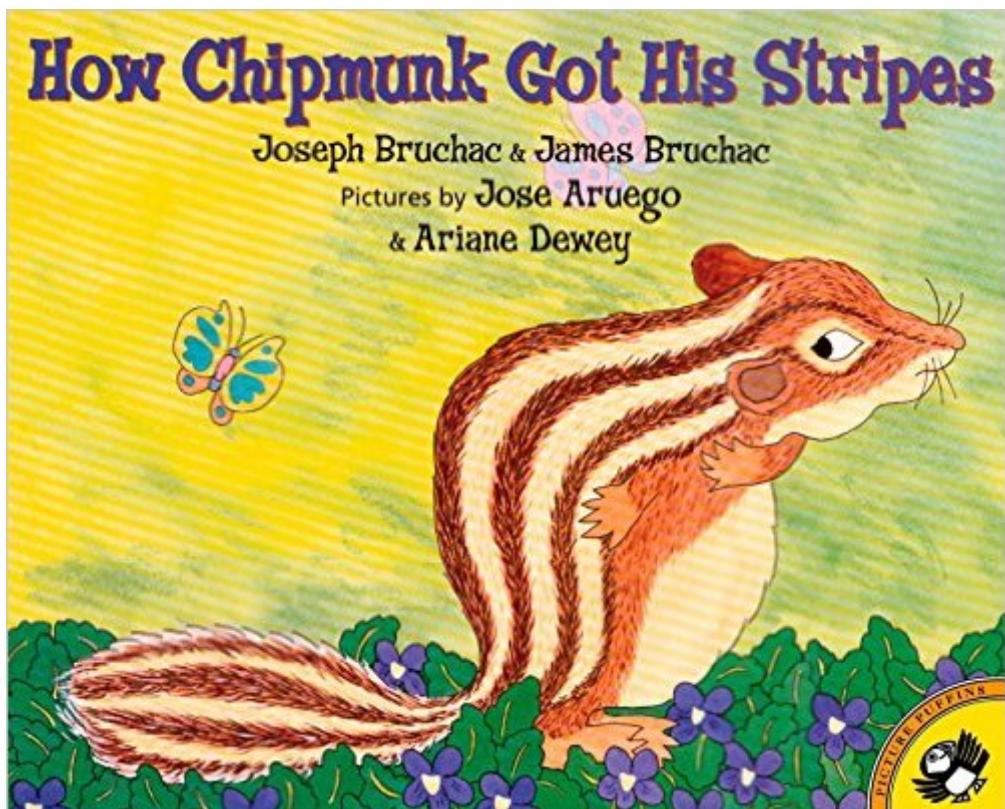


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# How Chipmunk Got His Stripes (Picture Puffin Books)



## **Synopsis**

Bear brags that he can do anything—even stop the sun from rising. Brown Squirrel doesn't believe him, so the two wait all night to see if the sun will rise. Sure enough, the sky reddens and the sun appears. Brown Squirrel is so happy to be right that he teases Bear. What happens when a little brown squirrel teases a big black bear? Brown Squirrel gets stripes and is called chipmunk from that day forward . . . Joseph and James Bruchac join forces to create this buoyant picture book, based on a Native American folktale. Illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD260L (What's this?)

Series: Picture Puffin Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (April 14, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142500216

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Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.1 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #128,036 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #161 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #394 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #424 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bears

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

There is an entire sub-genre of myth and folklore consisting of stories that explain the distinctive qualities of animals. "How Chipmunk Got His Stripes" is a Native American story told along the East Coast, and in the Author's Notes for this volume we learn that while there are Cherokee, Abenaki and Mohawk versions, the earliest written one to be found is of Iroquois origin. What the father and son team of Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac provide here is a longer and more detailed than what might be found elsewhere, the story having grown in the telling over the years. The story begins with Bear out walking and bragging that he is the biggest, strongest, and loudest of the animals. Hearing his boasts, a little Brown Squirrel asks Bear is he can really do anything. Bear

insists that he can, and so the little Brown Squirrel asks Bear to tell the sun not to rise tomorrow morning. Bear has never tried this before but is sure he can do it and tells the sun in the western sky not to come up tomorrow. The sun disappears behind the hills and Bear is sure that the sun is running away from him because it is afraid. That night the Bear turned towards the east and instead of sleeping spent the night saying "The sun will not come up, hummph" over and over again. But as the night went on the little brown squirrel began to say "The sun is going to rise, oooh." This goes on and on all night long, and while the Bear and little Brown Squirrel keep saying the same thing over and over again, the other animals gather around them to see who would be right. Now, whether you are a young reader or an older one, you might be able to figure out what is going to happen next and how that might end up with the chipmunk getting his stripes. Think about how you ancient storytellers could begin with the distinctive stripes of the chipmunk, come up with a perfectly logical reason for the look, and then have to invent a story that provides the motivation. This charming story has colorful pictures by Jose Aruego and Arianne Dewey ("Mushroom in the Rain," "We Hide You Seek") done with pen-and-ink and watercolor that was then scanner-separated and reproduced as red, blue, yellow and black halftones. I especially like their use of orange in the artwork, especially when it serves as a background to their pictures of Bear. As for the Bruchacs, they have also collaborated on "Native American Games" and a collection of Native American monster stories, "When the Chenoo Howls."

Reminds me a little bit of Uncle Remus stories, with, of course, a native flavor. I have worked as a storyteller in schools. Kids of all backgrounds love native stories! All of Joseph Bruchac's books are high quality, museum pieces, just really good, the apotheosis [ideal] of what a storybook could be like. *Journey to the Ancestral Self: The Native Lifeway Guide to Living in Harmony with the Earth Mother* (Bk.1) gives a very good description of the native lifeways around stories, and *Whispers of the Ancients: Native Tales for Teaching and Healing in Our Time* gives another view of native storytelling. *The Original Instructions: Reflections of an Elder on the Teachings of the Elders, Adapting Ancient Wisdom to the Twenty-First Century* is another book that gives you native context, by an author who also has native storybooks in print, including *The Children of the Morning Light: Wampanoag Tales as Told By Manitonquat*. Entering into native lifeways is not necessarily judgeable by white man culture, as *House of Shattering Light: Life as an American Indian Mystic* shows. One thing one notices in native cultures is that they ask new questions, something like one sees in *Quantum Power Questions*. I find native metaphysics to be similar to Quantum Mechanics. While not a native book, *The Secret of Instant Healing* gives some ideas

on how life would work, from that perspective. The Exploits of the Incomparable Mulla Nasrudin / The Subtleties of the Inimitable Mulla Nasrudin has stories about tricksters, which are not dissimilar to native stories. teachingdrum.org used to have a list of books of native stories, which is the most comprehensive I've seen. That is a nonprofit, and I have no connection with them, this cites the info resource only. All storytelling is fascinating. Renard the Fox is one example of European stories about animals, which are not totally dissimilar. Stories are fascinating. If you want to entrance, train, entertain, educate, and improve children, nothing is faster or easier than storytelling.

This is an excellent book to help children see the affects of bragging and teasing. The pictures are engaging for young children up to ages 10 years old. My teenage grandson looked over my shoulder as I read it to his younger siblings. He found the story line amusing and thought provoking as well.

I have not tested this book with the children. They are the real critics but they have loved Joseph and James Bruchacs' books so far. To me 'How Chipmunk Got His Stripes' is right up there with 'Turtle's Race With Beaver'. I am soon to share this book with the children and I am positive they'll love it. We have our own version of this story but this one is quite exceptional.

I have read this book to my daughters classmates from ages 3-7 and the children love this book! It's a huge hit! I cannot wait to read it again this year to some young students! I can't talk enough about this so I'll stop before I get too long!

I cannot believe that this book has so many good reviews. The content was way too graphic for my almost three year old. At one point, the bear pins the squirrel on the ground to where he can't breathe and then he scratches (described in great detail) him down the back. None of the animals in the story look remotely nice. Glad this was only a library book and I didn't waste my money on it.

I have read this story many times to second graders after they have heard Joseph Bruchac's story Turtle's Race with Beaver. I try to use different voices for Bear and Little Brown Squirrel and the children love it. They always ask to hear it again right away. Then we compare and contrast it with the story about Turtle and Beaver. They both have the same illustrator as well. It fits in nicely with a study of Native American legends. I have many of Joseph Bruchac's legends and they are all

wonderful books.Turtle's Race With Beaver

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