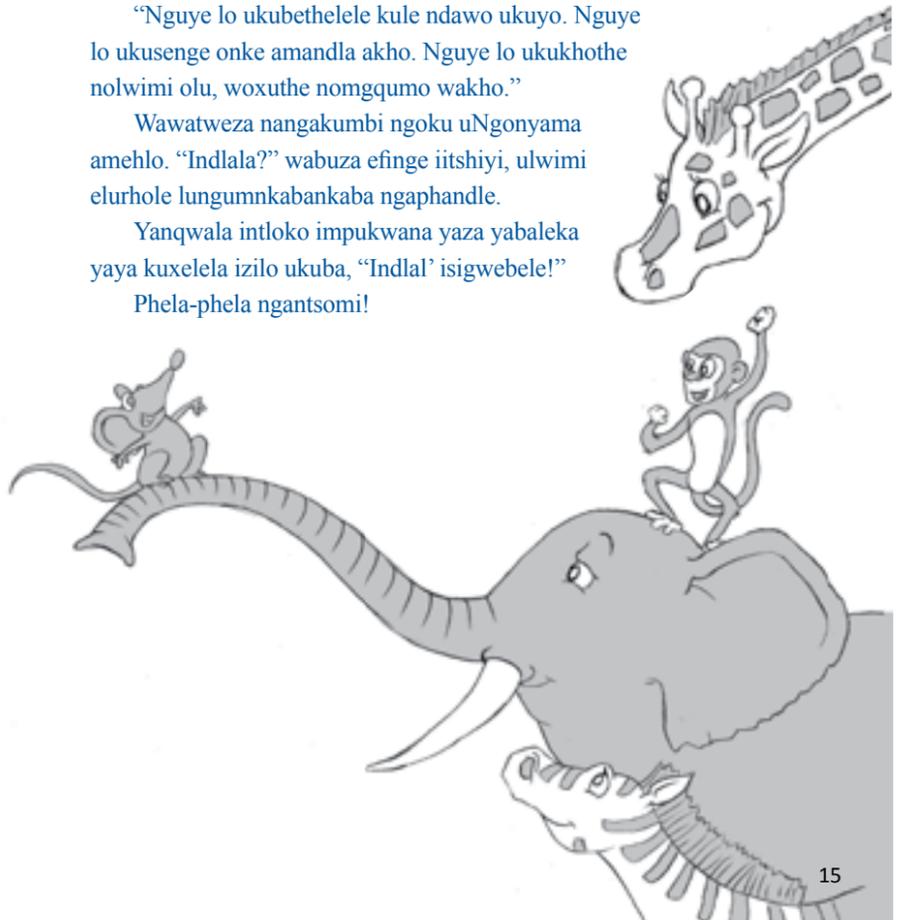
“Iputswana engangawe lo, ingamenza ntoni uNkonyama, eyingangala engakaya?”  
 Zihleka zaqikileka nezinye izilo, zimdelela uMpukwana. Kodwa ke, kwathi kuba kungekho simbi isilo esifuna ukuzizigqatsa, siye kuhlaselela uNkonyama, zafana zavuma ukumthemba uMpukwana. Wathi mazimphe ihuba elingangeveeki ezimbini ukuya kwezintathu. Ngalo elo ke wobe sele ewuqababisi umcimbi wokuthobozela uNkonyama ahlukelele nokunqamizana nabo. Wahamba ke uMpukwana waya apho ahlela khona uNkonyama. Wothuka uNkonyama akubona le putswana ithunyelele kuye zizilo, wazibuza wathi, “Le nto? Kuphela kwesithunyelele zintoni zokuxelelelwa ngqo ukuba abanto, ndim Nkonyama inkosi yazo zonke izilo?”  
 Wazama uNkonyama, wabuza ngendelele enkulu wathi, “Uthini ke umyalezo oza nawo, mfo kaMpukwana?” Kodwa waba bumangaliswa bubunganga bale mpukwana imthe nshoo ngamhlo,



“Has he come, Your Lordship? Has he come yet?” she asked.  
 “The snivelling coward must have run away as soon as he heard my mighty roar,” Lion answered. “I have looked high and low for him. Open the door and let me out. I am hungry and a little thirsty.”  
 But Little Mouse said, “Patience, Your Lordship, I do believe this animal is on its way. Before long he will be by your side.”  
 Again, night fell. Then morning came.  
 Day after day, the same thing happened. Mighty Lion roared and growled, waiting to crush his challenger. But the challenger did not appear. And Little Mouse urged him to wait, assuring him that soon the challenger would come.



Waqengqa eli litye avale ngalo umlomo womqolomba lo uMpukwana. Wangena ngaphakathi. Yhoo, nalo utyantsi olunguNkonyama luthu tywa-a-a phantsi. Ufile lunxano, amandla aphele pheliyane, yindlala. Iimbambo ziyanyakazela kukubhitya yaye ulolo tyantsi lungakwazi nokuphakamisa intloko le, kungasathethwa nto ke ngokuhamba.  
 “A-si-f-f-fi-kaanga,” kwatsho into elizwi litshothozayo, ithetha ngokuzekelela okukhulu.  
 “Uyaphazama, Mhlekezi wam,” yaphendula yatsho impukwana, itsiba-tsiba, itswina. “Ufike ngqo!”  
 Watweza loo mehlo amfiliba yindlala uNkonyama. “Uphi?”  
 “Nguye lo ukubethelele kule ndawo ukuyo. Nguye lo ukusenge onke amandla akho. Nguye lo ukukhothe nolwimi olu, woxuthe nomgqumo wakho.”  
 Wawatweza nangakumbi ngoku uNkonyama amehlo. “Indlala?” wabuza efinge iitshiyi, ulwimi elurhole lungumnkabankaba ngaphandle.  
 Yanqwala intloko impukwana yaza yabaleka yaya kuxelelela izilo ukuba, “Indlal’ isigwebele!”  
 Phela-phela ngantsomi!

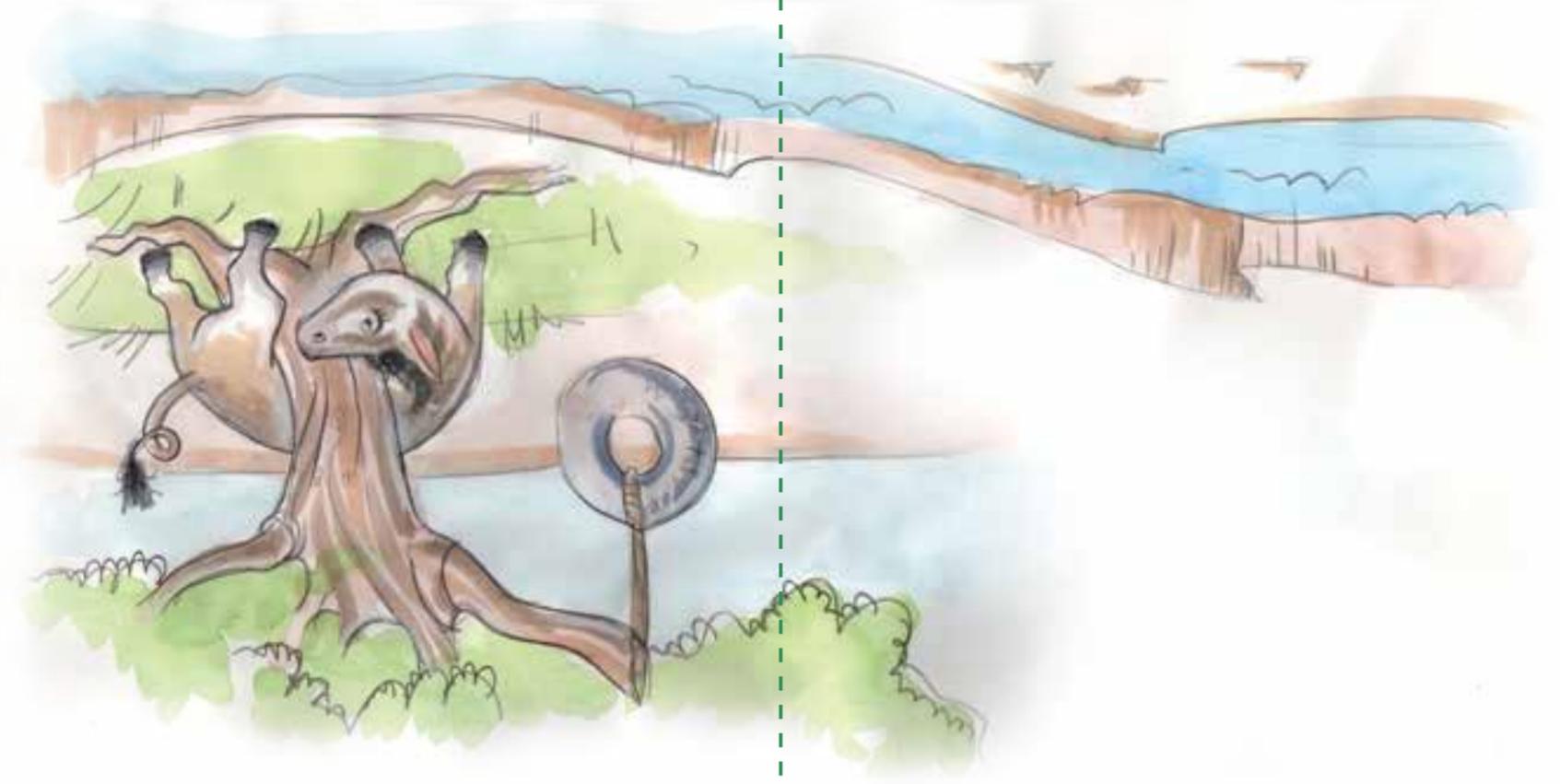


Once upon a time, the animals of the jungle decided a meeting was long overdue. This was to be no ordinary meeting and it was extremely important that each and every animal attend.

All the animals were invited to attend. All except Lion. He was not invited because, you see, the meeting was about him. But Lion thought he was not invited because he was King of the Jungle.

“Perhaps,” thought Lion, “these silly fools want to crown me King. About time!”

At last, the day of the meeting dawned, and a bright and sunny day it was. Elephant declared the meeting open. The animals were all fuming.



Ndibhuce, ndikhangela omnye  
umntu ondim kuyo yonke  
indawo. Ndiye epakini ndajonga,  
ngaphaya kwemithi.

I've looked and looked  
everywhere to find another  
me. I went down to the park  
and looked behind the trees.

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

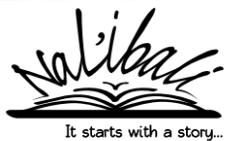
Become a book-sponsor and  
help change the world.



Get involved at  
[bookdash.org](http://bookdash.org)



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](http://www.nalibali.org) or [www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi)



UNal'ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela  
ukuzonwabisa nokuvuselela umdla  
ebantwaneni ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda.  
Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe,  
ndwendwela ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) okanye  
ku-[www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi)



Is there anyone like me?  
Ingaba ukhona na umntu  
ofana nam ngwa?



*Fred Strydom  
Jess Jardim-Wedepohl  
Stephen Wallace*

... nongakwaziyo ukwenza izinto  
endingakwaziyo nam ukuzenza.



... and can't do what I can't.



I wonder if there's another me  
somewhere in the world.



I looked around, up and down ...  
Ndii!ikeleze, nda!ikeleza ndikhangele,  
ndisenyuka ndisehla ...



But not just me, don't you see?  
There's also only one of you!



Kodwa ayindim nje kuphela,  
wena awuziboni? Nawe  
unguwe wedwa qwaba, jwi!

... at every single face.  
... ndionga ubuso ngabunye  
endihlangana nabo.



Okwaziyo ukwenza izinto  
endizenayo ...

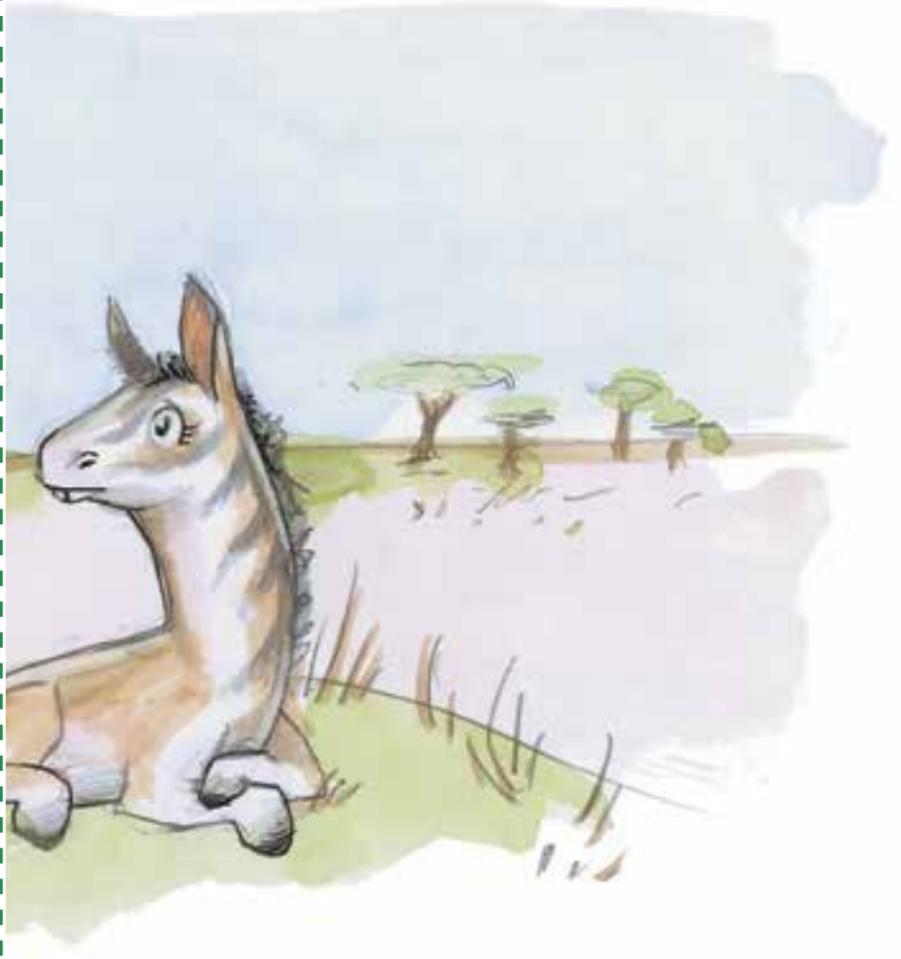


Who can do what I do ...

There's only one me in the  
world! I'm special, oh it's true!



Ndim kuphela ondim  
ehlabathini! Ndikhethekile, owu  
ngenene oko kuyinyaniso!



Kazi ukhona na omnye umntu  
ondim nqwa kwenye indawo  
apha ehlabathini.

Who even has  
my laugh.  
Ode ahleke njengam  
lo kanye.



Someone with my  
eyes and my ears.  
Umntu onamhlo  
kanye neendlebe  
ezifana nezam nqwa.

And even has  
my curls.  
Mhlawumbi de  
obeneenwela  
ezifana ncam  
nezi zam.



Who looks the same ...  
Ofana nqwa nam ngenkangeleko ...

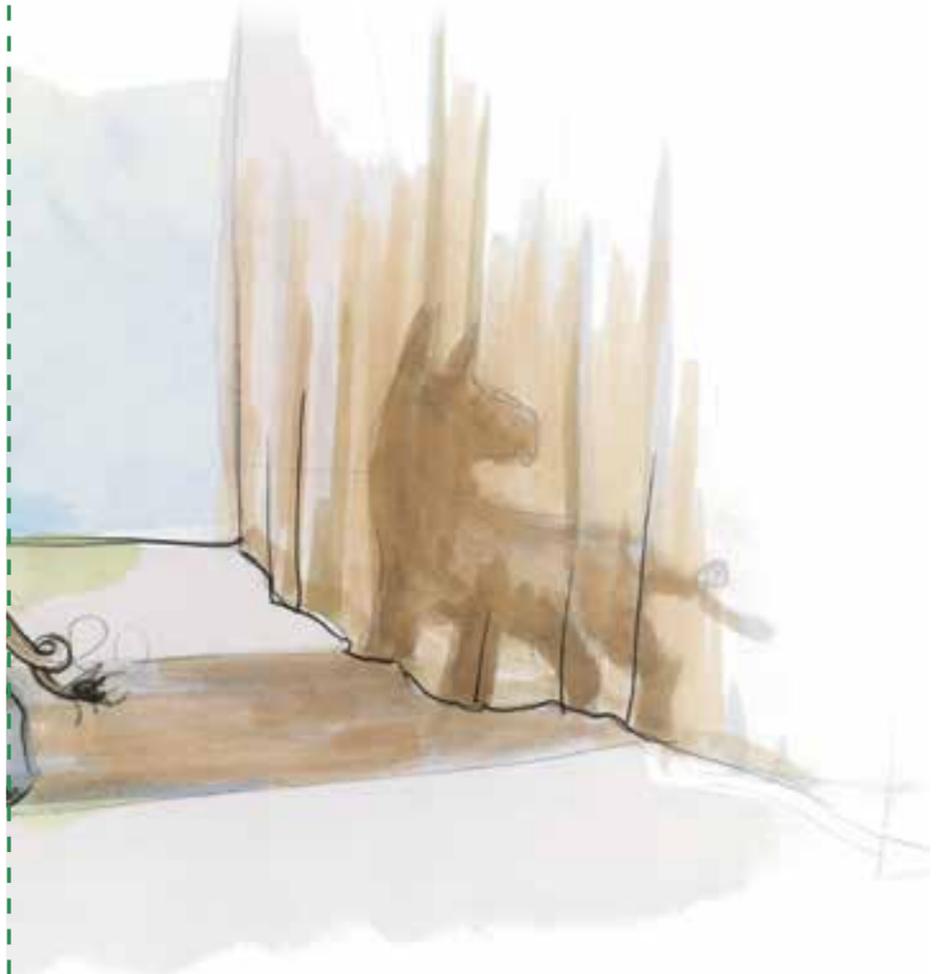


... and talks the same.  
... nothetha njengam lo kanye.



I couldn't find another me  
in any single place.

Andikwazanga kufumana  
nomnye umntu ondim kuyo  
nayiphi na enye indawo.



Kwathi kuba ilanga lahisele libutshona, kwasuka kwahlwa. Wagoduka ke uMpukwana, emshiya uNgonyama egquma apho kuloo mqolomba, efun' intw' ib' ilapha. Kwaliye ngentseni elandelayo, uMpukwana wawukela emqolombeni. "Sele sifikile na, Mhlekazi esi silo?" "Elo gwala libaleke liseva umgqomo lo wam kuphela. Khange libonakale tu apha. Ndivulele ndigoduke, ndibunxanwa yaye ndilambile." "Khawulinde nje umzuzwana, Mhlekazi," waphendula watshe uMpukwana. "Ingathi sele sisendleleni. Akuyi kuba kudala, sifike." Kwabuya kwahlwa, kwaphinda kwasa.



"He did not come," said a small, hoarse and hesitant voice. "You made a mistake, My Lordship," said Little Mouse, jumping up and down with glee. "He did come! Yes, he did!"

Mighty Lion rolled his dull eyes from side to side. "Where is he?"

"He is the one who is holding you where you are. He has drained you of all your strength. He has dried your tongue and stolen your roar!"

Mighty Lion's eyes bulged. With his brow furrowed and his tongue hanging limply out of his mouth, he asked, "Hunger?"

Little Mouse nodded and ran out of that cave as fast as her little legs could carry her. She went and announced to all the animals of the jungle, "Hunger has slain our enemy!"

And so, this tale ends!

Straight after the meeting, Little Mouse went to Lion's den. Mighty Lion was astonished to see this little thing that had come to tell him what the animals had decided at the meeting. "What message do you bring?" Mighty Lion asked the mouse. "O, Mighty One! Little Mouse said, bowing low. "I bring rather surprising news, My Lord. There is, unbeknown to us, an animal stronger than your Lordship!" At that, Lion gave a terrible, mighty roar. The trees in the jungle shook and the animals scurried and hid in their burrows, nests and whatever else they could find, whether it was theirs or someone else's.



**K**wathi ke kaloku ngantsomi! Izilo zabiza intlanganiso ekwakumele Kukuba izinyaswe zizo zonke izilwanyana. Kodwa kuloo ntlanganiso yena uNgonyama wayengamenywanga. Isizathu sokuba angamenywa uNgonyama kukuba intlanganiso le yayingaye.

Izilwanyana zathi zenzela ukuba maze angakrokri ukuba ziyambhunga, zamxelela ukuba zifuna ukwenza amalungiselelo esidlo esikhulu apho khona aya kubekwa ngokusesikweni njengokumkani wazo zonke izilwanyana namahlathi.

Hayi ke, wavuya kunene akuba ngoku uza kungqinwa zizo zonke izilo njengokumkani wazo. "Mhlawumbi ndiza kuthweswa isithsaba, ndambathiswe nomnweba, ndiphathiswe nentonga yegolide enegqudu, intonga yobukhosi," wacinga njalo, ehamba ethetha yedwa. Hayi ke wakhukumala nangakumbi ngoku uNgonyama asakubona ukuba ooNdlovu nooNdlulamthi bancame ncamiyane. Kaloku, ezo nkosi bezikhe zimbangise ngobukhosi nobukumkani bezilwanyana ehlathini.

Yafika yona imini ebikade ixelwa. Zahlangana izilo nezilwanyana zehlathi. Wabe wona umxholo phofu ungoNgonyama. Zazidikwe ngokwenene izilo yimpakamo yakhe. Yayezazingamthandi konke ngenxa yokuba wayehlalele ukuzinqwama rhoqo xa elambile uNgonyama.

Ngale mini ke zathi ukuba zihlangane, wawandlala umcimbi uNgcuka: "He zihlobo, niyayibona na into yokuba uNgonyama lo uthe ngqolo esinqwamaza? Yinto emasinyanyamezele de kube nini na le?"

"Tyaph' utsho, Ngcuka, mnta kamama," watsibeleka watsho uNkawu. Lakatyu, yee ngcu kwisebe eliphhezulu, yazijongela phantsi ezinye ezi izilo. Yahambisa yathi, "UMhle uNgonyama, ndijongile nje, uphezulu kokusitya siphela nyaa emhlabeni apha, sitshabalale kungaze kwaziwe nokuba kwakho izilo ezifana nathi abo. Nditung' udad' ethu owatywa ngulo mfokazana, soze ayke ukusithi ngwam-ngwam, ngwam-ngwam, okoko xa sisamumela."

UNdlouvu wacela ukwazi ukuba uNkawu uthi makuthiweni na. Hayi ke abethabethana amacebo. Ilo phofu lifika liwe kwakubuzwa ukuba ngubani na oza kuliphumeza.

"Makubotshelelwe intsimbi entanyeni yakhe uNgonyama khon' ukuze ezinye ezi izilwanyana zimve esekude zize zizimele," wacebisa ngeitshoyo uMfene.

"Sukusiphambancla apha," waphendula watsho uNdlulamthi, efikelele. "Simva esekude nangoku nje ngalo mgqomo wakhe? Awazi ukuba usitya kuba singakwazi kumbaleka? Uyawazi nje amendu engonyama?"

Kwaphikiswama, kwaphikiswama de kwavela uMpukwana. "Ndiucebo mna, zinkosi." Kodwa wathi akubuzwa ukuba lalithini na elo cebo lakhe, wala ukuxela esithi, "Ndithebeni nina. Ukumbonisa ukuba licebo elilungileyo eli, ndiza kuliphumeza ngokwam."

"Wena?" Wabuza watsho uNdlulamthi ephelile yintsini.

"Friends," Wolf howled, "Lion's appetite is appalling. Every day many of us die, to provide a feast for his bottomless pit of a stomach. He is eating us up faster than we can produce babies. He even eats the little ones. They don't get a chance to grow up!"

"Soon, there won't be any of us left," Rhino said.

Monkey screeched, "Soon, soon, we shall be history! History!"

The big question of the day was: *How to stop the massacre?*

Then Elephant asked, "Does anyone have any suggestions?"

Oh, there were many suggestions, I can tell you. But, as fast as they came, they were discarded.

Finally, after many plans had been suggested and rejected, a small voice said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I have a plan!" All eyes turned towards the sound and everyone was surprised to see who had spoken those brave words.

Little Mouse said her piece. "To show you how much I believe in my plan, I shall carry it out all by myself."

"You?" Giraffe bellowed, unable to stop the giggles. "What do you think you can do to Mighty Lion?"

Now, the other animals joined in and laughed at Little Mouse. Little Mouse narrowed her little eyes. Her little tail trembled and quivered. She would show these big animals. She would show them – yes, she would.

Finally, the laughter stopped. The animals saw there was no other plan on the table. They had to accept Little Mouse's plan.

"All I ask for is two weeks in which to carry out my plan," Little Mouse said. By then, she said, she would have tamed Mighty Lion and he would no longer gobble them down at will.

As the days passed, Mighty Lion grew more and more impatient. His strength weakened. His hunger grew, as did his thirst. But his pride did not grow any less. He still wanted to teach his challenger a lesson.

Each day, Lion's roar grew weaker. Weaker and weaker it grew until, one day, Little Mouse had to put her little mouth to the crack and shout with all her might, "My Lordship, has he not come yet?"

Then she listened for Mighty Lion's reply. But none came. Little Mouse strained as hard as she could and listened for any sound from inside the cave, and she finally heard a shuffling, a puffing and a puffing. After a while, there came a sound – Mighty Lion was trying to roar, but had no strength to do so at all.

Little Mouse knew the time had come. She quickly rolled back the rock closing the mouth of the cave and she entered. Inside she found the mighty one huddled in a sorry bundle – all skin and bones. He could not even lift his own head. That is how dehydrated and famished he was. All his strength had left him. Of course, he was in no condition to walk at all.

Zaqengqeleka iintsuku uMpukwana efika abuze ukuba uMhlekezazi akakasiboni na esi silo singaphaya kwakhe ngamandla, impendulo ibe yelandulayo.

Kwakhula kuNgonyama ukudinwa kukulinda. Yakhula neyokulamba, nonxano alwampha thuba. Kodwa ke wabe esenamathamba uNgonyama, nomgqomo wakhe usenguwo, uvakala.

Kodwa ngenye intsasa, uMpukwana waba ngakhwaza, akwakhe kubuye mpendulo. Wasondela nangakumbi, wabuza wabuza, "Mhlekezazi, asikafiki na esi silo?"

Wamamela impendulo. Ayakhe itsho ukubuya loo mpendulo. Kodwa wabe esiva ukuba kukho ushixishixi okhoyo ngaphakathi apha. Kwaliile emva kwemizuzu ebalekayo, weva ukuthinta kwesikhohlalela, kwabe kusitsholo phantsi ngathi kokwexhegwazana eligulayo. Kanti yimizamo kaNgonyama leyo. Ngeba urheme uzama ukugquma, ntonje, amandla akakho tu.

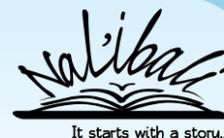


# The best detective

By Wendy Hartmann



Illustrations by Rico



*Knock! Knock! Knock!*

"Neo!" said Gogo. "Please see who is at the door."

Neo ran to the front door. When he opened it he saw Bella and her mother. Bella was crying.



"What's wrong?" asked Neo. Bella cried even louder.

Gogo ran up to the front door. "Come in. Why is Bella crying?"

"It's Noodle," said Bella's mother. "We can't find him."

"Noodle's gone," sniffed Bella. "Have you seen him?"

"Sit down," said Gogo, giving Bella a tissue. "Dry your tears. We are going to help you. Neo, please phone Josh and ask him to come here."

While Neo phoned Josh, Gogo sat between Bella and her mother on the couch.

"When did you last see Noodle?" Gogo asked.

"This morning," said Bella. "He was playing on the field."

"He is always home by lunch time," said Bella's mother.

"Gogo," said Neo, "Josh said he and Hope will get here as quickly as they can."

"What are we going to do, Gogo?" asked Bella sniffing loudly.

"When Josh and Hope get here we'll make a plan. Right now we'll all have some tea."

Soon there was another *Knock! Knock! Knock!* at the door. Hope pushed Josh's wheelchair inside.

"Don't worry, Bella, we'll find Noodle," said Josh. "We'll all be like detectives and look for him."

"Yes," said Gogo. "Now help us with some clues, Bella. Tell us where Noodle likes to go."

Bella and her mother told them all the places where Noodle liked to play and visit.

"Good," said Gogo. "I'll put Mbali in her pushchair and we can all go and look for him."

"Maybe we should go in different directions. Then it will be quicker," suggested Josh. "Gogo, if you, Neo and Mbali go down River Road, then Bella and her mother can look at home and on the field again. Then they can go up School Street. Hope and I can go down Sambals Street."

"What a good idea," said Gogo. "You sound like a real detective, Josh."

"And we should all meet somewhere," said Hope. "Then we'll all know what is going on."

"We'll phone each other once while we're looking, and then we can meet at the shopping centre," said Josh.

"Can we go now?" asked Bella.

"Poor, Bella," said Mbali, patting Bella's hand.

Everyone left to search for Noodle. Hope pushed Josh's wheelchair along the pavement. They all called Noodle's name.



"He's not in this street," said Josh. Then his phone rang. "It's Gogo," he told Hope, "I hope they've found Noodle."

Hope couldn't hear what Gogo was saying to Josh, but she could hear Mbali shouting, *Pink! Pink! Pink!* loudly in the background.

"No," said Josh when he had finished speaking to Gogo, "they haven't found Noodle." His phone rang again. "And that was Bella and her mother. They haven't found him either."

"Now what?" asked Hope.

"We should go and meet everyone at the shopping centre," Josh said.

A few minutes later everyone stood in front of the shopping centre. Bella's eyes were red from crying. Gogo looked worried.

"Should we walk back and look again?" Gogo asked.

"Noo ... Noodle ..." said a small voice.

They all turned to look.

"Noodle!" said Mbali again. She pointed at the corner shop.

"Mbali?" said Gogo. "Where?"

"There's nothing there, Mbali," said Neo.

"NOOOOODLE!" shouted Mbali.

"We should go and have a look," said Hope.

They walked to the shop on the corner. It sold bags and bangles, shirts and shoes. They all crowded in the doorway.

"In! In!" said Mbali pointing to inside the shop.

"Hello," said the owner. "Welcome. Come inside. Let me just give my friend a biscuit, then I will help you."

"NOODLE!" they all said together.

Bella rushed forward and hugged Noodle. "Where have you been? We've been looking everywhere." Noodle's tail wagged and he licked her face.

"Oh!" said the shop owner. "So he belongs to you. He comes to say hello at my home every morning."



Continued on page 15.



*Nkqo! Nkqo! Nkqo!*

"Neo!" utshilo uGogo. "Nceda ukhangele ukuba ngubani na lo unkqonkqozayo."

UNeo wabaleka waya kumnyango wangaphambili. Xa ewuvula wabona uBella nomama wakhe. UBella wayelila.



"Yintoni undonakele?" wabuza uNeo. UBella wakhala ngakumbi ngoku. UGogo weza naye ebaleka kumnyango wangaphambili. "Ngenani. Kutheni uBella elila nje?"

"NguNoodle," watsho umama kaBella. "Asimboni tu."

"UNoodle ulahlekile," watsho efixiza uBella. "Ingaba nikhe nambona nina?"

"Hlalani phantsi," watsho uGogo, enika uBella ithishu. "Sula iinyembenzi zakho. Siza kukuncedisa, sikukhangelise. Neo, nceda utsalele umnxeba uJosh, umcele ukuba makafike apha."

Lo gama uNeo etsalela uJosh umnxeba, uGogo wahlala phakathi kukaBella nomama wakhe apho esofeni.

"Ugqibele nini ukumbona uNoodle?" kubuza uGogo.

"Kusasa nje," watsho uBella. "Ebedlala phaya ethafeni."

"Udla ngokuba sele ebuyile ngexesha lesidlo sasemini," watsho umama kaBella.

"Gogo," watsho uNeo, "UJosh uthe yena noHope baza kufika kamsinyane kangangoko banako."

"Siza kwenza njani, Gogo?" kubuza uBella esafixiza kakhulu.

"Xa uJosh noHope befikile siza kucinga icebo. Okwangoku sonke makhe sifumane iti."

Kungekudala kwavakala omnye uNkqo! Nkqo! Nkqo! emnyango. UHope watyhala, engenisa isitulo esinamavili sikaJosh ngaphakathi.

"Ungakhathazeki, Bella, siza kumfumana uNoodle," watsho uJosh. "Sonke siza kuba njengabecuphi xa simkhangela."

"Ewe," watsho uGogo. "Ngoku khawusincede usilandise umkhondo, Bella. Kuqala sixelele ukuba uthanda ukuya phi na uNoodle."

UBella kunye nomama wakhe babaxelela zonke iindawo apho uNoodle athanda ukudlala nokuya kuzo.

"Kuhle ke oko," watsho uGogo. "Ndiza kufaka uMbali kwiprem yakhe size sihambeni sonke siye kumkhangela."

"Mhlawumbi kuza kufuneka sihambe ngeendlela ezahlukileyo. Oko kuza kwenza sikhawulezise," wacebisa ngelitshoyo uJosh. "Gogo, ukuba wena, noNeo noMbali ningehla ngeRiver Road, aze uBella nomama wakhe baye kukhangelani ekhaya nasethafeni kwakhona. Emva koko bangenyuka ngeSchool Street. Mna noHope siza kwehla ngeSambals Street."

"Licebo elihle kakhulu elo," watsho uGogo. "Uvakala njengomcuphi wokwenene, Josh."

"Kwaye kufuneka sidibane ndaweni ithile," watsho uHope. "Sakuthi ngokwenza njalo, sonke sazi ukuba kwenzeka ntoni na."

"Siza kutsalelana umnxeba kanye lo gama sikhangelani, size ke emva koko sidibane phaya koobhazabhaza beevenkile," watsho uJosh.

"Singahamba ke ngoku?" wabuza uBella.

"Usizana olunguBella," watsho uMbali, ephulula isandla sikaBella.

Wonke umntu wahamba esiya kukhangelani uNoodle. UHope watyhala isitulo esinamavili sikaJosh, bahamba ngendledlana yabahambi ngeenyawo. Bobabini babekhwaza uNoodle ngegama.



"Akakho kwesi sitalato," watsho uJosh. Kanye ngelo xesha kwakhala umnxeba wakhe. "NguGogo," waxelela uHope, "Ndiyathemba ukuba bamfumene uNoodle."

UHope wayengeva ukuba uGogo uthini kuJosh, kodwa wayemva uMbali ekhwaza esithi, *Pinki! Pinki! Pinki!* ngokuvakalayo phaya ngasemva.

"Hayi," watsho uJosh asakugqiba ukuthetha noGogo, "abakamfumani uNoodle." Umnxeba wakhe waphinda wakhala. "Lo ibinguBella nomama wakhe. Nabo abakamfumani."

"Ngoku kuza kwenzeka ntoni?" wabuza uHope.

"Kufuneka sihambe siye kudibana nomntu wonke koobhazabhaza beevenkile," watsho uJosh.

Emva kwemizuzu embalwa wonke umntu wayemi phambi koobhazabhaza beevenkile. Amehlo kaBella ayebomvu kukulila. UGogo wayekhangeleka ekhathazekile.

"Ingaba kufuneka siphinde sijike siye kukhangelani kwakhona?" uGogo wabuza. "Noo ... Noodle ..." kwatsho ilizwi elincinane.

Bonke baguquka bajonga.

"Noodle!" watsho uMbali kwakhona. Wolatha kwivenkile esekoneni.

"Mbali?" watsho uGogo. "Uphi?"

"Akukho nja phaya, Mbali," watsho uNeo.

"NOOOOODLE!" wakhwaza uMbali.

"Masikhe siye kujonga," watsho uHope.

Bahamba baya evenkileni esekoneni. Yayithengisa iibhegi kunye nezacholo, iihempe kunye nezihlangu. Bonke bema xhonkxosholo emnyango.

"Ngaphakathi! Ngaphakathi!" watsho uMbali esolatha ngaphakathi evenkileni.

"Molweni," watsho umnikazi-venkile. "Namkelekile. Ngenani ngaphakathi. Mandinike nje umhlobo wam ibhiskiti, ndize emva koko ndinceda."

"NOODLE!" bonke batsho ngaxeshanye.

UBella wakhawuleza ukuya ngaphambili wamanga uNoodle. "Ubuphi? Sikhangele kuyo yonke indawo." UNoodle wajiwuzisa umsila wakhe waze wamkhottha ebusweni.

"Owu!" watsho umnikazi-venkile. "Kanti yinja yakho le. Isoloko esiza kubulisa apha ekhaya qho kusasa."

From page 13. ★

"Pink!" said Mbali.

"Yes. The pink house on the corner next to the field. He comes to play with my little dog, Trixie. I'm so sorry if you have been worried. It's the first time he has come down to the shop."

While everyone cuddled, stroked and patted Noodle, the shopkeeper told them that her name was Mrs Modise. She was new in town and had just opened her shop.

"Noodle made friends with Trixie the day we moved in," she said. "They play every morning and then Noodle goes home. But today was a little different. Today there was a big surprise and I had to bring Trixie to work with me."

Just then Mbali got out of her pushchair and started to shout.

"NOODLES!"

"Yes," said Neo, "you found him."

Bella kissed Mbali's cheek. "Yes, thank you so much."

"No, no, no!" shouted Mbali. "Noodle, Noodle, Noodle! LOOK!"

Gogo, Neo, Bella, her mother, Josh and Hope moved to where Mbali was standing. They crowded around Mbali and stared.

"Yes," said Mrs Modise, "THAT was the big surprise."

Noodle pushed passed everyone's legs and sat down next to Trixie's basket. He looked very proud.

"Look," said Mbali, "Noodle, Noodle, Noodle!"

Trixie was in the basket with three tiny pinkish puppies and all three looked just like Noodle.



Everyone started talking at once. Mrs Modise was very happy to meet Noodle's owner. Bella was happy she had found Noodle. Josh and Hope were thinking about the puppies. Neo and Gogo were smiling. Then Neo turned and gave Mbali a big kiss and a hug. "Mbali," he whispered, "you are the best detective ever." Mbali giggled. "Pink," she said. "Pink Noodles."

Liqhubeka, lisuka kwiphepha le-14. ★

"Pinki!" watsho uMbali.

"Ewe. Kulaa ndlu ipinki isekoneni ngasethafeni. Apho udlala nenjana yam, uTrixie. Ndicela uxolo ukuba ubukhathazekile. Kokokuqala esiza apha evenkileni."

Lo gama wonke umntu efunqula, ephulula, embambazela uNoodle, unovenkile wabaxelela ukuba igama lakhe nguNkosikazi Modise. Wayesandul' ukufika kule dolophu kwaye usandul' ukuyivula le venkile yakhe.

"UNoodle wakha ubuhlobo kumye noTrixie mhla safika," uhambise watsho. "Badlala kunye qho kusasa aze emva koko uNoodle agoduke. Kodwa namhlanje akwenzekanga njalo. Namhlanje kwenzeka into ebingalindelekanga konke kwaze kwafuneka ukuba ndize noTrixie emsebenzini."

Kanye ngelo xesha uMbali waphuma kwiprem yakhe waza waqalisa ukukhwaza.

"NOODLES!"

"Ewe," watsho uNeo, "ufunyenwe nguwe."

UBella waphuza uMbali esidleleni. "Ewe, enkosi kakhulu."

"Hayi, hayi, hayi" wakhwaza uMbali. "Noodle, Noodle, Noodle! JONGA!"

UGogo, uNeo, uBella, umama wakhe, uJosh kunye noHope basondela apho uMbali wayemi khona. Bamngqonga bematshekile.

"Ewe," watsho uNkosikazi Modise, "KUKO OKO ke obekungalindelekanga tu."

UNoodle watyhala edlula, engena phakathi kwemilenze yomntu wonke, waza wahlala phantsi ecaleni kwengobozi kaTrixie. Wayekhangeleka ezingca kakhulu.

"Jonga," watsho uMbali, "Noodle, Noodle, Noodle!"

UTrixie wayekwingobozana yenja kunye nemibundlwane emincinane emithathu ebupinki kwaye yomithathu yayifana noNoodle.



Wonke umntu ke ngoku waqalisa ukuthetha ngaxeshanye. UNkosikazi Modise wayevuya kakhulu ukuhlangana nomnikazi kaNoodle. UBella wayevuya kakhulu kuba emfumene uNoodle. UJosh noHope babecinga ngale mibundlwane. UNeo noGogo babencumile. Emva koko uNeo waguquka waphuza uMbali wamanga. "Mbali," wasebeza, "ungoyena mcuphi uyincutshe kwabakhe bakho." UMbali wahleka. "Pinki," watsho. "OoNoodles abaPinki."

Would you like to receive stories and literacy tips on your cellphone? Join Na'ibali on WeChat. Visit [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) to find out how to download WeChat.

Visit us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA](http://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA)  
Sindwendwele ku-Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA](http://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA)

Ingaba ungathanda ukufumana amabali kunye neengebiso ngelitheresi kwiselula yakho? Joyina uNa'ibali ku-WeChat. Ndwendwela u-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) ukuze ufumane indlela onokuzikopela ngayo loo mabali ku-WeChat.

# Nal'ibali fun

## Okokuzonwabisa kwakwaNal'ibali

1.



Can you find the words in the story *Stronger than Lion* that fit with this picture? Once you've found them do the following.

1. Cut out this picture and paste it in the middle of a large sheet of paper.
2. Write the words from the story that go with it under the picture. You might also want to add some speech bubbles to the picture.
3. Draw two boxes the same size as this picture – one to the left of the picture and one to the right of it.
4. In the empty boxes, draw pictures to show what happened in the story just before this picture and just after it. Then copy the words from the story under your pictures.

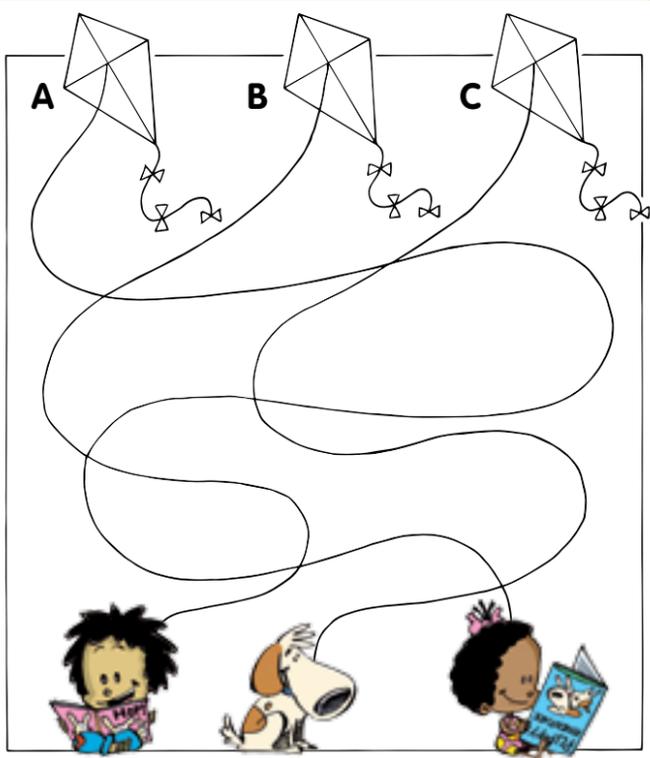
Ingaba ungawafumana amagama ahambelana nalo mfanekiso kwibali elithi, *Isilo esoyisa iNgonyama*? Emva kokuba uwafumene yenza oku kulandelayo.

1. Sika ze ukhuphe lo mfanekiso ukuze uwuncamathisele embindini woxwebhu olukhulu lwephepha.
2. Bhala amagama avela ebalini ahambelana nomfanekiso lowo phantsi kwawo. Mhlawumbi ungathanda ukongeza namaqampu entetho emfanekisweni.
3. Zoba iibhokisi ezimbini ezibukhulu bulingana nalo mfanekiso – enye kwicala lasekhohlo ze enye ibe ngasekunene komfanekiso.
4. Kwezi bhokisi zingenanto, zoba imifanekiso ebonisa ukuba kwenzeka ntoni na ebalini nje phambi kwalo mfanekiso nasemva kwawo. Wakugqiba ke kopa amagama avela ebalini uwabhale phantsi kwemifanekiso yakho.

2.

Can you help? The kite strings have got mixed up. Work out which kite belongs to Bella, Noodle and Mbali. Then colour in the kites.

Unganceda apha? Imitya yekayiti iphithene. Khangela ukuba yeyiphi ikayiti kaBella, ekaNoodle nekaMbali. Emva koko ke ufake umbala kwikayiti nganye nomtya wayo.



3.

Which letters of the alphabet do not appear in the names of the characters in *The best detective*?

BELLA  
GOGO  
HOPE  
JOSH  
MBALI  
MRS MODISE  
NEO  
NOODLE  
TRIXIE

Ngabaphi oonobumba be-alfabhethi abangekhoyo kumagama abalinganiswa abakwibali elithi *Incutshe yomcuphi xa ewonke*?

BELLA  
GOGO  
HOPE  
JOSH  
MBALI  
NKOSIKAZI MODISE  
NEO  
NOODLE  
TRIXIE

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N  
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

- Impendulo:
1. Watsho ngowoyikakayo umgqomo uNgonyama, wakhuma waya phezu, ewuvule ng'a umlomo, loo mazinayo akhe oyikakayo eqhaphazela. Zowva nezinye izilwanyana loo mgqomo, saseithuka. Isilwanyana singena nokuba umgqomo ayingowaso kubasisesaba kumstindo ozoayo.
  2. A = Mbali, B = Bella, C = Noodle
  3. C, F, K, Q, U, V, W, Y, Z

Answers:

Produced for Nal'ibali by the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA) and Times Media Education. Translation by Nobuntu Stengile. Nal'ibali character illustrations by Rico.