

Hamlet and Kimberley

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This lesson is a ‘wannabe’ from our South African Homeschool curriculum,
[Little Footprints – South Africa in Stories](#)

Since these themes were already included in some of the other stories we had used, we decided not to include this book in the 2006 updated edition.

Hamlet, the adventure-loving piglet goes on a journey across the Karoo in search of Kimberley’s parents. Kimberley is a cuckoo, who makes a nest in Hamlet’s hair. The adventure ends with an exciting discovery at the Big Hole. Parents will enjoy the subtle humour too!

Copywork

The sky was splashed with colour: pink and lemon and green, like a rainbow sucker.

Bible

In the Psalms the Bible says that though your father and mother forsake you, God will never forsake you. Kimberley’s parents had left him behind and flown north. Sometimes children also feel like their mothers and fathers have abandoned them or rejected their needs. Sometimes it is because they have to work a lot or because they are often away, or maybe they don’t even live together because they are divorced. Whenever we feel that someone is not giving us the love and attention we need, we must turn to Jesus. We must ask him to help us feel loved and help us to forgive the person who we feel is letting us down.

The cuckoo hatches in the nest of a red bishop bird . If you so choose, you could also talk to your children about adoption.

Some mummies can’t look after their babies themselves and so they give them to other mummies and daddies to look raise the children. The parents of some children have died and so they need other families to look after them.

In South Africa there are many Aids orphans who need loving families and financial support. One of our clients runs an orphanage just like this: Visit www.tlc.org.za. Perhaps your family could support them financially or otherwise – their banking details for accounts in various countries are also on their website.

Nutrition – breakfast

We all have been told for many years that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Even Hamlet knows that! With your children's help make up a list of favourite healthy breakfasts. To get you started here are some easy recipes. (Used with permission)

Flapjacks

3 cups flour
3 eggs
350ml milk
2tsp Baking Powder
pinch salt
butter

1. Mix dry ingredients
2. Add milk and eggs beating with a hand whisk
3. Melt butter in a flat pan and add half a ladle of mixture into the sizzling butter – you can fit about 3 flapjacks in a medium pan at a time.
4. Keep warm until all are made.
5. Serve with honey, lemon juice and cinnamon sugar or have them with savoury accompaniments like, grated cheese, fried mushrooms and tomatoes etc.



Carol's Crunchy Muesli

Serving size: serves 24

2 cups wholewheat flour
6 ½ cups rolled oats
1 ½ cups desiccated coconut
½ cup water
1 cup oil
½ cup syrup or honey
1 teaspoons vanilla
1 tablespoon salt

1. Combine the dry ingredients and liquid ingredients in two bowls.
2. Add liquid to dry ingredients and mix thoroughly.

3. Spread on two backing trays and bake for approximately 1hr at 120 °C until golden brown and dry, turning the muesli over a view times.
4. Add a variety of dried fruits, raisins, nuts, and seeds.
5. Add sugar to taste.

Breakfast scones

250ml flour
1ml salt
12.5 ml baking powder
25ml oil
100 ml milk
10 ml sugar

1. Sift the dry ingredients together.
2. Add to the dry ingredients.
3. This makes a stiff dough which you divide into four small or two large scones placed on a greased baking sheet.
4. Bake at 220oC for 15 minutes.
5. Serve hot butter, cheese and honey. Double up the recipe for more.

30-day muffins

4 eggs
175ml oil
500ml soft brown sugar
1L butter milk
Mix together

500ml Bran
250g raisins
Add to above

750ml cake flour
500ml Wholewheat flour
25ml bicarb
5 ml salt
Add and mix thoroughly,

Spoon into greased muffin pan bake at 200, the remaining mixture will keep in the fridge for 30 days and you can have a ready mixed batter ready for unexpected guests and hungry children on demand. The batter makes about 48 muffins.

Geography – South Africa

On a map of Africa, point out Equatorial Africa to your children in relation to South Africa.

Find Kimberley on the map and also point out Cape Town. Hamlet's home is somewhere near Cape Town. Find an atlas and show your children the train route through the Karoo from Cape Town to Kimberley and also point out the area of the Kruger National Park.

The helicopter pilot also mentions flying halfway to Hong Kong. Point out Hong Kong to your children on a world map or globe and explain that he meant he'd fly a far way.

History – Kimberley

Kimberley was founded in the late 1800's when a tent town sprung up following the discovery of diamonds in the area. Kimberley today remains the diamond mining capital of South Africa.

The heritage of Kimberley in our South African homeschool curriculum, [Footprints on Our Land](#) for children aged 7-12.

Transport – Railways

If your children are interested in train travel, take them on a train ride or read about trains in a book from the library.

Thomas the Tank Engine is a children's favourite fictional train story.

Cooking – Pumpkin

The train conductor gets a pumpkin from a kind farmer for Hamlet to eat. It is covered with juicy worms for Kimberley.

Pumpkin is a healthy vegetable that is rich in vitamins.

Make pumpkin fritters using one of the recipes at www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/fall-preschool-recipes.html

Food – Milk

Hamlet enjoys a fresh milk-shake on the train. Constantia, the cow's milk was being transported. If possible arrange a trip a dairy or dairy farm and learn about how milk is pasteurised and delivered to shops.

Give your children a milkshake treat or let them see first hand how butter can be made from milk:

A South African Literature-based lesson plan brought to you by
www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com

1. Pour thick cream into a container with a tight-fitting lid. A Tupperware Quickshake is ideal.
2. Seal it and start shaking. Take turns continuously (perhaps while reading aloud). After a long time (45mins) little grainy dots will begin to form.
3. Keep shaking. When the butter is made, there will be a big lump of butter and clear liquid called buttermilk. Pour it off and rinse the butter in cold water. Then enjoy it on fresh bread!

Lifeskills – Making a bed

The conductor makes a bed for Hamlet with two clean sheets and a blanket. These days, most people use duvet covers, which are much easier to make up. Encourage your children to make their own beds and do it as neatly as possible, as if their room was a hotel room. Reward them with a treat on their pillow, if you like, in true hotel style.

Geography – Windmills

Make a windmill (pin-wheel) using the instructions at www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/preschool-crafts.html

Nature - Prickly pear

If prickly pears are in season, buy some for your children to try. Prickly pears are the fruit of cactus plants, which have thick juicy leaves and long thorns.

Nature – South African Animals

A variety of South African animals are mentioned in this story. An Eagle, Springbok, Caterpillars, Lizards

Find out more about any of these and let your children try to draw them too. You could possibly ask them to narrate what they have learned.

Geography - Diamonds

This topic is also covered in detail in the [Footprints On Our Land](#) South Africa Homeschool curriculum for ages 7-12

Imaginative play - Farmyard

If your children have a set of farm animals, let them play with them. There is a good chance they will play a game about Hamlet and his farmyard friends!

Art – Colour wheel

You will need: colour wheel outline for each child, red, yellow and blue paint, paintbrushes

The author described the sky at dawn as pink and lemon and green.

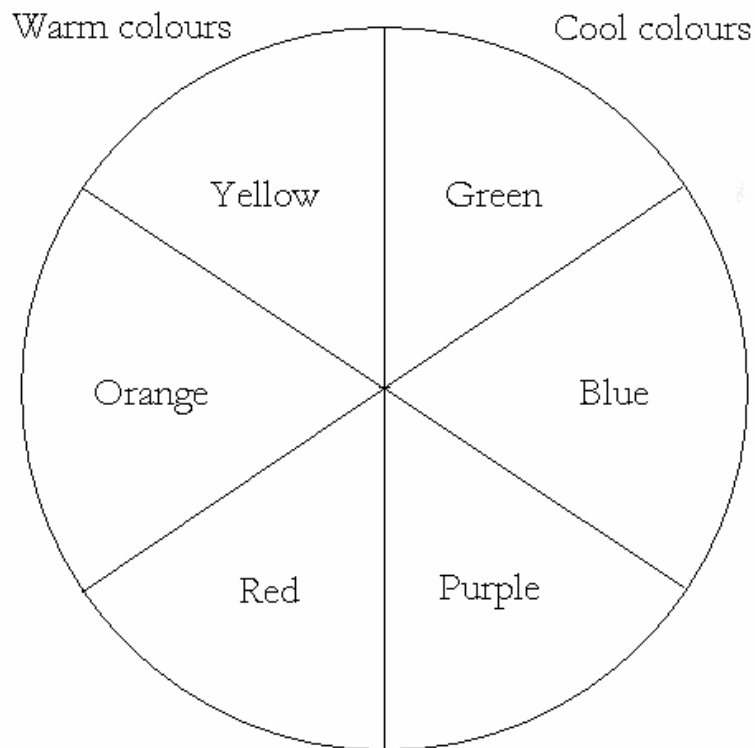
Using the colour wheel which follows, create one with your own children. Give each child a copy of a blank colour wheel divided into its 6 pie slices.

Colour in the ‘slices’ in the following order:

1. Yellow
2. Red
3. Blue

Tell your children these are the primary colours from which all other colours come.

1. Green
2. Purple
3. Orange



Tell your children these come from mixing together small amounts of the primary colours. These colours are also complimentary to the colours directly opposite them in the colour wheel

Give your children some watercolour paints to experiment with mixing colours and finding complimentary colours. You can also tell them that the colours on the left of the colour wheel are warm colours and the colours on the right, cool colours.

Art – Sunrise and sunset

The first picture in the story shows a beautiful sky at sunrise. Let the children paint a similar sunrise using water colours on good quality paper.