

You've Got to Be Calmer, Llama!

By
William Anthony

Illustrated By
Richard Bayley



You've Got to Be Calmer, Llama!

Level 10 – White



Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

The focus phonemes (units of sound) used throughout this series are in line with the order in which your child is taught at school. This offers a consistent approach to learning whether reading at home or in the classroom.

HERE ARE SOME COMMON WORDS THAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT FIND TRICKY:

water	where	would	know	thought	through	couldn't
laughed	eyes	once	we're	school	can't	our

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Encourage your child to read aloud as well as silently to themselves.
- Allow your child time to absorb the text and make comments.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage your child to clarify the meaning of new vocabulary.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a white level 10 book band.

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Chapter One

Between a Rock and a Harsh Face

"Have we got a problem?" grumbled Llama. Zebra put his hooves over his eyes. He didn't like it when Llama got grumpy.

"Don't look at me like that! Who do you think you are?" Llama continued.

The Lemur Brothers giggled away in the tree.

"You think you're so great, don't you?" Llama sneered.

She was in the mood for an argument. Nothing was going to get in her way.

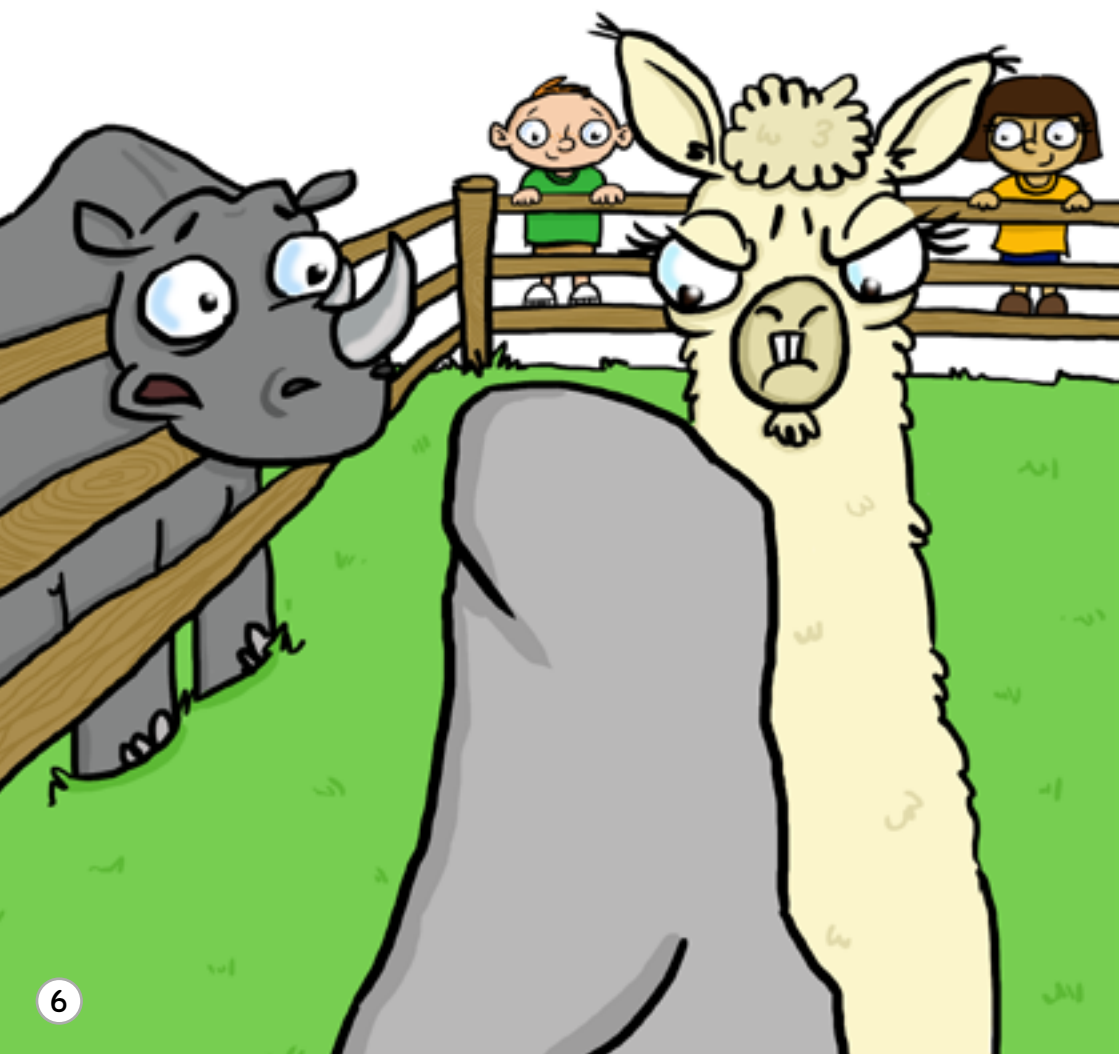
"Come on, don't just sit there. Explain yourself!"



Rhino came up to the fence. "Llama!" she shouted. "Why are you having an argument with a rock?"

The Lemur Brothers couldn't hold in their laughter anymore.

"The humans are watching; you've got to be calmer, Llama!" insisted Rhino.



Llama was far from calm. She may have looked fluffy and sweet, but that was far from the truth.

Llama was the grumpiest animal in Ginger Zoo.

Last week, she went on a rampage because one of her fence posts was just a little bit wonky.



The week before that, the birds whistled a note slightly out of tune in one of their morning songs.

Llama didn't take too kindly to that, either. Llama was hard to keep under control, but the other animals needed her. Tonight was the big night.

Chapter Two

The Big Night

"Quiet at the back! Does everyone remember their jobs?" asked Orangutan.

"Not really," said Elephant. He always forgot things.

"I don't either," said Camel. Camel wasn't forgetful. He was just born lazy.

"Does anyone remember their jobs?" sighed Orangutan. Not a single hoof or paw was raised.

Orangutan was losing the will to live. She barked out the escape plan one last time.

"Llama, you distract the zookeepers," she ordered.

"What did you just say to me?" argued Llama.



"Camel, you break down the gate," yelled Orangutan. "Elephant, you direct animal traffic. Giraffe, you're our lookout, of course. Zebra, you... You just try to stay relaxed."
"I'm not sure I can manage that," quivered Zebra.

"Cheetah, no eating the other animals," said Orangutan. Cheetah rolled her eyes. "I want to see lots of energy. Let's get out of here!"

On Orangutan's call, everyone began. The plan was off to a good start. Camel was slowly damaging the gate and Elephant was directing the animals well. Giraffe was a good lookout. He was so good that he noticed a huge problem.

The zookeepers were walking towards Elephant. Llama was supposed to be distracting them, but she was nowhere to be seen.

"Danger! Abort!" screamed Giraffe.
The animals scrambled back to their enclosures. The plan had failed. Rhino went to find Llama.

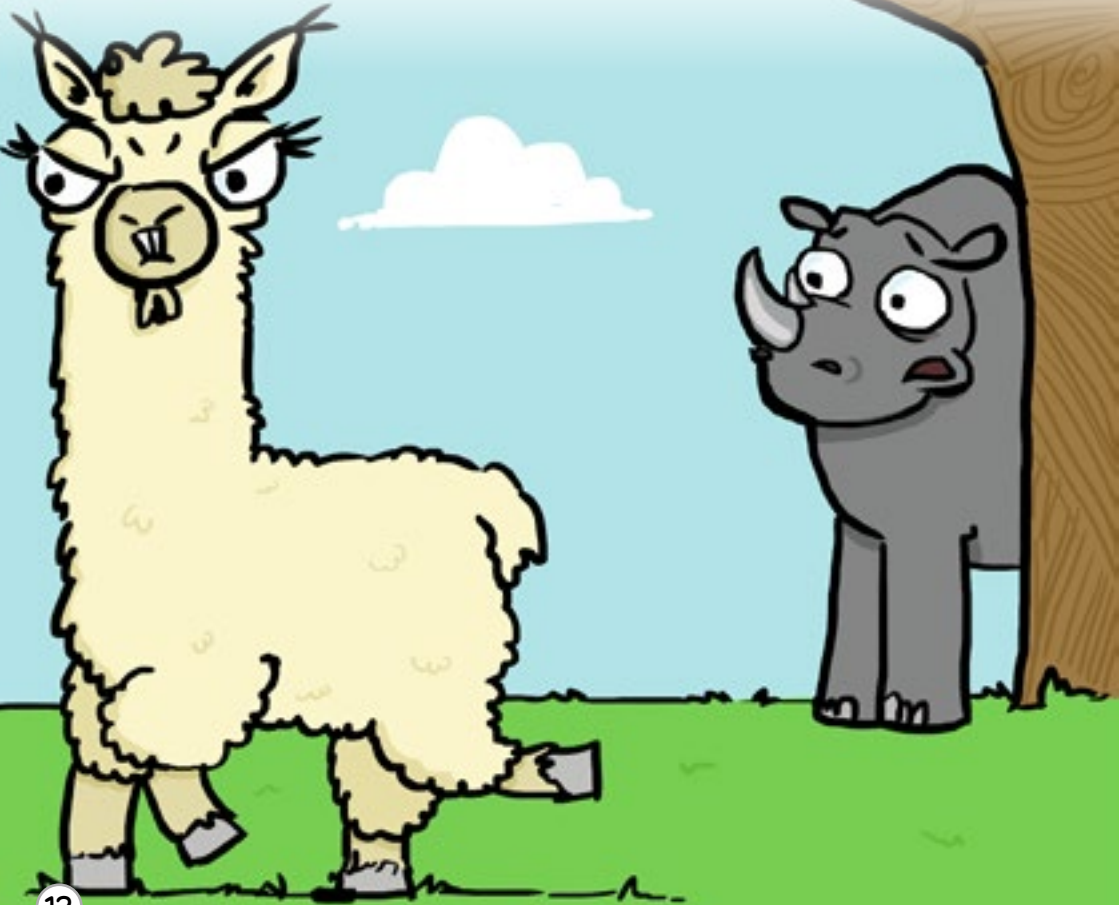


Rhino found Llama arguing with a tree.

"Yo, Rhino, this tree is being super-rude to me," whinged Llama.

"It's a tree, Llama. Trees don't speak. Did you forget about the plan?" asked Rhino.

"You pointless piece of giant bark, you made me miss the escape plan!" raged Llama. She kicked the tree and stormed off.



Chapter Three

Yoga, Whales and Sheep

The mood in Ginger Zoo was rather tense the next day. Llama had a slight feeling that it might have been because of her, but she had no idea why.



The group decided their only option was to find some ways to help Llama relax.

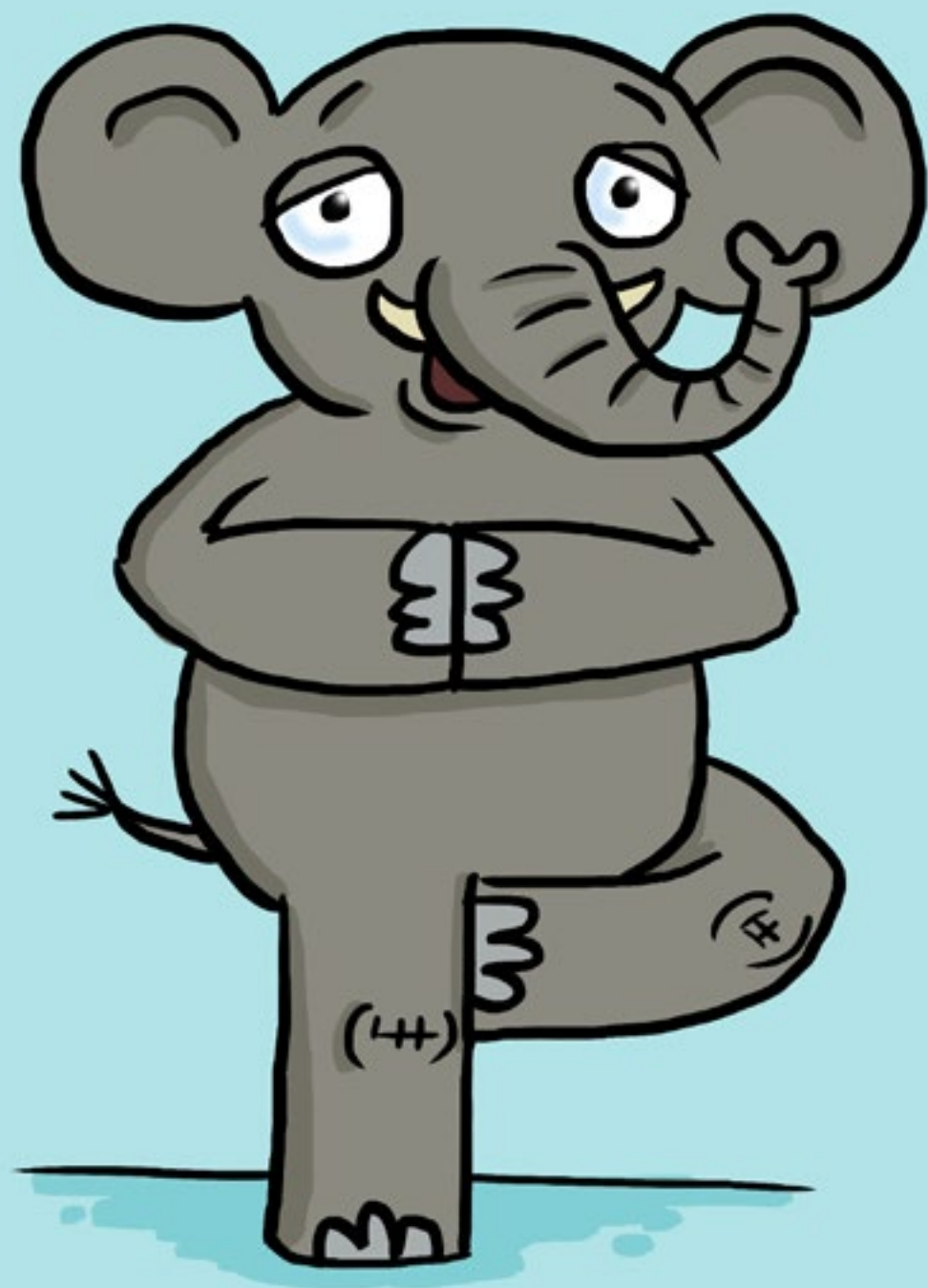
Zebra led a yoga class for Llama. Yoga helped Zebra to stop worrying. He was very good at the High Lunge. Orangutan was great at the Downward-Facing Dog. No one could pull off the Lord of the Dance like Giraffe.

Elephant tried the Tree pose. Llama wasn't happy about that.

"How dare you, Elephant? Do you not remember the tragic events of last night?" barked Llama.

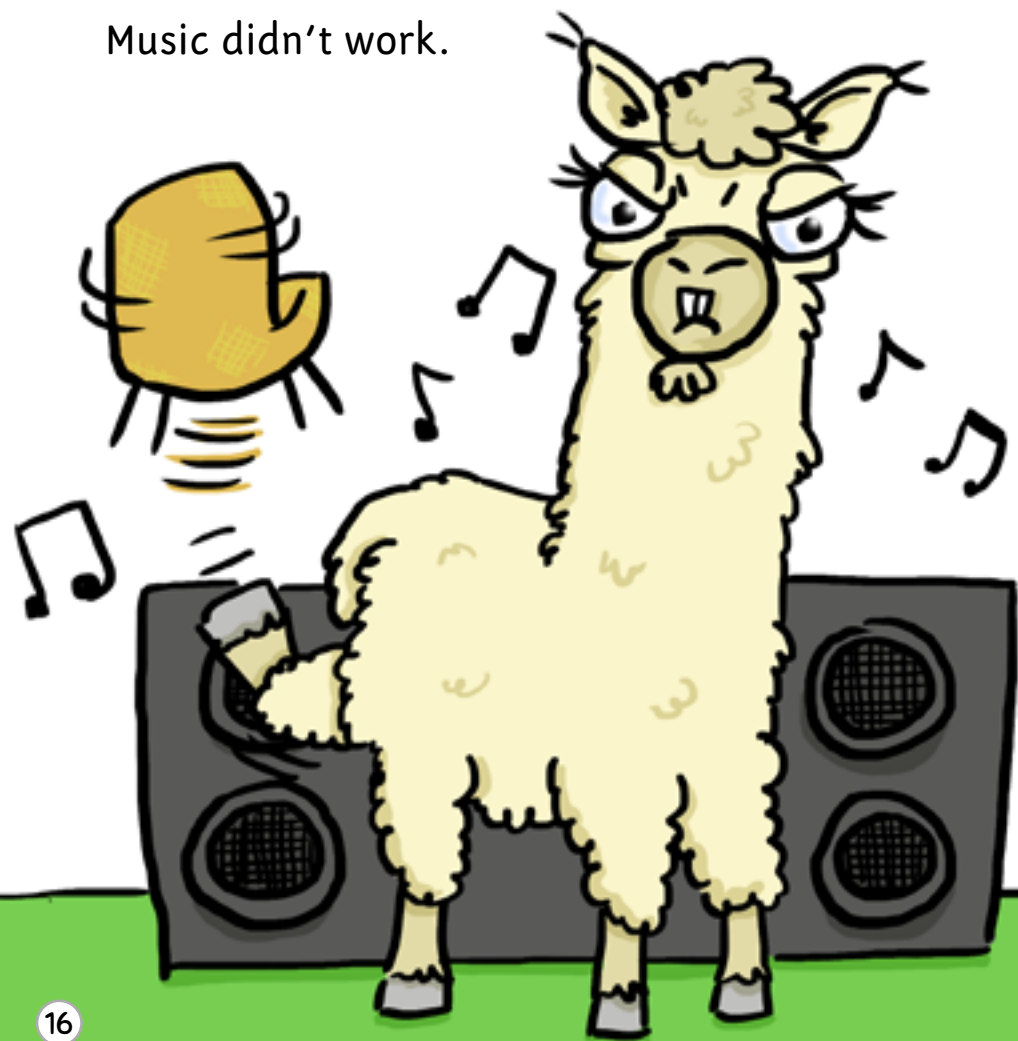
Yoga didn't work.





The Lemur Brothers had another idea. They sat Llama down and snuck off to the zookeepers' office. They plugged in one of the keepers' phones and played whale noises over the zoo's speakers, but Llama preferred to listen to reggae.

Music didn't work.



Camel loved to lounge around and take naps. He counted sheep to help him get off to sleep. Llama got very frustrated when she tried. She couldn't see sheep anywhere! Camel was too busy snoring to notice.

Counting sheep didn't work.



The other animals heard Llama's gigantic outburst and came to look.

"What's going on in here?" asked Rhino.

"You've got to be calmer, Llama!" shouted Orangutan.

Llama had had enough. "WHY SHOULD I?" she boomed.

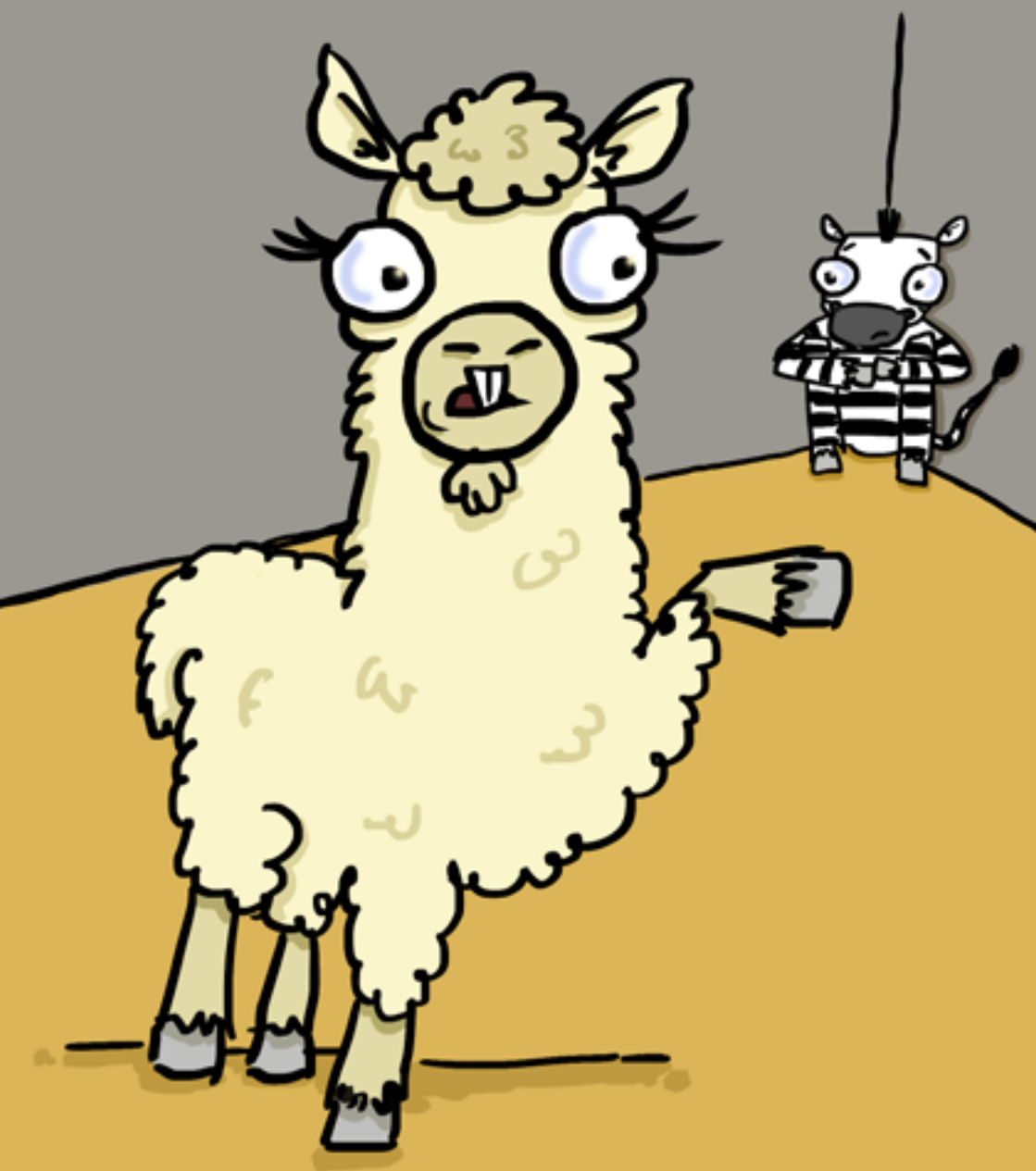


Chapter Four

Apologies

"I'm tired of everyone telling me that I need to be calmer!" huffed Llama. "You're all so busy telling me off that you forget about yourselves," she fumed. Llama completely let go.

"Camel, you are the laziest animal I know," grumbled Llama. "Elephant, you're so forgetful that there's no point in telling you anything! All Orangutan wants to do is boss everyone around, and you two Lemur Brothers are just mean and cheeky! Rhino, you... actually, you're quite good. There's no surprise that Zebra is hiding in the corner over there, and let's not forget about Cheetah – she just wants to eat everyone!" Cheetah stopped licking her lips.



"We all have problems, but I don't tell you guys off for yours," finished Llama.

It went silent. Llama was right. She had never judged any of the other animals for their problems, but everyone told Llama off for not being calm enough.

"You're right, Llama. I'm sorry," apologised Camel.

"I'm sorry, too," added Orangutan. "We all are."

"Don't be sorry. It's me who needs to make an apology," said Llama. "I ruined the escape plan. But I think we should try it again tonight. We make a good team together."

One by one, the animals started to smile. Even Llama managed a grin in a big group hug.



Chapter Five

The Big Night after the Big Night

Orangutan got everyone into position. Camel was ready to break the gate off its hinges, Giraffe was on the lookout, Elephant was ready to direct traffic and even Zebra was managing to stay relaxed.



Llama stood waiting for the zookeepers. She waited and waited, but they never came. Something strange was happening.
"Giraffe, where are they? Can you see them?"
Llama called out.



Giraffe scanned left to right until he spotted them. They had taken a new route on their night patrol. As if that wasn't bad enough, Giraffe noticed an even bigger problem.

"Llama! They're heading right towards Camel!" he yelled.



Llama scrambled over to Camel to warn him. The other animals gathered around. This was their big chance to finally escape, but they only had a few moments to do it. An idea popped into Llama's head.

"You need to make me annoyed at the gate," said Llama.

"Are you joking?" moaned one of the Lemur Brothers.

"Make me grumpy! NOW!" yelled Llama.



"Umm... I heard the gate said you were too fluffy," said Zebra.

"Oh it did, did it? Listen here, you pile of deadwood, this is top-quality fluff," argued Llama.



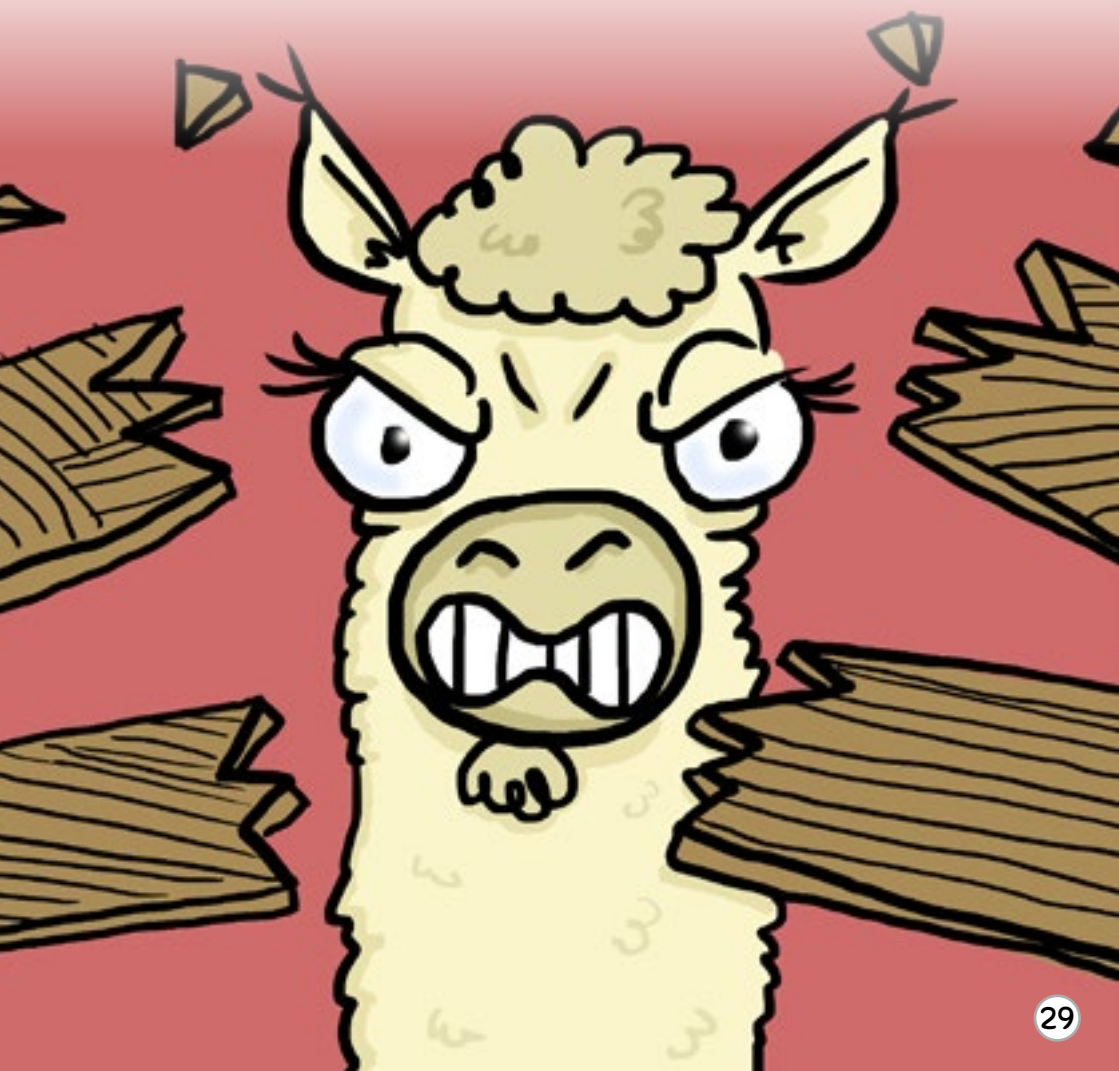
"It told me that your neck was too long," added Orangutan.

"It said what? My neck is the perfect length!" growled Llama.



"It said you've got to be calmer, Llama!"
shouted Rhino.

"AAARRRGGGHHH!" screamed Llama, as she
charged at the gate...



The zookeepers were doing their patrol. One of them tripped over a plank of wood. The other one found a hinge in the grass. They looked up at what was left of the gate.

"We've got a problem," they said together.



Chapter Six

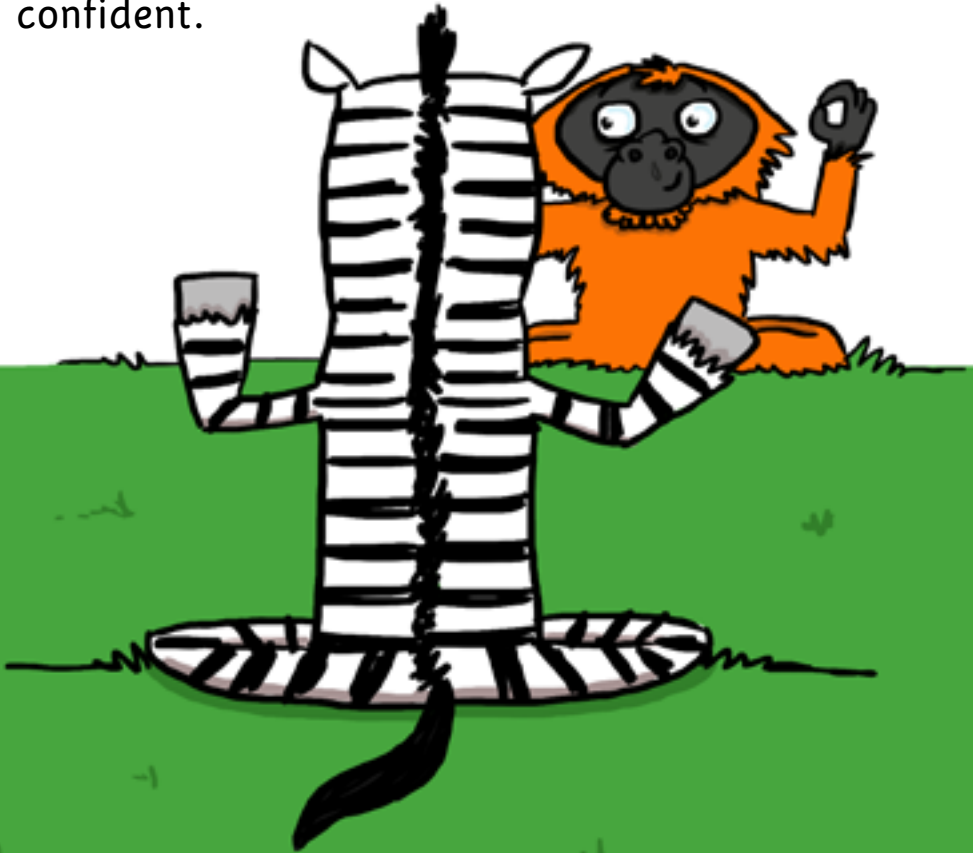
No More Drama

The Sun rose over the wide-open fields, miles beyond Ginger Zoo. The animals had travelled a long way overnight. It was a beautiful day to finally be free.



They had only been free for a day, but each of the animals had started to work on themselves.

Orangutan spent the morning learning yoga from Zebra. She hoped it would help her loosen up and be less bossy. She returned the favour by helping Zebra learn how to be more confident.





Camel made a list of jobs to stop himself from being lazy, while Elephant started doing some brain training in the hope that he'd never forget anything again. Cheetah even became a vegetarian.





Llama didn't need to do a single thing.

Llama had lost every last bit of rage. She never quite knew why she was so grumpy before. Maybe it was because everyone was always telling her to be calmer. It might have even been because she had never explored the wild before.

All she knew was the same thing that all the other animals knew. They were born to be free. Llama took a deep breath. The air of the open wilderness filled up her lungs and it felt great.

There was no more drama, just a much calmer Llama.



You've Got to Be Calmer, Llama!

1. Which animal was given the task to direct animal traffic?
2. Who held a yoga class for Llama?
3. What music does Llama prefer to listen to?
 - (a) Classical
 - (b) Pop
 - (c) Reggae
4. How did the animals get Llama to break down the gate?
5. Why do you think Llama kept feeling grumpy? Have you ever felt like Llama did?

An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

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AUTHOR INSIGHT: WILLIAM ANTHONY

Despite his young age, William Anthony's involvement with children's education is quite extensive. He has written over 60 titles with BookLife Publishing so far, across a wide range of subjects. William graduated from Cardiff University with a 1st Class BA (Hons) in Journalism, Media and Culture, creating an app and a TV series, among other things, during his time there.

William Anthony has also produced work for the Prince's Trust, a charity created by HRH The Prince of Wales that helps young people with their professional future. He has created animated videos for a children's education company that works closely with the charity.

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You've Got to Be Calmer, Llama!

The escape plan was set and the animals of Ginger Zoo were ready to break out. It would have all gone according to plan if Llama had just been a little bit calmer...

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