

Guide 4

How to translate and adapt storybooks on the African Storybook website

Open access to picture storybooks in the languages of Africa.
For children's literacy, enjoyment and imagination.



A colorful illustration of a person carrying a large yellow basket on their back, walking through a landscape. The person is wearing a blue tunic, purple leggings, and yellow boots. They are holding a wooden staff. To their right, a red pig is walking. To their left, a grey dog is walking. The background features a large, textured grey hillside with a small white structure on top. A red pig is also visible on the hillside. The ground is covered in a textured grey pattern. A small red and white bird is visible on the left side of the image.

All the storybooks published on the African Storybook website have an open license. Anyone can translate or adapt the books without having to ask for permission or pay a fee.

This guide shows you how to create a translation of a storybook on the African Storybook website (online), and offline with a template, as well as how to adapt a storybook on the website.

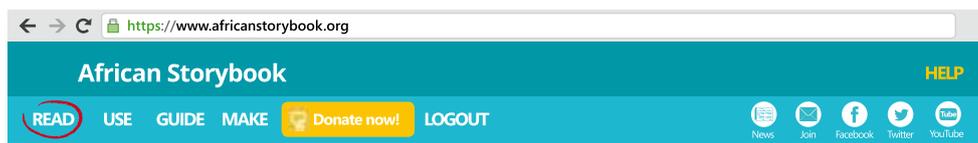
1 How to translate a storybook on the African Storybook website

Translating storybooks on the African Storybook website is the quickest and easiest way to ensure that children have many storybooks in a language that is familiar to them.

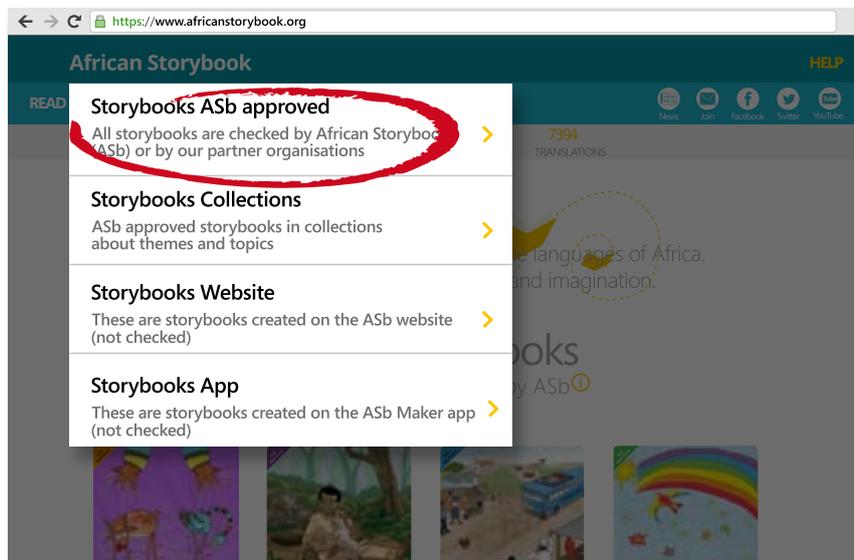
This Guide shows you how to create a translation of a storybook on the website (online), and offline with a template, as well as how to adapt a storybook on the website. When you translate and adapt storybooks, you work in the **MAKE** section of the ASb website.

Introduction

To select storybooks for translation, you need to **READ** storybooks in the collection of ASb approved storybooks on the website.



To browse for storybooks to translate or adapt, go to **READ** and choose **Storybooks ASb approved**. You will go to another page with a list of storybooks.



Decide the language of the storybook you want to translate from. Browse and select a storybook to translate into a language of your choice. Write down its title of the storybook exactly as it appears.



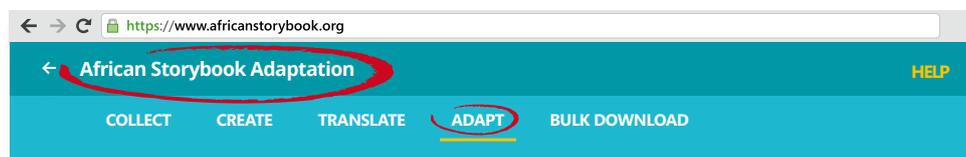
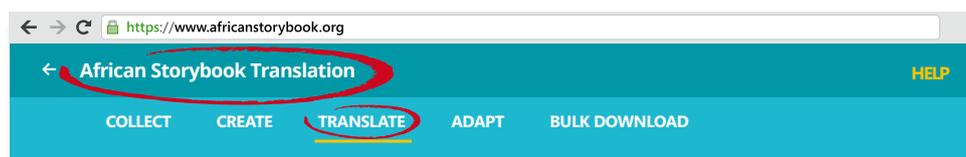
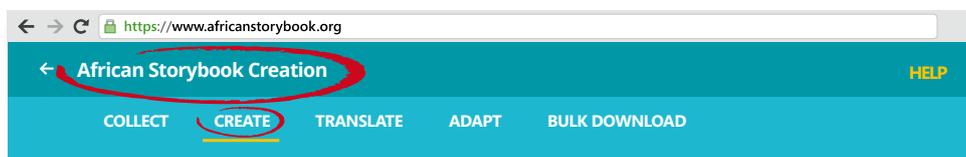
You can translate the storybook:

- > Directly from the screen by writing the translation on paper or by typing it, or you can
- > Download a PDF of the storybook and refer to that to translate offline – a good idea for translating storybooks at Level 2 and higher.

This Guide will also help you to download the story on a Word template from the ASb website (just the words of the story, with space for you to type a translation).

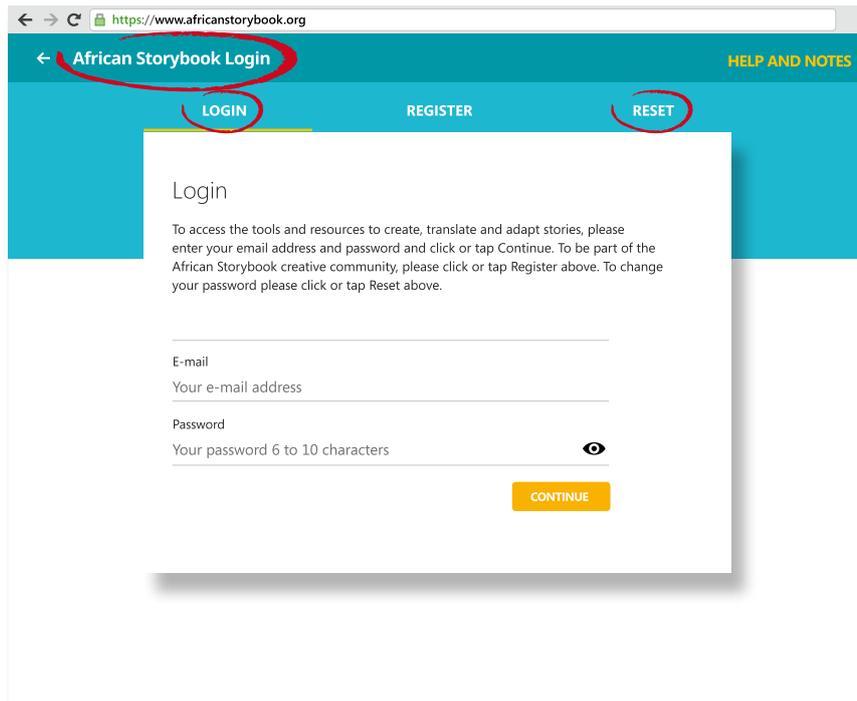
When you have checked and finalised your translation of the original storybook, you are ready to create your translated storybook online.

To **MAKE** – create, translate, and adapt – storybooks you need to **LOGIN** to the ASb website.



When you click on **MAKE**, you will either be prompted to **LOGIN** (if you're already registered on the website), or to **REGISTER** (if this is the first time you're using the website).

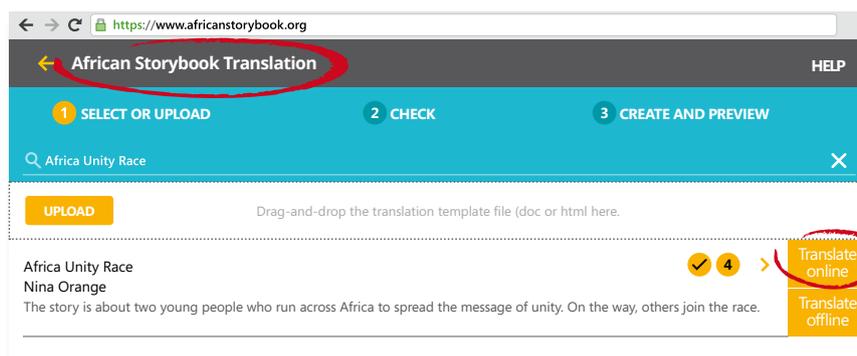
Once you have completed the website registration process, an email will be sent to the email address you used to register. Watch out for the email as it expires after 24 hours, and it might go to the Spam folder of your email account. Click on the link in the email to verify your name and email address, and you will now have a user profile on the ASb website



- > **LOGIN** to the website with the email address you registered with using the password you set at registration.
- > If you don't remember your password, you can **RESET** it.

Translating a storybook online

Translate online takes you to where you can type. You can create your translated storybook, page by page.



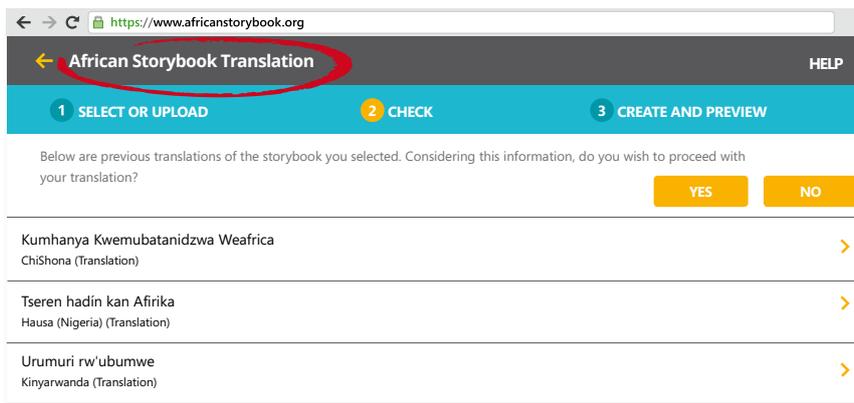
Once you successfully login, click on: **TRANSLATE → NEW TRANSLATION → Search for a storybook to translate**. Type the title of the storybook you want to translate.

In the example on the previous page, the title of the storybook is "Africa Unity Race".

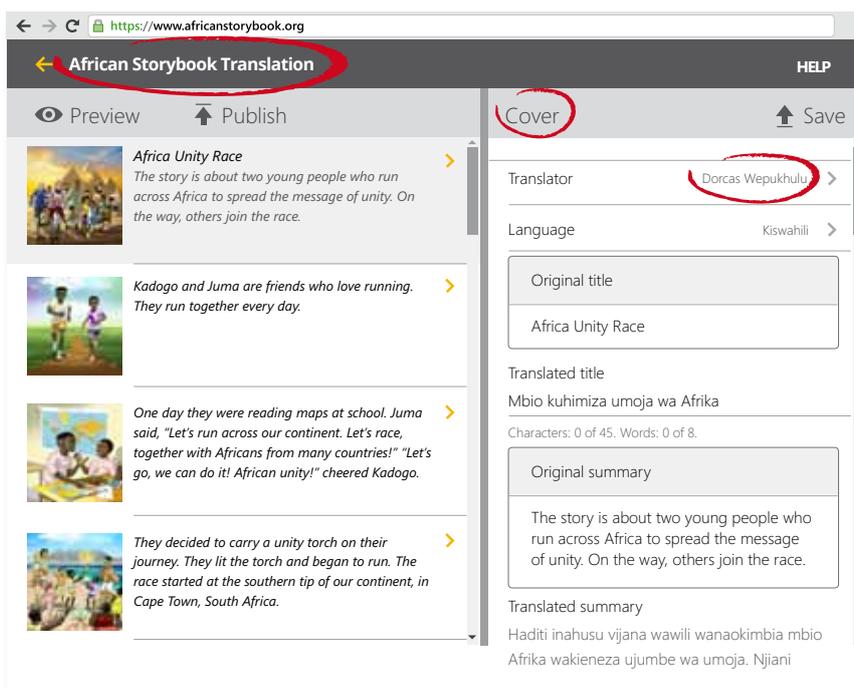
To select the storybook and begin translating online, click on **Translate online**.

When you click on **Translate online**, you will see all the translations of a particular storybook on the website.

If there isn't already a translation into the language you wish to use, click **YES** to carry on with your translation. (You can also check a storybook in the **READ** section of the website to see the translations of that storybook.)



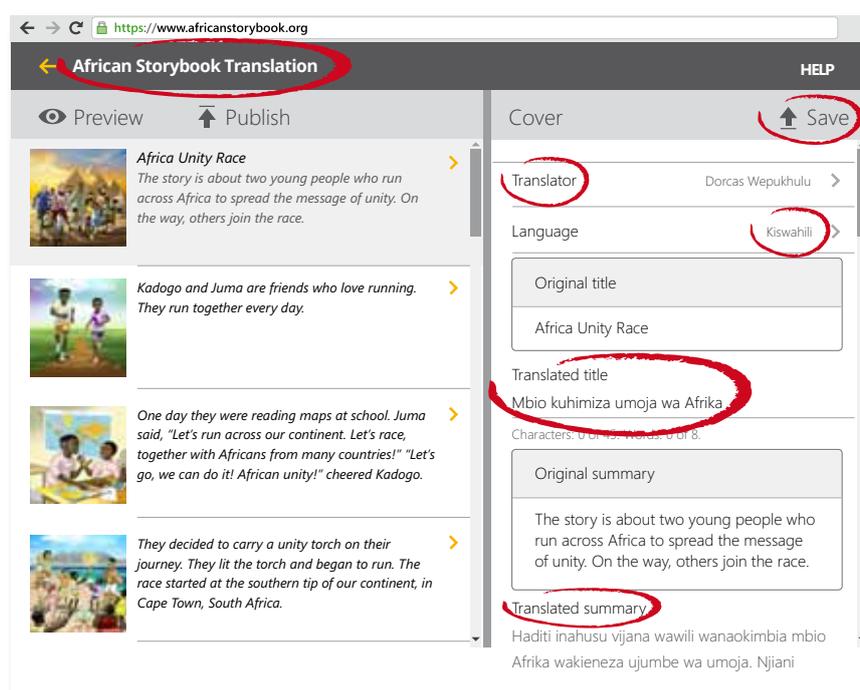
On the **left-hand side** of the screen, in the example below, the storybook appears page by page in the original language, for example, English. On **the right**, you type the new storybook details, starting with the **Cover**. The name of the person logged-in is listed as the **Translator** – in this case, **Dorcias Wepukhulu**.



As you start creating a translated storybook, you will automatically be listed as the **Translator**, but you can add a different name(s) by clicking on your name, and then on the + at the top right-hand corner of that screen. You can also remove (uncheck) a name in the translator list that was automatically used on the cover.

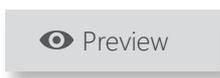
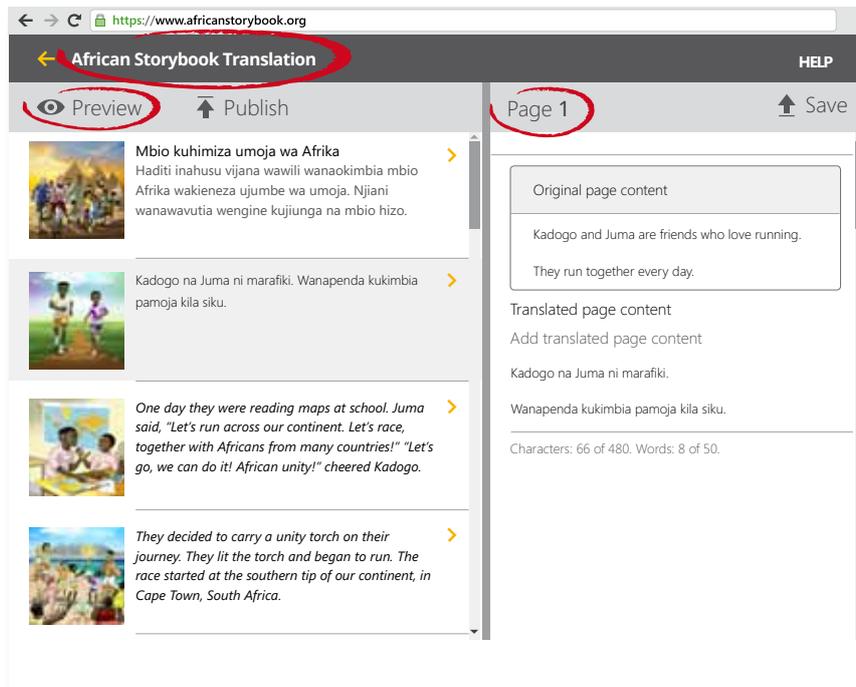
Select the **Language** into which you will be translating, in the example, the language is Kiswahili. Don't forget to **Save** each time you enter new information.

Type the **title** in the **new language** in **Add translated title**, followed by the **translated story summary** in **Add translated summary**. As you do this, you will notice that the title of the storybook in the new language and the new summary, appear with the cover page in the panel on the left. This sets up the pattern: you fill in text on the right, and when you save, it appears in the correct place on the left.

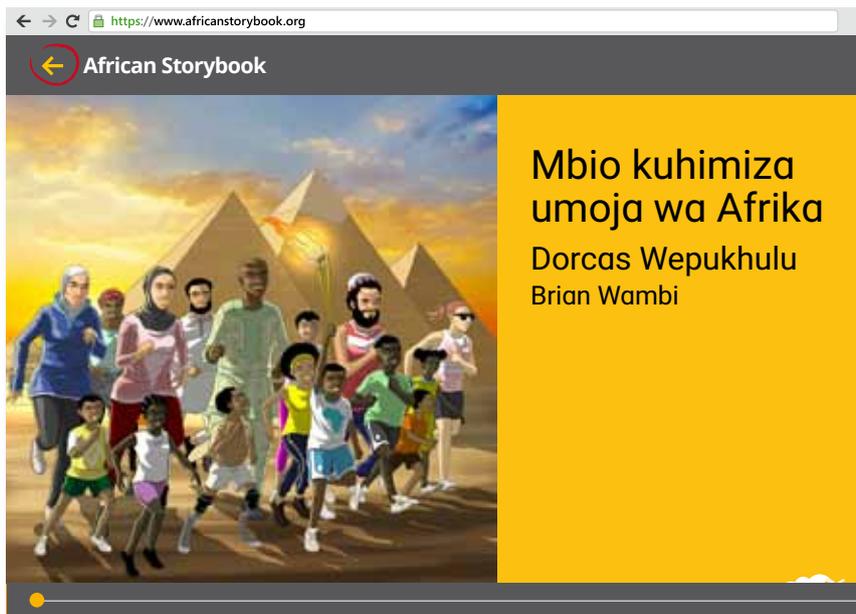


Remember to use **punctuation marks** in your text! (That is, capital letters when starting people's names and a new sentence, comas, question tags, quotation marks, and full stops).

After translating the cover page, you **Save** and click on **Page 1** on the left to translate it on the right. Each time you complete translating a page, you **Save**. Repeat for each of the pages.



When all the pages are translated, click **Preview** to check your storybook again before publishing.



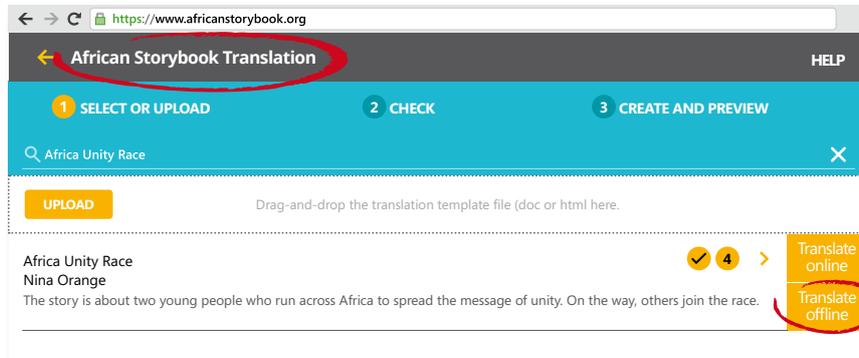
Go through the book, checking your translated text. To **close Preview**, click the **back arrow next to African Storybook**.

Remember to SAVE each time. After you have checked each page for errors, and made changes if necessary, you are ready to publish your storybook. Click PUBLISH! Your translated storybook will be in READ section of the website for you to read online, to download as a PDF, and to print.

Translating a storybook offline with a template

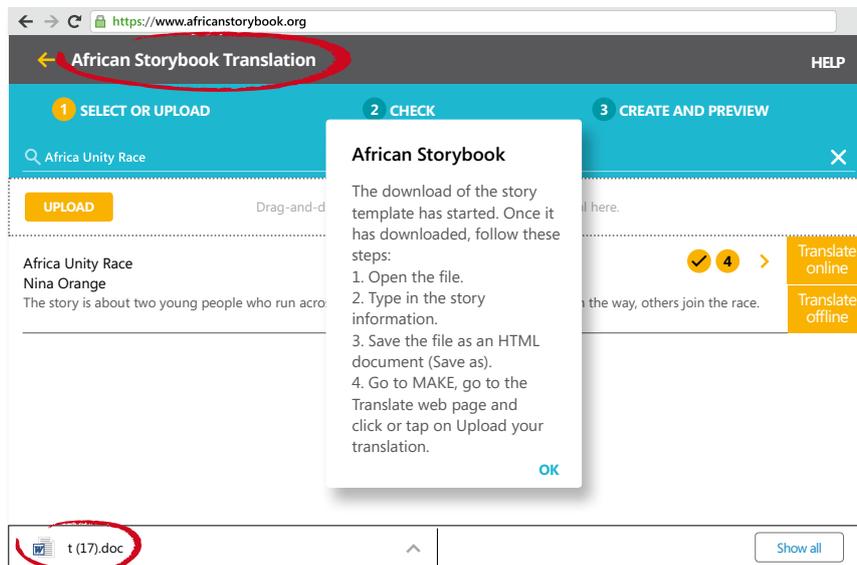
After you login, click on: **TRANSLATE** → **NEW TRANSLATION** → **Search for a storybook to translate**. Type the title of the storybook you chose to translate.

You select **Translate offline**, to download a translation template with the original story text in a Word document.



After the download is complete, click on the Word file to open it. In the example, the name of the Word file is "t (17).doc".

You 'Save As' a 'Word Document', naming it after the **storybook title**.



Type in your translation starting from the **title, name of language, your first and last names and summary**.

Work from page 1 to the last page and type in your translation where it says **Your translated text**. Delete those words and proceed to type in your translation. Make sure to translate each sentence and each paragraph observing where each paragraph starts and ends. If sentences from the source language are too long, you can break them up to create shorter ones in the new language.

African Storybook: Story Translation Template

Fill in the required information, save the file as an HTML document (use Save As).

Original story ID 19876

Original story title Africa Unity Race

Translated story title

First name of translator

Last name of translator

Language of translation

Original story summary The story is about two young people who run across Africa to spread the message of unity. On the way, others join the race.

Translated story summary

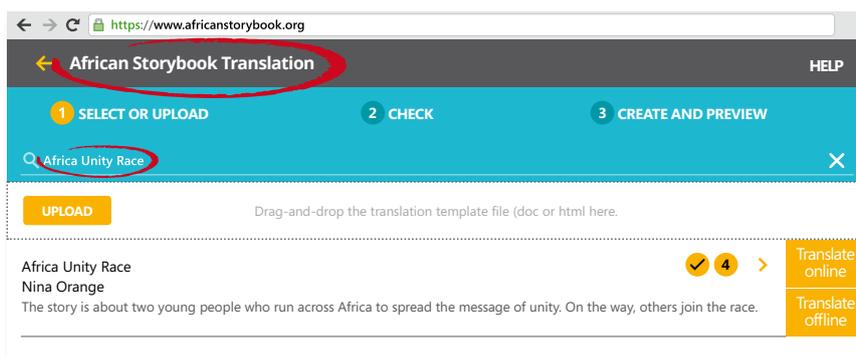
1 Kadogo and Juma are friends who love running.
They run together every day.

Your translated text

2 One day they were reading maps at school.
Juma said, "Let's run across our continent. Let's race, together with Africans from many countries!"
"Let's go, we can do it! African unity!" cheered Kadogo.

Your translated text

After checking your whole translation on the Word document translation template, return to the website and click on **MAKE → TRANSLATE → NEW TRANSLATION** → Type the **title of the storybook to be translated** in **Search for a storybook**. See example below.



Once again, click on **Translate online** and proceed to copy and paste your translation from the template into the space starting with the title, your name, language, and summary – exactly as explained in the online translation.

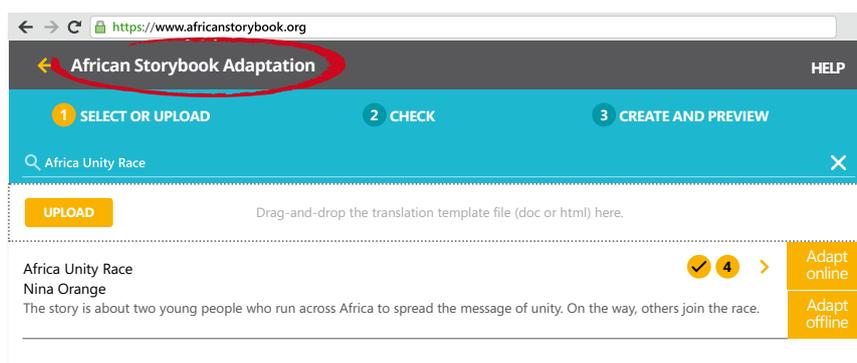
You need to Preview, check, and then **PUBLISH!**

It is possible to upload the template directly to the website, but many users have experienced difficulties with the files, so this Guide doesn't include that approach. Please contact African Storybook directly if you are interested in finding out more.

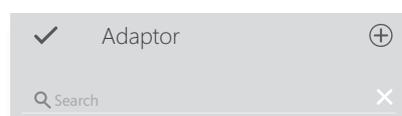
2 How to adapt a storybook on the African Storybook website

On the website, you can **ADAPT** a storybook:

- > You can make it more challenging to suit proficient readers or add certain elements to teach a different concept.
- > You can make it more suitable for the context and culture of an audience, or choose to have a different ending to it.
- > You might consider adapting names of characters, songs used in the storybook, and where possible, games mentioned, for the intended audience to relate more to the story.
- > You could use only the images of a chosen story with your own text and produce a totally different storybook.



The **process of adapting** a storybook on the African Storybook website is similar to that of translating: **MAKE → ADAPT → NEW ADAPTATION →** Type the title of the storybook you want to adapt in **Search for a storybook** to get it. See the screenshot.

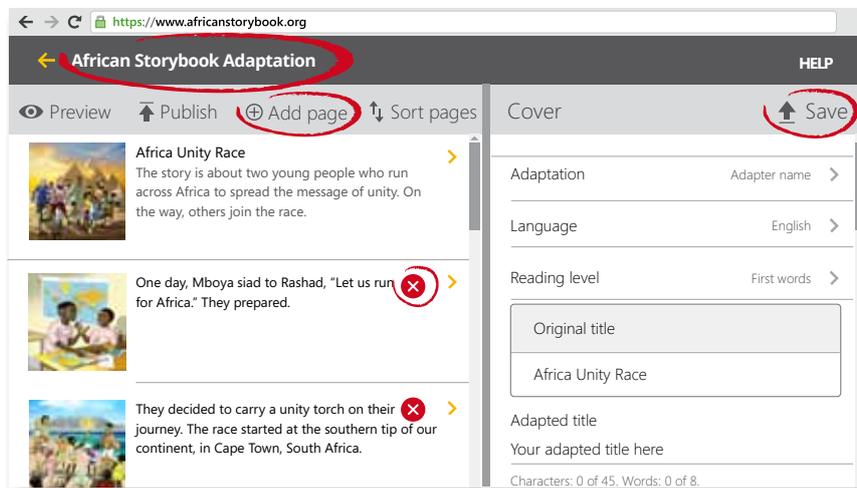


As you start your Adaptation, you will automatically be listed as the **Adaptor** but you can add another name(s) by clicking your name, and then on the + at the top right-hand corner of the screen.

Continuing with the cover of the adapted storybook, next you type the new title for your storybook followed by a one-sentence **story summary** and **Save**.

After the cover page, you **adapt the storybook page by page**, saving each time. You can adapt a longer storybook to a shorter one by **deleting pages using the red x**.

Using **Add page** you can add more pages to make a shorter storybook longer.

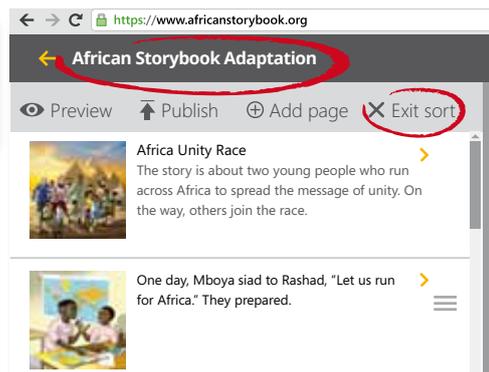


To adapt a higher-level storybook down to a Level 1, you could use some of the original text to write 1-2 short sentences per page.

You could use the images with your own text on each page. The adapted story should flow naturally and make sense with the pictures. You could leave images only and have a wordless picture storybook.



In adapting your storybook, you might want to change the order of the story pages. **Sort pages** enables you to move the storybook pages with the book.



When you click on **Sort pages**, the storybook will display as in the example. Next to each yellow arrow is three little grey lines. Position your cursor over the three little lines on the page you want to move, then move that page up or down. Preview the storybook to check it, and then Publish it.

Your adapted storybook will be in READ section the website for you to read online, to download as a PDF, and to print.



Get in touch with us

Email us, follow us on social media,
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