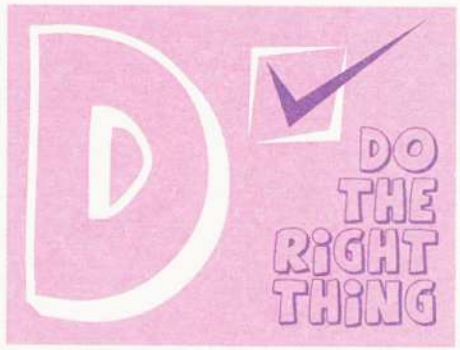
GROW SMART

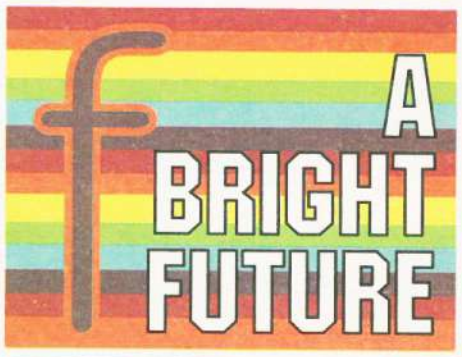
First Edition

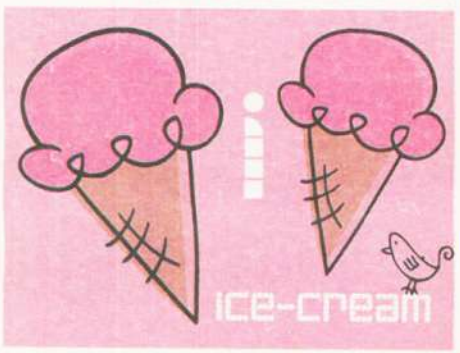
GROW SMART

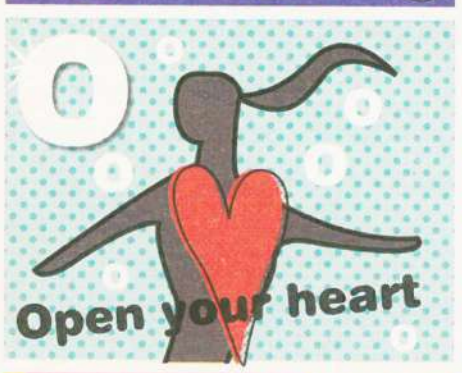
An initiative by GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES

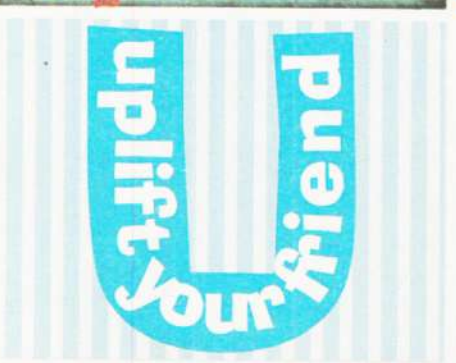
WESTERN CAPE Education Department
Provincial Government of the Western Cape

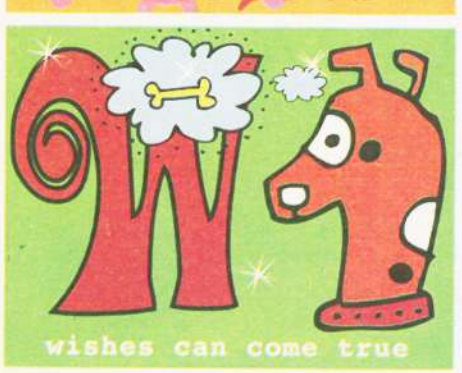












THE ABCs OF GROWSMART

What is literacy? Literacy is the ability to read and write. Many of the people in our country can't read and write; this is called illiteracy. Illiteracy isn't good at all, because if you can't read and write you can't study and get a good job one day. In fact, if you cannot write, you can't even enjoy a fun book or follow the instructions of a recipe.

What is Growsmart? Growsmart is an exciting literacy competition that will help you and other learners in primary schools around the Western Cape become better at reading, spelling and understanding words. The competition consists of a series of literacy quizzes and is for learners between Grades 4 and 6.

Who is organising Growsmart? Growthpoint Properties, together with the Western Cape Education Department, is organising Growsmart to make people aware of how important it is to be able to read and write, especially when you are in primary school.

When is Growsmart taking place? The Growsmart competition will start in April and reach its final round in September.

How does Growsmart work? Eighty schools in the Western Cape are taking part. One team of three learners will compete from each school. Each learner will be asked to solve a series of literacy quizzes.

The quizzes will be in English and there will be three levels. In Level 1, two hundred and forty learners from the eighty schools will take part, twenty schools will take part in Level 2 and four schools in Level 3. The final four schools will compete to determine the ultimate winning school.

Is there anyone at my school who can help me prepare? Yes. Each school will provide a team mentor who will give you all the latest Growsmart news and help you prepare for the competitions.

Won't the quizzes be too hard for me? No. The quizzes are based on the work that you do in school. Growsmart will mostly be testing if you can spell words and understand what they mean. Plus, a lot of the quiz questions will be about articles from this newspaper. There will be two more newspapers like this one, so make sure that you read them from cover to cover, understand them, and do each of the activities.

Can I win something? You most certainly can! The three learners in the winning school team will get financial assistance towards their education. The team mentor of the winning school will win an exciting prize and the winning school will receive assistance and improvements to their school.

The adventures of Vuyo and Gemma Mouse

Vuyo Mouse and Gemma Mouse got married one late afternoon in April and made their new home in Whisker Town. Six weeks later Gemma Mouse gave birth to quadruplets in Whisker Town's mousepital (a mousepital is a special hospital for mice). Vuyo Mouse was so excited when he saw his babies for the first time that he immediately went to the shop to buy them some socks, tail warmers and blankets.

Vuyo isn't sure if he has enough money to pay for his babies' gifts. Can you help him?
Each pair of socks cost R12,50, tail warmers cost R8 each, blankets cost R33 each. What is the total cost of all the gifts for all the babies ? _____
Vuyo only has R200 in his wallet. Will he be able to afford everything? _____
If you were Vuyo, which items would you put back?
_____

When Vuyo got back to the mousepital, Gemma was very unhappy. She said, "Vuyo Mouse! How could you forget to buy nappies for the babies? It's the most important thing we need and the shops are closing in 10 minutes." Vuyo took some money from his piggy bank and rushed back to the store.

How many packets of nappies should he buy?
Gemma said that each baby uses eight nappies a day, and there are 20 nappies in a packet. How many packets must he buy to last for three days for all the babies? _____
Will there be any nappies left over? _____
If so, how many?_____

When Vuyo got back to the mousepital the babies were fast asleep. A much calmer Gemma smiled and said, "We still need to name them." Vuyo thought, 'I'm not very good with names. I wonder if one of my human friends will be able to help me. After a long and eventful day Gemma Mouse and Vuyo Mouse decided that it was time for bed. After all, they needed all the energy they could get, because Gemma and the babies would be going home the next day.

Find the letters

THUMI

Some letters of the alphabet are missing from the circle. Can you use the missing letters to identify the name of a friendly creature that lives in the sea?

A R V
F M B J Z
K C Q S W G
E T X U Y

The wonder of water

Water is essential for life on our planet. Where there is water, there is life. Pure water has no colour, no odour and no taste, which is a really good idea because nobody can say, "I don't drink water because I don't like the taste." Most of us take water for granted, but have you considered the following absolutely amazing facts about water?

Water covers about 70% of the surface of the Earth.

A water molecule is made up of three atoms – one oxygen atom and two hydrogen atoms.

Water, in its liquid state, can easily dissolve many substances such as sugars, salts and acids. However, oils and fats do not mix well with water.

Water is used for the irrigation of crops, gardens and parks; it is used to generate electricity, to cool down the engines of cars, to wash our bodies, our dirty dishes and our clothes, it is used in factories, mines and swimming pools, and, of course, it is used for cooking and drinking! Can you think of any more uses?

Water is the only natural substance on Earth that can be found in all three states: liquid (rain, oceans, streams, lakes), gas (water vapour) and solid (ice, snow, frost).

Water freezes at a temperature of 0° Celsius and boils at 100° Celsius at sea level.

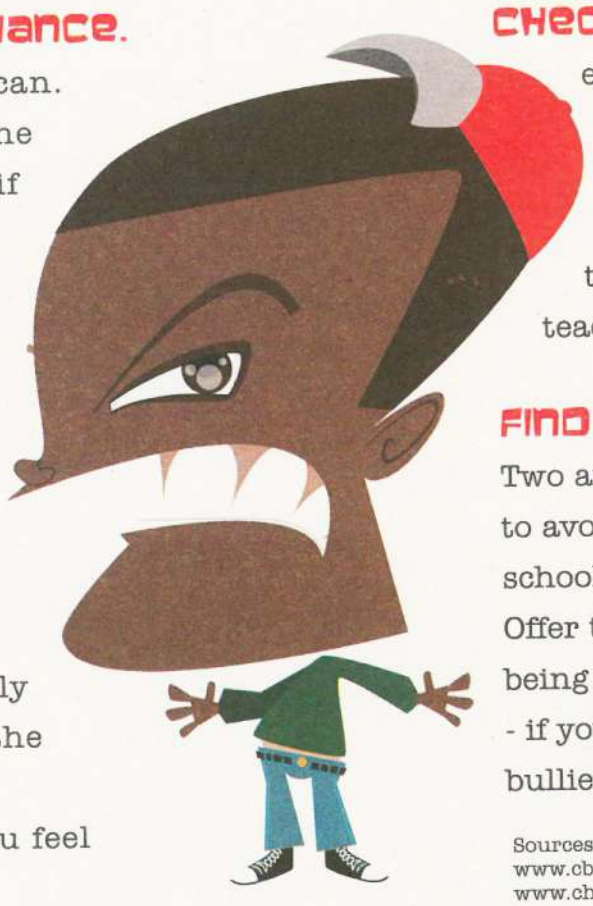
Sources: www.sciencekids.co.nz, Wikipedia

As you can see, water is vital to life on our planet. It is a precious resource that needs to be protected because there is not an infinite supply of water. We can start by saving water wherever possible by using only what we need. Secondly, we should stop polluting our environment – did you know that only about 3% of water on Earth is fresh water, of which two thirds is frozen in glaciers and polar ice caps? It's time for all of us to start making wise choices about water.

Become Bully Proof

Your guide to avoid being bullied

Don't give the bully a chance. Avoid the bully as much as you can. You can't hide under your bed the whole day or bunk school. But, if possible, take a different route to school or sit somewhere else during break time.



Act brave. You probably don't feel very brave when you're in the presence of a bully, but the secret is to act brave. Stand tall, push your shoulders back and look the bully straight in the eye. You'll send the message: "Don't mess with me." It's easier to feel brave when you feel confident.

Check your self-esteem. Self-esteem is how you feel about yourself – and it will show up in the way you behave. If you don't feel good about yourself, then bullies may find it easy to pick on you. Speak to your parents or teacher to find out more about self-esteem.

Find a friend (and be a friend). Two are better than one when you're trying to avoid being bullied. Walk with a friend to school and sit with your friends during break. Offer to do the same for someone else who is being bullied. And, most importantly, speak up - if you are bullied or see someone else being bullied, tell a teacher you can trust.

Sources:
www.cbn.co.za/pressoffice/treehouse/fullstory/1460.htm
www.childrensrightscentre.co.za

Remember that bullying is unacceptable.
In the next edition we'll look at what to do if you see the bully face to face.

Television in South Africa

Many adults and children spend hours and hours a day watching television. But before 1976, all those hours would have been spent doing other things, like reading, writing, doing homework and chores, playing, drawing, exercising, talking, visiting, and many more – because before 1976 there was no television service in South Africa.

South Africa was one of the last countries in Africa to offer a television service. The first nationwide South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) television broadcast took place on Monday, the 5th of January 1976, after eight months of testing.

It all started with one channel called TV 1. It was broadcast in colour for about five hours a day, half in English and half in Afrikaans. In 1978, television commercials were allowed for the first time. In 1982, two more SABC channels were introduced – TV 2 for Zulu and Xhosa speakers and TV 3 for Sotho and Tswana speakers. At first they shared the same channel, but a year later they received their own channels.

M-Net was launched in 1986. It was South Africa's first pay-TV channel and was followed by digital satellite TV (DSTV) in 1995. A year later, the SABC made some changes and introduced channels SABC 1, SABC 2 and SABC 3. In 1998, eTV started broadcasting as South Africa's first free-to-air TV channel.

Your parents may recall some of the programmes shown back in those early days of television. See if they remember any of these programmes: Rich Man Poor Man, Agter Elke Man, Mathaka and 'Sgudi 'Snaysi,

Television in South Africa has come a long way in the last thirty-four years – from a single channel broadcasting only a few hours each day to a choice of over 90 channels, broadcasting twenty-four hours a day. It's easy to see how we can lose so much of our free time watching television if we don't limit our time spent in front of the TV. Remember to plan the time you spend watching TV! Make sure that every day you have enough time for the important things learners did prior to 1976 – like homework, chores, recreation and reading.

Sources: www.mediahistory.co.za, www.mediamanager.co.za, www.upetd.up.ac.za

Thembi and Lindi's close shave

Thembi and Lindi are the best of friends. One day while they were walking home from school, an older woman walked up to them and asked Lindi to give her some money. Lindi said that she only had enough money to take the bus home and she couldn't give it to her. The woman got so angry that she started pushing Lindi around.

Thembi saw a police vehicle driving down the street. She stood next to the road and waved her arms wildly to attract their attention. The police van stopped and a big, strong policeman got out and told the woman to get away from the kids. The old woman got so scared that she immediately apologised and ran away.

The friendly policeman and his partner asked Lindi and Thembi if they were OK. They even gave them a lift home in the police van with its cool siren and bright blue lights.

When they got home Lindi bought Thembi a big lollipop from the corner café. "You know, Thembi, you really are my best friend. You saved my life today."

Thembi laughed, "I don't know about saving your life, but it was a pleasure to help my best friend out. That's what friends are for, after all."

Are you just as good a friend as Thembi?

Do our quiz to find out

1. A friend phones and invites you over while you are busy doing your homework. You say,

a) Sorry, but my homework is too important. I don't want to get into trouble.
b) Yes! Homework sucks anyway. I'll be right over.
c) Sure, let's do our homework together and hang out afterwards.

2. Your friend forgets his lunch box at home.

a) You share your sandwich with him.
b) It's not your problem. You eat your lunch by yourself.
c) You lend him R2 to buy a packet of chips from the tuck shop.

3. A kid at school trips and drops his schoolbag. His books scatter all over the corridor.

a) You help him pick up all his stuff.
b) You ask him if he's OK and carry on walking, you don't want to be late for your next class.
c) You point at him and laugh.

4. One of the girls in your class has spread rumours about you.

a) You lock yourself in the bathroom and cry.
b) You find out who she is, confront her and slap her in the face.
c) You go and talk to her, find out why she did it and ask her to put the record straight.

5. A bully starts picking on your best friend.

a) You push your friend away and laugh at him. You can't risk not looking cool.
b) You just stand there and don't say anything.
c) You say, "He's my friend, so stop picking on him."

6. Your friend asks for some help with her homework.

a) You make up a lame excuse to get out of it.
b) You let her copy your homework.
c) You explain the work to her without giving her the answers.

7. Your friend catches a cold and misses a day of school. You know that she loves chocolate.

a) You take her homework home to her, plus her favourite chocolate bar.
b) You buy her a chocolate, but eat it yourself on the way to her house.
c) You couldn't be bothered to take her homework or chocolate to her. Besides, you don't want to catch any nasty bugs.

8. One of the uncool kids from school enters the school bus. There is only one seat left. Right next to you.

a) You put your schoolbag next to you, so there's no space for him to sit.
b) You let him sit next to you, but you ignore him the whole way.
c) You make space so he can sit down next to you and you chat to him all the way to school.

To calculate your score, please turn to the back page

Can you solve these problems?

Mandla is going to earn some money this autumn by raking his neighbours' gardens. He plans to clean 10 gardens and charge R14,50 for each garden. His sister, Zola, is going to help him. Mandla is going to pay Zola R100 for all of her help. How much will Mandla earn from the neighbours?_____ How much money will he have left after he pays Zola? _____
Do you think Mandla made a smart business choice when he decided to pay Zola so much? _____ How much would you have paid Zola? _____
Would you save any of your earnings if you were Mandla? _____

Justin from Growsmart Potato Farm is preparing to plant a crop of potatoes. The field will have 320 rows of potatoes with 110 potatoes in each row. Justin estimates that he will plant the entire field in 11 hours with his new planting machine. How many potato plants are there all in all? _____
How many potatoes will his machine plant each hour? _____

Mrs Jantjes is planting her garden. She plants 48 seeds in total. Half of them are carrots and half of them are pumpkins. How many carrots did Mrs Jantjes plant?_____

Mary loves baking cupcakes. She decided to bake 24 cupcakes and sell them to her friends. The ingredients for the cupcakes cost Mary R54. How much does it cost Mary to make each cupcake?_____
How much must she sell each cupcake for in order to make a profit of 50%?_____

Cindy goes to the tuck shop during her lunch break. She buys a packet of chips for R2,70, a can of cool drink for R6 and a lollipop for 65c. If she pays with a R10 note, how much change will she get? _____

THE INVENTION OF THE BICYCLE

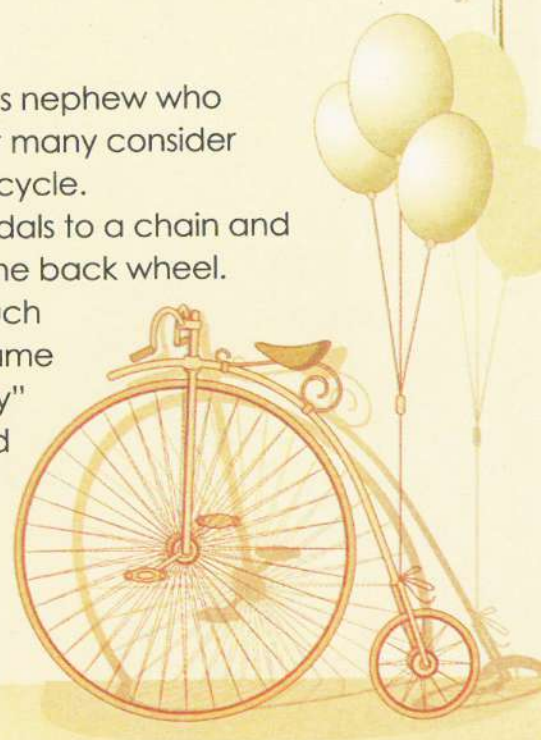
Almost two hundred years ago, Baron Karl Drais von Sauerbronn came up with a brilliant alternative to riding horses – he invented one of the earliest forms of the modern bicycle. He called it the Laufmaschine, which means "running machine". It had two wheels, a steering handle and a seat – all made entirely out of wood. The rider would sit on the seat, hold the steering handle and push himself along with his feet (a bit like a scooter). It was also called a Velocipede, which is a Latin word meaning "fast feet".

A few years later, a blacksmith from Scotland improved the "running machine" by adding pedals to the front wheel. Then, during the 1860s, French inventors made a pedal-powered, iron contraption with wooden wheels. The roads were rather rough and bumpy in those days and none of these newly invented bicycles had any suspension springs or rubber tyres to ease the bumping – no wonder people called them "bone shakers".

It wasn't long before another French inventor created a bicycle with a very large front wheel and a very small back wheel. The front wheel had wire spokes similar to modern bicycles. James Starley, an English inventor, improved on that design and created the Penny Farthing. The name refers to two English coins, the penny and the farthing. The ratio of the size difference between the two coins is approximately the same as that of the size difference between the front and back wheels.

The front wheel was designed to be so large because these inventors believed that the bigger the wheel, the faster the bicycle could go. The Penny Fathing's seat was so high up that there was no way the rider's feet could touch the ground while he was seated. As you can imagine, it was rather tricky to get on and off.

It was James Starley's nephew who finally invented what many consider to be the modern bicycle. He attached the pedals to a chain and linked the chain to the back wheel. It was easier and much safer to ride. It became known as the "Safety" bicycle and was sold all over the world.



Sources: www.inventor strategies.com, www.enchantedlearning.com

SIYA

I'm confused. What's the difference between Homonyms, Homophones and Homographs?

Don't worry, Siya. I'll explain it to you. Homonyms are words that sound or are spelt the same but have different meanings. ("Homo" means "the same" and "nym" means "name".)

LINDA

There are two types of Homonyms: Homophones & Homographs

Let's look at Homophones! Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meanings and sometimes different spellings ('homo' means "the same" and "phone" means "sound").
Here are some examples with the correct words underlined:
The (air/heir) is polluted. Prince Charles is the (air/heir) to the throne.
The bride walked to the (alter/altar). Susan had to (alter/altar) her dress in order for it to fit nicely.

Now underline the correct Homophone in the following sentences:

1) I (eight/ate) porridge for breakfast.
   (Eight/ate) is the number after seven.

2) I planted a (been/bean) for my science project.
   I've (been/bean) to Robben Island.

3) The sky is (blew/blue).
   A strong wind (blew/blue) last night.

4) The taxi driver had to (brake/break) when the dog crossed the road.
   If you drop a glass it will (brake/break).

5) Chocolate cake is my favourite (dessert/desert).
   It hardly ever rains in the (dessert/desert).

6) Mom's favourite kind of (flower/flour) is a rose.
   Mom uses (flower/flour) to bake bread.

7) I (guest/guessed) the right answer to the question.
   When Gogo comes to visit, she is our (guest/guessed).

8) The wound will (heal/heel/he'll) over time.
   Your (heal/heel/he'll) is part of your foot.
   John is busy; (heal, heel, he'll) talk to you in a minute.

9) I sleep during the (knight/night).
   The (knight/night) in shining armour saved the princess.

Well done! Now let's look at Homographs. Homographs are words that are spelt the same but have different meanings and sometimes are pronounced differently ("homo" means "the same" and "graph" means "to write"). Here are some examples with the homographs underlined:

I'll be right back.
Will you please scratch my back?
Dogs bark.
The bark of the tree is brown and grey.

Now underline the Homographs in the following sentences:

Mandy wears a silver cross around her neck.
Mom gets very cross when I don't want to clean my room.

Spinach is good for you, because it contains a lot of iron.
I iron my clothes before I wear them.

You have to bow down when you greet the queen.
The girl tied her hair back with a bow.

She is as blind as a bat.
I hit the ball with my cricket bat.

HOW ZEBRA GOT HIS STRIPES

Once upon a time, Baboon was very proud and arrogant. In times of drought, there was only one source of water that remained while all the others dried up. Baboon jealously guarded this small pool and prevented the other animals from drinking there.
He even called himself "Lord of the Water".

One day, when the weather was especially dry and hot, Zebra made his way to the small pool in search of water. In those days, Zebra had a completely white coat. As he approached the pool, he heard an angry voice that thundered, "Go away! I am the Lord of the Water and this is my pool."

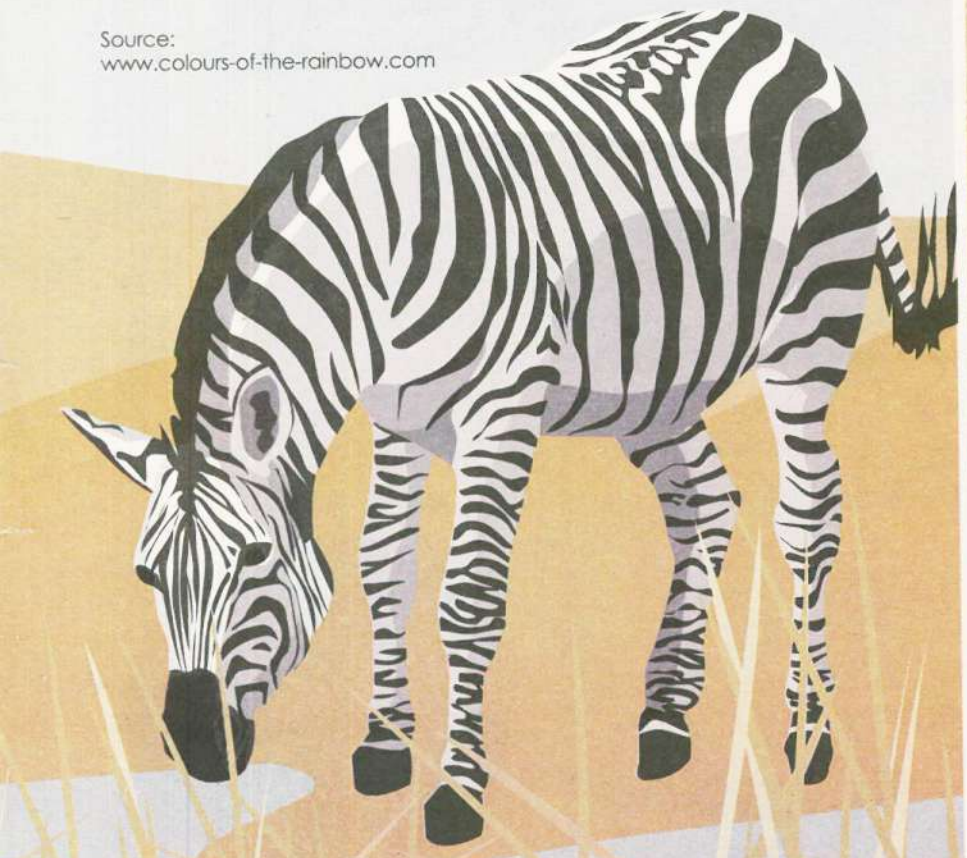
Zebra jumped with fright and looked up to see Baboon sitting by his fire. Young Zebra was desperately thirsty and quickly said to Baboon, "Who are you to stop me from drinking here? Water belongs to everyone."

"Okay then," said the arrogant Baboon, "if you want the water, you must fight me for it!" With that, he sprang towards Zebra and attacked him viciously. The two of them fought wildly all afternoon, kicking up so much dust that they could hardly see each other. Finally, a powerful kick by Zebra sent Baboon flying through the air. Baboon landed hard on some rocks and limped away in pain, feeling very sorry for himself. To this day, Baboon still has a bald patch on his bottom from when he landed on the rocks.

Zebra was so exhausted that he accidently tripped over his own feet and landed in Baboon's fire. He jumped out quickly, but not before the blazing logs had left black stripes all over his white coat.

And that, legend tells us, is how Zebra got his stripes and Baboon got the bald patch on his bottom.

Source:
www.colours-of-the-rainbow.com



How good a friend are you?

1. A=1, B=2, C=3
2. A=3, B=1, C=2
3. A=3, B=2, C=1
4. A=2, B=1, C=3
5. A=1, B=2, C=3
6. A=1, B=2, C=3
7. A=3, B=2, C=1
8. A=1, B=2, C=3

1-8 Your attitude seems to be a bit selfish and you may find it hard attracting friends. Lighten up! A friendly smile and a kind gesture will get you far. Remember, at the end of the day bullies are often left alone without any friends. You need to control your anger, so go and talk to a teacher you can trust to help you.

9-16 You are a good friend, but there are a few things you need to work on. Find out who your real friends are and stand by them. No one wants a two-faced friend. Stand up for yourself and your friends or people might take advantage of you.

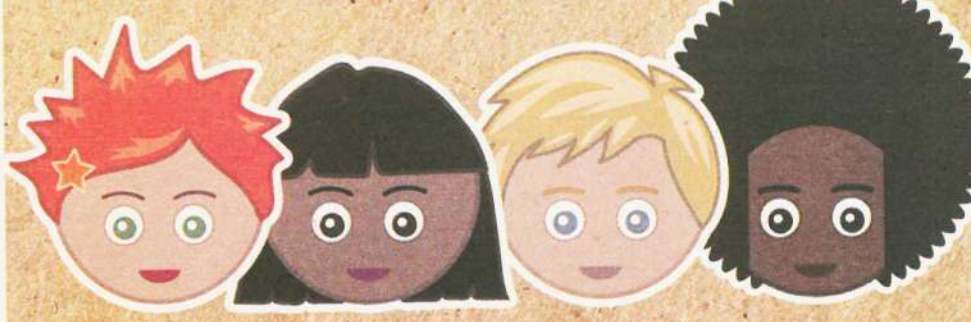
17-24 Won't you be my friend, too? You are everything that a best friend should be – considerate, friendly, caring and you stand up for yourself and your friends. With an attitude like this you will get far in life.

Take the test on page 5, then work out your score.

BE FAIR

Can you guess how many people there are in the world today? The correct answer is about 6.9 billion people – or 6 900 000 000 in numerals. That's a lot of people! The amazing thing is that each and every one of them is unique and different from everyone else. Can you imagine how boring and confusing it would be if all people were exactly the same?

However, throughout history there have been examples of people who have been treated unfairly because they were different from other people, either because of differences in skin colour, physical features, gender, religion, language or country of birth; people have been disregarded because of their physical disabilities and poor people have been shunned. These are all examples of unfair discrimination which should be avoided.

The fact is that people come in all colours, shapes and sizes. They should not be unfairly discriminated against because of how they look. What is more important than how people look is how they act and behave. If we want to be respected by others, then we should also show respect to others – their privacy, their bodies and their right to human dignity. In other words, we should treat people as we would like them to treat us.

Remember to respect yourself, too. You are unique and special.