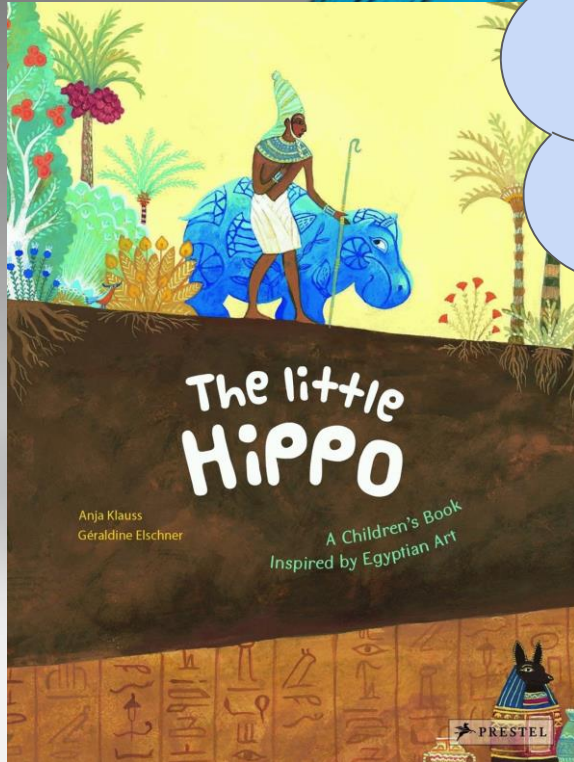


F L U E N C Y



*We have a target for
reading this half
term and that is to
improve our fluency.*





Let's read the story
so far together.
You should follow the
text as I read.
Join in with me if you
can!

A copy of the text can be found in the folder for today's
learning.

This story begins in ancient Egypt, during the happy age of blue hippo. At that time, if you gazed at the watery marshes that lined the river, you could see the hippo's backs curled up along the horizon.

What has happened in the story so far?



As the good masters of the river Nile, the blue hippo basked in its tranquil waters. All around them bloomed flowers, and as time went by the river's many plants left a mark on their sunbathed skin. Fish would brush against them, butterflies would land on them, and birds pecked without fear at these strange turquoise creatures.



One day the youngest amongst them—the one they called Little Hippo—became the friend of Antef, a tall old man with white hair. Every night, side by side, Antef and Little Hippo would admire the setting sun.

"The sun dies each day to be reborn each morning," the old man would say. "Soon I too will fall asleep just like him. Then a long journey will begin."

When Antef left for this unknown kingdom, and when he was laid below the ground, Little Hippo lay down beside him and fell into a deep slumber. Time went by: days, months, centuries ...

What has happened in the story so far?

We found
these words...

Marshes



Horizon



Reborn



basked



Admire




tranquil



The River Nile



A turquoise-colored figurine of a hippopotamus, facing right. The figurine is decorated with black and gold patterns, including a large black outline of a leaf or feather on its side and a black outline of a face on its head. The turquoise surface has some wear and tear, showing the underlying material in some places.

I have a new
word for
you...

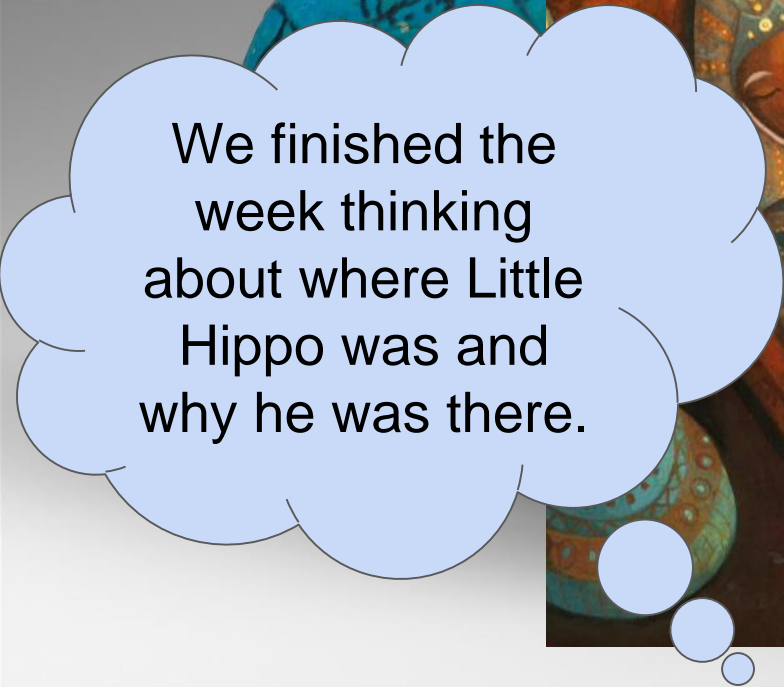
Archeologist

What does
this word
mean?

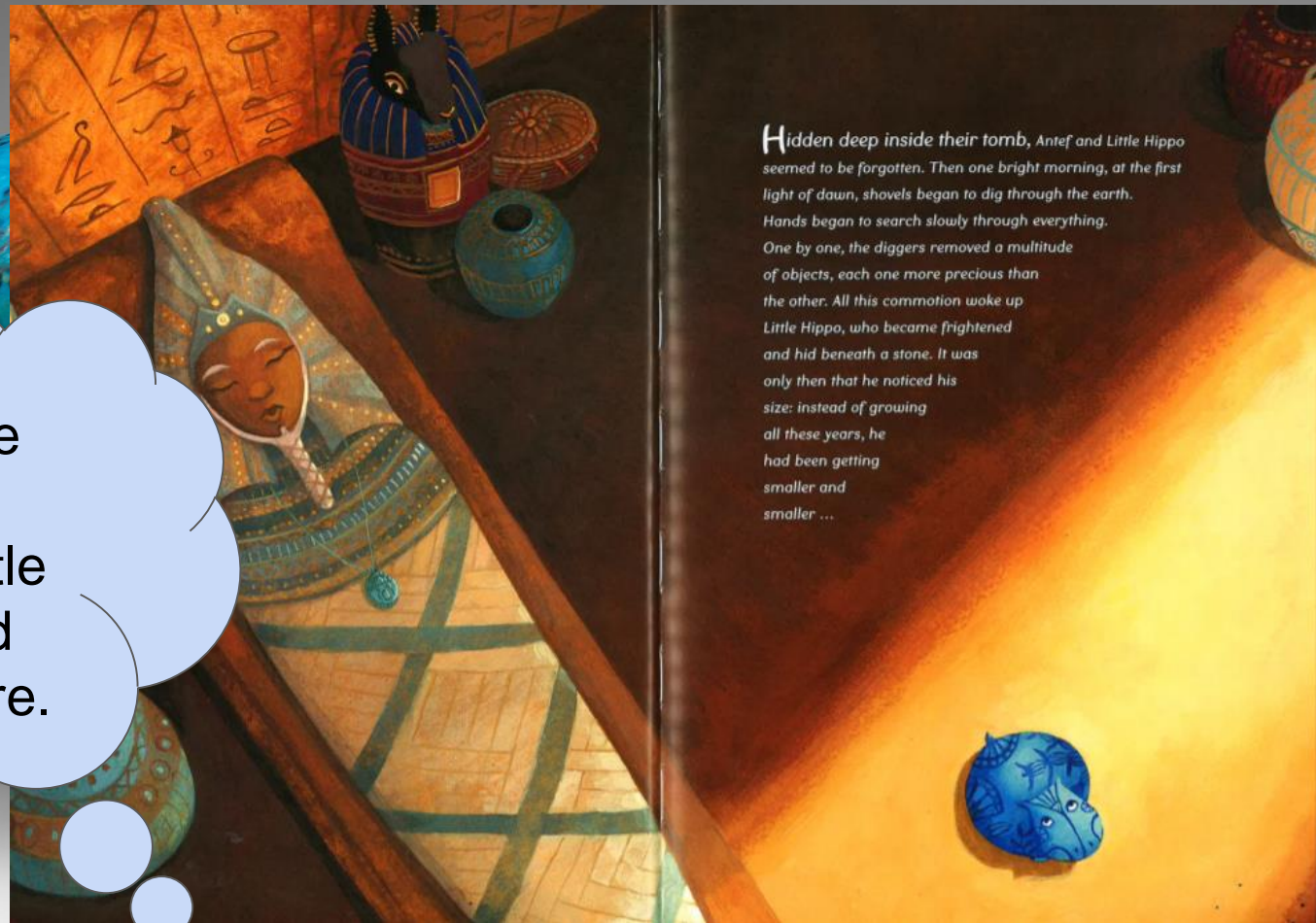


Archeologist





We finished the
week thinking
about where Little
Hippo was and
why he was there.



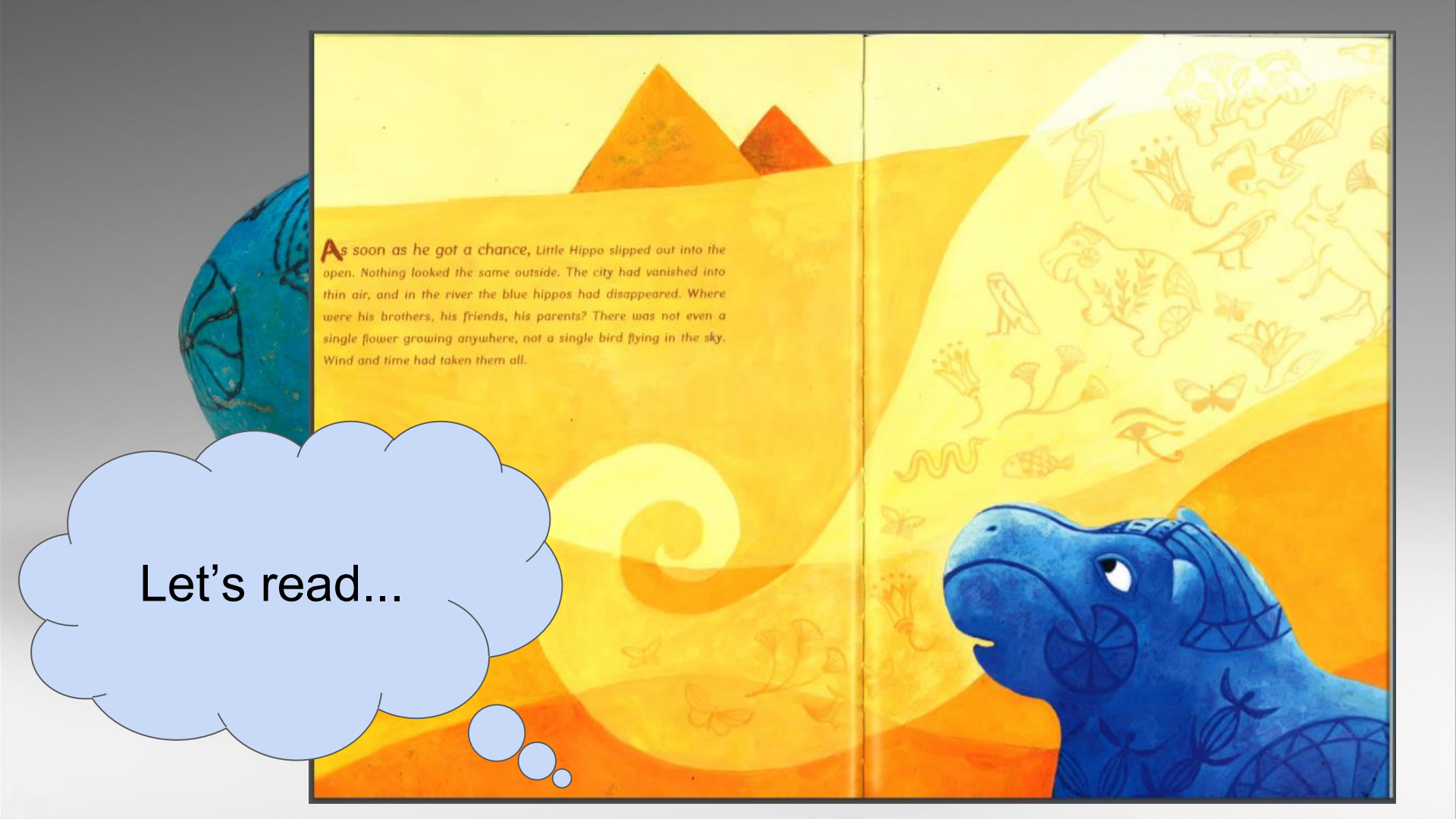
Hidden deep inside their tomb, Antef and Little Hippo seemed to be forgotten. Then one bright morning, at the first light of dawn, shovels began to dig through the earth. Hands began to search slowly through everything. One by one, the diggers removed a multitude of objects, each one more precious than the other. All this commotion woke up Little Hippo, who became frightened and hid beneath a stone. It was only then that he noticed his size: instead of growing all these years, he had been getting smaller and smaller ...

Today you will be continuing
to **'echo read'** with me.
I will read a sentence and
then you will repeat it back to
me in exactly the same way
as I read it to you.

Echo Read



Repeat exactly what the
teacher says.

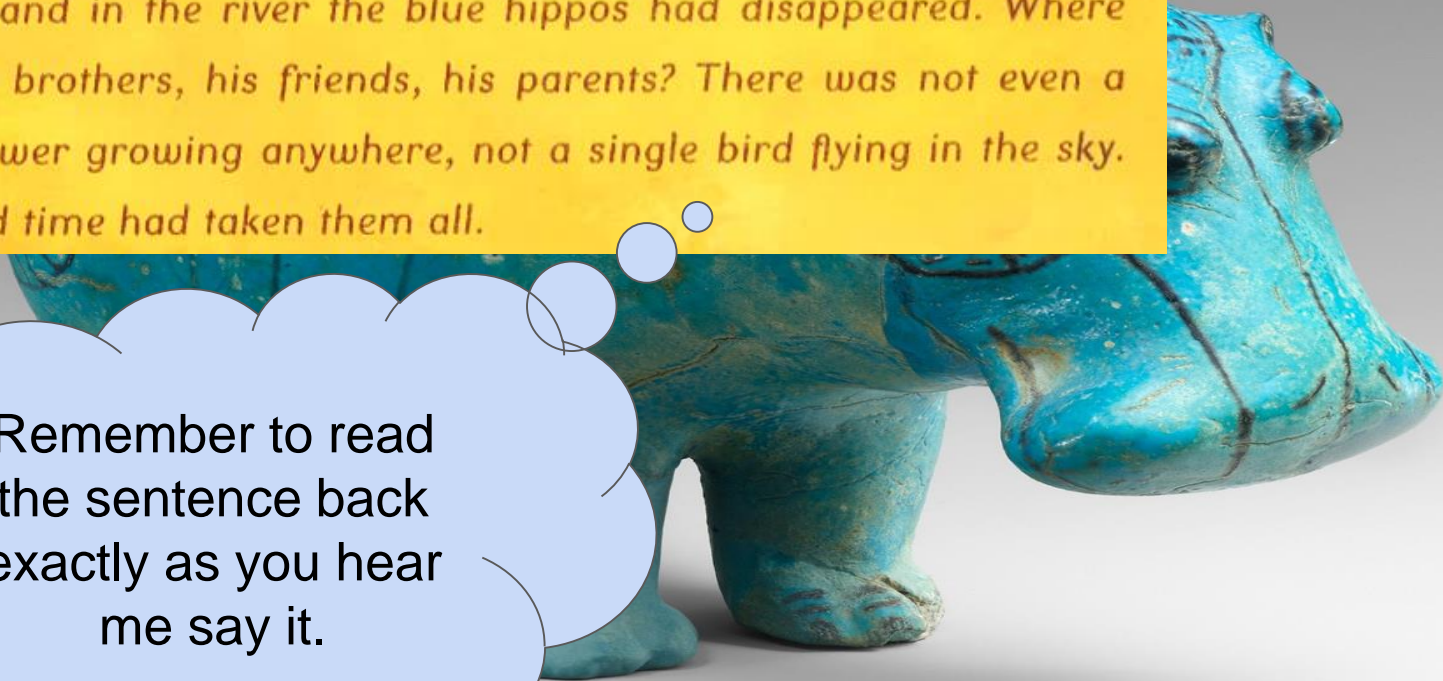


As soon as he got a chance, Little Hippo slipped out into the open. Nothing looked the same outside. The city had vanished into thin air, and in the river the blue hippos had disappeared. Where were his brothers, his friends, his parents? There was not even a single flower growing anywhere, not a single bird flying in the sky. Wind and time had taken them all.

Let's read...

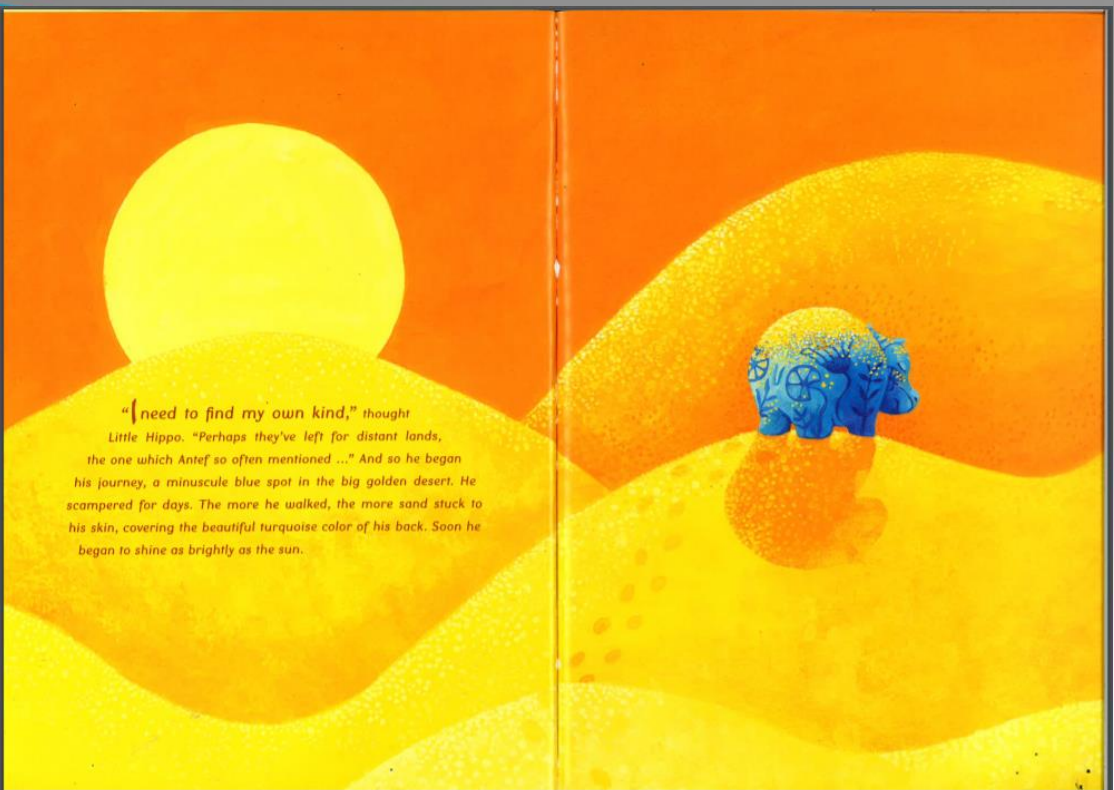
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Remember to read
the sentence back
exactly as you hear
me say it.

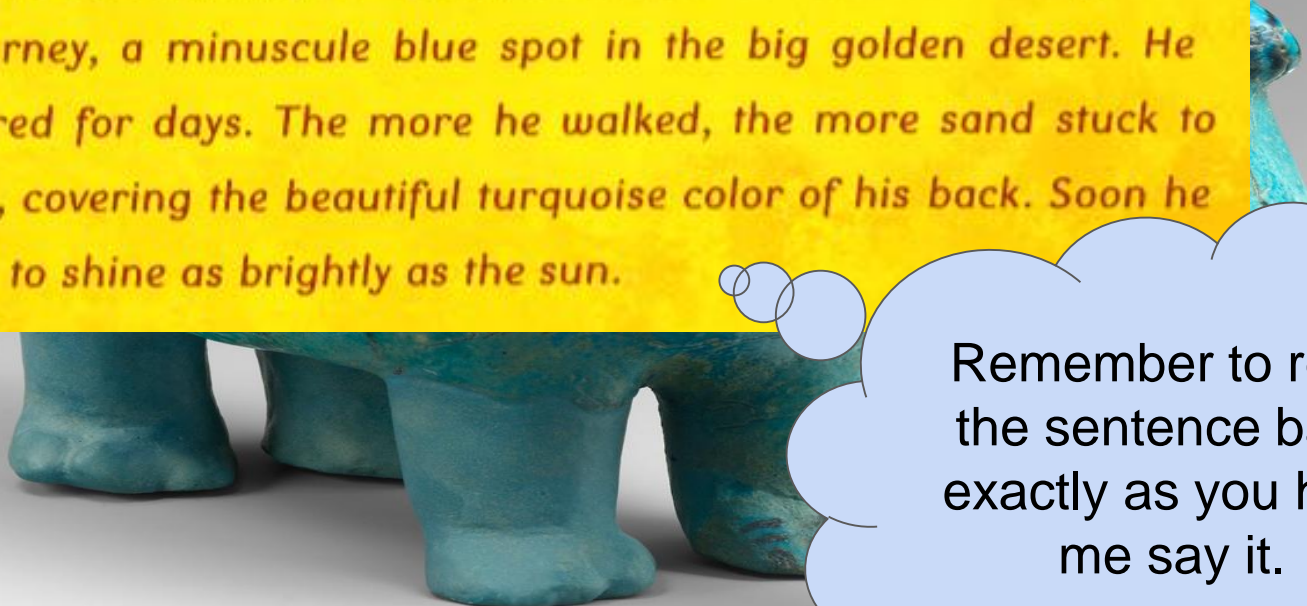




Let's read...



"I need to find my own kind," thought Little Hippo. "Perhaps they've left for distant lands, the one which Antef so often mentioned ..." And so he began his journey, a minuscule blue spot in the big golden desert. He scampered for days. The more he walked, the more sand stuck to his skin, covering the beautiful turquoise color of his back. Soon he began to shine as brightly as the sun.

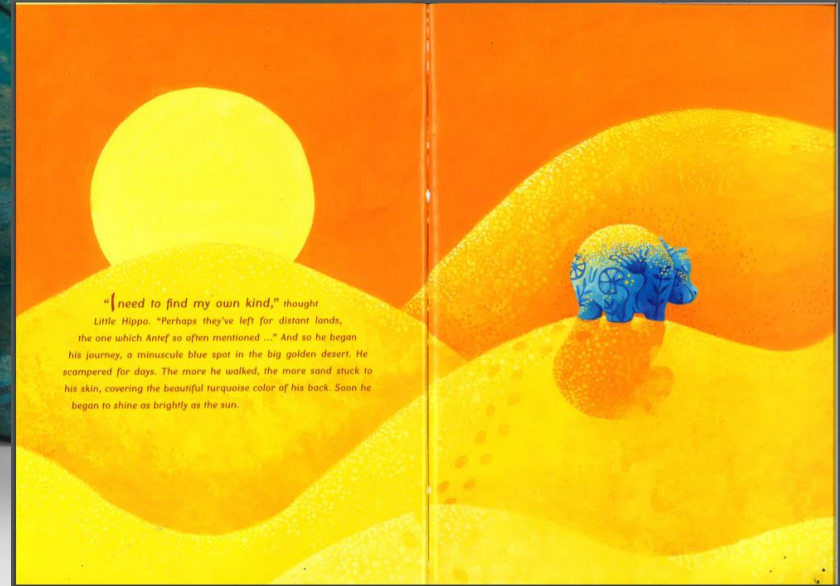


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Remember to read
the sentence back
exactly as you hear
me say it.

What has happened
to little Hippo?
Why is he alone?
Why are things so
different?





Now it's your turn.

Perform a page that we read today to someone at home but **remember**, you must try to read the text in the same way that you read it with me!