



A reader's quiz is attached to test the student's competency regarding the content of the story and be able to answer the questions. Reading comprehension is at the forefront of education and must be mastered in order to successfully compete and proceed in any field of work or avocation.

It was early morning on the plains outside Pretoria, South Africa, along the border of Mozambique. A herd of giraffes was just beginning to stir as the first trace of morning sun illuminated the eastern horizon. The entire herd knew that Batora, the wife of Mombato the leader of the herd, was about to give birth to their first offspring. Just before the sun broke the horizon over the eastern plain, Batora gave birth to a son. There was great joy in the herd and Mombato was exuberant to have his first born child be a boy. Batora was equally pleased that she had born a child that would be the heir to her husband. They named the child Guruto,

which means early sun, because he was born just before daybreak.

The young giraffe lay peacefully while his mother cleaned him and made sure that he was breathing normally. Gently she nudged Guruto to stand and he did so with an early strength that was joyous to watch by his father. With very little coaxing, the young giraffe walked initially haltingly but gathered strength over the next hour with encouragement from his mother and nourishment from her milk. There was a feeling of well-being in the herd as everyone was pleased to see this new male giraffe born to Mombato. Normally the herd would wake up early in the morning and leave their sheltered area in search of food. Once they had eaten, they would proceed to the nearest watering hole and after quenching their thirst, seek shelter from the hot African sun.

Today, however, because of the birth of the new calf, they remained in their shelter long enough for the young giraffe to gather sufficient strength to move to their feeding ground. By midmorning, the calf had gathered enough strength to walk normally, and the herd left their shelter in search of food for the day. A few weeks went by and the young calf grew as he indulged in his mother's milk and exercised by walking with the herd from place to place. Mombato, the proud father, kept a special watch on his son as he grew rapidly during these first few weeks of life. There were other younger giraffes in the herd that began playing with Guruto as he became more able to move about on, at first, wobbly legs. They noticed as they played, that Guruto's hooves were becoming extremely large. His father, when noticing the size of his hooves, felt that Guruto would be a very large giraffe with feet that big. In a couple of months, Guruto had become an active member of the herd, scampering around with the other young giraffes, feeding on his mother's milk, but also starting to nibble on the

tender undergrowth and lower leaves he was able to reach with his smaller stature.

The interesting thing, however, was that his feet continued to grow as he gained height. The bigger his hooves, the more noise he made as he ran from place to place playing with his friends. So much so, the sound began to thunder across the plain, wherever he ran.

At first, this thundering was not a problem to the herd, except the young giraffes began making fun of him because his hooves were so large. However, Guruto began to be self-conscious about the noise he created when he ran.

The herd migrated with the rainy season to different areas where the food was plentiful and the herd could find an adequate water supply to quench their thirst. Their favorite food is the acacia tree that grows plentiful in the brushy area of the open plains where they now gathered. Their long necks and lengthy tongues allowed them to reach areas in the trees well outside the reach of other animals.

A year had passed and Guruto had grown very tall, yet his hooves continued to grow ever larger'. He had become a very powerful young giraffe, but his hooves now caused the ground to shake when he ran.

He became the butt of many jokes amongst the other giraffes. By the time the next summer came to the South African plains, Guruto was feeling more and more self-conscious about his hooves. His father was becoming extremely displeased by the amount of noise he made walking with the herd. Something had to be done for the sake of the herd.

By the beginning of the rainy season, Mombato began ignoring his son because of his awkward, large hooves. He felt his son was a disgrace and that he made entirely too much noise as he moved around the herd and its sheltered areas. Batora, the mother,

was very protective of her son, even though she had another child, a female giraffe, by the name of Tufa. Batora would never stop loving her son, even though he was ignored by the herd because of his large feet. His hooves were so loud that they signaled the approach of the herd to their only real predator, lions.

One morning Mombato had a meeting with the older giraffes, and decided that Guruto must be banished from the herd. Mombato went to Guruto early one morning and told him that the elders decided he must leave the herd. At first, he was shocked and dismayed that his father felt this way about him and did not want to leave. His mother Batora tried to intercede on behalf of her son, but Mombato was firm and butted her out of the way then lowered his head and charged Guruto to send him away.

Even though he knew it was best for the herd, Mombato was sorry to have to do such a thing to his own son. He was the leader and responsible for the wellbeing of the other giraffes. At first the young giraffe did not believe his father could do this to him and he tried to come back into the herd. But Mombato moved swiftly to push Guruto away and send him into the brush alone.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. What time of day was Guruto born?
2. What Did his mother feed him?
3. In what country was he born?
4. What was different with Guruto from the other young giraffes?
5. What is the favorite food of giraffes?
6. What did the other giraffes decide to do with Guruto and why?

QUESTIONNAIRE:

7. What time of day was Guruto born?

Sunrise

8. What Did his mother feed him?

Her Milk

9. In what country was he born?

South Africa

10. What was different with Guruto from the other young giraffes?

He had big feet

11. What is the favorite food of giraffes?

Acacia leaves

12. What did the other giraffes decide to do with Guruto and why?

Kick him out of the herd because his feet were too noisy