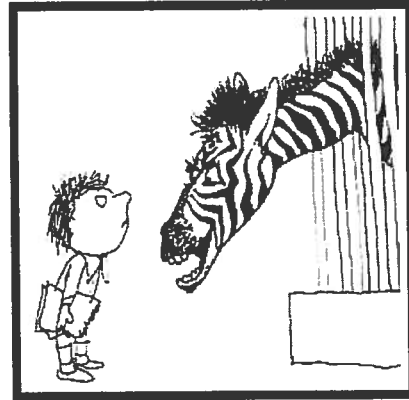


# Teshuvah (תְּשׁוּבָה) Text for Younger Children

## Zebra Question

By: Shel Silverstein

I asked the zebra,  
Are you black with white stripes?  
Or white with black stripes?  
And the zebra asked me,  
Are you good with bad habits?  
Or are you bad with good habits?  
Are you noisy with quiet times?  
Or are you quiet with noisy times?  
Are you happy with some sad days?  
Or are you sad with some happy days?  
Or are you sloppy with some neat ways?  
And on and on and on and on  
And on and on he went.  
I'll never ask a zebra  
About stripes  
Again.



### Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think this poem is about? What is it trying to teach us?
2. Pick a set of questions from the poem and answer them. For example, do you think you are happy with some sad days or sad with some happy days? Why?
3. *Teshuvah*, meaning "return," teaches us we can change and that we should keep working on being a better person. However, all of the questions in this poem only give 2 options. Do you think there is a middle ground? Can you sometimes be one and someone be the other?
4. What words would you choose to describe yourself?