

Arts and Humanities Research Council

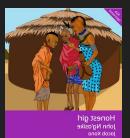
# **Nuer Literacy Initiative**

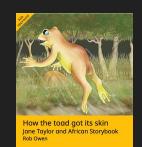
### **Project goals**

- Address inequalities in access to literacy for people whose mother tongue is Nuer.
- Use new technology to support community-led production of culturally appropriate literacy resources.



Akai's special mat Ursula Nafula Catherine Groenewald





Ape and Crocodile Mulualem Daba Aproham Muzee

- Hold two online translation workshops to quickly generate a large body of Nuer literature for children.
- Hold one creation workshop to generate original Nuer stories.
- Publish 44 new digital books in Nuer on the African Storybook Reader.
- Publish 14 original illustrated Nuer stories, printed in three 64-page books, and distribute to Nuer speaking communities.

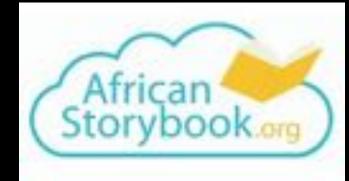
#### **Project partners**





# THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

## nuer lexicon





## africanstorybook.org



#### 00000 2540 TRAVELATORS. Visior Open access to picture storybooks in the languages of Africa. For children's literacy, enjoyment and imagination. New Storybooks Storybooks approved by ASb<sup>(3)</sup> Zama u kahlel Aphalia na Maya In Malanti citizen of Parlance Use of Storybookso Introducing ASb storybooks to more... Celebrating International Day of t... Caroline Makokha Dr Also Mohammed Sale

#### Storybook layout



Akai's special mat Ursula Nafula Catherine Groenewald



When Akai was a little girl, her mother used to put her to sleep on a beautiful mat. Akai's aunt made this special mat from palm leaves.



The mat had bright pink, blue and green colours. It was different from other mats that Akai's mother had in the hut.



The land around Akai's home was very dry, hot and full of stones. There were many scorpions, spiders and snakes too. But Akai was never in danger of being bitten by these dangerous creatures.

#### **Translation workshops**

English



How the toad got its skin Jane Taylor and African Storybook Rob Owen

English



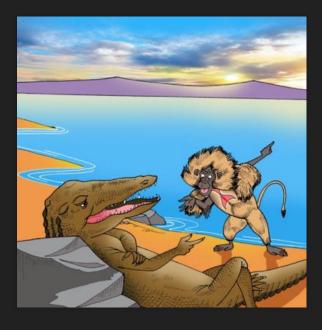
- Two online workshops facilitated by African Storybook and the Nuer Literacy Initiative team.
- Will take place in January 2022 and March 2022.
- O Up to 20 participants per workshop
- Funding available to reimburse participants for time and internet costs.
- Goal: Translation and publication of 30 digital storybooks into Nuer.

#### Translation workshop workflow

Participants are recruited from Nuer Lexicon community. Participants attend the workshops and work in small groups to translate selected texts into Nuer.

Translated texts are shared with the Nuer Lexicon community to finetune orthographic representation. Translations are published online using the African Storybook Maker app.

#### **Creation workshop**





- One online creation workshop facilitated by African Storybook and the Nuer Literacy Initiative team.
- Will take place in June 2022
- Up to 20 participants.
- Funding available to reimburse participants for time and internet costs.
- Goal: Creating 14 original Nuer storybooks written in Nuer, and illustrated by professional African illustrators.

#### Creation workshop workflow

Participants are recruited from pool of previous workshops participants. Participants attend the workshops and learn how to write and edit their own stories. Illustrations are commissioned for a selection of stories created during the workshop. Texts are checked with the Nuer Lexicon community.

Original texts (and English translations) are published online, printed in physical books and distributed in East Africa.

#### **Distribution and licensing**

- The new story books created will all be made available in the African Storybook app.
- Nuer readers will be able to access them for free at any time via a mobile, tablet or, laptop.
- None of the books created will be sold and all of the physical books will be given away for free to schools and community groups.

You are free to download, copy, translate or adapt this story and use the illustrations as long as you attribute in the following way:

#### Screenshot

Jì a tì' wàyn ə tyiftə wàyn fa tsu

Author - Abraham Bereket, Hardido Temesgen and Yohannes Firew Translation - Celestine Tabong and Zhuh Godlove Illustration - Adonay Gebru Language - Babanki Level - Longer paragraphs

> © African Storybook Initiative 2018 Creative Commons: Attribution 4.0 Source www.africanstorybook.org







#### www.smg.surrey.ac.uk/nuer-literacy-initiative