

Joe-Larry, the Magical Cat, and His Adventures with Sun Protection

Joe-Larry is a magical cat.
He likes to go exploring. He likes to make new friends.
One sunny day he went exploring --- all the way to the desert.
There he met Sylvia the camel.

“Why do you have those bumps on your head?” Joe-Larry asked his new friend.
“These bumps are like a hat. They protect me from the hot sun,” Sylvia said.
“Cool!” said Joe-Larry. “I must tell my people about that.”

On another sunny day, Joe-Larry went exploring --- all the way to the big lake.
There he met Oscar the turtle, resting on a rock.
“Wow, you have a hard shell,” said Joe-Larry to his new friend.
“My shell protects me from all kinds of things,” Oscar explained. “Like a shirt, it even keeps me from getting a sun burn.”
“Cool!” said Joe-Larry. “I must tell my people about that.”

Guess what? Joe-Larry went exploring on another sunny day --- all the way to South Africa.
There he met Mimi the meerkat. Do you know what a meerkat is? It’s an unusual animal. It looks like a skinny raccoon. It too has dark circles around its eyes.
“What are those dark circles for?” Joe-Larry asked his new friend.
“They are like sunglasses,” said Mimi. “They protect my eyes from the bright sun.”
“Cool!” said Joe-Larry. “I must tell my people about that.”

Joe-Larry had one more trip to make – this one to the farm.
There he met a whole family of pigs – Tom, Gracie and their piglets – and they were all rolling around in the mud!
“Why are you rolling around in the mud?” Joe-Larry asked his new friends.
“The mud is our sunscreen! With mud spread on our skin, we won’t get a sunburn,” Gracie said. Tom just grunted. And the piglets just squealed.
“Cool!” Joe-Larry said to Gracie. But he didn’t understand grunting or squealing. So he didn’t know what to say to Tom or the piglets.

But he did know that he had a lot to tell his people when he got home.
You see: People don’t have bumps on their heads. People don’t have hard shells. People don’t have dark circles around their eyes. People don’t roll around in the mud. Well, not very often anyhow. So, Joe-Larry told his people: “Don’t forget: You need to Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap when you go outside. “That way you can protect yourselves -- just like my friends Sylvia the camel, Oscar the turtle, Mimi the meerkat and the whole family of pigs,” said Joe-Larry.

And here’s what Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap means:

- Slip on a shirt.
- Slop on some sun screen.
- Slap on a hat.
- Wrap on your sun glasses.

And, just like magic, you can protect yourself when you go outside, too.

That’s what Joe-Larry, the magical cat, says you can do to stay safe in the sun. Have fun in the sun!