

## Lesson Plan



Mbe is a tortoise. He lives in Igboland. Mbe is clever, but he is also very naughty. Can he be nice at the birds' party?

CEFR Level A2

YLE Flyers

Text type: traditional tale

Word count: 925

Lexile measure: 520L

## Lesson objectives

### Vocabulary focus

Animals and birds: *eagle, parrot, pigeon, tortoise*

Adjectives: *colorful, cracked, smooth*

Verbs: *fix, invite, save*

General: *crown, feather, leaves, milk-bush, seed, Welcome!*

### Grammar focus

Past simple questions and answers

### Reading skills

Identifying a sequence of events

### Cross-curricular connections

Art (designing an invitation)

Geography (north-western Africa)

Music (song)

Science (tortoise and birds)

### Resources

Reader

Audio download (UK/US) tracks 1, 2, 3, 4

Flashcard download 1–14

### Timing: 40–60 minutes

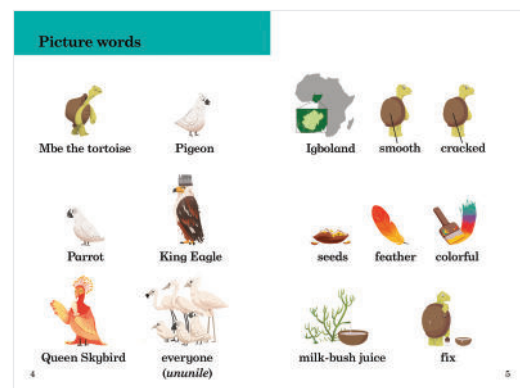
This is to be used as a general guide and will depend on group size, the pace of learning, and the children's language ability.

We would suggest 10 minutes for **Before reading**, 20 minutes for **During reading** and 10 minutes for **After reading**. Additional time can be used for further activities.

## Lesson plan

### Before reading

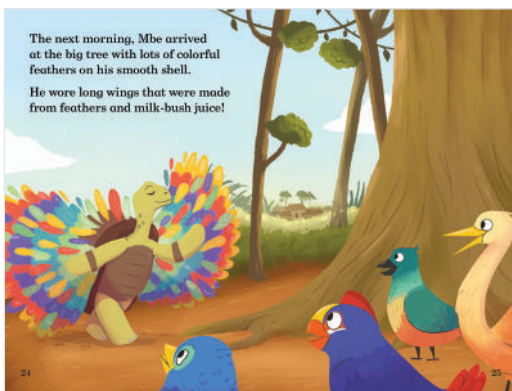
Show the children the cover of the Reader. Ask: *Do you know this animal?* and elicit or establish that it is a tortoise. Ask: *Have you ever seen a tortoise? What do you know about tortoises?* Elicit that they have hard shells, and move very slowly. They can also live for many years. Point to the trees and houses and ask: *Where do you think this story happens?* Elicit or explain that the story is set in Africa. Read out the title and get the children to repeat it.



Ask the children to look at Reader pages 4–5, and go over the characters and other vocabulary items. Help them to differentiate between the characters. Hold up the Flashcards one by one and get the children to name the character or item without looking at their books. Make true and false statements, and ask the children to correct the false ones, for example: *King Eagle has a shell*. Award points for correct answers.

## During reading

Read out or play the recording of the text (Audio track 1) and ask the children to follow in their books. Stop after every couple of pages and ask questions to check their understanding of the events in the story. Encourage them to tell you what has happened, using the past simple and their own words. For example, after reading Reader pages 24–25, ask: *Why did Mbe put feathers on his shell?* Make sure the children understand what happens at the end of the story.



Read out or play the recording of the text again. Ask more questions to encourage the children to retell parts of the story, using the past simple. For example, after reading Reader pages 44–45, ask: *Why did Parrot tell Mbe's wife to put hard things in the garden? What happened next? Why did the birds laugh?*

## After reading

Divide the class into two teams—A and B. Hold up a Flashcard of one of the characters and ask: *Who is this? What did he/she do in the story?* Award points for correct answers and further points for correct use of the past simple. Repeat with the other characters. Display the Flashcards of vocabulary items, for example, milk-bush juice, and ask: *What is this? Why was it important in the story?*

Talk more about the characters in the story. Ask: *Who is your favourite character? Do you like Mbe? Why / Why not? Was Mbe nice to the*

*birds? Were they nice to him? Who was more clever, Mbe or Parrot? Do you feel sorry for Mbe at the end of the story?*

Ask *Do you know any other stories about a tortoise?* The children may know *The Tortoise and the Hare* (Ladybird Level 1) or a story from their own country. Ask them to tell you what happens in it. Ask: *What other animal stories or films do you know?* Encourage them to tell you a story about their favourite animal character.

Play a game of Hangman with the children, based on the vocabulary in the story.

The children can do the following Reader activities to practice past simple questions and answers:

- 5 (Audio track 2), 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15 (Audio track 3), 16

Play the song (Audio track 4) on Reader page 63, and encourage the children to listen and join in. Divide the class into groups, and ask each group to sing a different verse.

## Differentiation

### Extra support

Before the children do the Reader activities, display the Flashcards of the characters again in random order. Help the children to arrange them in the order in which they appear in the story, and make one or two sentences about each character and what happens to them.

### Extension

Fast finishers can design an invitation to the birds' party. They can write "Please come to our party" at the top, and give a date and time. They can illustrate their invitation with pictures of feathers, food, balloons and other celebratory motifs.