



The lonely snake

Written by Sanelisiwe Maliza | Illustrated by Shadrack Munene

“Sssss,” wept Baby Snake.

When Baby Snake slithered out of her hole in the ground to play, the animals fled. The birds flew to the highest branch on the tree. The mice skittered away. Baby Porcupine wobbled back to his nest in a hollow tree.

“Why don’t the other animals like me, Mama?” cried Baby Snake. “Every time I go outside to play with them, they run away without even saying hello.”

“They have heard bad stories about snakes. The animals think snakes are bad. They are afraid of us,” said Mama Snake.

Baby Snake watched from behind a rock as the other animals played happily together. "They look like they are having so much fun," she said sadly. Baby Snake heard crying. She slithered closer.

A group of caracal cubs were sneering and spitting at Baby Porcupine. "Please stop," sobbed Porcupine. Baby Snake slithered even closer...

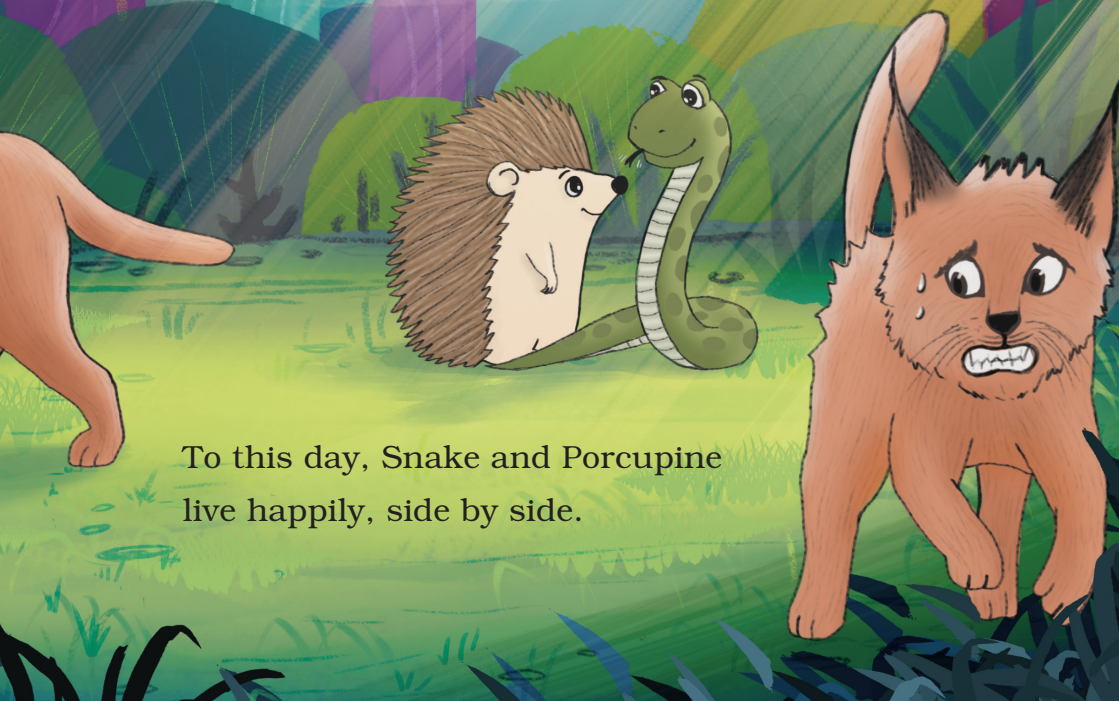


“SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS!”

The bullies got such a fright, they ran away as fast as they could.

“Thank you,” croaked Porcupine.

“No problem,” laughed Baby Snake. “Stick with me and those guys will never bully you again!”



To this day, Snake and Porcupine live happily, side by side.

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Ideas to talk about

What do you think the caracal cubs should have done when Baby Porcupine said, "Please stop"?

Do you think Baby Porcupine was surprised that Baby Snake helped him? Why?

What kind of stories have you heard or read about snakes?



Visual

Draw a picture of a snake. Colour it in and add a speech bubble. Write the sound that snakes make in the speech bubble.



Reading

Read the title of the story. Then make up two of your own titles for the story.



Writing

In the shape of a snake, write down words that describe snakes.



Craft

Use matchsticks and playdough or clay to make porcupines and snakes.



Performance

Move like the animals in the story: slither like the snake, walk around while you sneer and spit like the caracal cubs, show your quills like the porcupine.

