

Reading for Meaning

**Welcome to the Reading for
Meaning programme.**

**We hope that you will have fun
reading stories and doing activities
with learners.**

**Remember, nurturing and
supporting a 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.**

Reading
for Meaning

How zebra got his stripes

STORY GUIDE

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EACH READER NEEDS...

The story

Pens or pencils

Paper

The Story



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Do you know how Zebra got his stripes? Well, one day there was a big fight by the river. Two animals had decided to fight. One wanted to protect the rights of the other animals and the other wanted to have everything all to himself. Zebra ended up with stripes, but how?



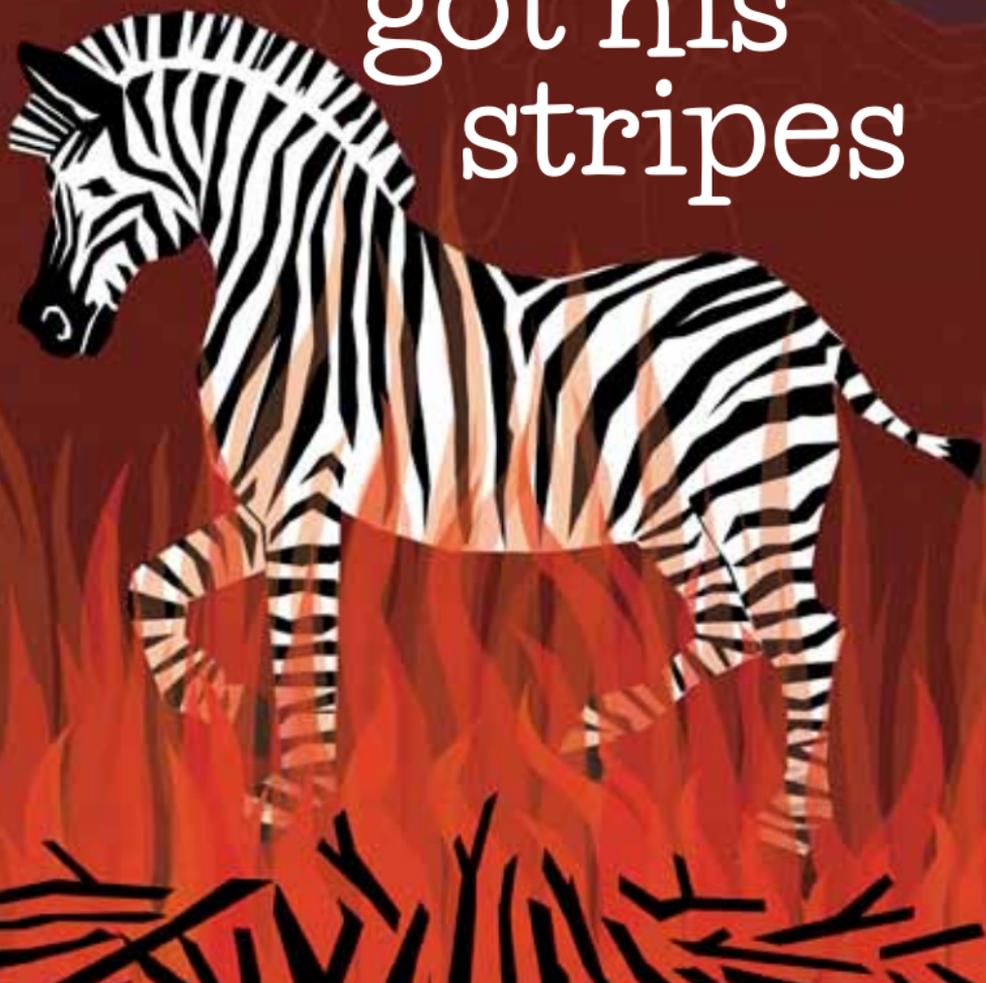
READ THE STORY...

Read the story aloud, with expression. Change your voice when different characters speak.

Pause briefly for commas, full stops etc. and between paragraphs.

Reading
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How zebra got his stripes



A long, long time ago, a great baboon came out of the forest and walked along the banks of the Umfolozi River.

The water was clean and cool and clear - just the thing for a hot summer's day. The great baboon liked this place next to the river so much that he decided to live here forever. So he gathered wood, built a cooking fire and settled in. Next he called all the other animals and told them, "This is my new home, this is my fireplace and this is my river now. None of you may drink from it or swim in the river again."

Well, the animals were afraid of the great baboon. He was big and very strong and he spoke in a loud, booming voice. The animals were too afraid to challenge him and so they would have to look for new homes.

The animals started packing. They were most unhappy because they would have to move to the dry hills, on the other side of the river. Where

would they find water to drink? Where could they go to cool down on hot days?

There was one animal, however, that was NOT afraid of baboon - a small, brave zebra, called Vusi. Vusi was a handsome, young zebra with a shiny white coat. In those days, you see, zebras were completely white.

Vusi refused to obey Baboon. Instead, the very next morning when it was hot, Vusi went down to the river to swim!

When Baboon found out he was very angry and so he challenged Vusi to a fight.

Do you think Vusi was scared? Not at all!

“I agree to fight you,” said Vusi, “but if you lose, YOU must move and go and live on the other side of the river.”

Baboon laughed loudly, “You’ll never beat me, little zebra. You and all your friends will go to live up on the dry hills after our fight!”

Well, the day for the big fight arrived!

All the animals of the forest came to watch. The sun was hot and the river sparkled. The animals were tense and excited. When the hornbill gave three deep honks, the fight began . . .

Baboon was big and strong and had long, sharp teeth, but Vusi was quick and had sharp hooves. There was a great cloud of dust as both animals fought bravely.

First Vusi was winning; then Baboon was winning and then Vusi was winning again. The crowd cheered - then fell silent - then cheered again!

But at last Baboon was too strong for little Vusi. With a mighty heave, Baboon shoved Vusi onto the fire the baboon had made. Vusi fell onto the burning logs! How terrible! The animals were silent and were too scared to go and pull Vusi out of the fire. They knew the fight was over. Poor Vusi!

But wait! With a great cry, Vusi leapt up from the fire and with a mighty thrust he kicked baboon as hard as he could.

Baboon lifted off the ground and went flying. Up, up over the river. With a THUMP, he landed on his behind, on the other side of the river.

The animals cheered and danced and cheered again. Vusi, the brave little zebra, had saved their home.

Vusi paid the price for his bravery though. To this day all zebras have black stripes from when Vusi got burnt in baboon's fire.

And baboons? To this day baboons have great big bumps on their behinds.

And that is the end of our story.

Adapted from Russel Rehbok 'How Zebra got his Stripes' (Via Afrika)



WORD FOCUS

Ask the Readers to choose words that they find difficult and write them on a sheet of paper.

Ask them to use a dictionary or ask someone else at home what those words mean in their home language. Help them out if necessary.



SECOND READING...

Once you've worked out the meaning of the words, read the story again out loud.

Activities

LETTER QUIZ

1 Ask the Readers to write down the words underlined in the sentences below.

2 They must then follow the instructions to create different words. For example:

Add one letter to change a car into something you can use to pay at the store.

A: *car(d)*

Add one letter to change your hip into something that sails on the sea. A: *(s)hip*

Add one letter to change a cat into a talk. A: *c(h)at*

Add one letter to change cat into something you wear. A: *c(o)at*

Add one letter to change a hat into something really hot. A: h(e)at

Add one letter to change an arm into a place where cows and goats stay. A: (f)arm

Add one letter to change a cap into something you do with both hands. A: c(l)ap

3 When they finish, ask them to create their own letter quiz.

Ending

Praise the Readers for their participation.

Ask if they enjoyed the story, and what they liked best. Tell them you enjoyed it too.

Say goodbye, and say how much you look forward to seeing them next time.

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