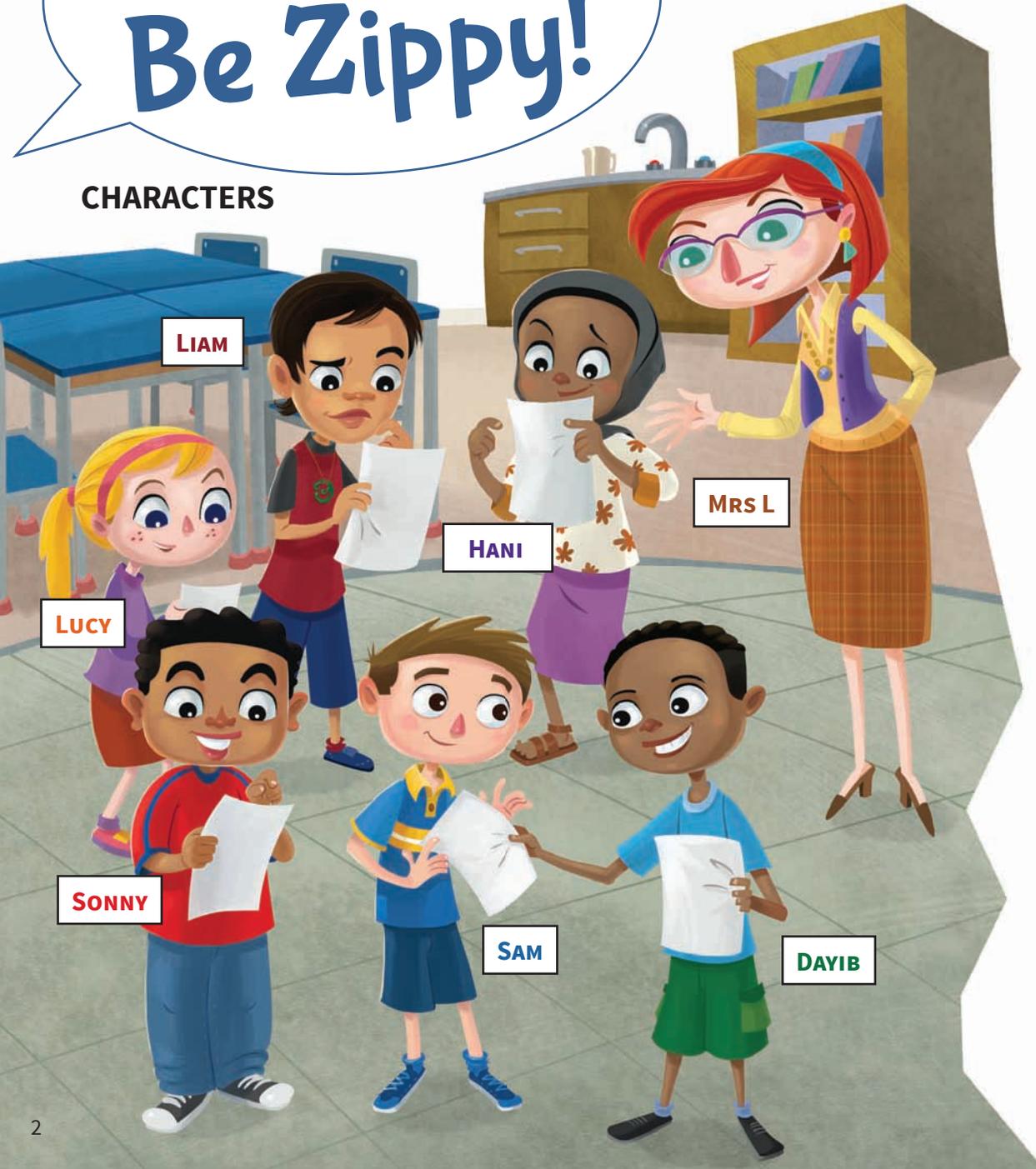


I Want to Be Zippy!

by Fiona Liddell

CHARACTERS



Scene: *The classroom. DAYIB passes out copies of the play to the other students.*

LIAM. This is so cool! We get to do a play!

SAM. We never do plays.

LUCY. Hel-lo? We're doing a play now! Let's choose our parts.

HANI. We hardly ever get to do plays ... and it's not fair. Everyone else gets to have a go.

LUCY. No one else has had a go yet – just our group.

SONNY. I want to be Zippy!

LIAM. I want to be ... um ...

SAM. I want to be Fang – no Zippy – no Fang!

DAYIB. I want to be Zippy.

SAM. I want to be Zippy. He's on every page.

DAYIB. I said it first! I already said that I wanted to be Zippy.

SAM. Yeah, but I want to be him, too. You had the play before anyone else. It's not fair.

DAYIB. There are hard words in this play. I reckon I can say them better than you.

LIAM. That's mean.

HANI. Dayib, you had the biggest speaking part the last time we did a play.

DAYIB. That was ages ago, and we didn't get to do it in front of the class. This is different.

LIAM. Let's just look at the play and read it. We don't even know what it's about yet.

LUCY. Hmm ... it seems to be about two groups.

SONNY. And it looks like there are a couple of main characters.

SAM. So, who are they? They must be the most important.

SONNY. It's Fang and Zippy. They do most of the talking.

Then there are their two friends.

HANI. What? That makes four roles. So there are six of us and only four characters – and two do all the talking. This play's stink!

SONNY. I think it looks cool. Look, there's even some fighting in it. See there! *(He reads from the copy.)* "They fight".

ALL THE OTHERS. Oh yeah!

DAYIB. So I'm Zippy, and Sam is Fang. Right? That's what we decided?

SONNY. What? We didn't decide –

SAM. Let's just start.

SONNY. This is dumb! *(He gets up and walks away.)* I'm outta here!

SAM. Sonny! Sonny! Hey, come back!

SONNY *sits down apart from the group.*



LIAM *(to SAM).* Look what you did. We still need him in the play. Look, we need all six of us. It says that Fang and Zippy *each* have two friends. How are we going to get him back?

LUCY. You guys weren't listening to him. We should let him have the part he wants.

DAYIB. No way! Why should we? Just because he gets all aggro?

LIAM. It's your fault!

DAYIB. No it's not! He just gave up and walked away!

LIAM. Yes it is! *(He pushes DAYIB.)*

DAYIB. Hey, don't push me!

LIAM. You asked for it.

SAM. Stop it! *(He uses his arm to form a barrier between the two boys.)*

DAYIB. Well, I want to be Zippy, and Sam can be Fang. We'll be funny.

HANI. You just decided on your own. I think we should take a vote.



DAYIB. I vote for me!

LUCY. No, wait. Who thinks Dayib should be Zippy?

SAM. This is just a play. Is it that important who plays who?

ALL THE OTHERS. Yes!

LIAM. Let's read the play first, and then we can decide who will suit each role.

SAM. Hey, look! There are three different endings.

LIAM. You're right. The first ending has Zippy just walking away and giving up on his friends.

DAYIB. That's dumb as. I don't want to be Zippy any more.
Who just walks away?

They all look over at SONNY.

LUCY. What happens next?

SAM. It looks like Zippy feels bad and gets into trouble because he's upset and all on his own.

HANI. Oh. Maybe we should get Sonny back.

SAM. How?

HANI. You go over. Just ask him to come back. Tell him that you're sorry and we need his help.

SAM walks across to SONNY to apologise.

LUCY. What's the second ending about? It says here,
"They fight ..."!

LIAM. And someone gets hurt! (*They all look at LIAM and DAYIB*)
And *that's* the end? Don't they make up?

HANI. I don't think it's meant to be a happy ending.

LIAM. Hurry up. We're running out of time. Mrs L will be expecting us to know the play.

LUCY. One more ending to go. It says, "They negotiate and finally solve the conflict". That's an idea!

SAM returns with SONNY.

HANI. OK. There are six characters in the play. How are we going to decide who plays which character?

DAYIB. We could take it in turns to play Zippy and Fang. We could swap around the characters for each of the three endings.

SONNY. Yeah, but the class won't know what's going on, will they? They won't know who is who.

SAM. We could get props. Zippy could have a hat. Fang could have glasses. Then when we change parts, the audience will be able to follow the story.

SONNY. Oh yeah, and we could swap around for each ending and all have a go playing Zippy and Fang. Or we could use puppets!

DAYIB. All right! Let's do that!



MRS L. OK, everyone. Time to come and share your play.

ALL STUDENTS. But we haven't had time to practise it yet!

MRS L. What have you been doing all this time? OK, you can have five more minutes.

HANI. Thanks, Mrs L. Right, let's get going!

MRS L. By the way. You've probably been wondering what the play is called. Here's the cover page. It was left on the photocopier.

LUCY (*holding up the cover page and reading out loud*). *The Birds and the Animals: A Fable about the Creatures of the Forest.*

The birds and the animals are always fighting, but in the end, they work out a way to solve their differences.

SAM. That sounds familiar. Have we done this play before?



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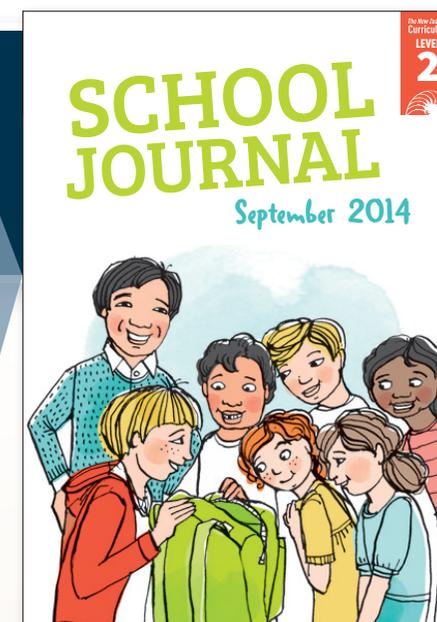
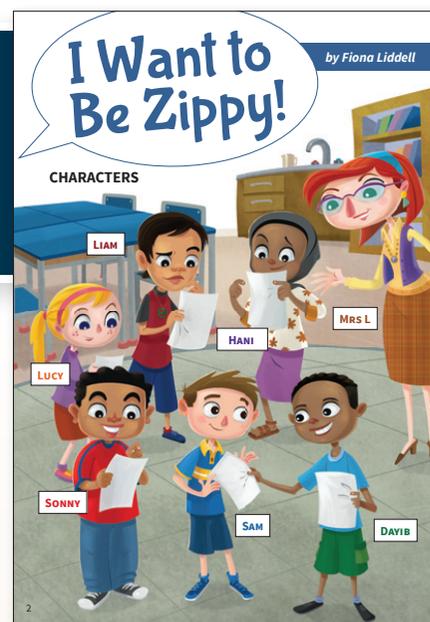
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