

## Animal war

One day, Mbuni the ostrich laid an egg on the savannah and Tembo the elephant put his foot on it. There was a terrible row, and so much anger and pent-up frustration was displayed that a war was declared between the mammals and the birds. Mbuni organised all the birds on one side of the savannah while Tembo organised his mammals on another. Tembo appointed two generals to support him, Chui (a leopard) and Simba (a lion). The hyenas kept to the back of the army hoping to keep out of trouble and then have a free feast.

Mbuni called down a flamingo, gave her an egg and whispered into her ear. The animals edged closer in to hear but no one could. So the flamingo took the egg, flew high over the savannah and, when she was above the head of the Chui general, dropped it. Her missile hit Chui 'Splat!' on the head.

*The yoke dripped into his eyes. "I'm going blind," he cried. He felt the shell on his head and thought it was the bones of his breaking skull. "I'm dying!" he roared. And at the back of the army the hyenas were crying, "We're going to lose the war. We're going to lose the war."*

All the leopards disbanded.

Next, Mbuni called down an eagle, gave her an egg and whispered into her ear. The animals edged in to hear but no one could. So the eagle took the egg, flew high over the savannah and when she was above the head of the Simba general dropped it. Her missile hit Simba 'Splat!' on the head.

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All the mammals dispersed, except for the elephants. Mbuni called down a secretary bird...

Finally, Mbuni found herself back on the savannah at the very spot the story started. And as she laid another egg, the hyena sneaked up for an easy kill but Mbuni kicked him in the head. The hyena cowered and hid in a hole. Mbuni left two feathers outside the hole and the hyena was so scared, he stayed in there for a week.

And that's why people think of the hyena as being a sly, sneaky animal, feeding off the hard work of others and why no one messes with Mbuni's eggs.

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