

Name _____

Read the passage. Use the visualize strategy to help you understand what you are reading.

How Zebras Got Their Stripes

11 This story happened a long time ago in Africa. One day,
12 Baboon, who was very fierce, decided to leave the jungle tree
13 where he lived. He wanted to live next to the river. He was so
14 mean that he told all the other animals that the land belonged to
15 him. Baboon stated he was the only one allowed to drink from
16 the river.

17 The animals were upset. They were sad because they needed
18 water to survive. But all of them were afraid of Baboon. He had a
19 big head with thick eyebrows and long teeth. He showed his teeth
20 every chance he got to scare the other animals. They didn't know
21 what to do.

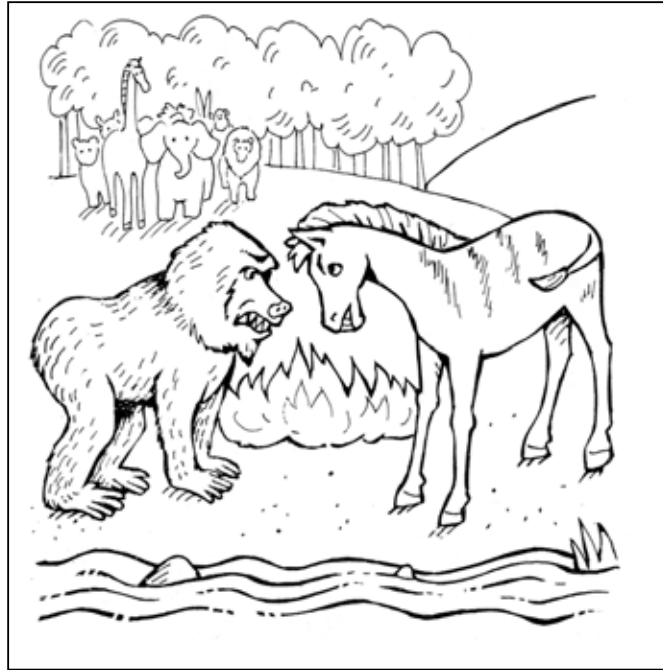
22 Zebra was young and brave. He was fearless and handsome in
23 his pure white coat. In the old days, zebras had all white coats.
24 Zebra said to the other animals, "I am not afraid of Baboon. I
25 will tell him we are going to drink from the river." The next day,
26 Zebra met with Baboon, but Baboon refused to talk to Zebra.
27 So Zebra challenged Baboon to a fight. Baboon laughed. It had
28 been a long time since he had lost a fight.

29 They agreed that the loser of the fight would have to leave the
30 jungle and river. He would have to live on the barren hill. The
31 empty hill was not a place anyone wanted to live. They would
32 meet the next morning in Baboon's yard next to the river.

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The next day, Zebra came to Baboon's yard. Baboon had built a bonfire. Zebra's white coat glowed in the sun. It looked like Zebra was lit from inside his body. All the animals came to watch the fight. They knew that it would be difficult to beat Baboon.

Baboon and Zebra were both strong and used all of their skills. They knew what they were good at. Zebra used his powerful legs to run at Baboon. But Baboon was very swift. He used his quickness to jump out of Zebra's way. Before Zebra could stop, he was suddenly close to the bonfire. He was so close that the heat from the fire began to burn him.



Zebra turned around and kicked Baboon over the river and onto the empty hill. He wasn't injured, but his pride was hurt. He knew he had lost. The animals could drink from the river.

Zebra won, but he was left with marks. The fire had burned long black stripes on his white coat. From that day on, all zebras had black stripes and were proud of them. They were a symbol that Zebra had fought and won to keep water free for all animals.

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A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What is the problem in this story?

2. What solution does Zebra come up with?

3. What are the results of this solution?

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

	Words Read	–	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		–		=	
Second Read		–		=	