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Awaken
Children's Series

APD 79



PAINTING THE ZEBRA



By CHRISTINA BONG



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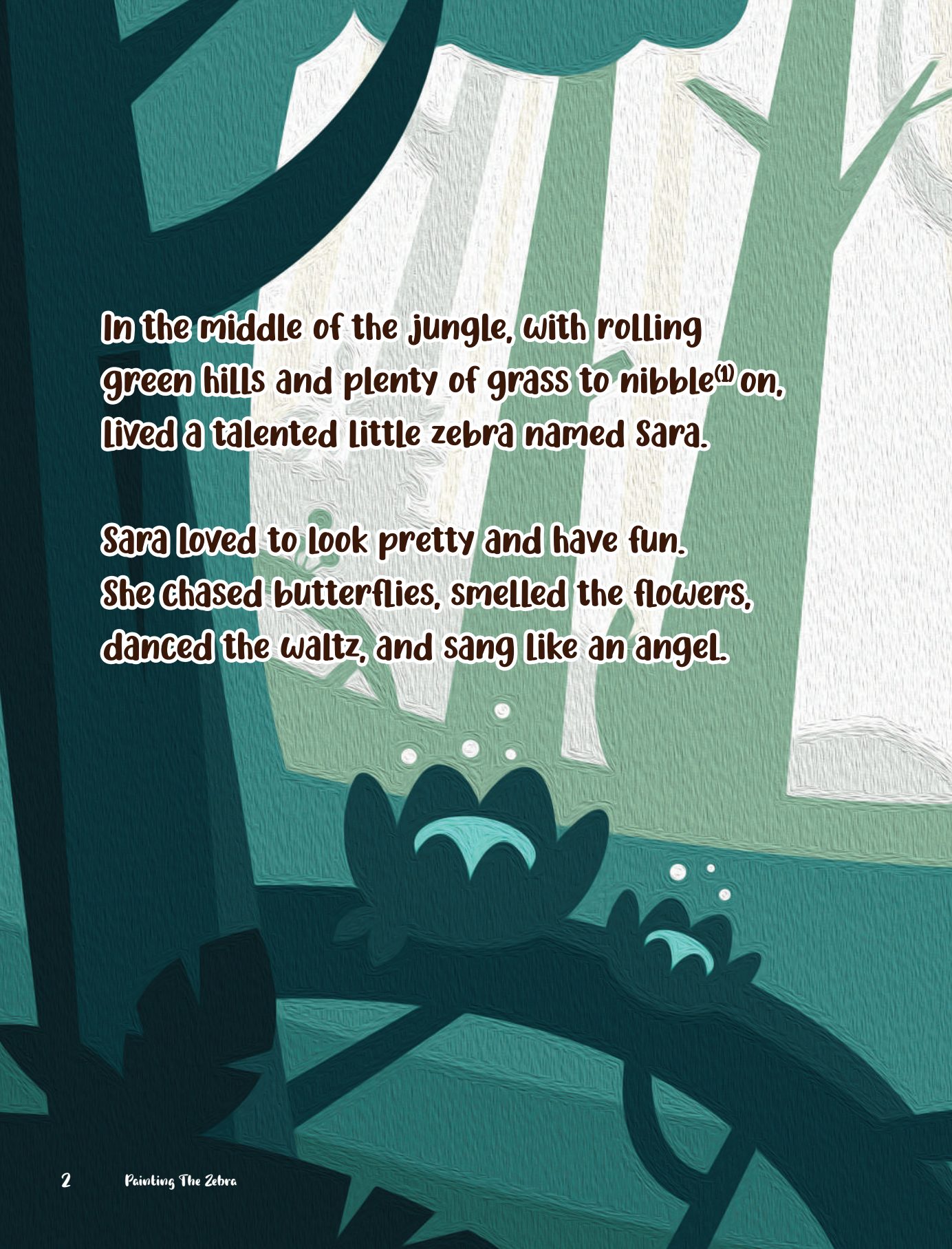
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PAINTING THE ZEBRA



BY CHRISTINA BONG



In the middle of the jungle, with rolling green hills and plenty of grass to nibble⁽¹⁾ on, lived a talented little zebra named Sara.

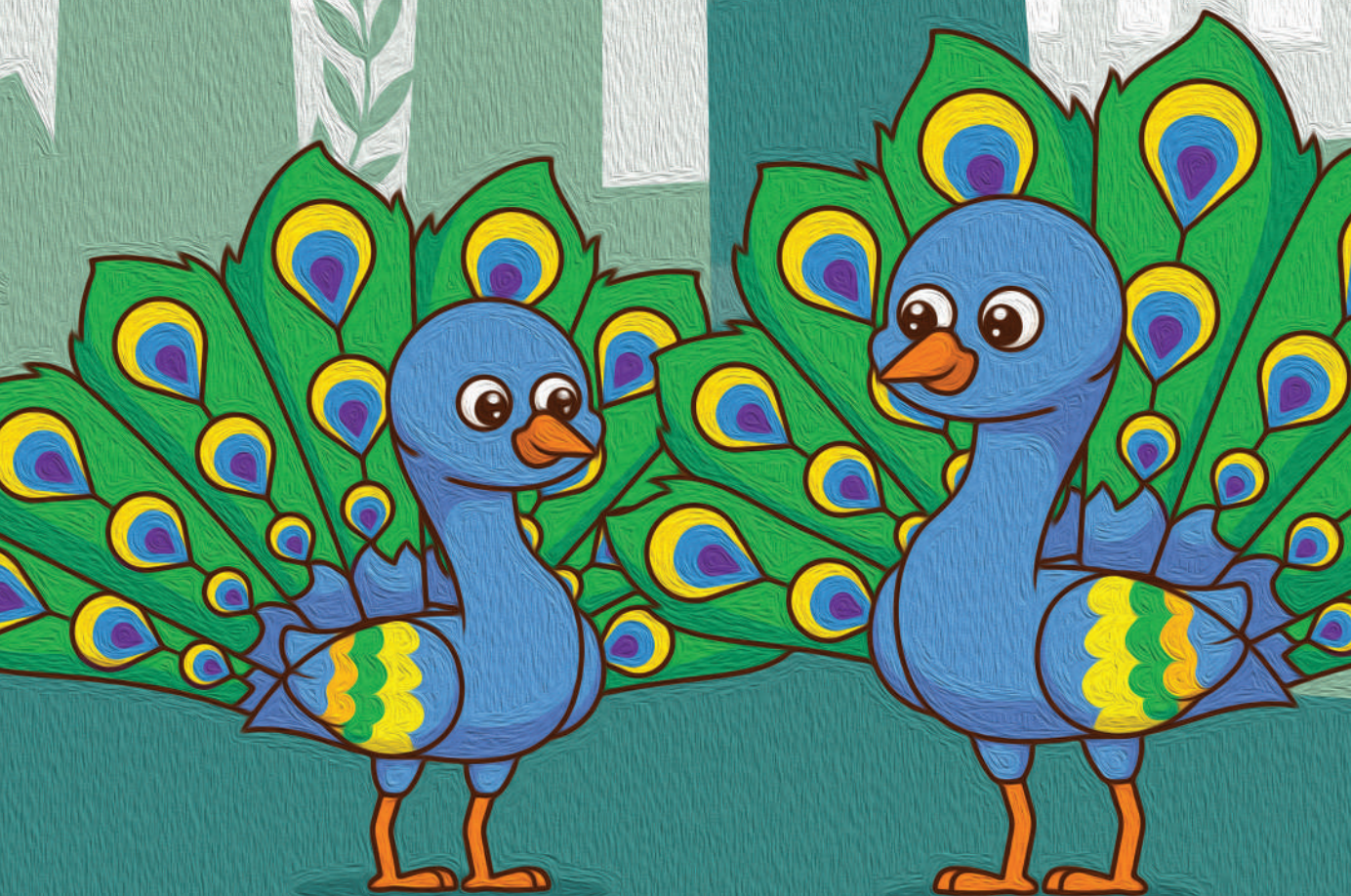
Sara loved to look pretty and have fun. She chased butterflies, smelled the flowers, danced the waltz, and sang like an angel.



Like all other zebras, she had black and white stripes over her body. Though she was happy, she did not like her black and white stripes. She thought that they were just boring⁽²⁾ and made her look dull and ugly.



**One day while Sara was out at play,
she met some good-looking animals.
She saw a muster of peacocks and
envied their dazzling plumage.**





She met a camp of chameleons and envied that they could change their body colours to blend with the environment.



Next, she came across a flock of macaw parrots preening⁽³⁾ their beautifully coloured feathers.

She thought: "If only I have such lovely colours on my body. I would look just as gorgeous and perfect."



So, Sara called upon her jungle friends for help.

"I am tired of having my dull coloured skin.
Would you guys please help add some colours
to my stripes and make me beautiful?"





Olee
The Owl



Mario
The Monkey



Gemma
The Giraffe



Frankie
The Fox

**Mario, the monkey replied: "Why not?
I know there are some coloured paints in
the old shed of my house. They might help."**



Frankie, the fox chuckled:

**"That's great! I can volunteer⁽⁴⁾ to paint
and put my skills into good use."**

Gemma, the giraffe giggled:

**"This is going to be fun. I can help brush
your crown with plenty of colours."**





Olee, the wise owl perched⁽⁵⁾ on the branch and quietly listened to the conversation. After a while, he shook his head and sighed.

The day came and the animals started dressing Sara up with radiant⁽⁶⁾ coloured paints. They dressed her in shades of green, blue, red, orange, yellow and pink.



Sara was excited and pleased with her new skin coat and thanked her friends.

As the sun set, she hurriedly headed home. She could not wait to show off her colourful coat to her family.



On the way home, she encountered a pride of hungry lions which gave chase. Sara's heart was in her mouth⁽⁷⁾, her blood ran cold⁽⁸⁾ as she tried with all her might to escape from them. Her brightly coloured skin gave her away, for the lions could easily locate her in the lush jungle.

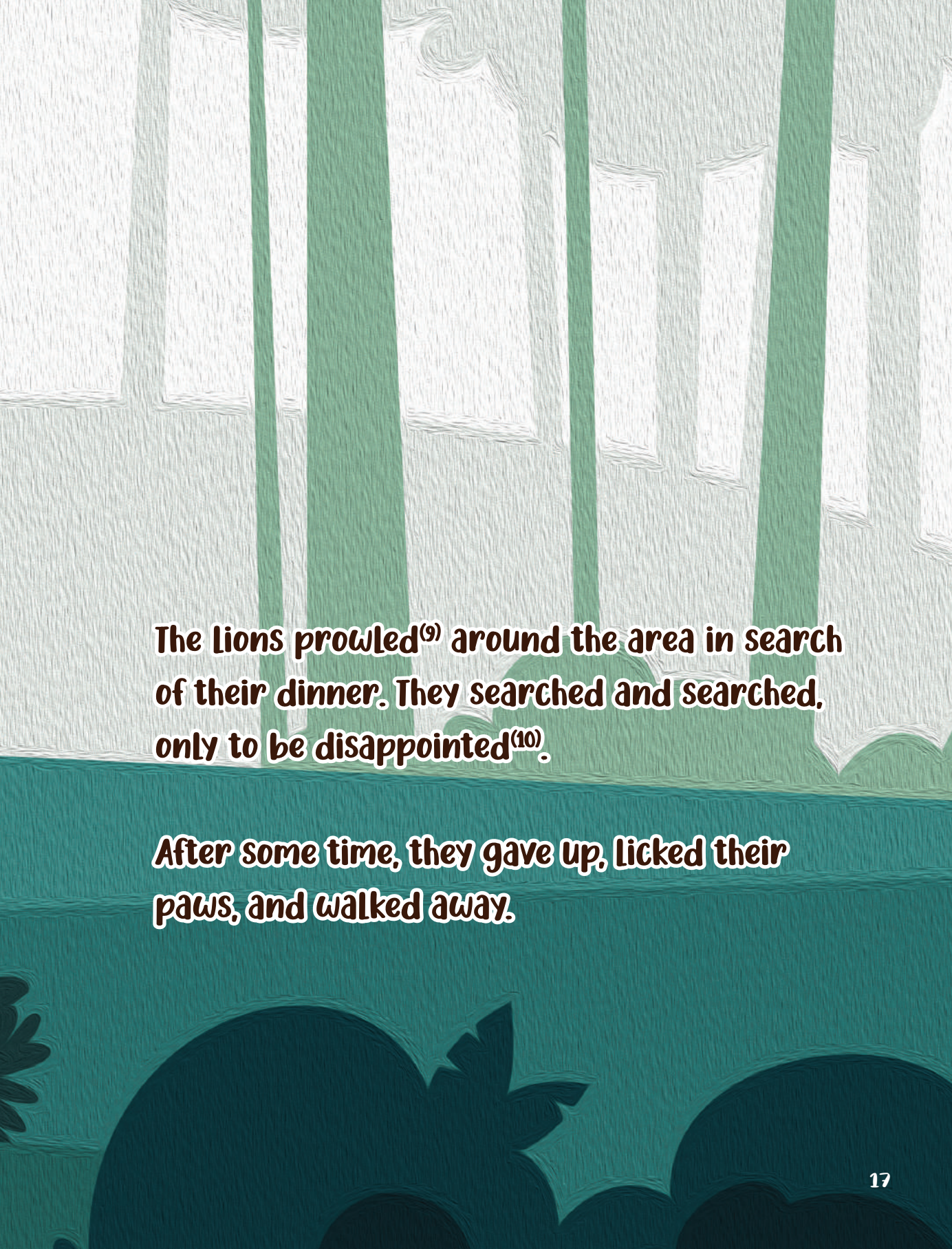




After running for a long distance, the tired Sara finally found a clump of colourful flowering shrubs under an acacia tree. She quickly hid among them.

Her body felt numb, and her bones turned to jelly. She was shivering in fear.





The lions prowled⁽⁹⁾ around the area in search of their dinner. They searched and searched, only to be disappointed⁽¹⁰⁾.

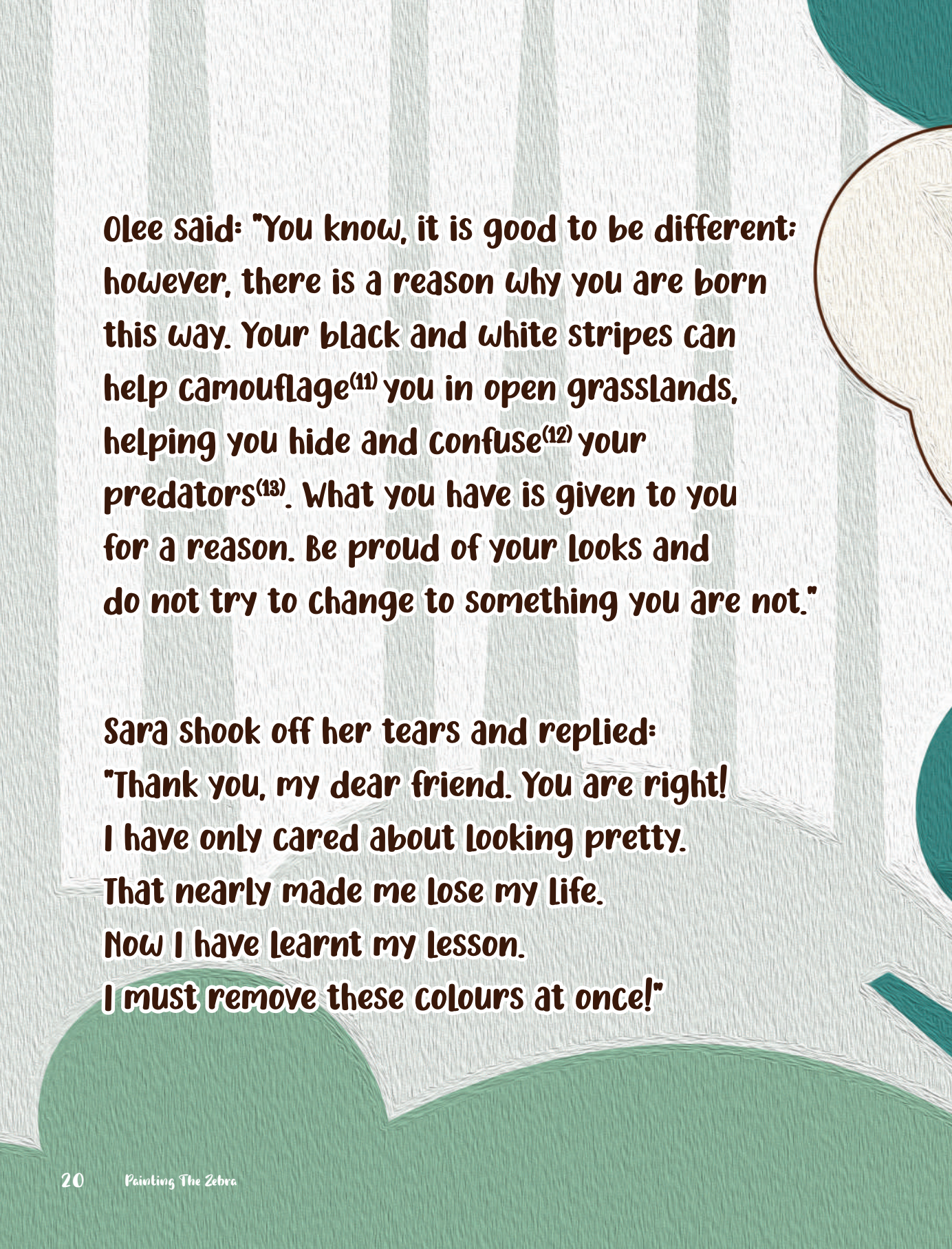
After some time, they gave up, licked their paws, and walked away.



Olee witnessed the sight and hooted:
"You are safe now my friend, the lions
have left. You can come out now."

Sara peered out from the bushes,
carefully looked around, and slowly
crept out. She was sobbing.



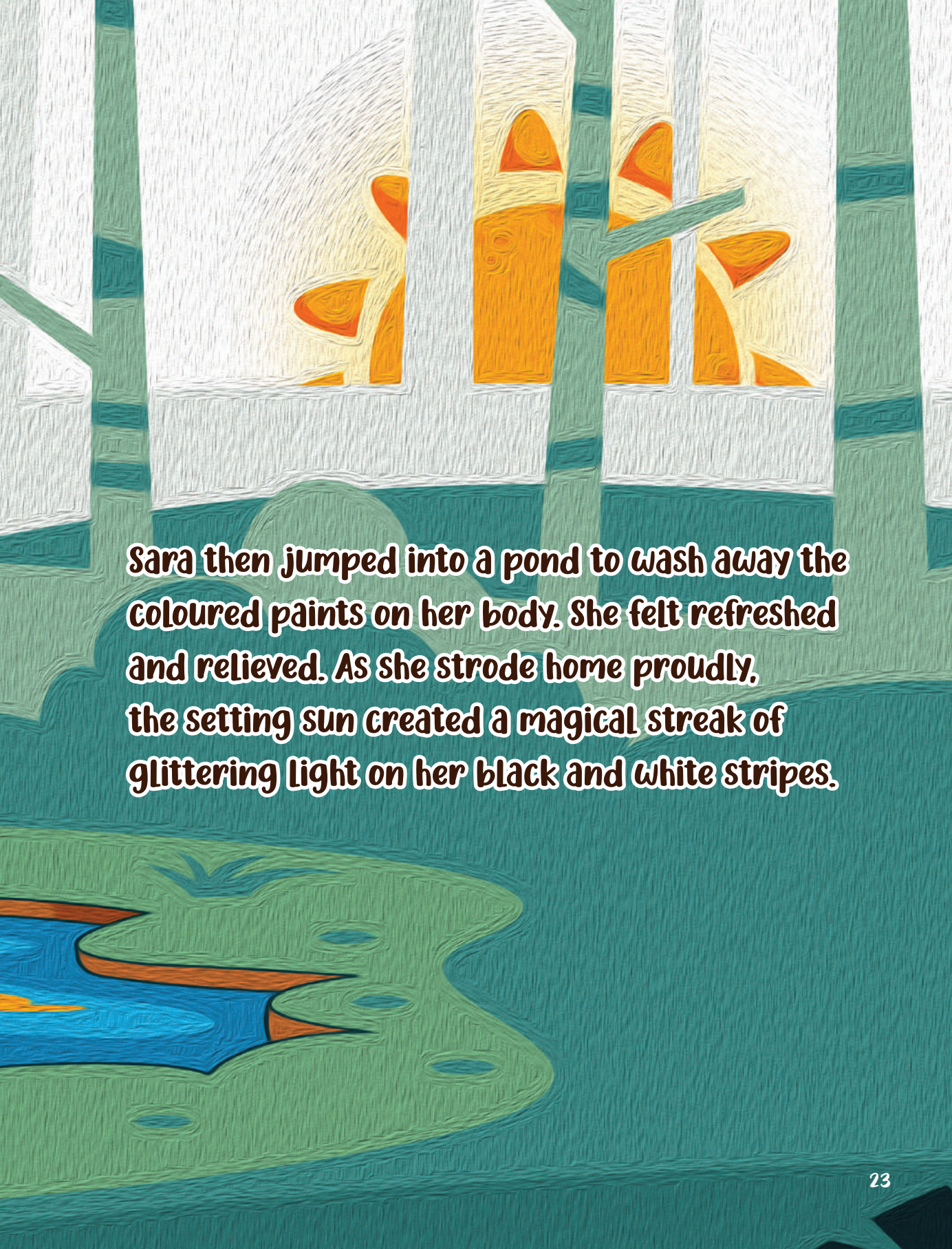


Olee said: "You know, it is good to be different; however, there is a reason why you are born this way. Your black and white stripes can help camouflage⁽¹¹⁾ you in open grasslands, helping you hide and confuse⁽¹²⁾ your predators⁽¹³⁾. What you have is given to you for a reason. Be proud of your looks and do not try to change to something you are not."

Sara shook off her tears and replied:
"Thank you, my dear friend. You are right!
I have only cared about looking pretty.
That nearly made me lose my life.
Now I have learnt my lesson.
I must remove these colours at once!"







Sara then jumped into a pond to wash away the coloured paints on her body. She felt refreshed and relieved. As she strode home proudly, the setting sun created a magical streak of glittering light on her black and white stripes.

MORAL

True beauty is not about the colour of one's hair or what one wears. True beauty is about one's behaviour and character. Good inner traits like knowledge, generosity, good ethics, skills, personality, and accomplishments⁽¹⁴⁾ are more attractive than physical appearance⁽¹⁵⁾.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



What
do you like about
yourself?



What
good traits do you
think you have?



What
good inner traits
do you wish
to have?

LET'S LEARN SOME WORDS AND PHRASES

1. **Nibble** : taking small bites
2. **Boring** : not interesting or exciting
3. **Preening** : tidying and cleaning its feathers with a beak
4. **Volunteer** : to do something willingly for free
5. **Perched** : rest or sit on something high
6. **Radiant** : bright and shiny
7. **Heart was in her mouth** : feeling nervous and frightened
8. **Blood ran cold** : feeling very scared
9. **Prowled** : moving quietly through an area in search of something
10. **Disappointed** : feeling sad or discouraged
11. **Camouflage** : to hide or make it hard to see or find
12. **Confuse** : unable to understand and think clearly
13. **Predators** : animals that eat other animals
14. **Accomplishment** : an activity that a person does well in
15. **Physical appearance** : the way someone or something looks

ACTIVITY

Let's learn some collective nouns

A collective noun is a word used to represent a group of people, animals, or things. Can you find the following collective nouns that are used in the story?

A of hungry lions

A of chameleons

A of peacocks

A of macaw parrots

A of colourful flowering shrubs

See if you can fill in the missing words in the sentences below and then fill them on the crossword puzzle.

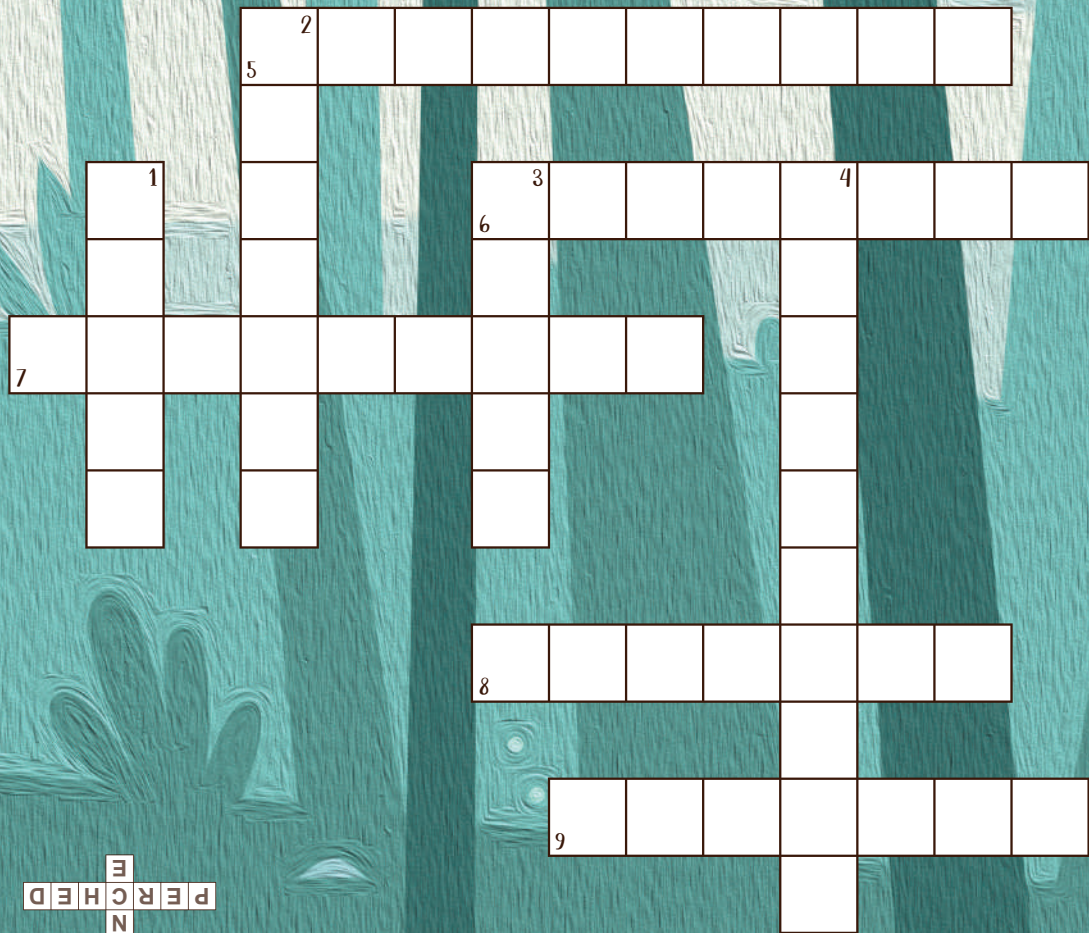
(Hint: Words can be found on page 26)

DOWN

- 1) The lions started to _____ the fields in search of the rabbit.
- 2) People often _____ me and my identical twin sister.
- 3) Andrew's pet bird would _____ its feathers to keep itself clean.
- 4) It is wrong to judge a person from his physical _____ .

ACROSS

- 5) Charlotte hid herself well in the garden by wearing a green dress to _____ herself among the plants.
- 6) The rhinoceros uses its horn to fight off its _____ .
- 7) We need a _____ to look after the dogs, is anyone willing to help?
- 8) Janice wore a _____ bright pink dress to the party.
- 9) Tammy's cat _____ on top of the pole and was too afraid to come down.



CAMOUFLAGE
 PREDATOR
 VOLUNTEER
 RADIANT
 PERCHED
 O
 N
 F
 R
 P
 P
 A
 E
 N
 S
 W
 L
 E
 S
 E
 L

ANSWER

Match the good character trait with its action.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Responsible | • | • | I can do good and bring care and happiness to others |
| Honest | • | • | I can let go of my anger and hatred against those who have hurt me |
| Patience | • | • | I can understand the feelings of others |
| Self-control | • | • | I can show politeness towards others |
| Empathy | • | • | I can be truthful and not lie |
| Kind-hearted | • | • | I can make smart choices |
| Obedient | • | • | I can follow rules and listen to instructions |
| Thankful | • | • | I can be calm without getting upset or angry when I face pain, setbacks, or trouble |
| Forgiving | • | • | I can express my thanks for the things I receive from others |
| Courteous | • | • | I can think before I speak and act |

ANSWERS: I can make smart choices **Honest:** I can be truthful and not lie **Patience:** I can be calm without getting upset or angry when I face pain, setbacks, or trouble **Self-control:** I can think before I speak and act **Empathy:** I can understand the feelings of others **Kind-hearted:** I can do good and bring care and happiness to others **Obedient:** I can follow rules and listen to instructions **Thankful:** I can express my thanks for the things I receive from others **Forgiving:** I can let go of my anger and hatred against those who have hurt me **Courteous:** I can show politeness towards others

Place the following words in the correct box.

Hair colour Disrespectful Impatient Generous Clothing
 Eyes Wicked Mouth Friendly Skin colour
 Caring Hardworking Height Courageous Ungrateful
 Helpful Selfish Lazy

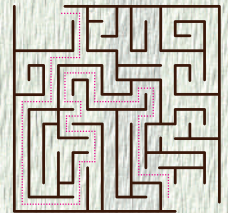
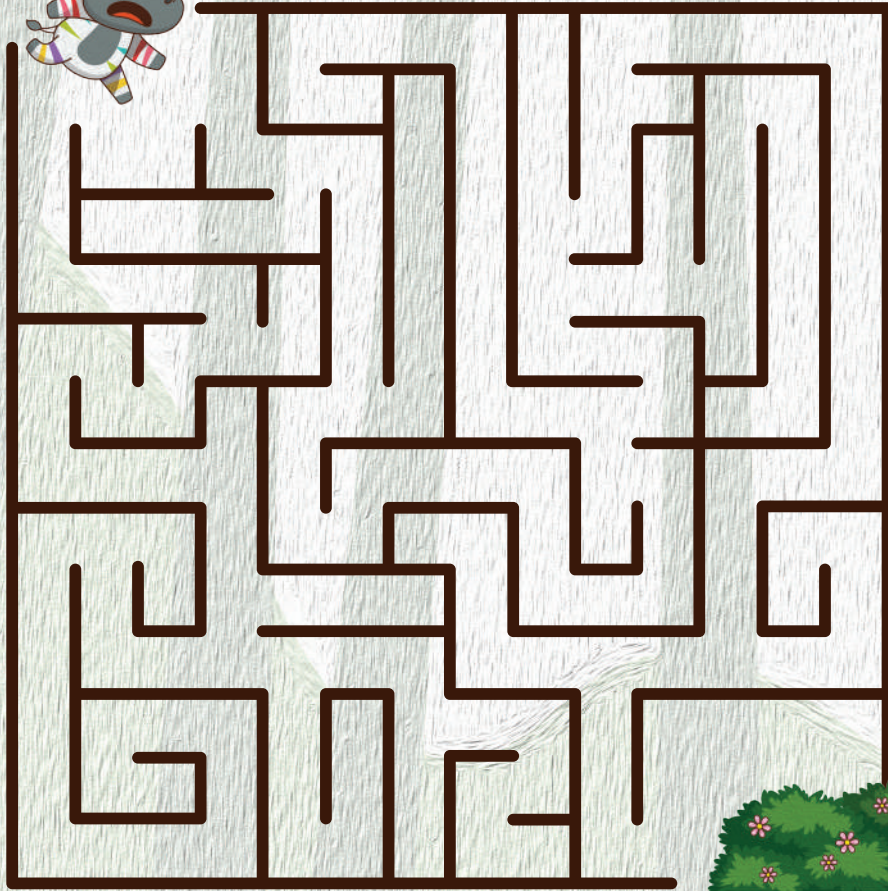
Physical Appearance	Good Personality Traits	Bad Personality Traits
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.

Physical Appearance	Good Personality Traits	Bad Personality Traits
1. Hair colour	1. Generous	1. Disrespectful
2. Clothing	2. Helpful	2. Impatient
3. Eyes	3. Friendly	3. Wicked
4. Mouth	4. Caring	4. Selfish
5. Skin colour	5. Hardworking	5. Ungrateful
6. Height	6. Courageous	6. Lazy

ANSWERS

Save the Zebra!!!

Help Sara escape from her predators.



ANSWER

BEFORE READING:

Talk together

- Read the title and describe the picture on the cover.
- Ask the children to guess what the story is about.
- Discuss with your children what they like and do not like about their physical appearance.

DURING READING

- Read the story to your children. Enjoy reading together and encourage your children to respond to the pictures.
- Ask your children to tell you what is happening in each picture.
- Discuss anything that the picture reminds your children about.

AFTER READING

- Discuss with your children the difference between the physical and inner qualities of a person.
- Explain to your children that outer beauty is sometimes necessary, however possessing good inner qualities are more important in life. Give examples.
- Ask your children to share some examples of their good character traits and their friends' good character traits.
- Work with your child on the activities.



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**Sara the zebra wishes to look
bright and colourful.
Will she succeed in getting
new colours on her and learn
the real meaning of true beauty?**

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