The great escape

Robby Rabbit tricks Freddie Fox

Grumpy Kid's diary
Group-guided reading

Before reading

• Page through the story the learners will read. Talk about the illustrations.
• Ask them to predict what the story will be about; based on the title and the pictures.
• Introduce new or difficult words prior to the learners reading the story.
• Make word cards to introduce new vocabulary. (See the list of new vocabulary in the back inner cover.)

First reading

• Learners should read the text individually.
• Learners should read silently or they can ‘whisper-read’ the text.
• Move from one learner to the next, requesting each learner to read a section of the text aloud.

Discussion

• Ask comprehension questions based on the text.
• Focus on phonics, sight words and vocabulary.
• You will find the activities in the back of this book useful to guide the discussion. (Select appropriate activities for the level of the learners.)

Second reading

• On later days, let learners reread the book, either in pairs or alone.
• Focus on fluency, grammar and vocabulary.
• Let learners complete the group-guided activities which are included in the back of this book. (Select appropriate activities for the level of the learners.)

Let learners do a role play if the text lends itself to it.

Learners should do the group-reading activities after reading the story.
Let learners work in groups to complete the appropriate group-reading activities included in the back of the book. They should not write in this book. Written activities should be done in their exercise books.
The great escape
One warm summer evening, the zookeeper locked up the cages of all the animals before he left for home.

“Good night animals, I will be back in the morning,” he said as he locked the baboon’s cage.

“Good night,” replied Mr Baboon as he carefully pulled the keys from the zookeeper’s belt.

“I’m so tired,” said the zookeeper. “I’m glad it’s time to go home. I’m hungry and I can’t wait to have supper with my family.”
As soon as the zookeeper left for home, Mr Baboon went from one cage to the next unlocking the gates.

"Hi Mrs Hippo," he said, "Come on it’s party time!"

"Good evening Mr Lion," said the baboon, "Come on let’s party!"

The animals chattered excitedly about leaving the zoo.

The monkeys were the first to escape. All twenty three of them climbed over the zoo fence and headed for the park.
The monkeys were excited when they found a table set for a birthday party to be held the next day. The monkeys ate all the party food.

They played on the merry-go-round and on the swings.
Just then the park’s security guard woke up from his nap. He was very surprised when he saw twenty three monkeys playing in the park. “Can this be true?” he asked himself.
Back at the zoo, Tessa the tortoise was slowly making her way towards the zoo gate.

“Oh dear!” Tessa thought. “Phew! This is such hard work. I think I will rather stay in the zoo and rest.”

The hundred year-old tortoise was too tired to follow the other animals.
Hilda the hippo decided to leave the zoo and wandered down the main road.

She was surprised by how noisy the traffic was. It was all too noisy! She decided to sleep in the fountain outside the town hall, but kept waking to the sound of hooters and the alarms of emergency vehicles.
Leo the lion prowled down the street. He sniffed for food. What could he eat?

He peered into the supermarket. “Help! Help!” screamed the customers.

“Help, help!” the manager shouted into the phone.

“There is a lion in the shop! Really, is it true” he said.
Felix the elephant was the last animal to leave the zoo. He walked through the town.

While he was walking along the road Felix saw a house in flames. He sucked up water from the swimming pool and sprayed the house. Soon the fire was out.

“Well done, Mr Elephant!” shouted the fire fighters.

“Hooray!” cheered the spectators.
Felix continued on his walk through the town towards the village.
He saw Ntebo walking from the river. She was struggling to carry a bucket of water.
“I keep spilling the water,” said Ntebo.
“Don’t worry, I will help you carry water,” said Felix.
He lifted Ntebo onto his back and then he sucked up enough water to fill the water tank.
Meanwhile, Jerry giraffe strolled towards the library. He peered through the windows of the bus.

“Watch out!” yelled the bus driver.
Soon the zookeeper and all his assistants were out looking for the animals. The police came to back them up.

Newspaper headlines and radio news flashes warned people about the lion on the prowl in the shops.
And then, all the animals decided to go back to the zoo.

“It’s not easy finding food in town,” said the lion.

“I can’t sleep with all the traffic noise,” said the hippo.

“It’s like a jungle in the city,” said the elephant.
“We had lots of fun at the party, but we are tired and want to go back home,” said the monkeys. Mr Baboon, who had kept the keys, opened the gate to let the animals back into the zoo.

“Oh, now I know what happened to my keys!” said the zookeeper.
Group reading activities

1. Look at the pictures.
   • Tell your friend what is happening in each picture.
   • Tell your friend in which order the pictures should be, from first to last.
   • Retell the story to your friend using the pictures.
   • Tell your friend whether you liked the story or not. Give a reason for your answer.

2. Role-play the story.
3. Match each simile with the correct animal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simile</th>
<th>Animal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As tall as a</td>
<td>peacock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As stubborn as a</td>
<td>lamb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As proud as a</td>
<td>mule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As gentle as a</td>
<td>ox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As strong as a</td>
<td>church mouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As wise as an</td>
<td>giraffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As poor as a</td>
<td>fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As sly as a</td>
<td>owl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Answer these questions orally with your friend.

a. What is the title of the story?
b. Who are the main characters in the story?
c. Which animals had the most fun?
d. Which animal is most like you? Why do you think this?
e. What do you think would have happened if the animals had not gone back to the zoo?
Redraw the mind-map in your exercise book and complete it.

Main characters:

What happens in the beginning?

Title:

What happens in the middle?

What happens in the end?

Use your mind-map to help you write the story in your own words. Write six to eight sentences.
| **Title:** The great escape |
| **Language:** English |
| **Level:** Grade 3 Home Language Reader Level 2 Book 1 |
| **Text type:** Narrative |
| **Sight words:** before, replied, about, decided, shouted, thought, along, towards, through, know |
| **Vocabulary:** escape, zookeeper, excitedly, security guard, surprised, emergency, supermarket, customers, spectators, assistants |
| **Phonics:** - Different spellings for the same sound, e.g. **eat/three**, **found/town**, **road/slow**, **could/good** - Digraphs forming an f sound, e.g. **food/elephant/enough** - Words spelt the same but sounding different, e.g. **leaving/headed** |
| **Content, concepts and skills:** - Discuss pictures. - Sequence pictures. - Retell the story using pictures. - Express feelings about the story. - Role-play the story. - Complete similes. - Read and answer comprehension questions. - Redraw and complete a mind-map about the story. - Write the story in own words in six to nine sentences. |
The CAPS requires teachers to allocate some time each day for focused group-guided reading. In group-guided reading, teachers guide learners of a similar reading level, to read the same book, in a group. The reading session should include a range of word attack skills and comprehension strategies that children require when reading. Reading effectively also requires “text talk” between the teacher and learners, and amongst the children in the group. These books include a number of “text talk”, comprehension and other related activities to help teachers direct group reading in their classes.

Other books in the Grade 3 Home Language Bookshelf:

Level: 1
- Robby Rabbit tricks Freddie Fox
- A sea adventure
- Fun in the kitchen
- Grumpy Kid’s diary

Level: 2
- The great escape
- Thandi has a bad day
- A weekend to remember

Level: 3
- There’s a monster in my cupboard
- The case of the missing cup-cakes
- Strange but true