

# The Butterfly Lion

<u>Cast (9):</u>	-	- Lion
- Persuader		- Hyenas x 3
- Narrator		
- Bertie		
- Mother		
- Father		

First, the persuader introduces the book, using persuasive language to convince the audience to read it. Then, on with the play...

**Narrator:** Bertie lived in a farmhouse in South Africa. His father had a fence built around the compound. It wouldn't keep the snakes out - nothing could do that - but at least Bertie would be safe from the leopards, lions and hyenas. He was forbidden from leaving the grounds, which was something that he longed to do...

[ENTER BERTIE, FATHER AND MUM]

**Father:** Don't you ever open that gate Bertie, do you hear me? There's lions out there, hyenas too. Something has been killing the cattle. You stay put!

**Bertie:** Yes Dad.

[EXIT FATHER]

**Bertie:** Look mum! Giraffes! And baboons! And remember the zebras yesterday? Please can we go and look closer?

**Mother:** We can't Bertie. Your father has forbidden it. [EXIT]

**Narrator:** Bertie found a special tree to climb where we could see the waterhole behind the farmyard. He would stay there for hours spotting the wildlife. One evening he saw something amazing: it was a white lion drinking from the water.

[ENTER LION]

**Bertie:** Mother! Father! Come quickly! It's a lion cub! A white lion cub!

[ENTER MUM AND DAD, EXIT LION]

**Doncaster Book Award 2015-16**

**Father:** Impossible! You're seeing things that aren't there - or you're telling fibs. One of the two!

**Bertie:** I saw him, I promise.

**Mother:** Anyone can make a mistake dear. It must have been the moonlight. There's no such thing as a white lion.

**Narrator:** Weeks passed. Then one day Bertie saw some hyenas surrounding a lion cub by the waterhole. He ran to help it, through the gate and down to the waterhole.

**[HYENAS SURROUND LION. BERTIE RUNS TOWARDS THEM]**

**Bertie:** Hey! Hey! Get away!

**[HYENAS RUN, BUT NOT FAR, RETURNING TO SURROUND BERTIE AND THE CUB]**

**Mum:** [mimes firing rifle] Bang bang bang!

**[EXIT HYENAS]**

**Mum:** Come on Bertie. Back to the house. Bring the cub with you. He is filthy, he needs a wash.

**Narrator:** They gave the cub some milk and dunked him in the bath. Then, to their surprise...

**Bertie:** He is white! I told you! He's my white lion cub!

**[ENTER FATHER]**

**Bertie:** Please father. I want to keep him.

**Mum:** And so do I. We can't just throw him back the hyenas.

**Father:** Hmm. We'll talk about this later...

**Narrator:** Will Bertie be allowed to keep the white lion? If so, what kind of adventures will they get up to? Find out by reading 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo!