

Nal'ibali shares special series for Mandela Day

Commemorating the centenary celebration of Nelson Mandela's birthday, Nal'ibali, in collaboration with local publisher Heartlines, is highlighting some of the values he embodied by sharing a special series of three children's stories.



Available from [Nal'ibali's website](#) in English, isiXhosa, isiZulu and Afrikaans for the week of Mandela's birthday, the stories, *Topo's Tree House*, *Bear's Haircut* and *The Small Seed*, will also be shared amongst children in Nal'ibali's national network of over 1,000 reading clubs. Each of the three stories comes with activities and talking points about the values they focus on - honesty, compassion and forgiveness - to help parents and caregivers engage their children around these important principles.

Extending children's literacy learning

"Through discussing the pictures, characters and what is happening in a story, children learn about how stories work and how to explore them. By letting the conversation flow naturally as we enjoy a story together, we are extending children's literacy learning. Many stories focus on how characters deal with challenges that life sends their way. Story conversations help children to relate what they read about in stories to their own lives. Children are able to practise expressing their feelings and opinions as they learn about themselves and explore the complex world we live in," says Arabella Koopman, content development specialist for Nal'ibali.

Community radio stations participating

In order to share these three stories with even larger audiences, community radio stations in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Eastern Cape and Gauteng will be reading them live on air as part of their 67 minutes of community service. Newcastle Community Radio, Intokozo FM, Capricorn FM, Kingfisher FM, Bay FM and Jozi FM are some of the radio stations supporting this drive. KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Limpopo have the highest concentration of children in the country, and the stations will be placing a strong emphasis on the spirit of *ubuntu*, the values in the stories and those that unite the people of South Africa.

Concludes Jade Jacobsohn, NaI'ibali managing director, "To celebrate what would have been his 100th birthday, we at NaI'ibali would like to remember the values uTata Madiba stood for and help ensure these values are passed on to our children. Children are the future. Let's continue to spark their potential through the power of storytelling and reading."

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