

How the Tiger Got Its Stripes

There once lived a very proud tiger. One day, the tiger saw a mighty buffalo pulling a plough through a paddy field.

The tiger appeared in front of the buffalo.

Buffalo, why do you let yourself be tied to a plough and work so hard? You are so huge and strong.

If only I had his wisdom, I would be able to control all the animals! I would make them stand still while I choose my meal of the day.

It is because man rules over me and the other animals on his farm. He says it is his *wisdom* that allows him to control us. He is a very smart being.

The next day, the tiger appeared in front of the man.

What do you want, tiger?

Wisdom? Wisdom is not something I can give you.

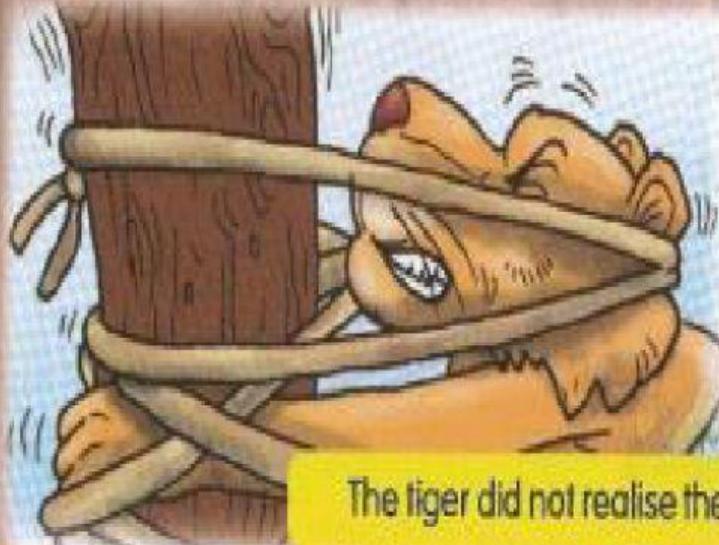
I want your wisdom. Give me your wisdom!

Yes, you can. Give it to me or I will kill you!

The man thought for a while and said, "Okay, I'll give you my wisdom, but I left it in my house. Wait here, I'll go and get it."



"Let me put a rope around you and tie you to a tree so that you cannot kill my goats," the man said slyly. The tiger agreed. The man wound the rope around its face, body, and legs. Then, he tied the tiger to a tree and ran home with his goats.



The tiger waited for the man, but he never returned. The tiger said to itself, "I'm hungry. I'm going to eat one of the man's goats." The tiger pulled and pulled at the rope with all its might. Finally, it broke free.

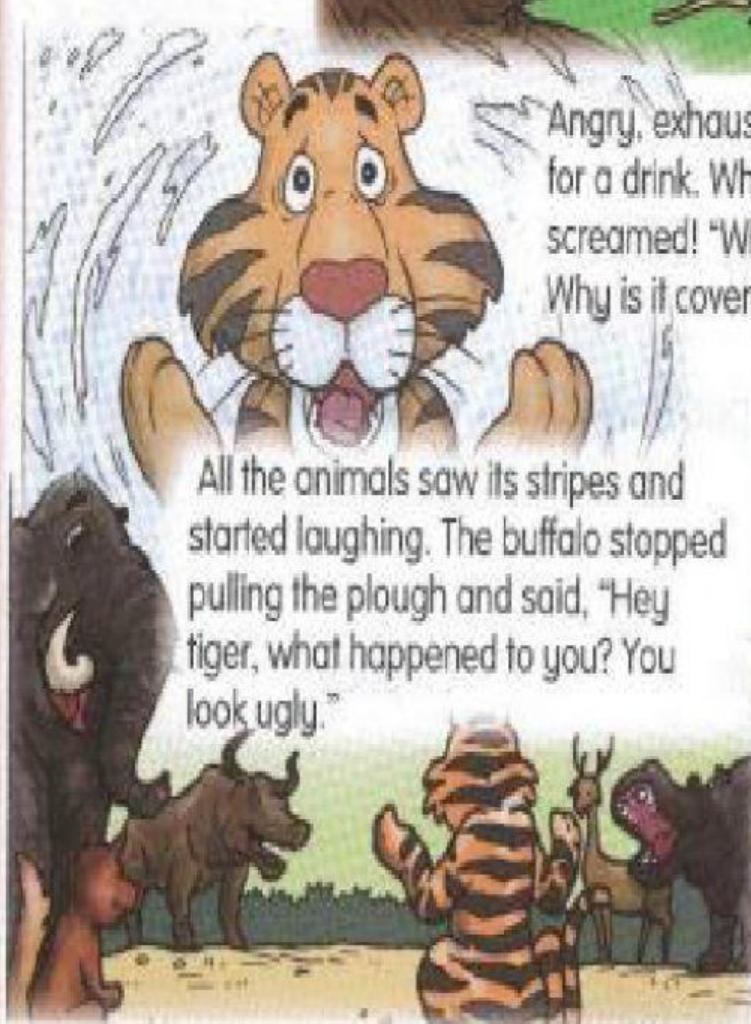
The tiger did not realise the rope had burnt stripes onto its shiny coat.

The tiger roared in anger.

Where are the goats? Where is the man? Where is my wisdom?

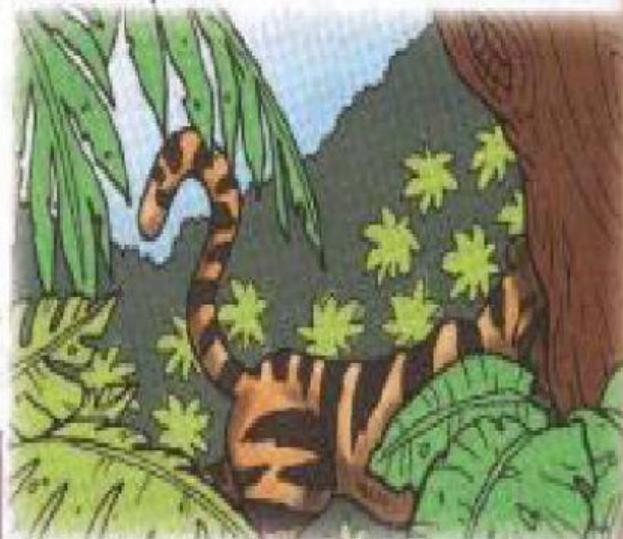


Grrr, the man has cheated me!



All the animals saw its stripes and started laughing. The buffalo stopped pulling the plough and said, "Hey tiger, what happened to you? You look ugly."

Angry, exhausted and thirsty, the tiger went to a lake for a drink. When the tiger saw itself in the water, it screamed! "What happened to my beautiful shiny coat? Why is it covered with stripes?"



The tiger was very embarrassed of its stripes. The tiger ran away and hid itself deep in the jungle.

Exercise A : Choose the best answer.

I. Where did the tiger see the buffalo? It saw the buffalo

2. What did the tiger wish for?

Exercise B : Choose the best answer.

3. Which of the following statement is false?

- A. The man tied the tiger to a tree
- B. The man ran home with his goats
- C. The tiger wanted wisdom from the buffalo

4. The tiger screamed it sat its reflection because....

- A. surprised to see its body swollen
- B. shocked to find its body with stripes
- C. embarrassed to see its shiny coat burnt

Exercise C : Answer these question.

I. Why did the tiger want wisdom?

2. Did the tiger find wisdom at the end of the story? Why?

3. If you were the author, how would you end the story?

