

Daddy Cool and the Rainbird



Do you Know these Animals?



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Leopards are large cats that are very good climbers. They spend much of their lives in trees. Leopards are carnivores, which means that they eat other animals. Leopards like to eat antelope, monkeys, warthogs, birds and sometimes even fish. Leopards are very good swimmers. They do not need a lot of water to drink and can survive in very dry conditions.

Afrikaans: Luiperd; Sotho: Nkwe; Zulu: Ingwe



Image by Pat Wessels from Pixabay
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The Burchell's coucal is also known as a rainbird. It is seen before and after the rain, and its call sounds like falling water. It is a large bird with a brown back, pale front and a black head and tail. Rainbirds live all over South Africa. They live in thickets, reed-beds, coastal bush and along rivers. They need to live near water. Rainbirds are also carnivores. They eat mice, eggs, baby birds, snails, small reptiles, insects and fruit.

Afrikaans: Gewone Vleioerie; Sotho: Leruthula; Zulu: Ufukwe



Image by Herbert Bieser from Pixabay
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The hippopotamus, better known as a hippo, is a huge mammal, with a large barrel-shaped body, short legs, a short tail and a big head. Hippos spend all day in large waterholes and rivers. They come onto land at night to eat. Hippos are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. Hippos eat up to 35 kilograms of grass each night.

Afrikaans: Seekoei; Sotho: Kubu; Zulu: Imvubu

Do you Know the Sounds these Animals Make?

Using a cell phone scan each QR code to find out:



Leopard



Burchell's coucal



Hippo

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"I'm Daddy Cool, the greatest **leopard**.
Look at how strong I am! The African bush would be
boring without me," roars Daddy Cool.

"You may think you are great. But nobody can live
without me, the Rainbird. My call is like falling water.
All who hear it know that the rain will come,"
says Rainbird, "Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!"

"Oh, please! No one needs you or loves you. You're
just a loud voice in the sky," says Daddy Cool.
"I am the best. Look at my **beautiful** spots.
Everyone loves me."

"You'll miss me if I go away! One day you will want
to find me again," says Rainbird.

A vibrant African savanna landscape. In the foreground, a leopard with distinctive black spots on its golden fur stands on the left, looking towards the right. In the middle ground, a colorful bird with a black head, white breast, and reddish-brown wings is perched on a dark, gnarled tree branch. To the right, a giraffe with its characteristic long neck and spotted pattern stands near a tree. In the background, a hippopotamus is partially submerged in a blue watering hole. The landscape is filled with green grass, scattered trees, and rolling hills under a bright blue sky with a few birds flying in the distance.

Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!

1. Find 3 words that Daddy Cool uses to describe himself.
2. What word describes Daddy Cool's sound?
3. What does Rainbird's call sound like?
4. What do we know when we hear Rainbird's call?

"Well then, go away!" says Daddy Cool.
"Nobody needs you. The animals need someone strong
like me. I'm cool! I'm great! I'm strong!"

"If that is what you think, then I will go away.
We will soon see who is needed the most!" says
Rainbird, as he flies away feeling sad.

"**Coward!**" shouts Daddy Cool. "After all these years of
fighting about who is the best, I hope Rainbird now knows
that it is me," says Daddy Cool as he walks away from
the waterhole.



I'm cool! I'm great!
I'm strong!

1. Why did Rainbird fly away?
2. Who does Daddy Cool think is the best?
3. Do you think Daddy Cool is more important than Rainbird?
Why/Why not?

One month later...

"Hello Daddy Cool. How are you?" asks Huberta, the hippo.

"I'm just purrrrfect Huberta!" replies Daddy Cool,
as he walks out of the bush.

"Why are you so happy when we are all so sad?" asks Huberta.

"The buck are so easy to catch these days,
so I feel fit and strong," answers Daddy Cool.

"Yes, because they are thirsty and hungry," says Huberta.

"I am so thin and my skin is cracking.
There is little grass to eat and less water in the waterhole.
Oh, why has the rain gone away?"

Daddy Cool replies, "Who cares!
Things are looking just purrrrfect to me."



Oh, why has the rain gone away?

1. What differences can you see in the picture on page 2 and on page 3?
2. Why does Daddy Cool feel fit and strong?
3. Why is it easy for Daddy Cool to catch the buck?
4. What does Huberta eat?
5. Why is Huberta hungry?

"If the rain doesn't come back soon, we will all die.
Nothing can **survive** without water - not even you!"
"Oh, Rainbird why won't you answer our calls?" cries Huberta.

"Because he has gone!" answers Daddy Cool.

"We all know that, but why?" asks Huberta.

"Well, Rainbird knows that I'm the greatest. So he left!"
says Daddy Cool.

"Did Rainbird go away because of you?" asks Huberta.

"Yes! I did not like being second best!" **boasts** Daddy Cool.

"But Rainbird brings life to all of us. You have to bring him back!
Oh please Daddy Cool!" begs Huberta.

"Never ever! I am strong and fit. I don't need Rainbird."
says Daddy Cool.



I am strong and fit.
I don't need Rainbird.

1. What will happen if the rain does not come back?
2. Why is there no rain?
3. How does Rainbird bring life?

One month later...

"Oh Huberta! I feel so thirsty and hungry. There is no shade for me. Why are you still here?" Daddy Cool asks Huberta.

"This is the only patch of mud left," replies Huberta.

"Have you got some grass for me to eat?
I'm too weak to look for it."

"Sorry Huberta, I'm also too weak to help you," replies Daddy Cool.


"Please bring Rainbird back. We're all dying! We need water!"
says Huberta.

"I was so rude to Rainbird! I didn't know that water was so **important**. Even I can't live without water," says Daddy Cool.

"My spots and **muscles** didn't help. I couldn't make it rain!"

"Please find him and say sorry," says Huberta.

"I will!" says Daddy Cool, as he tries to make the sound of Rainbird,
"Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo! Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!"



My spots and muscles didn't help. I couldn't make it rain!

1. Why is Daddy Cool sad?
2. Why does Huberta stay at the waterhole?
3. What did Daddy Cool learn?

Suddenly, Rainbird flies in and lands on the tree close to Huberta and Daddy Cool.

"I have heard your calls and cries for help. I hope that you have learned your lesson! Water is life and life is water! It is a present from **nature**. I will only bring the rain when you say sorry to me," says Rainbird.

Daddy Cool looks at Rainbird and replies, "I am so sorry Rainbird. Without water, we will all die. Now, I know that water is life. I promise I will always look after you and water. I will love, respect and care for myself, others, and the **environment**. I understand now that we all need each other to live."



Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!

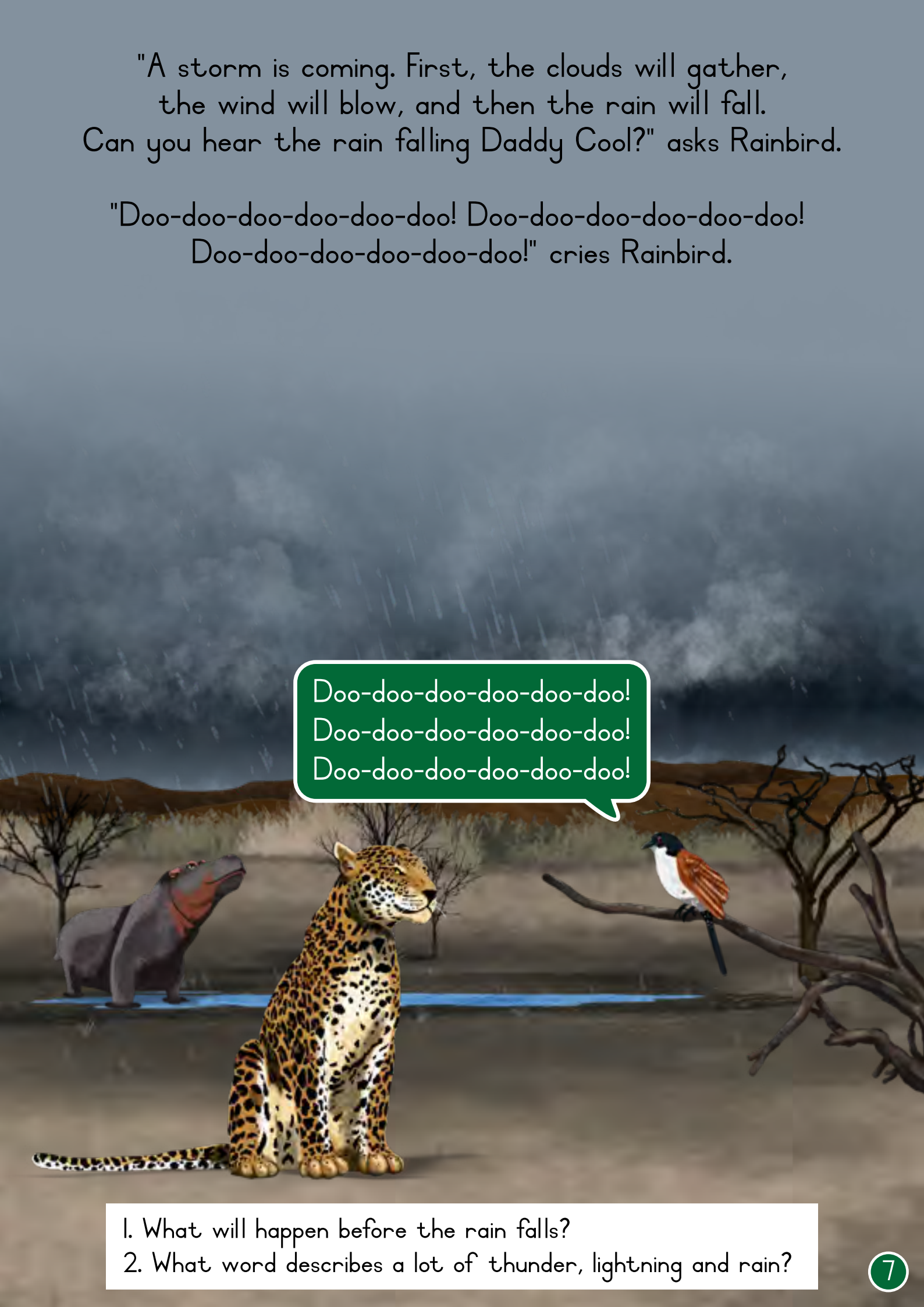


I am so sorry Rainbird.
Without water, we will all die.

1. When will Rainbird bring the rain?
2. Why is water a present from nature?
3. What is Daddy Cool's promise?

"A storm is coming. First, the clouds will gather, the wind will blow, and then the rain will fall. Can you hear the rain falling Daddy Cool?" asks Rainbird.

"Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo! Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!
Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!" cries Rainbird.



Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!
Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!
Doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo!

1. What will happen before the rain falls?
2. What word describes a lot of thunder, lightning and rain?

"Yes! Yes! It's raining Huberta!" says Daddy Cool, "We need to **celebrate!** Rainbird has **forgiven** me and brought back the rain. Can I splash in your waterhole with you Huberta?"

"Daddy Cool has learned a very important lesson. Have you?" asks Huberta.

"Do you take care of water and your environment? Remember, the Earth is in our hands, and it needs to be looked after. We need to learn to love, respect and care for each other and for our environment."



Yes! Yes! It's raining Huberta!
We need to celebrate!

1. Why is Daddy Cool so happy?
2. Where does Daddy Cool want to splash?
3. What does 'the Earth is in our hands' mean?
4. What did this story teach you?

Activities

Say the words

Can you say these words correctly? Listen to your teacher and repeat them.

- leopard
- beautiful
- coward
- survive
- boasts
- important
- muscle
- suddenly
- nature
- environment
- celebrate
- forgiven

Use a dictionary to look up the meanings of any words you do not know.

Describing words: Opposites

All these describing words are in the story. Write down their opposites:

- loud _____
- happy _____
- strong _____
- dry _____

Make a poster with one of the following headings to teach other learners about the importance of water and/or caring for the environment:

- Water is life!
- I care for my environment.

Write a story

- Write your own story that teaches other children about the importance of water and looking after the environment.
- Write your own story about a child/an animal who made a mistake and had to say sorry.

Talk about it

- Why do we need water?/Why is water important?
- How can we look after water?/What can we do not to waste water?
- What other things can we do to look after our environment?
- Why is it important to say sorry when we make a mistake?
- Why is it important to forgive someone when they say sorry to us?

LET'S BE WATER WISE



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