



# ZEBU LOOSES HIS STRIPES



Zebu Zebra was very unhappy. Somebody had stolen his stripes! He had them on the previous night, before he went to bed. And now they were gone!

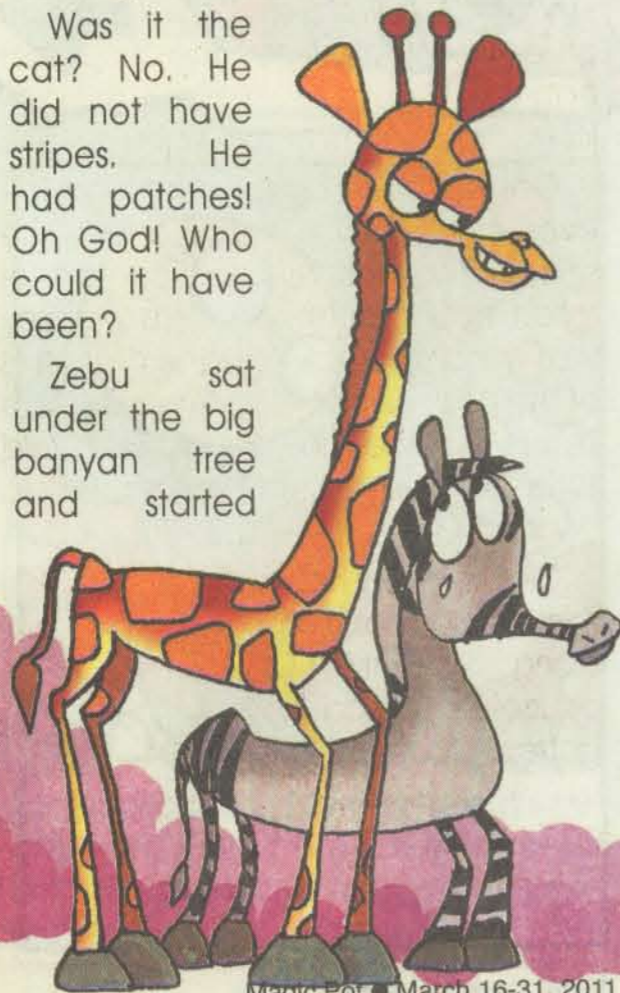
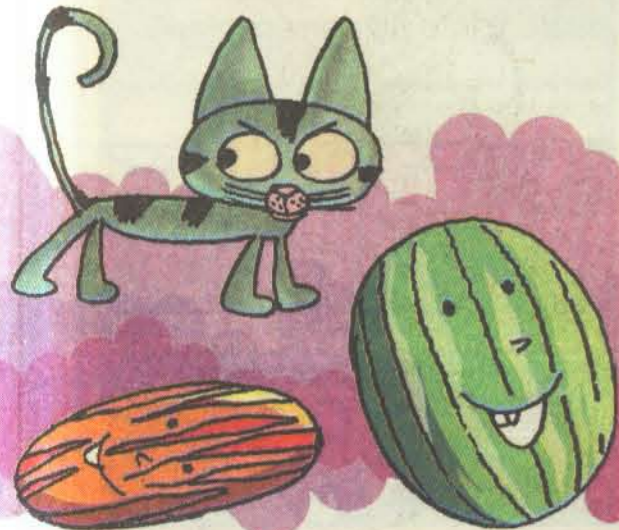
Whoever could have stolen them? Was it his neighbour Ginny Giraffe? No, it could not have been him. Ginny had dots on his body, not stripes! Then who else had stripes?

Timmy Tiger did! And Timmy was always chasing animals for something or the other. He must have stolen Zebu's stripes. Yes! Zebu should find out.

So he walked towards Timmy's cave. But wait a minute! Timmy had stripes, but they weren't black and white like Zebu's. They were nice big yellow and black stripes! It couldn't have been Timmy then. Who else had stripes?

Was it the cat? No. He did not have stripes. He had patches! Oh God! Who could it have been?

Zebu sat under the big banyan tree and started



to think. Slithery, the krait snake had stripes - black and white too! But they were very small and very round. Not big and clear like his! The Bumble Bee had stripes too! But again, they were very small, and yellow and black. Sigh!

Was it the watermelon? No. it had green and white stripes. The cucumber had yellow and brown stripes, the brinjal had purple and white ones.

Oh! No! Were Zebu's stripes lost forever- his beautiful black and white stripes? Zebu felt very sad, and a tear rolled down his cheek. Cittu Monkey was watching Zebu from the branches of the tree. He came down and asked Zebu what the matter was. Zebu told Cittu everything, and then started to cry loudly.

Cittu thought for a minute. He took Zebu along to the river. Of course! Zebu had forgotten! Many of the fish who lived there had stripes. Was it one of them?

Cittu started cleaning Zebu with water, and one by one all his stripes came back. Zebu had played in a mud the previous day, and had forgotten to bathe himself before going to bed. And so, in the morning he could not find his stripes. How very silly he had been! He thought someone had stolen his stripes! Zebu realised that he should remember to clean himself every night from now on. And how clever it was of Cittu Monkey to spot his stripes under the dirt!

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## LEARN TWO WORDS

*Krait snake* - A kind of poisonous snake.  
*Mud puddle* - A small pool of wet mud.

