

The Laughing Hyena

Review Key Words

- leader** The leader is the one others follow.
- den** A den is a place where some animals live.
- young** Young are babies.
- related** People or animals that are related to each other are in the same family.



Read the Story²⁴

6 Have you ever laughed out loud
 14 like a hyena? If you have, you may
 19 have scared your friends. The
 27 hyena's **cry** is loud. It sounds like a
 33 **howl** or wild laugh. Hyenas are
 40 **related** to cats, but their feet look
 47 like dogs' feet. Hyenas are fast and
 54 strong.

48 The hyena is a good hunter. It
 55 can run 40 miles an hour, which is
 63 fast enough to catch a zebra. Also,
 70 the hyena is a garbage **collector**.
 76 Food left behind by people and
 82 animals is a treat for the hyena.

89 Hyenas work well together. They
 94 live in groups called **clans**. Each
 100 clan has a **den**, which is where the
 108 baby hyenas stay. The mother
 113 hyenas work hard to keep the males
 120 away from the babies in the den. If
 128 the mothers do not keep the males
 135 away, the males might kill the **young**.
 142 The mothers are bigger than the
 148 males. One mother is the **leader** of
 155 the clan.
 157

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

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Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
 - a. A mother hyena is the leader of the clan.
 - b. Hyenas run fast and are good hunters.
 - c. Hyenas howl, hunt, and live together.
2. What does the hyena's cry sound like?
 - a. a loud scream
 - b. a howl or wild laugh
 - c. a cat's cry
3. What does the word **clans** mean in this story?
 - a. large families
 - b. dens of animals
 - c. loud howls of animals
4. What is one reason the mother hyenas are able to keep the males away from the babies?
 - a. The mothers howl louder than the males.
 - b. The mothers hunt better than the males.
 - c. The mothers are bigger than the males.
5. Why are hyenas called garbage collectors?

Parent Tips

1. Have the student read the ENTIRE story to himself & answer the questions.
2. Time the student while he reads aloud for exactly 1 minute. Do not help fix mistakes.
3. If the student is stuck on a word for 2 seconds, say the word & count it as a mistake.
4. Record the number of words read and the number of errors. Subtract: words read – errors = total words read correctly.
5. Now, help fix mistakes.
6. You may wish to read the story out loud as a model for fluent reading.
7. Repeat the steps on other days.