

Penguin  Readers



BBC



DYNASTIES

Chimpanzees

Contents

Animals in the book	4
New words	5
Note about the book	6
Before-reading questions	6
Chapter One – David and his group	7
Chapter Two – Life in the community	12
Chapter Three – Chimpanzees day and night	17
Chapter Four – The great apes	25
Chapter Five – The dry season begins	32
Chapter Six – Fire and water	41
Chapter Seven – The attack on David	46
Chapter Eight – David comes back	54
Chapter Nine – The future for chimpanzees	59
Chapter Ten – The rains arrive	62
During-reading questions	70
After-reading questions	71
Exercises	72
Project work	77
Glossary	78

David and his group

The dry **season** is beginning, and it is a very, very hot day. We are in the **savannah** – a huge open place with dry grass and small trees – in Senegal, in West **Africa**. A small group of **chimpanzees** are walking through the trees. They are looking for food. They look **calm**, but there are **tensions** that we cannot easily see in this group of animals.

The most important **male** in a group of chimpanzees is the **alpha male**. In this group, the alpha male's name is David. Alpha males like David can get the three most important things in any **male** chimpanzee's life before the other males. These three important things are food, water and **females** that he can **mate** with. But it is not easy to be a king, and David knows that he must be **careful**. Many of the other males in the group are not his friends. They all want to become the alpha male, too, and get all the good things that come with the job.

Things change all the time in any group of chimpanzees. Animals become friends or **enemies** quickly, and this can change in a few hours. We know that, one day, one of the other males will try to take David's place in the group. If a new male fights David and becomes the alpha male, David will have to leave the group. He will probably be hurt, and he may die. Life is never easy for an alpha male like David.

David has been the alpha male for three years. Three years ago, he pushed the old alpha male out of the group, and David's brother, Mamadou, helped him. Later, David often needed to fight other male chimpanzees, and Mamadou always fought for his brother. The two brothers worked together very well, and it was easy for David to stay at the top. But one day Mamadou was not there, and nobody saw him again.

Without Mamadou, things became more difficult for David. The other males saw that Mamadou was not there, and David had to show them that he was the strongest male all the time. He needed



David is the alpha male in the group.

to do this to stay at the top of the group, but it was hard work.

But David does not just want to be the alpha male. He wants to have an alpha-male son, and he needs to have children at the time that he is the alpha male. Then, after he dies, one of his sons can become the alpha male in the group. Children are very important for an alpha male.



Two males in the group are a big **threat** to David. First there is Jumkin. Jumkin is about the same age as David, and knows him well. David knows that Jumkin wants to be the alpha male. There is also a younger chimpanzee called Luthor. Luthor will be a big threat in the next few months. At the moment, things are calm in the group, but they will not be calm for long. David has to watch the other males carefully all day, every day.



Life in the community

Chimpanzees need to live in groups, and they usually live in large groups of males and females called communities. The **scientist** Jane Goodall studied a lot of chimpanzee communities in the Gombe National Park in north-west Tanzania. She discovered that most communities in the park had between six and eight males in them, with twelve to sixteen females, and their children.

David's community of thirty-two chimpanzees is different to other communities in two important ways.

First, his community has more males than females. In David's group, there are twelve males and only seven females. There are too many males, and there is usually a lot of tension between them. And there are not many females in the group for the males to mate with. This makes the tension much worse, and there is always a danger that the males will start to fight.