

Catch It

Questions to ask:

Pause the film after 44 seconds as the animals emerge from their burrow.

Where are the animals sleeping?

What is the name for the long, seasonal sleep that some mammals partake in during winter?

Describe the landscape around them- what is their natural habitat?

Pause the film at 1:27 when the vulture lands in the tree.

What are the meerkats thinking as they climb the tree and find the fruit?

How can you tell that the meerkats are happy to see the fruit? What gesture do they make?

Why do they sway when they look at it?

Describe their movements as the vulture lands.

Do you think the vulture is going to be a hero or a villain in the story? Explain your answer.

Pause the film at 3:24 as the fruit is dropped and none of the animals have it.

Why do you think all of the animals are so desperate to catch it?

What sports does the meerkat formation remind you of?

Explain how the meerkats work as a team.

Think of three sentences to describe the way in which the vulture moves against the meerkats.

At the end of the film ask:

What word would you use to describe the fruit at the end of the clip?

Who do you think won in the end?

Do you think there is a moral to this story? What is it?

Note: there are no answers for these discussion questions.

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Watch the clip. Can you write the story from the perspective of one of the meerkats? Remember to make your writing as exciting as possible. Use the next page to write your story.

Some things you might want to include...

A verb to start a sentence.

E.g. **Racing** across the savanna, we could only think of one thing: food.

An adverb to start a sentence.

E.g. **Skilfully**, we passed the fruit between us.

Try adding some short, snappy sentences to add excitement.

E.g. **He froze.**

Tell the reader when something happened.

E.g. **Moments later**, an enormous shadow passed overhead forcing us to run for cover

Use adjectives (describing words) to add interest.

E.g. **The starving, calculated** vulture landed upon the bare branch, eyeing up the **sweet, ripe** fruit as it dangled tantalisingly.

Use a simile to compare something in the story to something else.

E.g. **Like a well trained rugby team** we rallied into formation.

Make vocabulary swaps for smarter words.

E.g. **We ran-sprinted** across the ground scrubland.

Use repetition to keep the reader's interest.

E.g. **Our stomachs rumbled.** Then the branches **rumbled** as he landed. After that the ground **rumbled** as our tint feet got to work.



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Think of a time when you have had to work within a team to achieve something. Write about it below. You may want to think about:

- How you organised your team
- What you needed to do to work together
- Any disagreements you had and how you overcame them
- How the end result made you feel
