



Just Let Me Draw!

Coloring is not my favorite thing to do, thought Jon. Mrs. Johnson had passed out a picture of a lion to color for the class animal report.

"I want to draw something, not color in something somebody else drew," Jon whispered to himself. Jon was a good artist. Ever since he was able to hold a pencil, he had been drawing whatever he saw. In art class, the kids would stand behind Jon, watching the magical motions he made with his pencil. Jon was able to imagine the whole picture before he started to draw. Sometimes he would start with a very small detail, and then develop the rest of the drawing.

Mrs. Johnson's class was studying animals. Each student had to do a report on an animal and color a picture. Most of the kids enjoyed this, and they were happily picking their brown and yellow crayons for the lion's mane. *Perhaps I can do a zebra,* thought Jon. *That's what I would rather do. I can do the lion later.* He turned his paper over and started to draw the fine outline of the zebra's body, adding more and more detail until the picture was done.

Mrs. Johnson was walking around the room. Jon heard her footsteps get closer to his desk and then stop. He slowly looked up at her, expecting a disapproving look. Jon usually followed directions. He had an uneasy feeling as she glanced at his paper.

"Jon, what is this?" inquired Mrs. Johnson.

"It's a picture of a zebra," Jon answered faintly.

Jon was trying to think of what to tell his teacher. His thoughts were interrupted.

"Class, please stop what you are doing," said Mrs. Johnson as she picked up Jon's paper. Jon slowly slid down in his seat. He was worried. *She is going to tell the whole class I didn't follow directions,* thought Jon.

"Jon has a very interesting picture he has drawn," Mrs. Johnson told the class, with excitement in her voice. "It is of a zebra."

To Jon, she said, "Jon, I had no idea you were such a great artist. This is wonderful!"

Jon let out a big sigh of relief as he watched Mrs. Johnson hang the picture of the zebra on the wall. It looked like he wasn't in trouble, after all.

Name _____ Date _____

Why Was Jon nervous when Mrs. Johnson saw his picture?

Do you prefer to color or to draw? Why?

Why do you think Mrs. Johnson was not upset with Jon for drawing a picture instead of coloring?
