

Grade

Anthology

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# Read Aloud Story 4

## Jabulani's good day at school

I am Jabulani. I am in Grade 1. I had a good day at school.

I got up early and helped granny cook pap. I did not want to get to school late. I ate some pap. I asked granny to tie my shoe laces for me. She tried to tie my shoe laces. But she could not see well. She has lost her glasses.

I got my bag. I walked to school. My shoes were loose. At school Ayanda saw me. Ayanda is in Grade 2. "Jabulani," she said, "you have nice shiny shoes! But they are falling off. Let me show you how to tie the laces." So she sat with me and showed me how to tie the laces. Now I can tie my shoes.

I found the classroom. The teacher was there. "Jabulani," she said, "Here you are! Not late for school today," and she smiled at me.

The teacher gave us pieces cut from newspaper. We had to look at the print and find all the 'a's. The teacher said we must draw a circle round each 'a' we could see. Then we had to find all the 'e's. We had to draw a line under every 'e'. I found a lot of 'a's and 'e's. But it was hard for me to draw circles because my nice pen was broken.

"Jabulani," said the teacher, "where is your pen?" I said it was broken. She said "You are lucky today." She said a lady from church gave her some pens. She gave me one. It does not click. But it is a good pen.

Then the teacher put pictures cut out from newspapers on the board. She asked us if we knew the English names for the things in the pictures. I saw a lorry in one picture. I put up my hand. "Yes, Jabulani?" said the teacher. I said, "Roli!" "Ha ha! Ha ha!" said the other children. So I knew I said the wrong word. I felt bad.

But the teacher stopped them laughing. She said, "Jabulani did well! He tried! He was the only one who tried!" Then she spoke to us about trying and making mistakes. She said children who get good marks are the ones who keep trying. She said it doesn't matter how many mistakes we make as long as we keep trying. We can only learn if we are not scared of making mistakes.

She said "Long ago, teachers used to punish children for mistakes, but now we know better. Now we know that we must think hard and try, and not worry too much about mistakes." Then she made everyone clap for me, because I was the only one who tried to say "Lorry."

It was a good day for me.