



How Chipmunk Got Its Stripes

Teasing can be dangerous

■ A folktale retold by Mike Lockett, *The Normal Storyteller*; edited by Linda Ludwig
PAGE DESIGN BY ANGELA CHANG / ILLUSTRATED BY ARNOLD LEE



10

Bear was big and strong. But Bear was not kind and liked to bully others. Bear wanted everyone to **look up to** him.

"I am big and strong," said Bear. "I can do anything."

"No, you can't," said Chipmunk. Chipmunk was tired of Bear trying to act more important than everyone else. "You can't do everything."

"Yes, I can," said Bear. "I am big and strong. See how strong I am." Bear **tugged** at a tree, and it came out by its roots.

"You are strong, Bear. But, you can't keep the sun from coming up."

"Yes, I can," said Bear. "I can do anything."

"No, you can't!"

"Yes, I can."

"Prove it," said Chipmunk and all the other animals.

"Tomorrow I will stop the sun from coming up," **boasted** Bear. As the sun set in the west, Bear sat down and faced the **opposite** direction — east.

Chipmunk and all the other animals sat down behind Bear. Everyone sat there all night long.

11

Bear stood up as the morning light began to show in the sky. "I am Bear. I am strong. The sun will not come up." But the sun began to climb out of the black sky.

"I am big and strong," said Bear. "The sun will not come up!"

But the sun kept climbing in the sky. Chipmunk **grinned**, "Bear, are you sure that you can do everything?"

Bear **growled** at Chipmunk. Then he looked at the sun. It was nearly all the way up in the sky. Bear tried one more time. "I am big. I am strong. The sun will not come up!" But the sun came up.

Bear turned around and looked at the other animals. They were all howling with **laughter**. Chipmunk was laughing. He was laughing so hard that he fell down on the ground. He laughed until his **belly** hurt. Then Bear **roared**, "I could not stop the sun from rising, but I can eat you!"

Talk About It

- What kind of things do you boast about?
- *Sometimes I boast about ...*
- Do you ever tease anyone? Why?
- *Yes, I tease people about ... / No, I ...*





12

Bear reached out his **paw** and pinned Chipmunk to the ground.

Chipmunk said, "I should not have teased you, Bear. You are big and strong. Please let me say a **prayer** before you eat me. I **deserve** to die. Just let me say my prayer."

"Say your prayer quickly," said Bear.

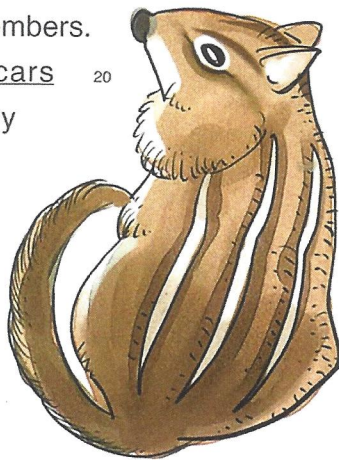
"You are holding me so tight," said Chipmunk, "I cannot breathe. Let me loose to say my prayer before you eat me."

Bear lifted his paw just a bit. Chipmunk **squeezed** out from under Bear's claws and ran toward his hole. He was almost in his hole when Bear's claws **raked** across his back leaving three long scratches.

Bear is still big. Bear is still strong. But Bear is not very smart. He doesn't remember hurting Chipmunk so many years before.

But Chipmunk still remembers.

He has three long **scars** ²⁰ along his back. They remind him of what happens when one animal makes fun of another. 🐻



Usage Tip

*Bear lifted his paw **just a bit**.* (p. 26, line 11)

句中 *just a bit* 為副詞，用以修飾熊掌抬高的幅度僅只一點點。

- The lion lifted his head just a bit to smell the air for something to eat.

Your turn

Word Bank

look up to (idiom) [lʊk][ʌp][tu] 敬仰，敬重
Little Johnny really **looks up to** his father.

tug (v) [tʌg] (用力) 拽，拉
She **tugged** the shirt out of the closet.

boast (v) [boʊst] 誇耀，自吹自擂
Frank always **boasts** about his good grades.

opposite (adj) [ˈɑpəzɪt] 相反的，對面的
Bob and Ken kept calling to each other from **opposite** sides of the building.

grin (v) [grɪn] 咧嘴笑，露齒笑
Charlene **grinned** as she ate the last piece of chocolate.

laughter (n) [ˈlæftə] 笑；笑聲
There is always a lot of **laughter** when Becky is around.

belly (n) [ˈbɛli] 腹部，胃
The baby's **belly** is full of milk.

roar (v) [rɔr] 吼叫；咆哮
The lion **roared** at the deer as they ran past him.

paw (n) [pɔ] 帶有肉墊腳掌的爪；爪子
My cat put her **paw** on my face to get my attention.

prayer (n) [praɪ] 禱文；祈禱
We always say a **prayer** to thank God for our food before we eat.

deserve (v) [dɪˈzɜ:v] 值得；應得
Bob doesn't **deserve** a good grade in history because he never studies.

squeeze (v) [skwɪz] (困難地) 擠進，擠過
The six girls **squeezed** into the car and drove to the mall to go shopping.

More Information

chipmunk (n) [ˈtʃɪp,mʌŋk] 花栗鼠

stripe (n) [straɪp] 條紋，斑紋

growl (v) [graʊl] 咆哮，低吼

rake (v) [reɪk] 掠過；(用耙子) 耙

scar (n) [skɑr] 傷疤，傷痕

Word Bank Focus

laugh (v) [læf] 笑，大笑

The movie was so funny that we **laughed** until we cried.

laugh off (phr v) [læf][ɔf] 對……一笑置之

Beverly **laughed off** everyone's comments that she come to work on time.

laughable (adj) [ˈlæfəbəl] 可笑的，荒唐的

Ron's poor excuse for not doing his homework is **laughable**. No one believes him.