

How Leopard Got His Spots
written and illustrated by Gerald McDermott

Do you know how Leopard got his spots? Once upon a time, Fred Turtle was playing catch with Hal Hyena. Hal tricked Fred. Then he ran away. Fred felt very sad. He out for help. "Help! I am stuck in the plants," he yelled. Len Leopard ran to help. Chop! Chop! Chop! Len cut the plants off and let Fred out. Fred and Len danced in the sun. "This is such fun!" they said. "I have never been this glad," said Fred. "I like to paint if I am glad!" Fred mixed paints from many flowers. Then he painted black stripes on Zel Zebra. Fred painted Jill Giraffe next. "Look at me!" said Jill. "I have big brown spots now." "I like spots very much. Can I have spots, too?" asked Len. Fred got set to paint Len. Now Len had spots of his very own. Zel, Jill and Len had such fun looking at their spots stripes. Hal said, "Paint me, too!" But Fred had a trick for Hal. He splashed Hal with brown paint. Hal yelled and ran off. Now Fred and Len are best friends.