

The Amazing African Adventures of . . .

# LEO, Solene & SPIKE

a 21st Century  
Folk Tale

In collaboration with  
Earth Arts NW  
[www.earthandspirit.org](http://www.earthandspirit.org)

Created by Mrs. Brown's 3rd Grade Class of 2010 - Spring Mountain School

A Residency sponsored by the Right Brain Initiative. [www.therightbraininitiative.org](http://www.therightbraininitiative.org)

Artists: It's time to create Cover Art!

Artist's Name (That's YOU!)

(Chapter 1) **The Lake**

“Whee!” shouted Leo the Lion Cub.

He slid paws first down a slippery rock and into a BIG mud puddle.

Gliding across it, his little legs slid out from under him.

“SPLOSH!” he landed right on his belly.

Leo laughed and giggled, rolling around in the mud.

Then he got up and fell down and rolled around and got up and fell down again, “Plop!”

Suddenly he froze . . . listening. Then he wiggled his nose.

Leo climbed out of the mud puddle and shook himself off.

He shook so hard you could hear his little ears flapping.

“I wonder where Mama is?” growled the lion cub softly.

“I’ve been waiting here for a long time. “Mama! Mama!” he mewed.

“I wish I could find her,” he growled, “because I’m thirsty!

My Mama *always* knows where the water is.”

He sniffed his little sniffer in all directions. Nothing.

The he looked up and saw a big pink bird overhead.

“Excuse, me! Mr. Flamingo?” called Leo.

“Can you tell me where the Big Water is?”

“Are you lost, little lion?” asked the flamingo.

“Naw,” replied Leo, shaking his head. “I’m just waiting for my Mama!”

“Well you better stay put then!” said the flamingo leaping off a treetop.

“But I’m thirsty,” moaned Leo, watching the bird fly off.

‘I know!’ Leo thought. ‘I’ll follow him to the water.’

So little Leo trotted through the jungle, following the pink flamingo.

Passing by thorny acacia bushes, Leo got poked. “Ow! Oooh! Ouch!”

‘Explorers like me *always* face danger,’ he thought, licking his wounds with pride.

Then he pushed through the bushes and saw . . .

# LAKE VICTORIA!

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were playing at the water's edge.

"Wow!" Leo cried running down to the shore.

He took a big *long* drink then chased birds until he got bored.

After that he climbed a steep rock that hung over the lake.

Leo saw \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ swimming in the water.

Flying fish were leaping up *right in front of him*. "Whizz!"

Leo tried to catch one with his paw. "Whap! Slap!"

But he reached out too far and . . . Uh Oh!

Leo fell . . . tumbling head over tail into the lake! "SPLASH!"

He thrashed the water with his cubby paws . . . but it didn't do much good.

You see Leo was *just* learning to swim.

"HELP! HELP!" he mewed in panic.

Then he sunk into the water - "glub . . . "glub" . . . glub!"

Gasping for air, his head bobbed back up. "HELP!" he cried, "*Somebody, Help ME!*"

Selena had been watching from the acacia bushes.

She was shaking with fear, but knew she *had* to help the little lion.

Grabbing a vine, she ran to the shoreline.

Pulling back her strong neck, then circling her head around,

Selena cast the vine as hard as she could into the water.

But the waves caught it and pulled it out of Leo's reach.

He went under for the second time! "MAMA! HELP ME!" He cried.

Without thinking, Selena jumped into the water.

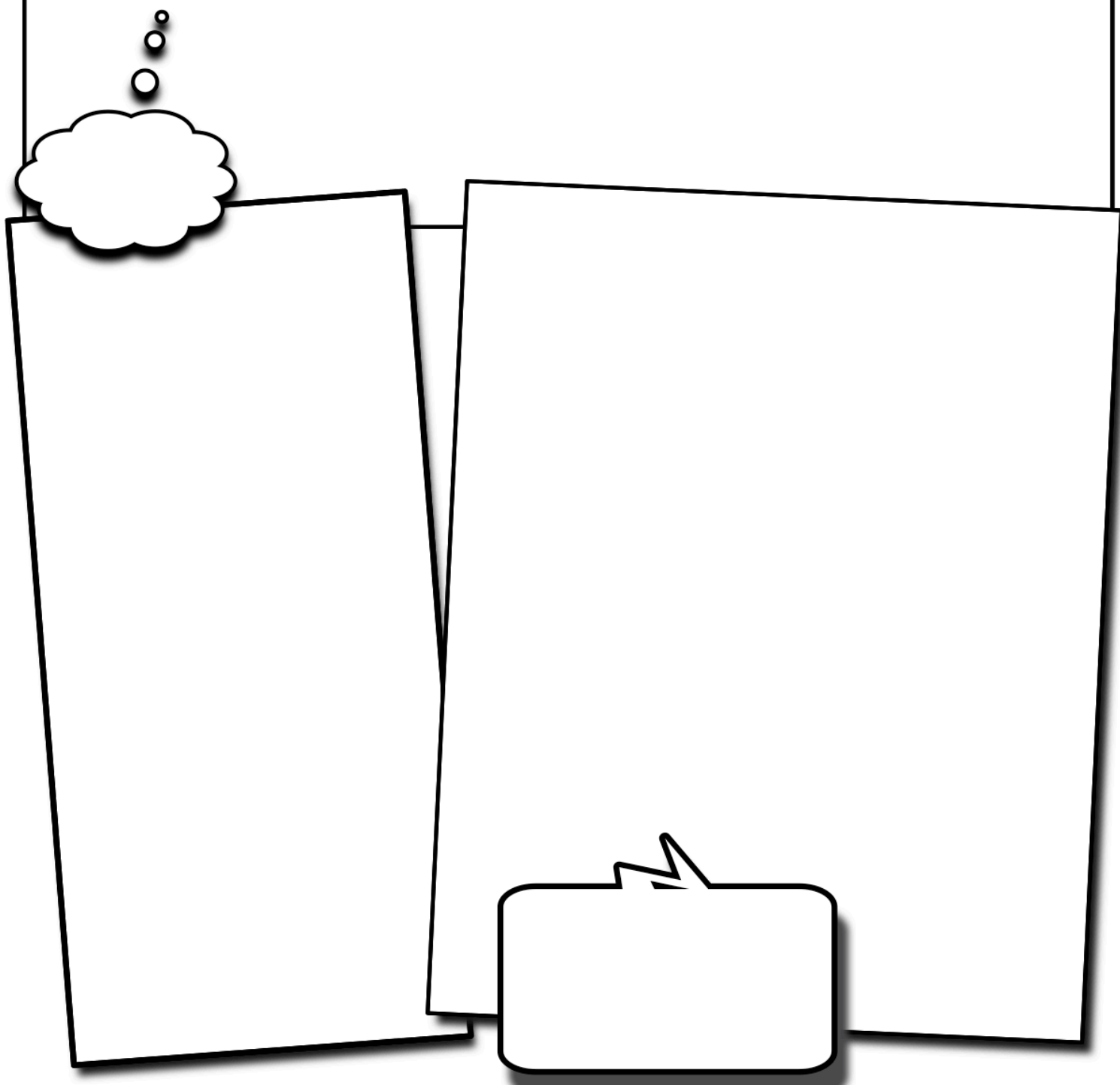
She swam as fast as she could to little Leo.

Then she grabbed his mane with her teeth and pulled him to the surface.

He was gasping for air when Selena said calmly,

"Climb on my back and I'll swim you to shore."

Artists: here's a place to draw scenes from our story!



Chapter 2) **New Friends**

As they climbed onto land, Leo slid off Selena's back.  
"WHAP!" he landed flat on his bottom on a soft patch of grass.  
The sun was very bright that day as Leo looked up.

"Are you OK?" Selena asked in a soft, friendly voice.  
Leo nodded. "That was scary!" he said. "Are you . . . an angel?"  
"No, little lion. I'm a Zebra," answered Selena with a grin.

"Thank you for saving my life!" Leo growled happily. "What's a Zebra?"  
"*I'm a Zebra!*" Selena answered. "See my stripes?"  
"What's a stripe?" Leo asked, quite puzzled.

Selena realized that Leo was *very* young.  
"You see the long black lines on my back?" she asked.  
Leo nodded. "Those are stripes!" she explained.  
"Ohhhhh!" Leo giggled, rolling around in the grass.

"What are you doing here all alone?" Selena asked.  
"I was thirsty," Leo answered. "My Mama didn't come back."  
"Well, little lion," said Selena, "you like to play in the mud, don't you?"

Leo jumped up, nodded his head and wagged his tail.  
"Come play with me then," Selena said, as she headed back into the Jungle.  
Leo happily followed behind her, swinging his tail and growling softly.

As they walked, they talked. This is what they talked about:

Leo said:

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Then Selena said:

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Leo answered:

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Selena replied:

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Selena waited with Leo at the mud hole for \_\_\_\_\_ days.  
 But Leo's Mama did not come back. He was very puzzled.  
 As they played \_\_\_\_\_ he asked Selena,  
 "Why did my Mama leave me all alone?"

Selena answered, "Maybe she *can't* come back Leo.  
 I lost my Mama too. We were walking across the savannah when . . ."

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"I think we are both orphans!" she said sadly as tears filled her eyes.  
 "What's an 'orphan?'" Leo asked, licking her face.  
 "That means we don't have a family," Selena whispered.

"Well, you can be **MY** family," Leo growled softly. "You saved me!"  
 Selena jumped up and moved away from little Leo.  
 "That would be very . . . strange," she said nervously.

"How come?" Leo asked, running around her in circles.  
 "Because," she began, "you are a predator and I am your prey."  
 "Huh?" Leo mumbled as he took a tumble.

Then Selena told him how things work in the Jungle.  
 Leo was amazed. "You mean I am *KING* here?"  
 Selena nodded. "When you grow up," she said.  
 "WAY COOL!" Leo growled.

"OK! As PRINCE LEO of the Jungle," he said with a prance,  
 "I promise *never, ever* to attack you! *Now* will you be my family?"  
 Selena grinned a big toothy grin and nodded 'YES!'

After that Selena and Leo became best friends.  
 They played together and took care of each other.  
 Until one day . . . when *everything* changed!

## Chapter 3) **The Cheetah**

Leo's favorite game was "*Adventures in the Unsafe Zone!*"

You see Leo and Selena lived in a nature preserve called the "Safe Zone."

Hunters were not allowed there and the animals were protected.

But the "Unsafe Zone" was full of WILD ANIMALS and *New Adventures!*

"Don't *ever* go there!" Selena whispered to him.

"How come?" Leo asked with a frown.

"Hyenas will attack! Crocodiles will eat you up! *DON'T GO THERE!*" she said.

"But I've never *seen* a crocodile," he replied.

"Scorpions will pinch you! Giant spiders will attack!" she said.

"That's just *MY* kind of adventure," he growled.

Selena sighed but kept trying to explain:

"You could fall into quicksand! Clouds will make you moody!"

"That could be really fun!" Leo replied.

"Snakes could attack you! Piranhas will bite you! *DON'T GO THERE!*" she pleaded.

"Aw, don't be such a scaredy-Zebra!" came a catty voice from behind a rock.

Then out popped **Spike!** "RRR-AHHH-RRR!" He snarled.

Little Leo jumped strait up into the air. "Whoosh!"

Selena backed up slowly and started turning - as if to run.

"Don't Worry!" growled Spike. "I'm not gonna hurt 'cha! Not now, anyway.

Spike swaggered over to Leo. "So kid, *who are you?*" he purred.

"I'm Leo, Sir! I'm, Leo the Lion," he replied standing as tall as he could.

"What's a nice little fella like you doing with a Zebra?" Spike snorted.

"Big cats like us don't make friends with our *FOOD!* Didn't your Mama teach you *anything?*"

Selena shuddered but Leo replied, "My Mama's gone and Selena saved me!

She will *always* be my friend and I don't care *what* you say!

Who *are* you anyway?"

“Scrappy little guy, aren’t you?” Spike growled.

“I’m a **CHEETAH**. My name’s Spike!

And I’m the fastest, smartest, coolest cat in the Jungle - just watch me!”

Spike spun around twice and leapt into the air.

Then he ran through the Jungle at \_\_\_\_\_ miles per hour.

He circled back and climbed a giant tree in \_\_\_\_\_seconds flat.

After that, he jumped \_\_\_\_\_ feet to a neighboring tree,  
did a somersault in mid air and leapt down, branch by branch, to the ground.

Leo watched Spike’s daring, acrobatic display with awe.

“Wow!” he growled as Spike landed right in front of him.

“You **ARE** the ***Coolest Cat*** in the Jungle!” Leo raved.

“Like I told you! I’m **A CHEETAH!**” Spike bragged.

“Why you hanging out with this loser when you can play with me?” Spike teased.

Leo looked over at Selena. She was trying to hide behind a tree.

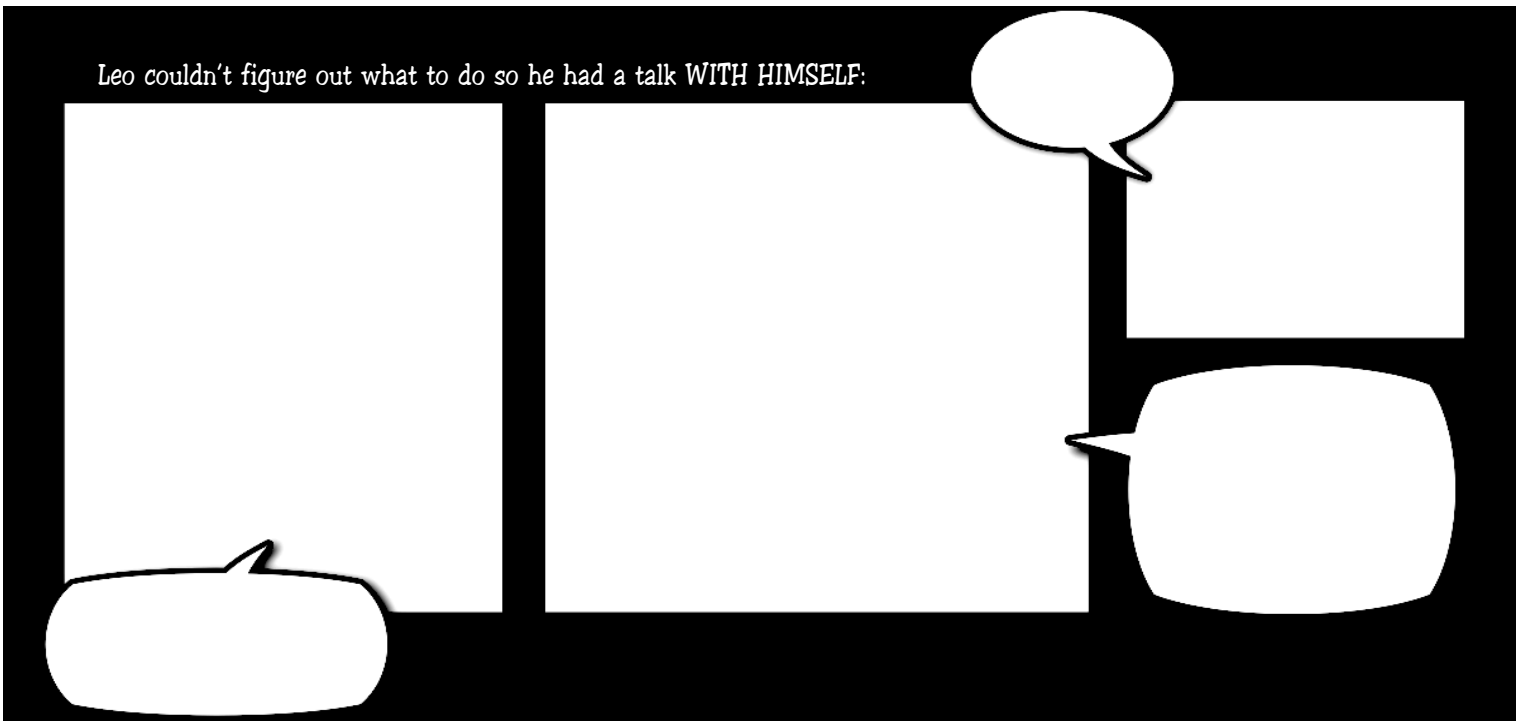
“I told you! She’s my friend and . . .” Leo started to reply.

“And she’s too chicken to play in the Unsafe Zone - right?” Spike snorted.

“Besides that, she’s got it ALL wrong!” Spike said grinning.

Big trees dance this crazy dance in the ZONE. And you can swing on vines  
and ride the back of crocodiles! I’m on my way there right now - C’MON Leo!”

Leo couldn’t figure out what to do so he had a talk *WITH HIMSELF*:



Chapter 4) **Wild Adventures!**

It was really tough, but Leo **did** say “NO” to Spike. Well, sort of.

Spike was just out of sight when a fuzzy ball spun past Leo.

Little Leo *loved* chasing Spiders and this was a BIG one!

“Be careful!” Selena called out. “It’s a Scorpion. You could get hurt!”

But Leo growled back, “Hey! I’m a Big Cat – like Spike!

I’m no scaredy-Zebra like you! And YOU are **NOT** the boss of me!

I’m going wherever I want to!”

So Leo the cub ran as fast as his little legs would go.

He followed that Scorpion across the hunter’s road, through the Savannah  
and into the **UNSAFE ZONE!**

He was lost and out-of-breath when he saw Spike up ahead.

“Glad to see you changed your mind!” growled Spike. “Get over here, Leo!”  
Before the cub could explain, Spike said, “Go get me that tumbleweed, boy!”

All day long, Leo followed Spike around like a puppy.

He did whatever that Cheetah told him to do.

“Go get me that mouse!” Spike commanded.

\_\_\_\_\_ Spike demanded.  
And get me some \_\_\_\_\_ Spike ordered.

After a while, being with Spike wasn’t so much fun anymore.

“Where are the dancing trees you told me about?” Leo asked.

“Aw, they only come out at night,” Spike lied.

“What about the crocodiles?” Leo asked suspiciously.

“Why, they’re right there!” Spike pointed. “In the pool!”

“I just see some logs,” Leo growled. “But I LIKE logs!”

“Well you just go play with those logs then,” Spike snickered. “I’m leaving!”

The biggest log was close to shore. Leo knew he could reach it.  
He climbed on top and tried to spin it! Crud! It didn't budge.  
So he tried again, digging his claws into the bark for traction.

Suddenly the head of a HUGE CROCODILE rose up out of the water.  
Looking over her shoulder she saw Leo standing on her back.  
She opened her enormous jaws, flashed her gruesome \_\_\_\_\_ teeth,  
slithered her \_\_\_\_\_ tongue and *snapped*.

"GRRRRRR" she growled. "You look tasty! I'm going to eat you up!"  
But Leo the Lion Prince would not be bullied.  
"You can't eat *ME*," he growled at the top of his lungs.  
"I am KING OF THE JUNGLE!"

In that moment of surprise and confusion,  
Leo scrambled back to shore and started running.  
The Crocodile did not pursue him, for she had never met a KING before.

Leo ran and ran as the sun slowly sank in the sky.  
Then he saw Cat TRACKS! "These must belong to Spike," he mewed.  
So he followed those tracks until the sun went down.



Meanwhile, Selena was having adventures of her own.  
She knew Leo was too young to be exploring all alone.  
And she didn't trust Spike. So she shook off her fear and trotted out to find her friend.  
Along the way, dear Selena *almost* lost her life.

Writers: describe what happened to Selena and how she escaped:

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Chapter 5) **Danger Zone!**

Selena took a DEEP breath after she got out of *that* mess!

When she did, she caught scent of a familiar friend.

“LEO!” she cried. But he was nowhere to be seen.

So she put her nose to the ground and found his *TRACKS!*

Just at sunset, she saw him sitting on a high ledge not far away.

She was so relieved she almost cried.

Selena climbed the steep rocky trail to the ledge.

Sneaking up behind him she cried, “Surprise!” But Leo almost jumped out of his skin!

When he saw her, though, he grinned.

Then he put his paw over her mouth. “Shhh!” he whispered, pointing.

Down below, Spike was bossing around a bunch of Hyenas.

“Bring me the little Lion named Leo,” Spike yelled. “And while you’re at it, there’s fresh Zebra meat named Selena in the Safe Zone. *GO GET HER!*”

But the Hyena’s were acting strange . . . not exactly like friends.

They circled around Spike and growled and snapped.

Then they started yapping at him like this:

“WHO ARE *YOU* TO TELL US WHAT TO DO!”

But Spike answered back, “I’m King of this Zone! Better do what I say!”

“WHO ARE *YOU* TO TELL US WHAT TO DO!” the Hyenas snapped again.

“I told you to GET ME A LION SANDWICH!” Spike growled fiercely.

“And I suppose you want a side of curly fries too!” one Hyena snickered.

Then they pushed him into a wall of thorny vines and tied him up.

“Now who’s the King of the Jungle?” they cackled. “Tomorrow you’ll just be a pile of bones!”

Leo and Selena looked at each other in horror!

“We’ve got to do something!” Selena whispered.

Leo looked at her in confusion. “But . . . but, he was going to hurt us!”

“He’s trapped, Leo. He can’t even *try* to outrun them. It’s not right!”

So the two friends came up with a CRAZY plan.

They ran to the bushes and trees to get \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

They found \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the jungle.

When they put it all together even *THEY* were amazed.

Leo stood on Selena’s back and put the headdress on.

Selena was draped in vines and leaves and grass.

Their costume was fantastic!

Standing at the edge of the ledge,

Leo growled out loud in his scariest voice,

“HYENA PEOPLE! THIS IS YOUR GOD SPEAKING!”

Selena stomped the ground and shook those vines until they crackled.

Looking up, the Hyena people saw a terrifying thing.

It was a gigantic Hyena with \_\_\_\_\_ eyes and \_\_\_\_\_ teeth!

The Hyenas shook and screamed and bowed down low.

“YOU MUST DO WHAT I SAY!” said little Leo, “OR, OR . . . YOU KNOW WHAT!

The Hyena’s trembled and moaned. “OH NO!” they groaned.

“UNTIE THE CHEETAH AND LET HIM GO!”

The hyenas quickly obeyed Leo’s commands.

Just then the sun began to rise.

Leo and Selena, still disguised as a God, climbed down the rocky slope.

Whoops! Part of Leo’s mask fell off and Selena’s cape fell apart.

But Leo and Selena didn’t know it!

As they stood before the Hyena pack, Leo began to GROWL again.

“HYENA PEOPLE! HEAR MY WORDS!”

His little cub face, fluffy fur and baby teeth were totally visible.

The Hyenas couldn't stand it! They broke into gales of laughter.  
 They fell to the ground and rolled around laughing themselves silly.  
 They pointed at Leo and stomped the ground with their feet.  
 They laughed *so hard* they could barely move.

That's when Spike slithered up beside them.  
 "NOW would be a good time to GET OUT OF HERE," he whispered.  
 As they ran across the Savannah, Spike kept asking,  
 "Why did you *do* it? Why did you risk your lives for *ME*?"

Finally Selena stopped and looked him in the eye.  
 "Because we don't want *anyone* to be in pain - not even YOU!"  
 Spike looked down at the ground. He was ashamed.

No one had ever treated him with kindness before - not ever!  
 That was the day that Spike changed his spots forever.  
 Now the three animals are the best of friends.

Sometimes, when the moon is bright,  
 they tell each other adventure Stories late into the night.  
 And they always sing their favorite song to say "Goodnight."

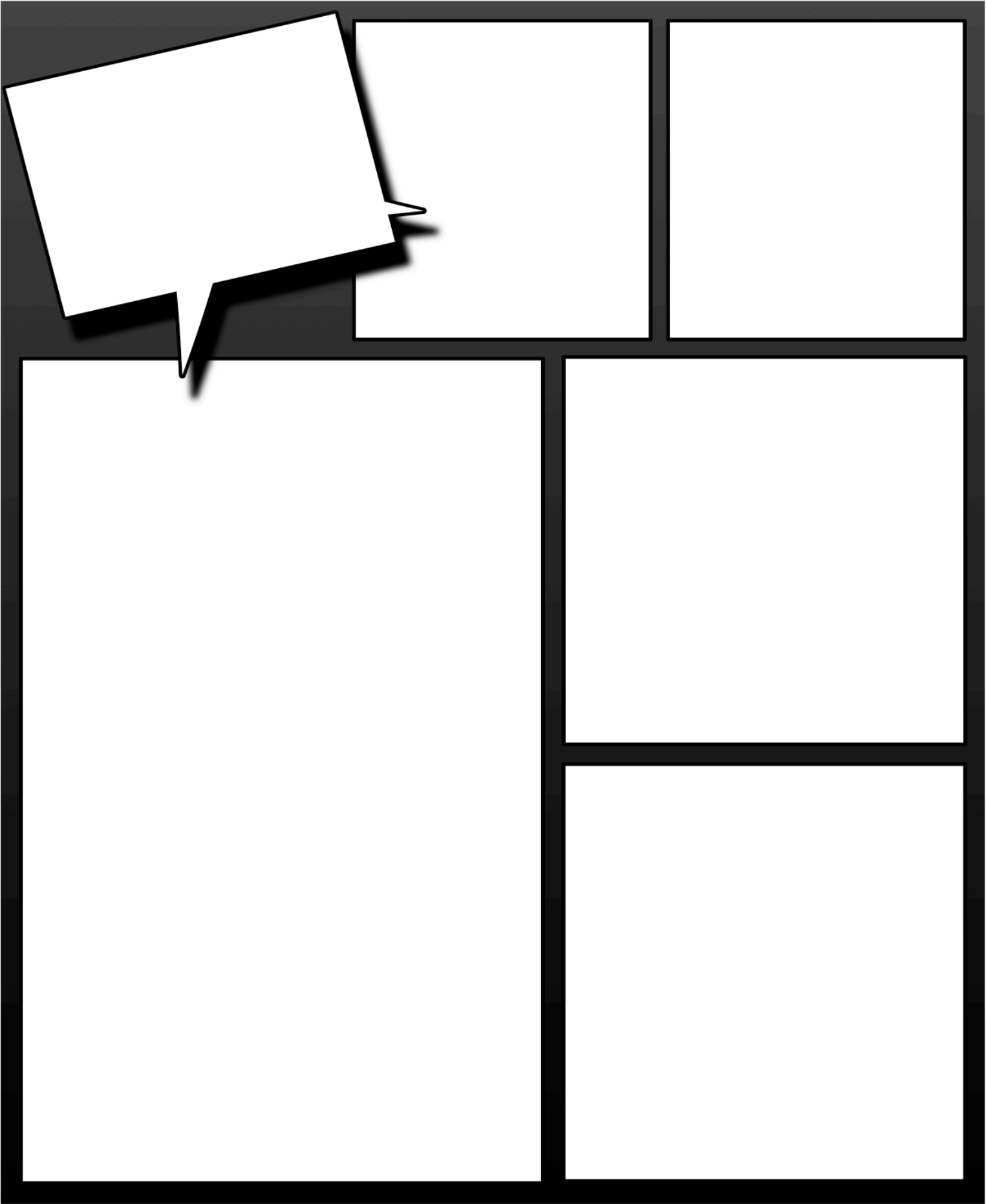
Voice

This is like a hap - py e-ver af - ter sto - ry! Let's love each o - ther  
 6 and live a hap - py life! We thought we were friends but we're fa - mi-ly! You and me, we are  
 11 fa - mi - ly. This is like a hap - py e-ver af - ter sto - ry! We'll al-ways take care of  
 17 each o - ther, You and me, we are fa - mi - ly. Let's love each o-ther and live a ha - pp - y life!

## THE END?

It's only over if YOU say so. Write what happens to Leo, Selena and Spike next in **Chapter 6!**

Artists: Here's a place to draw scenes and characters from our story!



# CHAPTER 6

**Our story isn't REALLY over yet.**

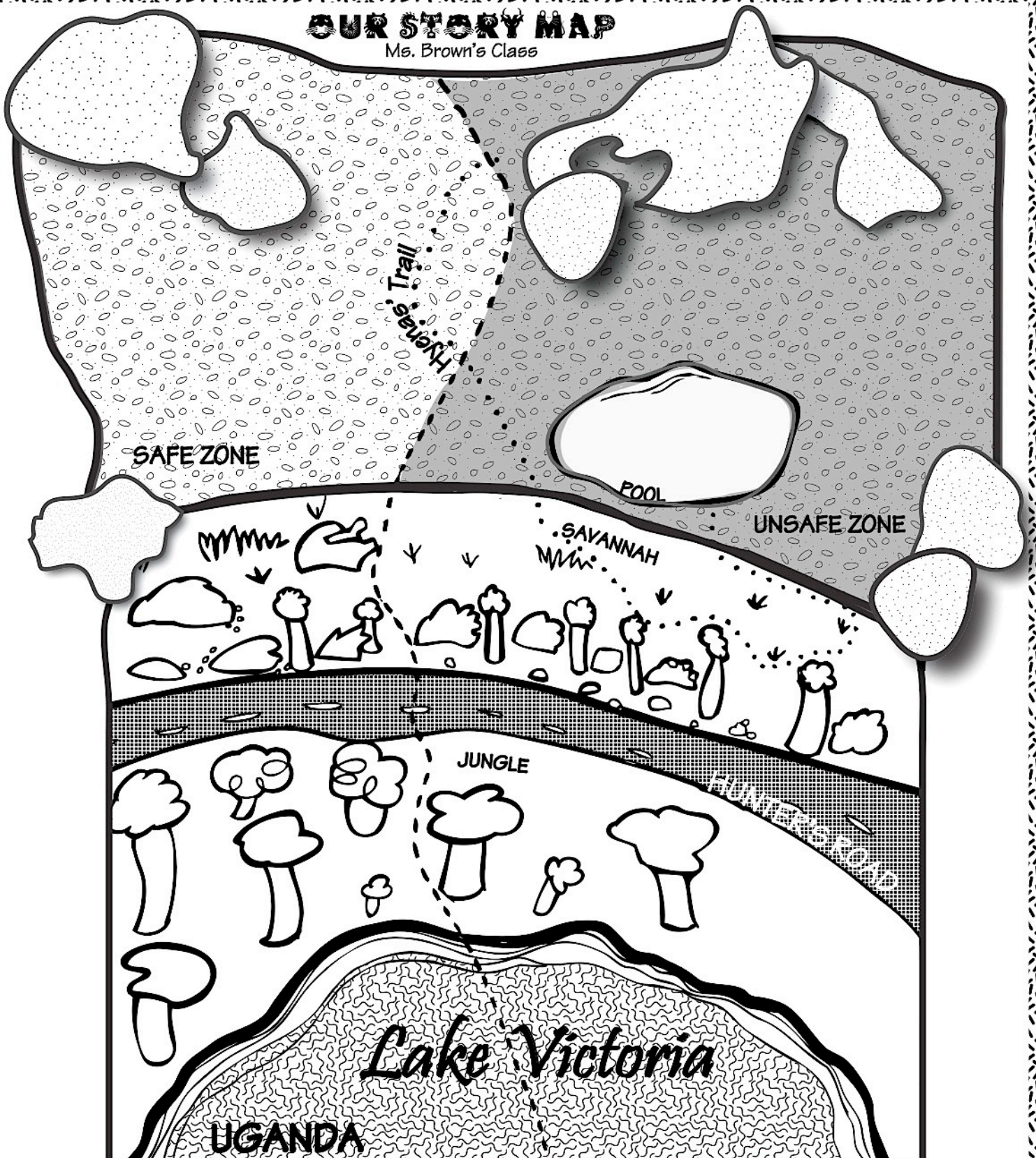
## Does Leo ever find his Mama? What about Selena's Family?

## What is the animals' next BIG adventure?

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# OUR STORY MAP

Ms. Brown's Class



**Rocky Plateaus are scattered all over the safe and unsafe zones.**

- 1) Choose one for the Hyenas' lair.
- 2) Where did the Hyenas hold Spike prisoner? X marks the spot!
- 3) Track Leo and Selena's route to Hyena's lair - with footprints!
- 4) Where was their "watching" place?
- 5) Where did the friends go **AFTER** they escaped from the laughing Hyenas?