

Brer Rabbit And The Tiger

The Beginning of the story introduces 'who' is involved, and 'where' and 'when' the story takes place.

Once upon a time in Africa there was a big fierce tiger, a she-tiger, ten feet long from the tip of her nose to the end of her tail. Her legs were strong, her claws were sharp, and her greedy eyes shone like polished glass. She was a fierce and powerful cat and all the other animals were afraid of her.

Descriptive language that describes the Tiger, and helps the reader imagine what she looks like.

In amongst the green leaves and brown bark of the bush, there also lived Brer Rabbit. He was small and grey with long ears, and a nose that twitched.

Descriptive sentences that describe where the action takes place, and what Brer Rabbit looks like.

One day, as Tiger was walking through the bush, she heard the plop-plop of big rain drops, as they splashed on the leaves. The ground smelt warm and damp, and a gentle swirling breeze blew and whistled through the trees.

Descriptive language that describes the rain and the wind.

"Brer Rabbit, what are you doing?" said Tiger, surprised that the rabbit hadn't run away like all the other animals, frightened by her rumbling roar. Brer Rabbit would have run away if he had seen Tiger coming, but he'd been too busy eating. Now he had to think very quickly – so he began to pull vines from off the trees.

"Oh, Tiger, don't you know, there's a storm coming? I'm going to tie myself to a tree in a minute, with these long vines, so that the storm doesn't blow me away. When the storm comes anyone who isn't tied to a tree will be blown away."

The Middle of the story. This tells the reader the 'action' and 'events' of the story, and describes what happens next.

"Will they?" said Tiger.

Dialogue between the characters is shown using speech marks "...."

"Oh, yes" said Brer Rabbit, pulling down vines very quickly.

Tiger looked worried. Very worried. She looked at the vines and wondered how she could tie herself to a tree. **In a frightened voice as thin as the wind blowing across a blade of grass** she said, "Brer Rabbit, could you tie me to a tree too please, so that I don't blow away?"

Similes - a descriptive figure of speech that expresses the resemblance of one thing to another for dramatic effect.

So Brer Rabbit wound the vines round and round until **Tiger was bound as tight as a drum**. Then, he ran off – with a skip and a bounce – because there was no storm coming. It was all a trick to escape from Tiger. You can imagine how Tiger felt. First she waited for the storm to come, but it never did. The rain stopped, and the wind grew still. Then she tried to untie the vines, wriggling her muscular body and lashing her long tail. But she couldn't set herself free.

At that moment a Giraffe came gliding by, **as beautiful as a dancer**. Tiger cried for help.

Simile used to describe how the Giraffe looks.

"But if I untie you, you'll eat me," said the Giraffe, and ran away as fast as she could.

The Tiger's eyes grew wide with anger, and she let out a furious, rumbling **roar**. A Vulture heard her angry roar and approached the Tiger. The Vulture agreed to set the Tiger free, as long as she would always leave some meat after a kill.

Descriptive language that describes what the Tiger's roar sounds like.

The Middle of the story. This tells the reader the 'action' and 'events' of the story, and describes what happens next.

Tiger was still very angry with Brer Rabbit, and was determined to kill him. Day after day she roamed the bush looking for him. Then one day, through the shimmering heat, she came up behind him on top of a rock, gazing into a lovely cool pool.

A descriptive sentence that helps the reader imagine the heat and the pool of water.

"Brer Rabbit, I am going to eat you," said Tiger.

Brer Rabbit froze. He hadn't heard Tiger approach, but he thought very quickly.

"Oh, don't eat me yet," he said, his voice shaking with fear. "Look," said Brer Rabbit, "Look down there at that beautiful golden ball."

Tiger stepped forward. "What golden ball?" she said.

Brer Rabbit pointed to the reflection of the sun in the pool below. It gleamed and glittered and filled the pool with brightness.

A descriptive sentence that helps the reader imagine what the pool looks like.

"Ah, if only we could get that golden ball out," said Brer Rabbit. "We'd be richer than the king if we had that."

"I could get it out," said Tiger. "For both of us," she added quickly, though she really intended to grab the ball and run away with it. "You're too small to carry it, but I could get it out."

"Could you?" said Brer Rabbit. "That would be nice, but when you get hold of it, don't let it slip or it will go deeper and deeper."

Quickly Tiger dived in, but she came up spluttering, without the ball, and cried a desperate rumbling roar.

Brer Rabbit called out:

"Tiger, my friend, be brave, be bold.
Go deeper and deeper to find the gold."

Tiger dived deeper, but she came up again without the golden ball. She was spluttering and gasping, but Brer Rabbit urged her to have another go.

"Tiger, my friend, be brave, be bold.
Go deeper still to find the gold."

Descriptive language

The End of the story concludes the narrative and shows how the 'events' have had an impact on the characters.

This time Tiger dived so deep, cutting her way through the swirling water, that she never came up again. She dived so deep that she came out on the other side of the ocean in India, where she lives to this day. Once again clever Brer Rabbit had tricked the Tiger, and that's why there are no Tigers living in Africa today.