

# Zip's Word, Tiara's Way

A STORY BY ARKEDELIC



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# Celebrate Your Birthday With Us!



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Jungle  
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An all-in-one party planner, the Booshkata Birthday Box brings the jungle to life with fun games, decorations, recipes and much more.

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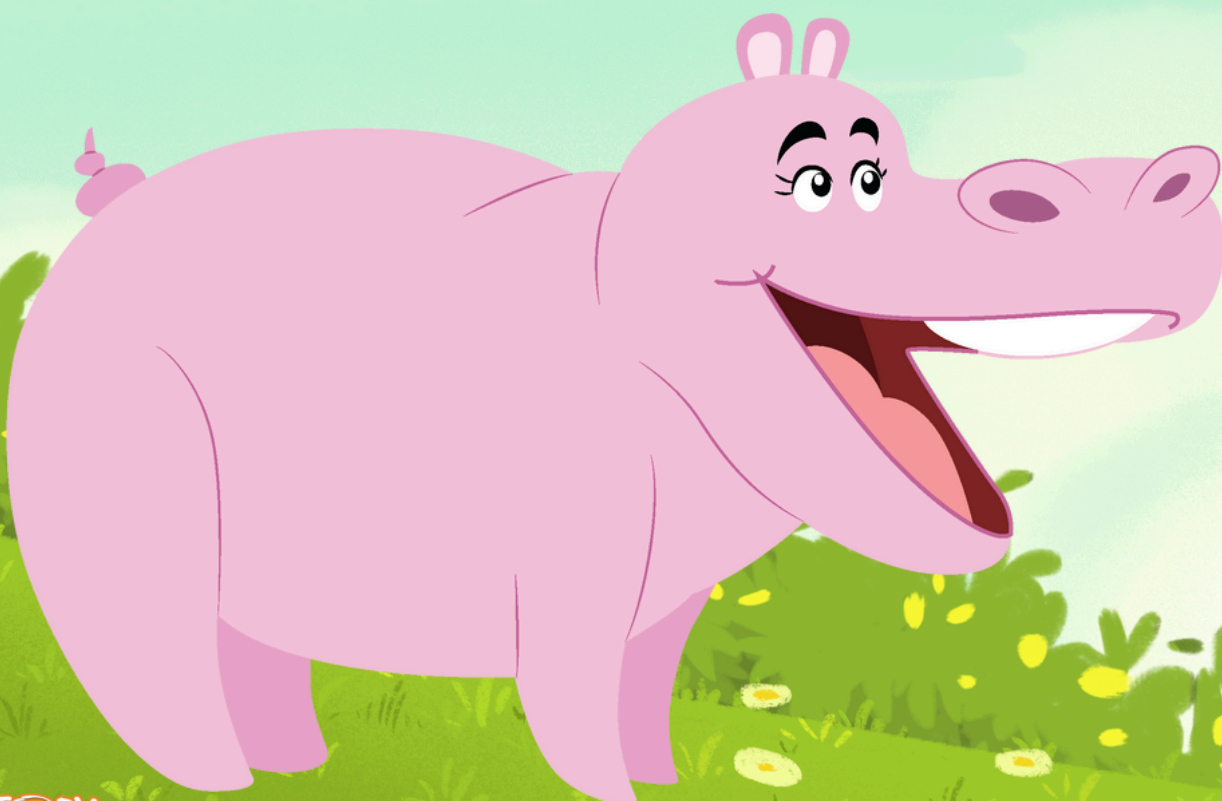


The jungle was alive with excitement.

Today was the big EchoWalk — a trust trail over  
Whispering Rock, led by Tiara herself.

“Eyes closed, ears open,”  
Mombino had said at breakfast.

“One leads.  
The rest must follow — listening, not looking.”





Tiara's heart thumped.

She'd spent the last two days pacing the trail,  
planning every curve and stone.

She'd even marked tiny criss-crosses on bark  
with juiceberry ink.

This wasn't just a walk. It was a promise —  
that the troop could follow her safely, and  
trust her all the way.

“Okay,” she said, trying to sound calm.

“We'll go in pairs. RJ and Alina, Stripes and  
Ringo, me and... Zip.”





Zip gave a half-hop, ears twitching.  
“Blindfolded hopping? My speciality.”

Stripes raised an eyebrow.  
“Unless you hop on someone.”

Tiara quickly stepped in.  
“No teasing today. Everyone — blindfolds on!”

Leaves were gently tied. Eyes covered. The group lined up, paw on shoulder, ready to follow Tiara’s voice.

“Right step. Careful. Curve ahead... Ringo, tail in.”  
And for a while, it went beautifully.





Tiara's voice danced between firm and friendly.

They tiptoed past whispering reeds and soft moss beds.

Every so often, Zip would hum a silly tune under his breath, making Alina smile quietly behind her blindfold.

But then — SPLASH!

Stripes screeched. Ringo yelped. There was a scrabble of paws, a tumble, and a crash.

Someone had slipped off the edge and landed — not far down, but right into the muddy pool below.

Everyone froze.





“I’ve been PUSHED!” Stripes roared from the puddle, fur dripping and puffed.

“No you weren’t,” Zip said, startled.

“I was three steps behind—”

“I felt a bunny elbow!” Stripes cried.

“You’ve always been bouncy and—”

RJ chimed in. “He does jump around a lot.  
Maybe it was by accident?”

“I didn’t,” Zip repeated, firmer now.

“I was careful. I stayed in line.”





Tiara's ears twitched.  
The group looked to her. She was leader today.

“Zip,” she said, “I know you mean well.  
But maybe you got excited.  
It's okay. We just need to be careful.”

“I didn't,” Zip whispered again, this time much softer.  
“But... okay.” His ears dropped.

No one could see it — their blindfolds were still on — but  
Tiara noticed. A tiny curl of sadness in his shoulders.

Alina hadn't spoken. She was crouched by the slippery bend,  
nose to the stones. Her paws gently moved a few leaves aside.

“These,” she said suddenly, “are fernpods. They fall from up  
there, but they only grow right here. If someone slipped, it  
wasn't from a push. It was from these.”





She held up two crushed pods, slick and shining.

Tiara looked. So did RJ. Stripes squinted.  
“Wait... you mean I just slipped? No one pushed me?”

“No one,” Alina said calmly. Silence.

Tiara turned slowly toward Zip.  
“I’m sorry,” she said, quietly.  
“I should’ve waited. Asked. Believed you.”

Zip didn’t say anything for a moment.

Then he looked up.  
“It wasn’t just about being blamed.  
It was about being... not believed.”





RJ scratched his mane. “I jumped in too fast.  
That wasn’t fair.”

Stripes muttered, “I was wet and dramatic.  
Maybe I panicked.”

Tiara stepped forward. “We’re not perfect.  
But we can be better. Maybe the real EchoWalk  
isn’t just about leading —  
it’s about listening.”

They nodded.





Later, when the trail was done and the blindfolds untied,  
they sat under the amber sky.

Jungle jam was passed around, and laughter bubbled again.

Tiara placed a sticky-sweet honeyfruit in Zip's paw.

“For standing still,” she said,  
“when everything around you slipped.”





Zip smiled. “And for standing back up,” he said,  
“when everything around you didn’t.”

They bumped paws, not in apology,  
but in quiet, wordless friendship.

And that evening, under the fading light of Booshkata,  
trust walked a little taller.

— *THE END* —








# ACTIVITY

## "Listen & Lead" Echo Trail

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- A safe open space (living room, garden, or schoolyard)
- A scarf or soft cloth for blindfolds
- A few small "obstacles" like cushions, soft toys, or paper plates to mark stepping spots

### HOW TO DO PLAY:

1. Choose one leader and 3–5 followers.
  2. Blindfold the followers. The leader can see and gives clear voice instructions like, "Step left," "Small step forward," "Stop."
  3. The followers must trust the leader's words — no peeking!
  4. At the end of the trail, swap roles so everyone gets a turn to lead and follow.
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# ACTIVITY

## "Listen & Lead" Echo Trail

### The link to the story:

Just like Tiara guiding the EchoWalk, this game shows how much trust is needed when you can't see and must follow only by listening. It also teaches leaders to give careful, kind instructions and followers to be patient and attentive.

### Fun twist:

Add a "truth checkpoint" — at one spot, the leader secretly decides if the next step is big or small. The followers have to guess, based on the leader's tone, if they should really take that step or ask for confirmation. This helps children practice pausing before they act, just like in the story.





# 5 FUN FACTS

## About World's Strangest Trails & Pathways



### **Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland**

This trail is made of about 40,000 stone columns formed when ancient volcanic lava cooled into perfect hexagon shapes.

Imagine walking on nature's own honeycomb road!

### **Shibuya Crossing, Japan**

The world's busiest pedestrian crossing, where hundreds of people walk in every direction at once when the lights turn green.

It's like being in a giant game of "Don't bump into me!"



### **Great Wall of China Path**

An ancient path stretching over 21,000 kilometers, built to protect the country. Some parts are steep, twisty, and run along mountain tops.

It's like walking on the spine of a dragon!





# 5 FUN FACTS

## About World's Strangest Trails & Pathways



### Tunnel of Love, Ukraine

A railway track surrounded by thick green trees, making it look like a magical tunnel. Trains still pass, but in between, people stroll through it. It's like stepping into a real-life fairy tale!

### Haiku Stairs, Hawaii

Also called the “Stairway to Heaven,” this trail has nearly 4,000 steep steps up a mountain with breathtaking views. It's like climbing a ladder into the clouds!





# The Whispering Path

## Complete the Story

Tiko the little tapir had heard stories about the Whispering Path — a narrow trail deep in the jungle where the trees seemed to talk.

One sunny morning, he decided to follow it. The path wound between giant ferns and over mossy stones.

Every time Tiko took a step, he thought he heard a voice say, “This way...” or “Careful...”

Halfway through, the path split in two. One trail looked bright and easy, the other dark and twisty. Tiko hesitated.

Should he trust the whispers? Or just choose the sunny path?

Suddenly, a rustle came from the dark side.

Out stepped Zula the wise old anteater, carrying a basket of sweet berries. “Well done, little one,” she said with a smile.

“The easy way is not always the best way.

You listened, paused, and noticed what others might have missed.” That day, Tiko learned that a true path isn’t just about where it leads — it’s about how you walk it.

*Now it’s your turn:*

*If you were Tiko, which path would you choose, and what might you find at the end?*



**See you next Monday**  
**with another interesting story!**

Got feedback or a suggestion? We would love to hear it!  
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