

Reading for Meaning

Welcome, story supporter!

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

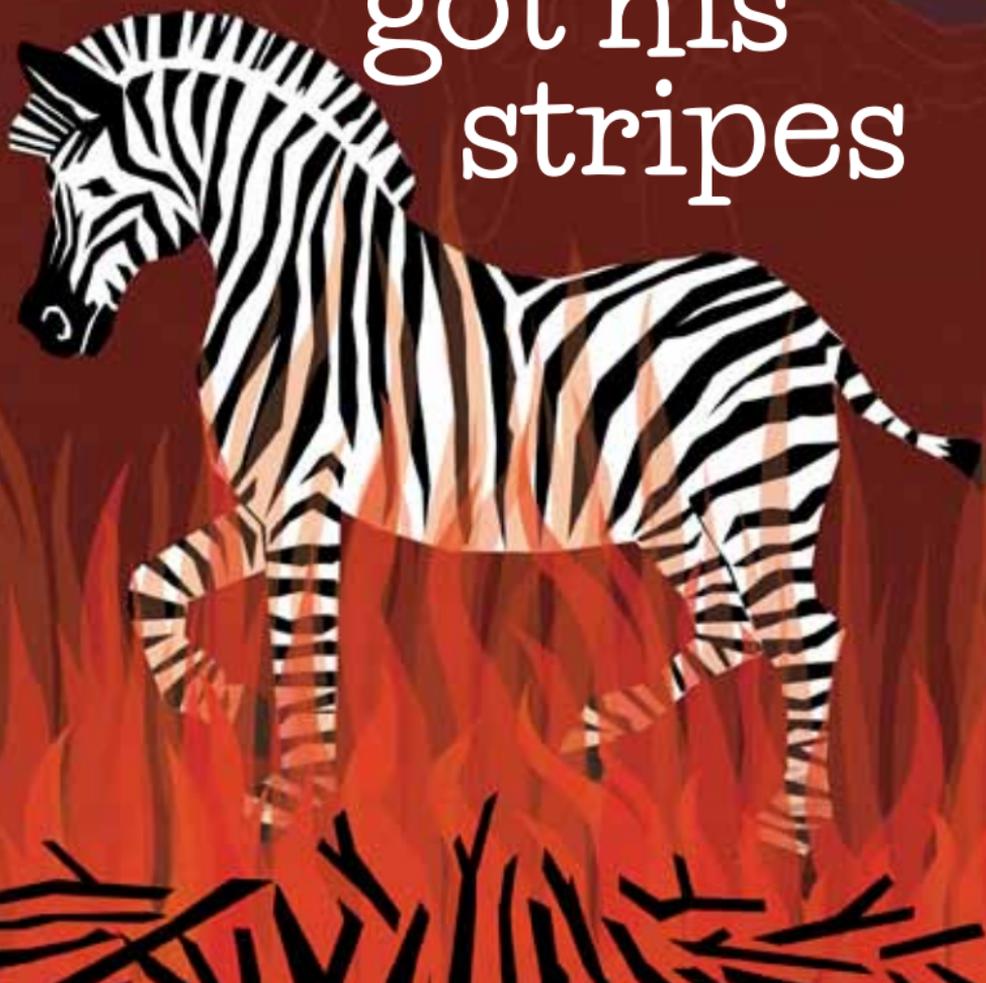
**Nurturing and supporting
your child is important for
their physical, emotional and
academic development.**

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

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

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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)

EXTEND THE STORY...

Let's draw!



**ARTS &
CRAFTS**

WHAT TO USE

Crayons, old magazines, glue stick, scissors

WHAT TO DO

- After reading the story, encourage your child to draw their favourite animal character on a piece of paper or use cut-outs from an old magazine (a character is a person, animal or thing in a story).
- They can use crayons to make the character colourful and pretty.

- Ask them to write the name of the animal character next to their picture.

This is a chance to get creative and to use what is available at home!

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