



04 September 2022

To: Principals, Subject Advisors, Parents, Teachers, Departmental Heads, and Library Information Services (LIS) Coordinators.

Topic: Providing access to reading platforms to promote reading schools during the Literacy month

Message Objectives are to:

- Promote reading in primary schools.
- Maximise reading strategies in primary schools.
- Increase the number of learners participating in reading activities in schools.
- Promote reading during literacy month.

The National Education Collaborations Trust together with the Department of Basic Education has recently launched a ONE MILLION Storybooks project at Hlalisani Primary School in Kwa Mhlanga (Mpumalanga Province). The Storybooks were written in 9 Indigenous languages to promote reading in mother tongue to learners in 8882 primary schools across all 9 provinces. As we are still in Literacy month, it is important to have a variety of reading resources to champion reading at schools and in homes. There are two approaches to connecting people to reading resources i.e., through accessing hard copies of books and through digital copies.

### Accessing hard copies of books

- Borrow books from a local library.
- Borrow books from a better-resourced school for a specific time. Then exchange and borrow more books on the same basis.
- All schools will have Rainbow Workbooks, which contain stories.
- Ask for access to resource storage spaces at schools. You may find old books or textbooks. Pick out interesting stories and non-fiction texts. With the help of the teacher mentor, organize these according to learner levels. You can MAKE THESE FUN to read and listen to by using the strategies and activities described in the previous sections.

### Accessing digital copies of books

<a href="http://www.nrc.org.za">www.nrc.org.za</a> and <a href="http://www.nect.org.za">www.nect.org.za</a>
<b>ZERO-RATED SITES</b>
<b>Xander apps</b> are a resource for young children to expand their mother tongue vocabulary, and to improve language acquisition. <a href="https://xander.co.za/">https://xander.co.za/</a>
<b>Africa Teen Geeks</b> provides online resources centred around STEM subjects. Africa Teen Geeks caters for all grades, across all provinces. There is a literacy programme that covers English and indigenous South African languages. <a href="http://www.africateengeeks.co.za">www.africateengeeks.co.za</a>
<b>DBE and 2Enable</b> partnership
<b>DBE and 2Enable</b> partnership online platform provides learners with free access to the 2Enable mobile learning platform. 2Enable provides support through CAPS-aligned text based and video content, with assessment questions. Also available on the platform are readers for primary school learners. <a href="https://www.2enable.org/Dashboard.aspx">https://www.2enable.org/Dashboard.aspx</a>
<b>Vodacom e-School</b> provides Grade 8-12 high school learners who are Vodacom subscribers with free access to curriculum aligned classroom content on their mobile device across all major subjects <a href="https://www.vodacom.co.za/vodacom/services/vodacom-e-school">https://www.vodacom.co.za/vodacom/services/vodacom-e-school</a>
<b>CAMI</b> offers South African learners 14 days free access to fun and interactive educational software consisting of Cami Literacy, a complete language system that helps learners develop a love of reading. <a href="https://cami.co.za/">https://cami.co.za/</a>
<b>African Storybook</b> provides open access to hundreds of picture storybooks in the languages of Africa. <a href="https://www.africanstorybook.org/">https://www.africanstorybook.org/</a>
<b>FunDza</b> is an e-reading platform that caters to teens and young adults, and offers literature in 9 South African languages. <a href="https://live.fundza.mobi/">https://live.fundza.mobi/</a>
<b>Nal'ibali</b> has many storybooks and audiobooks on its website. <a href="https://www.nalibali.org/">https://www.nalibali.org/</a>

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