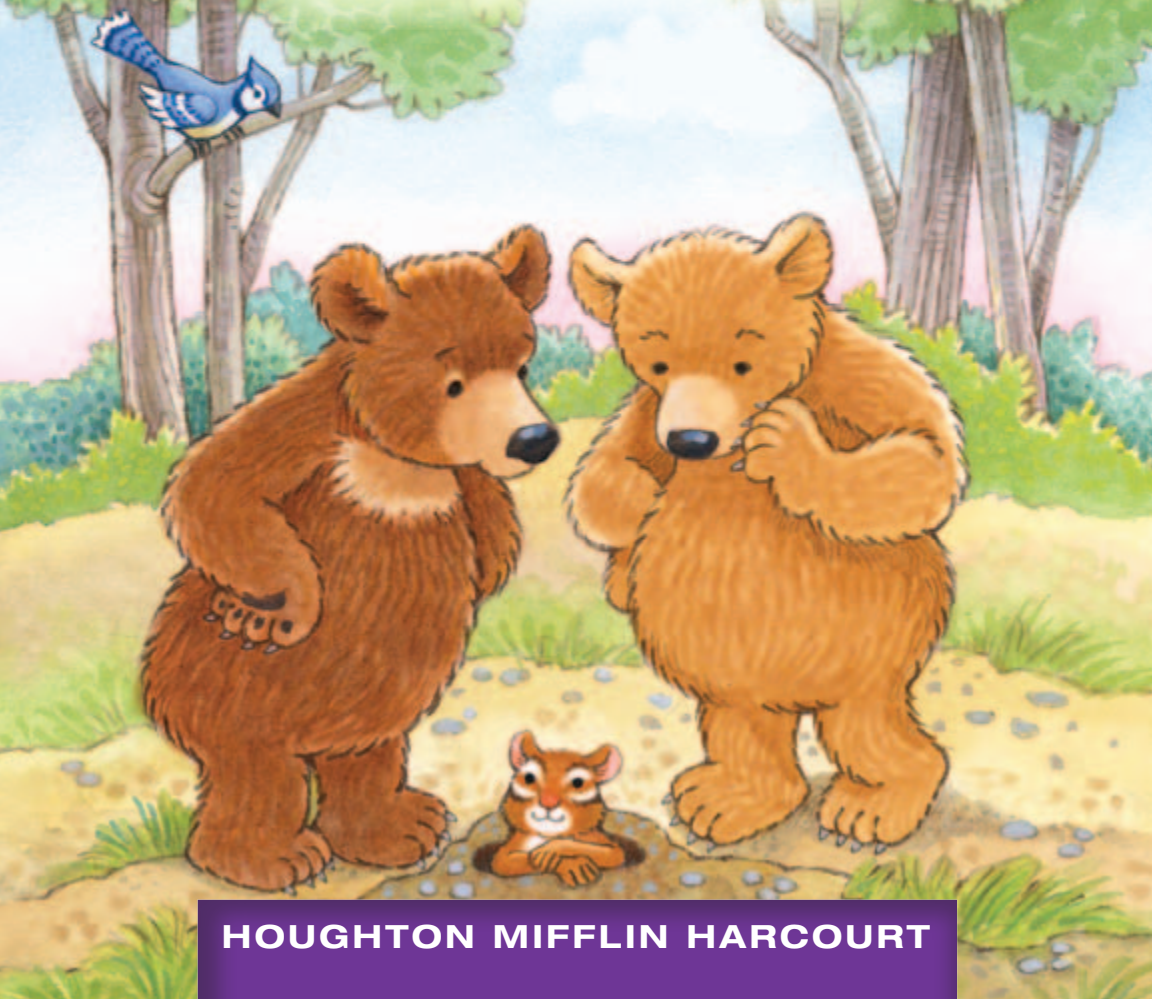




How Chipmunk Got her Stripes

A Seneca Myth

Adapted as a Play by Addie O'Connor
illustrated by Maggie Swanson



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

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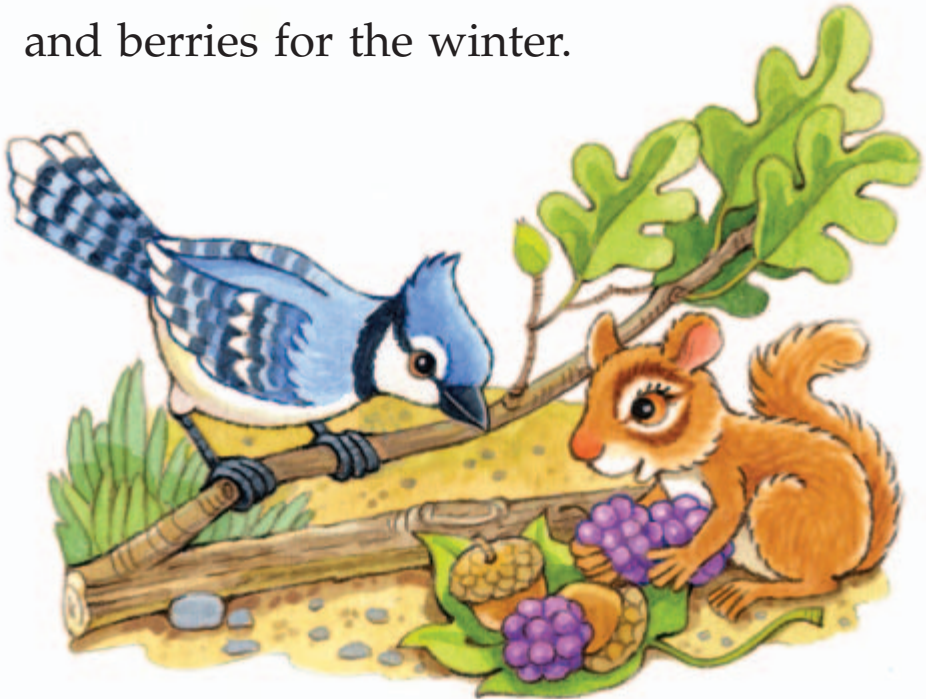
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🔊 NARRATOR: Many years ago, chipmunks had soft, brown fur. But they did not have stripes like chipmunks do today. This play explains how chipmunks got their stripes.

CHIPMUNK: Good morning, Bird.

🔊 BIRD: Good morning, Chipmunk. What are you doing?

CHIPMUNK: I'm gathering nuts and berries for the winter.






🔊 BIRD: Be careful, Chipmunk. I just saw Bear in the woods. He is greedily grabbing every nut he sees.

CHIPMUNK: I'm not scared of Bear. He may be big, but he is not very smart.

🔊 BIRD: Don't be foolish, Chipmunk! Bear will eat you for a snack!

 NARRATOR: Just as Bird is scolding Chipmunk, Bear appears. Glancing at Bear's sharp claws, Bird flies away. But Chipmunk isn't scared.






🔊 CHIPMUNK: Good morning, Bear.
How are you today?

BEAR: I'm the strongest and scariest
animal in the whole forest. It feels good
to be the best!

🔊 CHIPMUNK: You're the biggest
animal, but that doesn't make you the
best! I'm not scared of you.



 BEAR: You should be scared of me, Chipmunk. I could eat you right now.

CHIPMUNK: You could, but I know you won't. You are not as smart as I am.



🔊 BEAR: Oh really?

CHIPMUNK: Yes, really. Can you stop the sun from rising in the morning?


🔊 BEAR: I can do anything!
Tomorrow, the sun will not come up!

CHIPMUNK: Well, we'll see about that.

🔊 NARRATOR: Chipmunk goes back to her burrow, laughing at Bear. Bear lies down at the **base** of a tree. Even though he feels **drowsy**, he doesn't sleep. He is waiting for morning.






 NARRATOR: Early the next morning, the birds begin to chirp. Bear looks at the dark sky, and speaks in a very loud voice.

 BEAR: Sun, today you will not rise in the sky!

NARRATOR: But the sun does rise up into the sky anyway.

 CHIPMUNK: Ha, ha, Bear! You are big and loud, but you don't control the sun!

NARRATOR: Chipmunk rolls on the ground. She cannot stop laughing at Bear. But Bear is very upset. He grabs Chipmunk with his big paw.





🔊 BEAR: Stop laughing at me, Chipmunk! I can scoop you up with my paws and eat you right now.

CHIPMUNK: Please, Bear, let me have one wish before you eat me.

🔊 BEAR: Fine. Make your wish. It will be the last thing you do before I eat you for a snack.


🔊 CHIPMUNK: Please, Bear, let go of me just a little bit. I can't breathe well enough to make a wish.

🔊 NARRATOR: Bear loosens his grip on Chipmunk just a little. Instantly, Chipmunk dashes away. As Bear tries to grab Chipmunk, his claws make three long scratches down her back. But Chipmunk gets away and yells at Bear as she runs into the woods.

CHIPMUNK: You may be big, Bear, but you're not very smart!





 NARRATOR: Now Bear is very upset. He can't stop the sun from rising. He can't even catch Chipmunk. Another bear tries to make him feel better, but he is too sad.

BEAR: Chipmunk is right. I'm not the best animal in the forest. I'm just big.

🔊 NARRATOR: Chipmunk doesn't want to see Bear so upset. So she decides to apologize to him.

CHIPMUNK: Bear, I'm sorry I made fun of you.

🔊 BEAR: Chipmunk, I'm sorry I tried to eat you. And I'm sorry I made those scratches on your back!

NARRATOR: Chipmunk's scratches soon healed and they ended up as stripes on her back. And from that day on, chipmunks everywhere have had stripes on their backs.



Responding



TARGET SKILL

Story Structure What happens to Chipmunk when she meets Bear in the woods? Copy and fill in the chart below.

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Characters: Chipmunk | Setting: Woods |
| Problem: Chipmunk has to free herself from Bear. Events: ? Solution: ? | |



Write About It

Text to Self Write a note to Chipmunk. Tell her why you think she was brave or foolish when she met Bear in the woods.



TARGET VOCABULARY

base

burden

console

drowsy

glancing

greedily

heroic

hesitation

ignores

scolding



TARGET SKILL

Story Structure Name the setting, characters, and plot in a story, myth, or play.



TARGET STRATEGY

Summarize Tell the important parts of a story or play in your own words.



GENRE Myth/Play A myth is a story or tale that has a message or a lesson. It can be written as a story or as a play.

Level: L

DRA: 24

Genre:

Myth/Play

Strategy:

Summarize

Skill:

Story Structure

Word Count: 548

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