

STRIPES – TEACHING GUIDE



MEET THE AUTHOR

Lea Maryanow is a mother, wife, teacher, and writer. As a teacher, she has been published in the journal *California English* and *The New York Times Learning Network*. She majored in English and Theology and also has a minor degree in Educational Science/Pedagogy and Psychology. Born in Germany, she has traveled the world to New Zealand, Canada, Europe, and Africa. She lives in the foothills of Sequoia National Park with her husband, three children, three cats, two bunnies and a handful of chickens. If she is not spending time with her family and friends, expanding her family's little farm, doing home improvement projects, she

is a full-time middle school English teacher. In 2020, she was introduced to the Enneagram of Personalities which has fascinated her so much that it became the inspiration for her debut book *Stripes*. She enjoys yoga, horse-riding, being in nature, good food, and a minimalist lifestyle.

Visit her website at www.leamaryanow.com.

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

The following activities can be used with students of all ages. It's at the teacher's discretion to decide what is appropriate for their specific group of students. For these reasons, common core standards have not been included.

READING AND WRITING GUIDE

(A) When Zebra finally gets his answer, he realizes he is a Zebra with black AND white stripes. He does not have to fit in one category or another. Many of us come from mixed cultural backgrounds and may be able to relate to Zebra's question.

- ★ Think about your **stripes**. You may talk about stripes that represent your cultural background or something different. What pulls you in two different directions? Do you ever feel like you have to choose between one and the other? What if you chose both?
- ★ Think of a different animal in the savanna. How would this animal respond to Zebra's question? Write and illustrate a page to show the dialogue between this new animal and Zebra.

(B) Zebra has an important question on his mind and he asks his friends for help. They respond in a variety of ways. Some of them are willing to help and others are bothered by Zebra's request for help. Use a **Venn diagram** to help you compare and contrast the animals' responses.

Discussion questions:

- ★ Which animal was most helpful to Zebra?
- ★ Compare Butterfly's answer to Lion's answer. Butterfly said Zebra was both black and white, but it depended on what side you are looking at. How is Butterfly's perspective different from Lion's? Which will make Zebra happier?

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STEAM ACTIVITIES

Make a **KWL chart** about animals in the African savanna. What other animals might Zebra have encountered? Would any of them scare Zebra like the lion did?

- ★ Draw a picture of your favorite animal in the savanna. Label the animal and the parts of its habitat.
- ★ Zebra is asking for the animals' opinion about whether he is a black zebra with white stripes or a white zebra with black stripes. Make a **chart** to list five facts about the savanna and five opinions.

SEL ACTIVITIES

- ★ Have you ever asked for help? What kind of response did you get? Was it similar to one of the animals in the story? How did it make you feel?
- ★ When others ask you for help, how do you usually respond? Are you like one of the animals in the story? What kinds of things determine the way you respond?
- ★ Research the nine different personalities of the Enneagram. Which personality does Zebra represent? What personalities do the other animals represent?

FEEDBACK?!

We'd love to hear how your lessons go! Feel free to contact us with any feedback, questions, or letters to the author at lcmaryanow@gmail.com.

Connect with the author [@leamaryanow](https://www.instagram.com/leamaryanow) on social media!



Name _____

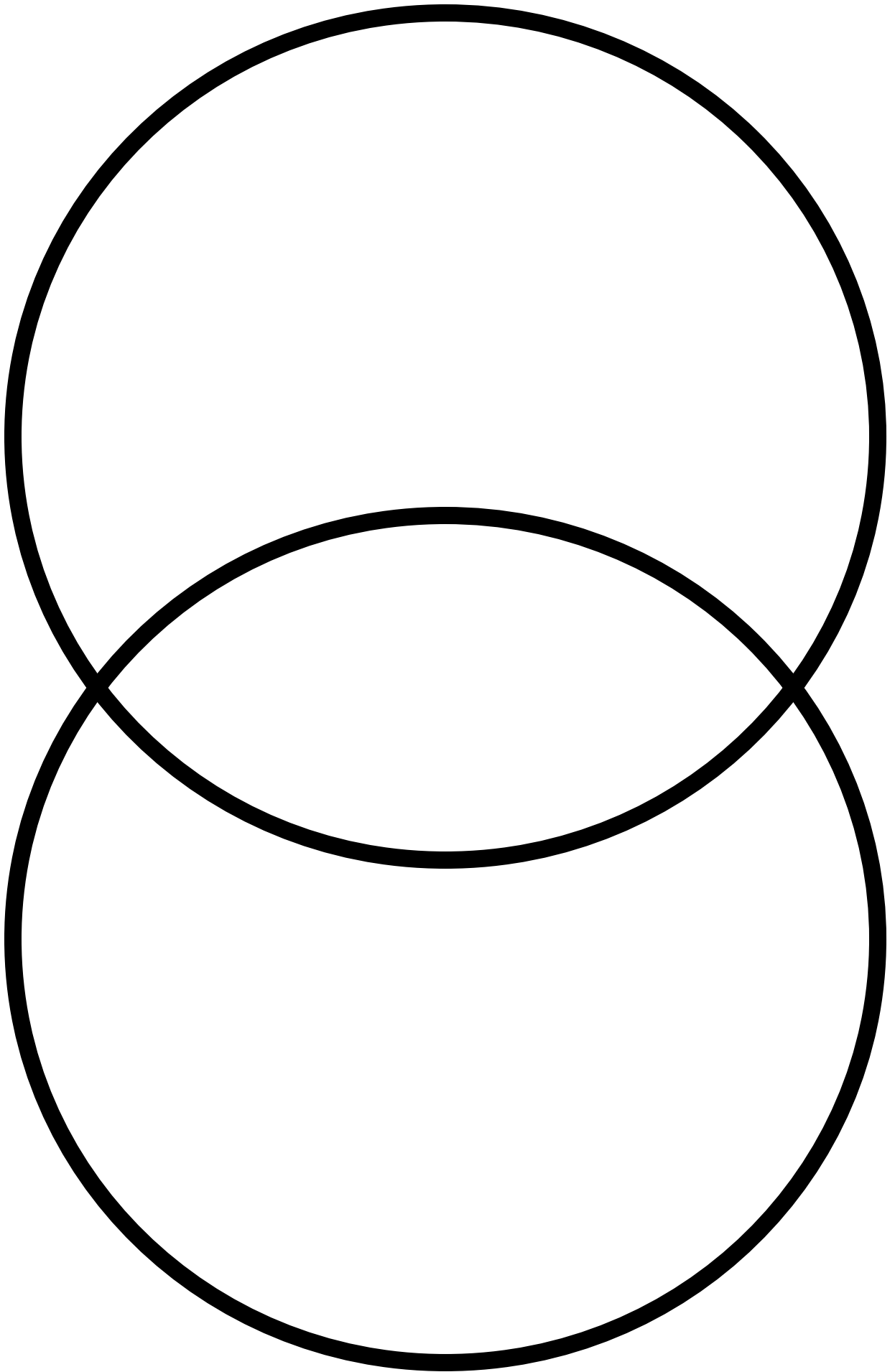
Date _____

WHAT I LEARNED

WHAT I WONDER

WHAT I KNOW

Name _____
Date _____



Name _____

Name _____

Date _____

OPINION

FACT

Name _____

Date _____

My Stripes

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline, repeated 10 times.

Name _____

Date _____

BONUS ACTIVITY

Cut and sort the statements:

The savanna is home to many animals including zebras, wildebeests, giraffes, and cheetahs.

It is hot all year long in the savanna.

The savanna is a grassland with a dry and rainy season.

Many of the animals in the savanna are scary.

The zebra is the most beautiful animal in the savanna.

Many large predators live in the savanna.

Savannas are found on many continents including Africa, South America, and Australia.

Since they are so dry, savannas are not very beautiful.