

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.**



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

Reading
for Meaning

A very hairy policeman

STORY GUIDE

STORY

1

EACH READER NEEDS...

The story

Props and clothes for
the characters

Pens or pencils

Paper

The Story



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Jim is up to no good with his crooked ways! He is known for being a big thief but today, things will change. After a big chase by the police, Jim finds himself in a very strange and scary situation. Will he be able to escape or will he meet his fate?



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.

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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.



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

ROLE PLAYING

- 1** Talk to the Readers about the characters in the story. Ask them to talk about what they did and didn't like about the story.
- 2** If there are more than two people at home, ask the Reader to role play with them and they pretend to be different characters in the story. They can dress up using what is available at home. Before beginning acting, each character must understand what they need to do.
- 3** If they do not have someone at home to role play with, ask them to write a letter to The Very Hairy Policeman, thanking him for helping catch Jim the thief.

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.

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

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