



# What happened to me?



Suitable for children aged 7+



Welcomes YOU to their  
world of adventures!



This story is written and produced by the Dog, Duck and Cat Trust.

# What happened to me?

Are you sitting comfortably?  
Then let's begin...





I cannot believe how lucky I am, Mom has got me a games console for my birthday!



It is not a brand new one, it used to belong to my cousin, but that is fine with me, I love it.

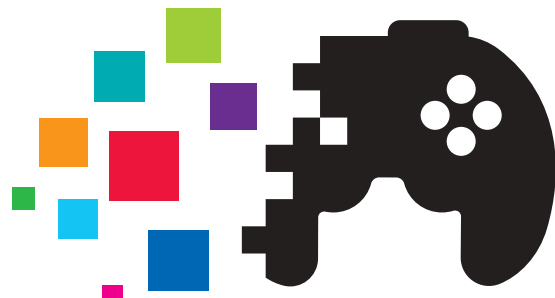
I really want to play online, it looks really exciting and I could make new friends, from anywhere in the world; that is awesome!

Mom has said she does not know much about online gaming.

She said she cannot see it being dangerous though as the people you are talking to cannot see you.

Mom said, if I always play in the front room, where she can keep an eye on me, then it is ok; I am so excited!





# MINE-BLOC-NITE

I have started learning how to play a new game, it is called Mine-bloc-nite and I am getting quite good. Dog and Cat are not into gaming, so I cannot play with them!





But I have made a new friend, his name is Zebra, and he is really cool. I have not seen him in person, so I am not 100% sure what he looks like, but he has described himself to me, so I have a picture of him in my mind.

He is brilliant at Mine-bloc-nite, he has taught me lots and I really like him.

He says, 'just listen to me Duck, I will show you lots of good stuff', and I believe him, as he is cool.



I have been gaming with Zebra all week, I really like him. We have got lots of things in common.



He loves gaming, and I do too. He has a younger adopted brother, and I have a younger adopted sister, Prickles the hedgehog. Sometimes he gets wound up by silly things, and I know I do as well!



Dog and Cat are still my best friends, but I think Zebra might be my best online friend. I like talking to him, as we ALWAYS seem to have things in common. Zebra says it is almost as though him and I are the same because we are so similar.

I have not said this to him, but I would like to be a bit more like Zebra; he is really confident, and he does not take any messing from anyone. I wish I was a bit more like that.

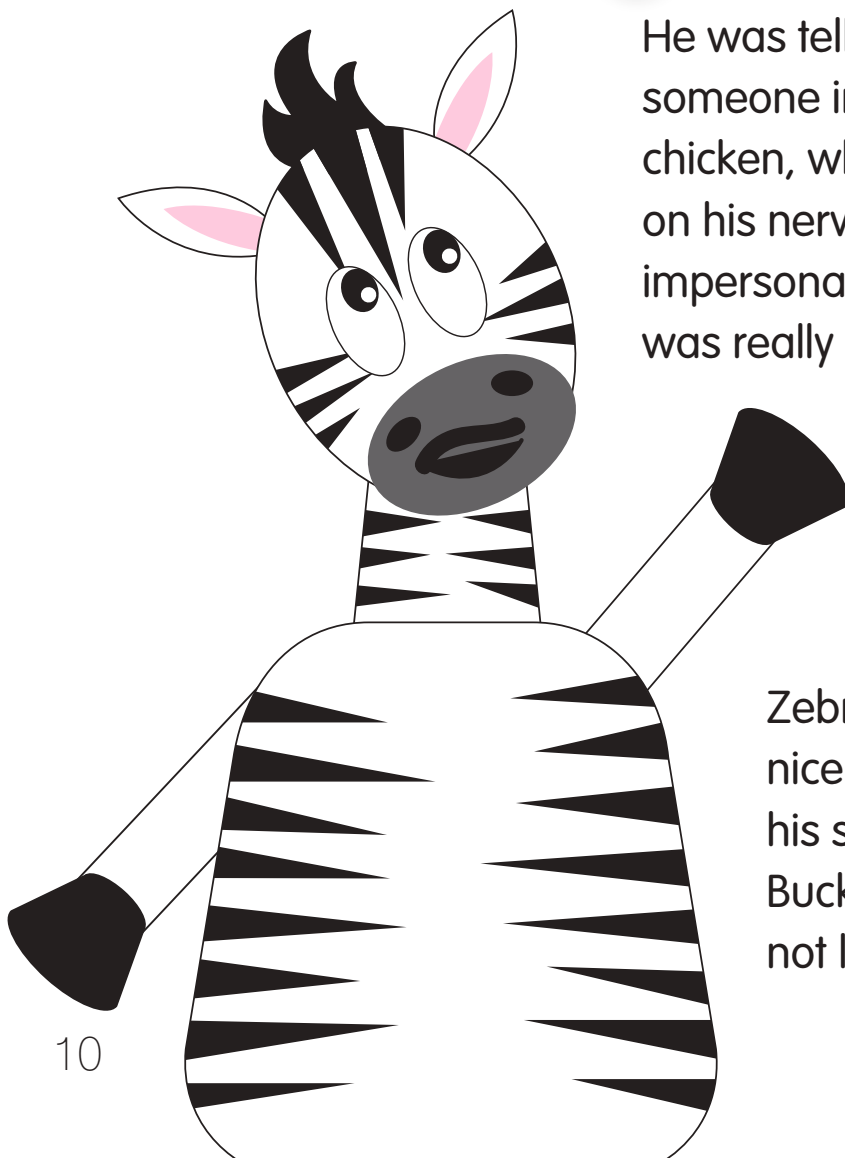
**I wish  
I was a bit more  
like Zebra...**



Zebra has been making me laugh a lot.



He was telling me about someone in his school, a chicken, who has been getting on his nerves. He was doing impersonations of him and it was really funny.



Zebra was not being very nice about the chicken in his school, his name is Buck. I think Zebra does not like Buck very much.



I was telling Zebra about Chicken, who goes to our school. I was saying she winds me up a bit, she is alright, but can be a bit annoying at times.



Zebra was saying that all chickens *MUST* be annoying then, as both of the chickens we know are like that.

He said that I should look at some of the websites he looks at, because I will get to see that chickens are very annoying indeed.



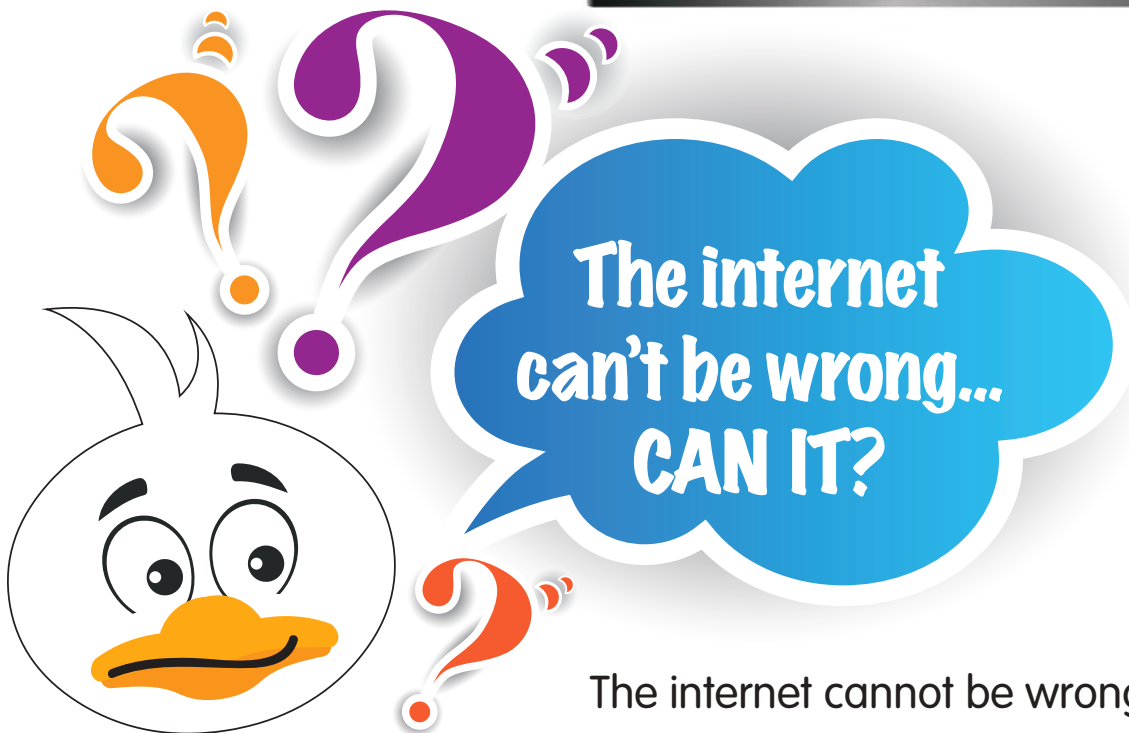
Mom does not let me look at just anything online, she is always trying to keep me safe. But Zebra keeps saying I should do what he says, not what Mom wants me to do, because he says Zebra know best!

I am not sure what I will do yet... I will have a think and see.



Zebra keeps saying things, about chickens, and I think he might have a point. This actually made me want to have a look on the website Zebra had told me about. On there it said that chickens were really, really bad, and gave lots of examples too.

Some of what was on the website I do not think is true, but quite a lot of it made sense to me; I think I am starting to think a lot more like Zebra now.



The internet cannot be wrong, can it?  
I think I will have a look at some more Zebra's recommended websites.



I have been going on the internet quite a bit, without telling Mom, and I am now convinced that chickens are bad.

There is lots of stuff on the websites Zebra told me about, I now know that chickens are awful animals, they really are.

I do not like them, and I will not be nice to chicken at our school anymore; if she is a chicken, she must be bad!





I was at school today with Dog and Cat, it was lunch time, and we were outside playing. Chicken was also playing in the playground, she was not with us, she was over with the rabbit brothers playing football.



She was being REALLY annoying, making silly noise and, I thought, being stupid. I said this to Dog and Cat, and they looked a bit surprised.

They did not think Chicken was being that bad, and could not understand why I was so angry.



They both said this was not like me; I did not think I seemed angry, but maybe I did?

They asked me why I seemed so against Chicken all of a sudden, as I had always got on with her.

They reminded me about some of the fun times we had shared together with Chicken, and that made me think.



**Duck you  
will be just  
fine ...**

I had listened to Zebra that much that I had forgotten to think for myself. I had listened to what he had said to me, and looked at the websites he had told me about, and it had obviously had an affect on me.

It took Dog and Cat to point that out to me, as they are real friends and I know they only want the best for me. I did not say that to them though, as I felt a bit embarrassed, so I just walked off without saying anything.

But, I am going to talk to Mom; I need her help.

**There's  
nothing to worry  
about...**

**Are these  
my thoughts...  
or Zebrá's?**





I am so pleased I spoke to Mom.

She was quite upset to start with, as she was worried about me. She said, she had no idea that Zebra had been saying these things, as I had my headphones on when we were talking.



She said I had seemed ok, and I did not appear to be in any bother. I told her I had been hiding what I had been doing, and that I was sorry about that, but I now knew I needed to get her help.

When Mom had calmed down a bit she sat and spoke to me.  
She said:

- **Some people online may want you to think that they like you and want to be your friend.**
- **They may act as though they are nice, but they are not. They might pretend they are just like you, but they might be lying to earn your trust as that is how animals, and people, who are like that operate.**
- **They might talk to you and try and get you to think a certain way; the way they think basically.**
- **They might ask you to go on websites and read things, to try and make you think like them. The things they say to you, and the websites they look at, might make things look really bad, but they are not being 100% truthful.**
- **Unfortunately, not everything on the internet is the truth, even though some animals, and people, pretend that it is.**
- **These animals, or people, might ask you to do things, nasty things, to other animals or people, and tell them about it.**
- **They might ask you to send pictures to them, or even meet up with them.**

(continued...)

- They will say they are a friend, and if you are their friend you will do as they ask or tell you.
- But they are **NOT** a friend.
- They are using you and trying to get you to do bad things, say bad things, or think the way that they do.
- As I have said, they often lie and make things up about other animals and people that is not true, to try and make you think the way they do.
- So, Duck, you need to talk to people, like me and your teacher, if anyone ever tries to get you to think like them or influence you in any way.
- No one should try to **MAKE** you think like them; that is wrong.
- They are **MANIPULATING** you and **EXPLOITING** you. That means they are trying to control you into thinking the same way as them, and that is very naughty indeed.

I am so relieved I talked to Mom.  
If I had not, I could have been in real danger.

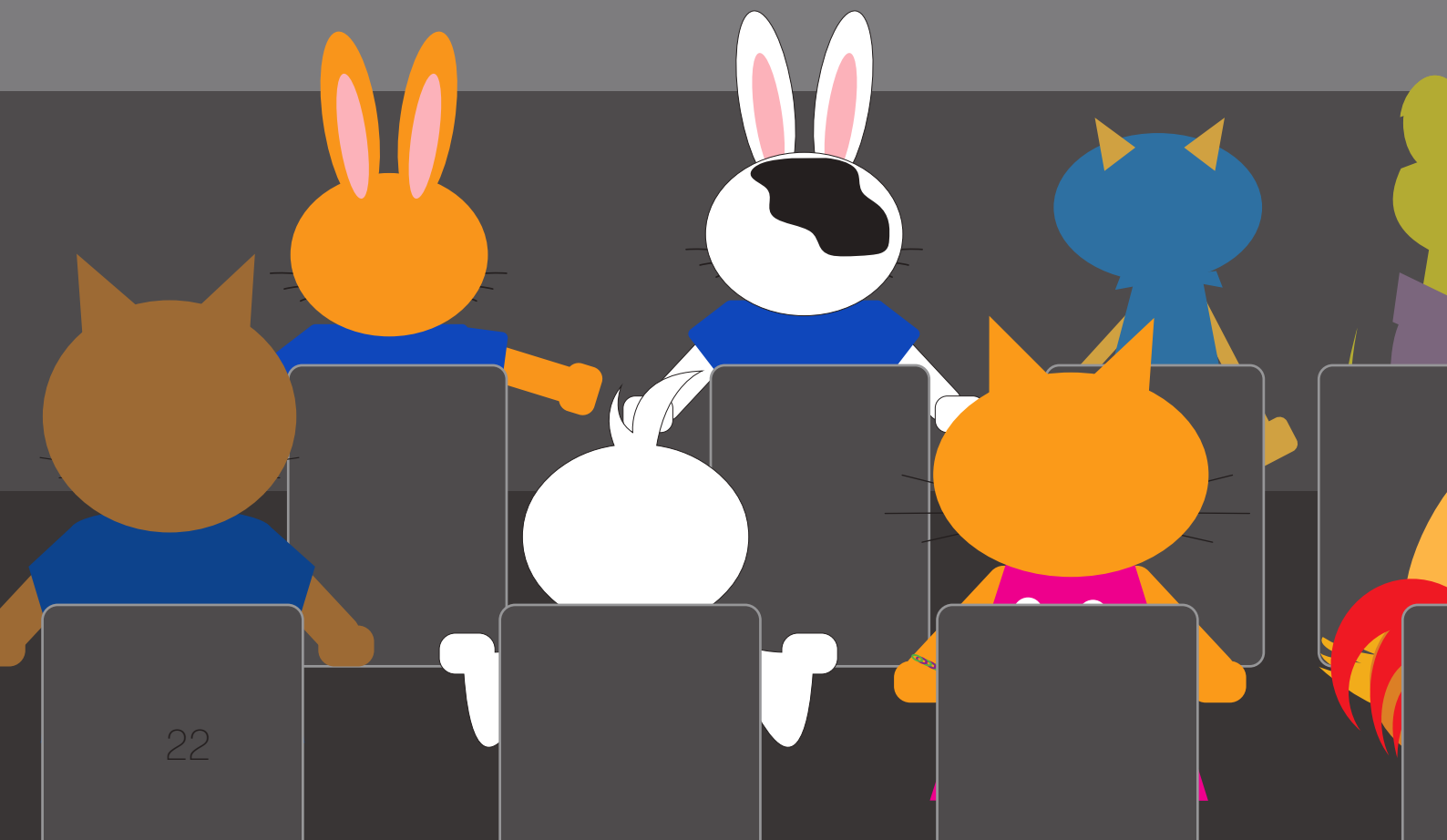


Mom and I have told the Police about Zebra.

PC Bear said they were aware of animals like Zebra, and that he was a really bad animal.



We have also told school, to try and protect other animals as well. Mr Squirrel told Mom and I that he was not surprised we were talking to him, because Dog and Cat had both spoken to him after what I had been saying about Chicken in the playground.



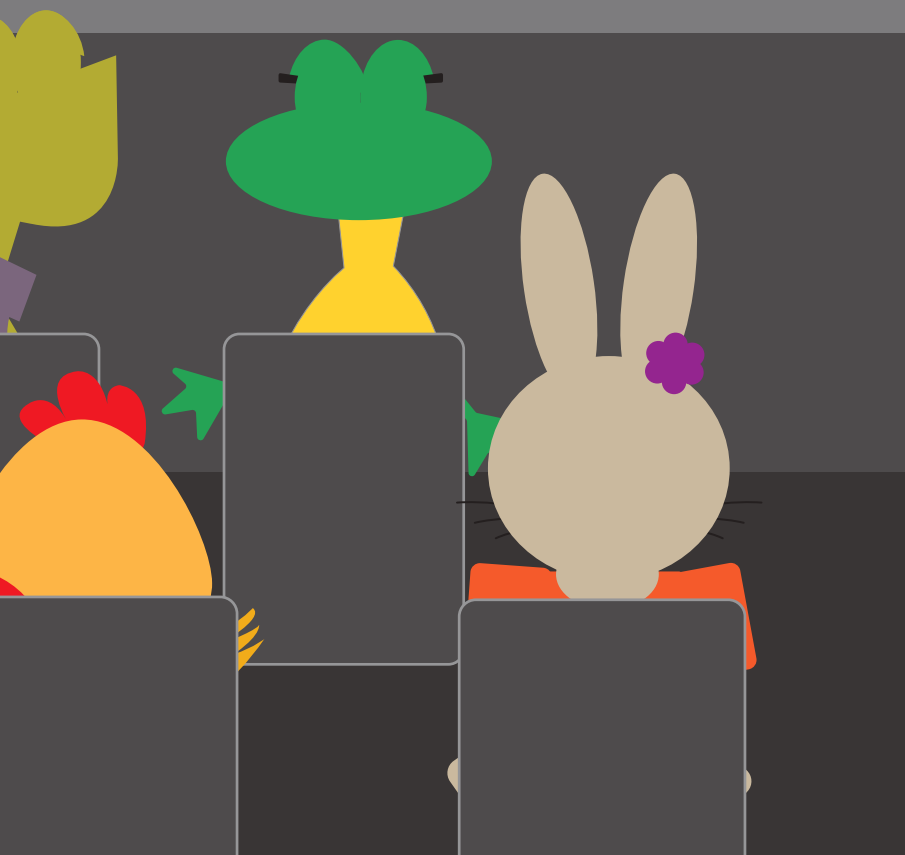


Mr Squirrel said Dog and Cat felt bad about talking to him about me, but they were worried about me and did not know what to do for the best, so they had asked for his help.

I was a bit surprised they had spoken to Mr Squirrel, and not me, but I understand that they were trying to protect me, and I am really grateful to them for being so brave and coming forward.

At the end of the day, they did not know I was going to talk to Mom, so they acted; how very brave of them.

Miss Pony did a special assembly for all the children, and parents, on how we can try our best to stay safe online.





Mom has now protected our devices as well. I did get into a bit of trouble for going on the websites Zebra told me too, but Mom has now put filters on so I will not be able to do that again, not that I want to anyway, they were horrible!

Mom and I are also doing some work to build my confidence, and to know more about when I need to ask for help from her.

It was not my fault for what had happened to me, but I do want to know more about when I might be at risk, because this incident has scared me a little.

I have stopped all contact with Zebra. He messaged me a few times, but he seemed to get bored of doing that quite quickly; this just made me realise 100%, he was not my friend at all!

We have decided to leave online gaming for a while, as maybe I am a bit young.

I am still gaming, but now I play on my own and just have fun by myself. If I want to have fun with my friends, I see them face to face; it is more of a laugh that way too!



Mom says she has learnt a lesson from this too.

She has learned that bad animals, and people, are online and that she needs to be more aware, so she can help to protect me; she now has a plan of how to do this as well.

I am very lucky to have people who protect me and care for me, and I will make sure I talk to them if I am ever worried or scared about anything ever again.





There's lots more...

Have a look at all our stories and activities, there's lots for you to enjoy!

Here are some of the other characters you will get to meet!

