

# Reading for Meaning

**Welcome, story supporter!**

**We hope that you and your child  
have fun with this story.**

**Nurturing and supporting  
your child is important for  
their physical, emotional and  
academic development.**

**ZERO  
DROP/OUT**

**Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards  
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.**

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# A very hairy policeman



It was a sunny day. Jim was walking down the road. He was looking for something. If I told you that he was looking for something to steal, what would you say?

Jim was a robber. He was a professional robber. But I can tell you another thing about Jim – he was not very smart. Don't get me wrong; Jim thought he was very clever. But I'm not so sure. Let me tell you about what happened to him on this day, and then you can decide for yourself.

“Aha!” said Jim, as he walked down the road, “today's my lucky day!” He had spotted something shiny and heard a clinking sound. It was a bag of coins that a man was unloading from a vending machine.

When he saw that money from the vending machine, Jim said to himself, “Ha, this is my chance to steal a lot of money!”. He grabbed the bag from the man and ran.

The man shouted “Hey! STOP! Help! Thief!

Thief!” Two policemen came running.

The policemen ran after Jim.

Jim ran down the road as fast as he could. He ran past shops and he ran past houses. The policemen ran after him. Jim saw some big gates and went through them. They were the gates to the zoo.

Jim wanted to hide from those policemen. So as he ran he looked for a hiding place.

Jim ran past the lions' cage. He saw two huge male lions with hairy manes, very big paws and long, sharp claws.

He kept on running.

The policemen followed him.

He ran past the leopards' cage. Two big leopards were lying outside in the sun. They looked at Jim and slowly licked their lips.

Jim ran on.

The policemen followed him.

He ran past another cage. All he could see were big thick tree trunks. Then he saw that the tree trunks were elephants' legs and elephants' trunks. Not a good place to hide there!

Jim ran on.

The policemen followed him.

He ran past the baboons' cage. The biggest baboon gave Jim a welcoming smile, rolling his lips and flashing his huge teeth. Jim ran on.

The policemen followed him.

Where could he hide?

He came to the gorillas' cage.

He saw the gorillas' cage door was open. No gorilla in sight. At last! Somewhere to hide. Jim ran into the cage.

But guess who he didn't see. Guess who was

inside the cage, just behind the door. Yes, it was one big gorilla. And that huge hairy gorilla was NOT pleased to see this intruder! He thought “How dare this human come barging into my home! “

The gorilla grabbed Jim and with one big hairy finger – pong! - tapped him on the head. It was a very gentle tap, but then the gorilla grabbed Jim and held him tight with his huge hands. Jim tried to escape from the gorilla but the gorilla held on to him tightly.

The policemen came running in, out of breath huh huh huh. They took one look at Jim and put handcuffs on him.

One policeman said to the gorilla “Thanks for helping us! You’re a really good policeman.”

“Yes” said the other policeman. “In fact, you are as good as a professional policeman!”

The policemen took Jim away.

Then two days later they came back and gave the gorilla a policeman's hat and a badge.

This is a true story! It happened in Johannesburg.

## EXTEND THE STORY...

Reporting  
live from  
the scene!



GAMES

### WHAT TO USE

*Spoon as a microphone and a phone or any other object as a camera*

### WHAT TO DO

- Ask your child to pretend to be a news reporter explaining what happened in the story, live on television. For example, they use a spoon as microphone and say “Good morning, we are reporting live from the zoo where a thief is being chased by the police.”

- If you have more than one person at home, ask them to be the person holding the ‘camera’.
- They can start by introducing themselves and telling the viewers where they are and what is happening at the scene. Have fun and be creative.

**This is an exciting activity that encourages creativity and an open imagination.**

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