

The thirsty crow

Before you read

- Have you ever watched birds drink water?
- Where do they usually find water?
- What do you know about crows? What colour are they?



Once there was a crow who was very thirsty. It was a hot day, and there was no river nearby. He was flying around looking for something to drink.

He saw a hut and flew down. Just by the door, there was a water jug. There was water at the bottom of the jug. The crow put his beak into the jug, but the jug was too deep. His beak wasn't long enough to reach the water. He tried again and again, but it was no good.

He thought for a moment, and looked at some stones near him. He picked up a stone with his beak and dropped it into the jug. He looked inside. The water was closer to him, but he still couldn't drink. He put in another stone, and another, and another, and then he looked again. The water now was near the top of the jug. It had worked!

The crow drank from the water in the jug, until he wasn't thirsty any more.

Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) a letter b) a newspaper article c) a traditional story
2. Why was the crow thirsty?
3. What did he see from the air?
4. Why couldn't he drink at first?
5. What did he decide to do to solve his problem?
6. Why did the water level go up?
7. What do you think is the message of this story?
a) If you are clever you can solve problems.
b) It's good to leave water for birds
c) Crows can use tools well.
8. Do you like this story? Do you know any other stories about birds?



Looking at words

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1. a jug | a) let something fall |
| 2. a beak | b) wanting to drink something |
| 3. a stone | c) a container for holding water |
| 4. drop | d) a small piece of rock |
| 5. reach | e) the part of a bird which it uses to eat and drink |
| 6. thirsty | f) be able to touch something |

Find words in the story that mean the opposite.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. a cold day | a _____ day |
| 1. at the top | at the _____ |
| 2. flew up | flew _____ |
| 3. too shallow | too _____ |
| 4. not short enough | not _____ enough |
| 5. further from him | _____ to him |



Tendai's family helps out

Before you read

- Can you remember any storms?
- What happened?

My name is Tendai Udenge. My family home is near Tilbury in the mountains. I live with my parents, my grandmother, my sister and my three brothers.



Last Wednesday there was a big storm. There was a lot of rain, and it was very windy for two days. In our garden, the wind blew over a tree. At my aunt's home, the wind blew the roof off. On Saturday, my father said to us, "Let's fix my sister's roof."

We took a wheelbarrow and some wood and tools to my aunt's hut. We all walked together, even my little brother, Dakari. Dakari is only five years old, but he always wants to do what everyone else is doing.

When we got to my aunt's hut, my grandmother was there too. Everyone worked very hard. My father taught us the names of the tools. I helped carry wood. My grandmother cooked a meal, and Dakari helped her. The new roof was very good. When we finished, my aunt was pleased.

"Now the rain can't come in!" she said. "Thank you, everyone. I am very happy to have a family like you."

Grandmother's food was very good. We ate it together under a tree. We all laughed and talked about the day's work. We walked back before it was dark.

"I'm tired!" said Dakari.

"Get into the wheelbarrow! I'll give you a ride!" I said with a laugh.

So Dakari rode in the wheelbarrow all the way back home.

Answer the questions

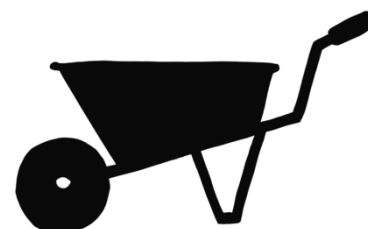
1. What is this?
a) a newspaper report b) a story c) a letter
2. What is it about?
a) helping a family member b) windy days c) how to use tools
3. When was the big storm?
4. Whose roof blew off?
5. What did Tendai's father want to do on Saturday?
6. What did they take to Tendai's aunt's home?
7. How did Tendai help?
8. Who cooked the meal?
9. How did Tendai's aunt feel at the end of the day?
10. How did Dakari travel back home?



Looking at words

Find a word in the story to complete the sentences.

1. The wind _____ the tree down.
2. My father _____ us the names of tools.
3. My aunt _____ she was very happy.
4. We all _____ a nice meal together.
5. Dakari _____ back home in a wheelbarrow.



Find words from the story.

Weather words: s_____ w_____ r_____

Family words: a_____ g_____ b_____

Words for feelings: p_____ h_____ t_____

Akashinga

Before you read

- What do you think the woman's job is?
- Look at the elephants. Point to their **tusks**.
- Why do some people want to take tusks from elephants?



There is a new project in the Zambezi valley. Its name is Akashinga, which means 'brave ones'. A group of rangers protect wild animals. They protect elephants and rhinos from poachers who want to kill them so they can sell their tusks and horns. They also protect other animals from people who want to kill them so they can sell the meat. There is something special about Akashinga. All the rangers are women.

All the women come from poor families, and many had problems in their lives. Now they earn good salaries. They can buy what they need for their families from local shops, they can send their children to school and they can help other people in their communities. This sends an important message to those communities. It is better for everybody if they agree to look after the animals.

Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) a story b) a letter c) a newspaper report
2. What is it about?
a) women rangers b) elephants c) food
3. Where is the Akashinga project?
4. What does 'Akashinga' mean?
5. How are Akashinga different to other groups of rangers?
6. What can Akashinga women do with the money they earn?
7. What message does the Akashinga project send?

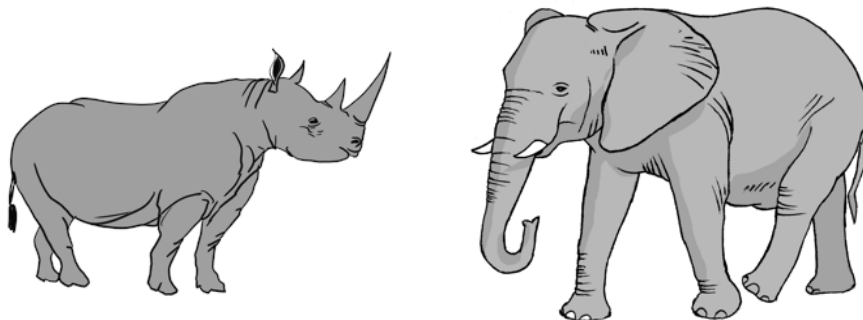
Looking at words

Find a word with these meanings.

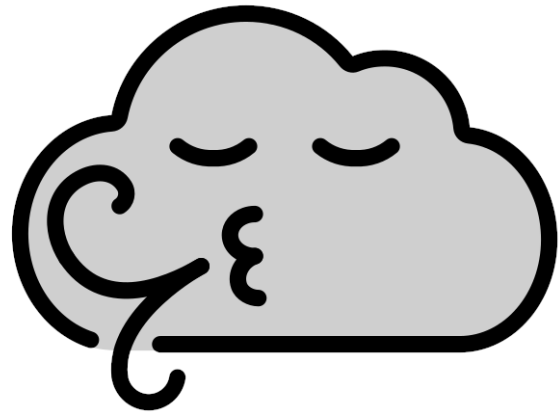
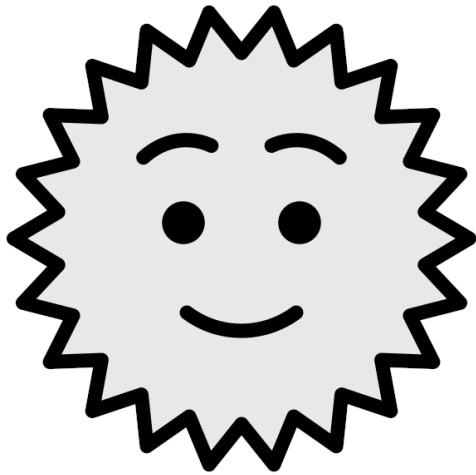
1. A river between hills or mountains: _____
2. Keep safe from danger: _____
3. A person who kills protected wild animals: _____
4. Money somebody earns in their job: _____
5. A group of people who live together: _____

Writing

You are an Akashinga ranger. Write a letter or email to a friend. Describe your job. What do you do? Why do you like this job?



The sun and the wind



The Sun and the Wind were talking one day. The Wind said she was stronger than the Sun, but the Sun didn't agree.

"Let's have a contest," said the Sun.

"Good idea!" said the Wind. "What shall we do?"

They looked down to the land below. They could see a man walking along a road. He was wearing a warm coat.

"Let's find out who is the strongest," said the Sun. "Let's see who can take the coat off that man down there."

"That will be easy for me!" said the Wind. "Watch!"

The Wind blew very hard. The leaves blew off the trees. The dust blew along the road. But the man held on to his warm coat. The more the wind blew, the more the man held his coat.

"It's my turn now," said the Sun, with a smile.

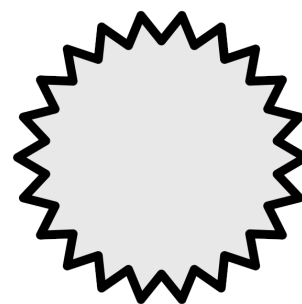
The Sun came out from behind the cloud. The Sun shone, and warmed the air and the man started to feel hot. Soon the man took off his coat and sat down in the shade.

"OK, you win," said the Wind. "But how did you do that?"

"Easy," said the Sun. "If you are gentle, you will succeed."

Answer the questions

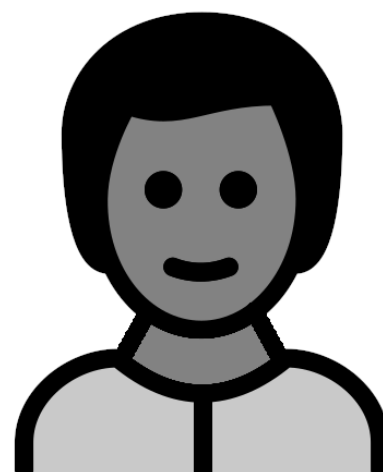
1. What is this?
a) a funny story b) a story with a message c) a letter
2. Why did the sun and the wind have a contest?
4. What did they see on the road?
5. What did the wind do?
6. What did the man do then?
7. What did the sun do?
8. What did the man do then?
9. What is the message of the story?



Looking at words

| Now | Yesterday |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The sun shines. | The sun _____. |
| 2. The wind blows. | The sun _____. |
| 3. The man holds his coat. | The man _____ his coat. |
| 3. The man feels hot. | The man _____ hot. |

1. What is **dust**? Where can you find it?
2. What is the difference between “the wind blew **hard**” and “the wind blew **gently**”?
3. What is the difference between “**in the sun**” and “**in the shade**”?



A wooden horse

Before you read

- Have you ever climbed a tree?
- Why do people climb trees?



Once there was a boy called Moses. He liked climbing trees. His grandfather was often angry about this, but Moses liked looking out over the land around him.

One day Moses climbed a tall tree. He sat high up in the branches, looking down on the world. Through the leaves, he saw a small wooden object in a fork of the branches. It was a toy horse. It was made of wood. He started to climb down the tree, and took the wooden horse. Near the bottom of the tree trunk, he tore his shirt.

When Moses got back home, his grandfather saw his torn shirt. He was angry.

“You have been climbing trees again! Look at your shirt!” his grandfather complained. “You have torn the sleeve. Have you hurt your arm? Come here and let me see.”

“No grandpa, I’m feeling fine,” replied Moses. “I’m not hurt at all. And it is only a small tear in the shirt, you see.”

“What do you have in your hand? Is it a fruit from the tree?”

Moses showed his grandfather the toy horse.

“I found it up in a tree, he told his grandfather. But I don’t know who put it there.”

Grandfather held the horse in his hand and looked at it. He started to smile. “I know this horse,” he told Moses. “My best friend made it for me when I was nine years old. I lost it when I was a boy! I must tell my friend about this. It will make him happy.”

Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) a story b) a letter c) a poem
2. What is it about?
a) how to climb trees b) picking fruit c) finding an old toy
3. Why does Moses like climbing trees?
4. Where did Moses find the horse?
5. What was the horse made of?
6. What happened before Moses got to the bottom of the tree?
7. Why was Moses' grandfather angry?
8. Why was Moses' grandfather smiling?
9. How did the horse get into the tree, do you think?

Looking at words

Choose a word from the story to complete these sentences.

1. The cat _____ the tree to catch a bird.
2. Be careful or you will _____ your clothes.
3. I _____ my leg when I fell over last week.
4. This gift will _____ your friend happy.

Find words in the story

6. Three words which are part of a tree.

7. Three words which describe how someone feels.

8. Three words which can come after 'look'.

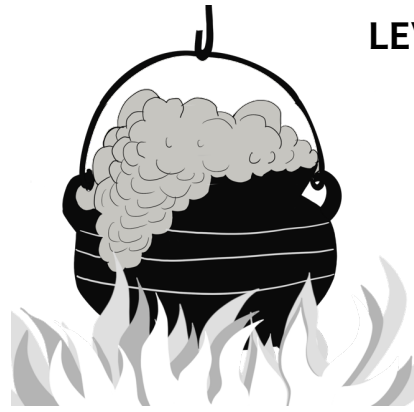
look _____ look _____ look _____



The magic pot

Before you read

What can you do with a **cooking pot**?



Erina was a young girl who lived with her mother. They weren't rich, and they were sometimes hungry. One day Erina was walking home, and she saw an old woman. The woman had dropped some beans. She was trying to collect them, before the birds took them. Erina helped her pick them all up, and the birds didn't get any. The woman was grateful to Erina, and so she gave her a pot.

"This is a special pot," she explained. "When you want to eat, say 'Cook, little pot, cook.' When you want it to stop, say, 'Stop, little pot, stop.' You must use exactly those words."

Erina thanked the woman and went home to show the pot to her mother. She said, "Cook, little pot, cook." Immediately the pot was full of delicious sadza. Erina said, "Stop, little pot, stop!" and the pot stopped making sadza. Erina and her mother were delighted. Now they could eat sadza as often as they wanted.

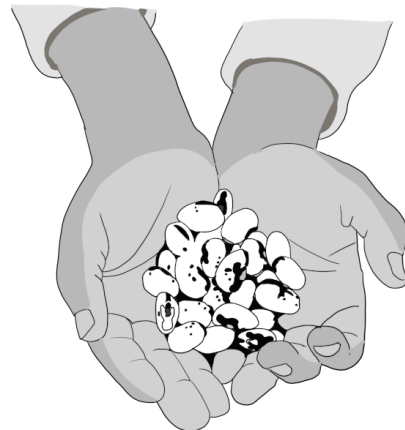
One day, Erina was out, and her mother was hungry. Erina's mother said to the pot, "Cook, little pot, cook!" and immediately the pot was full of sadza. She ate it, and tried to stop the pot from making more. "Stop, pot, please", she said, but the sadza grew and grew.

Soon the sadza was over the top of the pot and onto the floor. Erina's mother was scared now. "Little pot, stop now! Enough!" she said, but the pot didn't stop. Now the house was full of sadza, and soon she had to shout from the garden. Still the sadza came towards her. It covered the roads and it covered the trees. It covered the chicken house and the goat field, but still Erina's mother couldn't stop the pot.

When Erina got home, she saw the whole village was covered in sadza. She said, "Stop, little pot, stop!" They were the right words. The pot stopped at once. Everywhere you looked you could see sadza. People who wanted to get to their houses had to eat their way back.

Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) a true story b) a recipe for sadza c) a traditional story
2. Why did Erina stop on her way back home?
3. Why did the old woman give Erina the pot?
3. What was special about the pot?
4. Why couldn't Erina's mother stop the pot?
5. How did the people get back to their homes?



Looking at words

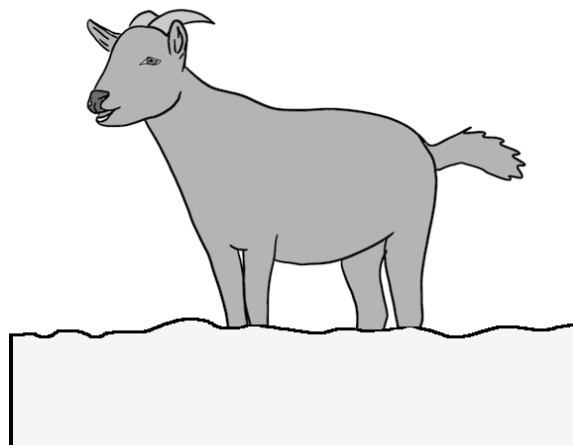
Choose a word to complete the sentences.

cover explained help dropped collected

1. I _____ some firewood from the bush.
2. I _____ an egg and it broke.
3. The teacher _____ the homework to me.
4. Leaves _____ the ground in autumn.
5. Please could you _____ me with this work?

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. immediately | a) different and unusual |
| 2. special | b) very pleased |
| 3. delicious | c) thankful |
| 4. delighted | d) at once, right away |
| 5. grateful | e) tasting very good |



Writing

Put the events in the story in the right order. Then tell the story again in your own words.

Erina stops the pot.

Erina helps the woman.

The woman gives Erina the pot.

The sadza covers the goat field.

Erina's mother is delighted.

Erina's mother doesn't know the right words.

If you were a hippopotamus...

Before you read

- How many different animals can you see on the page?
- Can you say the names of the animals?



If you were a hippopotamus,
I would still be your friend.

If you were a rhinoceros,
Our friendship wouldn't end.

I'd like you as an elephant,
A zebra or a horse.

And if you were a monkey,
I'd like you then, of course.

If you were a wildebeest,
It would still be cool.

I'd help you with your homework,
And sit next to you at school.

I'd like you as an impala,
An aardvark or giraffe.

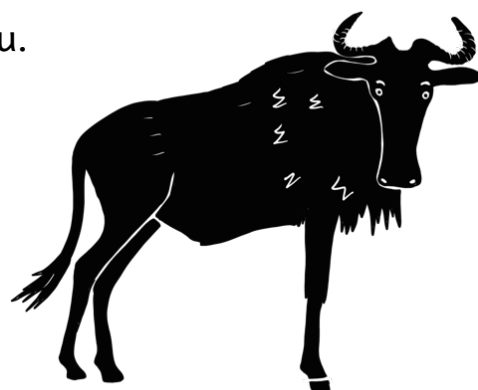
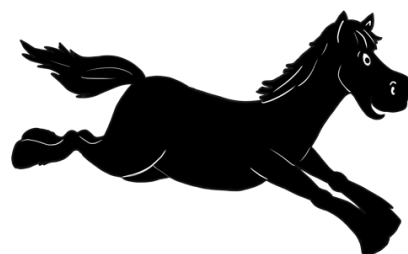
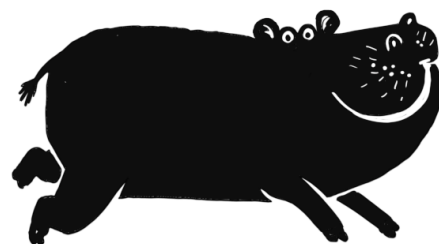
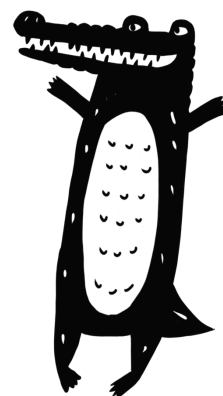
It doesn't matter who you are,
Because you make me laugh.

I'd like you as a crocodile.

Yes, you know it's true.

It makes no difference who you are.

I like you because you're you.



Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) a true story b) a traditional story
c) a poem about nature d) a poem about friendship
2. How many different animals can you find in the poem?
3. Where does the poet imagine being with his friend as a wildebeest?
4. Do you like this poem? Why? / Why not?

Looking at words

Put the letters in the right order to make the words.

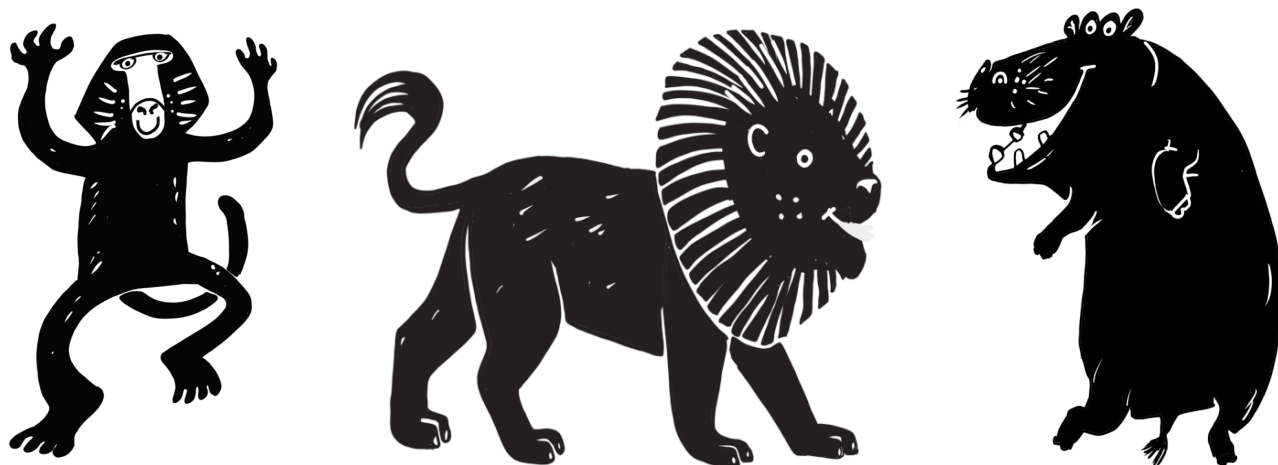
- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. a large animal with a long neck | f a i e g r f |
| 2. an animal which eats ants and has a long tongue | r a d a r k a v |
| 3. a large animal with a horn on its nose | c i r h n r o s e s o |
| 4. an animal with a big mouth and strong teeth | l e c i r c o o d |
| 5. an animal which can jump high and run from lions | m a l p a i |
| 6. an animal with two horns, also sometimes called a gnu | b d i t e w e l e s |

Match these words with words from the end of lines which rhyme.

- | | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1. tool | 2. end | 3. shoe | 4. half |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|

Writing

Imagine your best friend has changed into an animal. Write a poem or story about a day at school with your animal friend.



Cloud watching

Before you read

- Are there any clouds in the sky right now?
- Do you ever spend time looking up at clouds?



Nomusa and her brother Sipho lived with their grandmother. One evening Sipho was breaking up wood for the fire, and Grandmother was watering the vegetable garden. Nomusa called to them.

“Come and look at the sky with me. The light on the clouds is amazing this evening.”

“You are a silly girl,” said Sipho to his sister. “I don’t have time to watch the sky. Grandma and I have more important things to do than sit and look at the clouds.”

“No, my dear,” said Grandmother to Sipho. “You’re a good boy, but you’re wrong about this. There is always time to look at the clouds.”

“But why look at clouds? They aren’t useful. You can’t eat them. They don’t do anything.” said Sipho.

“There are lots of good things in life, and many of them cost a lot of money.” Grandmother told the boy. “Watching a beautiful sunset is one of the things that even the richest people in the world love to do. Take the time to stop and look, when something is beautiful.”

So Sipho sat down with his sister and grandmother, and they all looked at the beautiful clouds in the sky until the sun went down. It was the most beautiful sunset they had ever seen.

Answer the questions

1. What was Sipho doing when Nomusa called him?
2. Why did Nomusa call to her brother and grandmother?
3. Why didn't Sipho want to watch the sunset?
4. Why did their grandmother say that Sipho was wrong?
5. Do you agree with their grandmother?



Looking at words

Choose a word from the story to complete the sentences.

1. This phone c_____ a lot of money.
2. I have to w_____ the plants every morning and evening.
3. You need to b_____ this wood into smaller pieces.
4. You should t_____ the time to look at beautiful things.
5. I like sitting and w_____ the sunset.
6. You can't e_____ clouds!

Match the words with the definitions

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. sunset | a) excellent, very good |
| 2. vegetable | b) not right, not correct |
| 3. silly | c) you can use it |
| 4. wrong | d) the time in the evening when the sun goes down |
| 5. amazing | e) not clever |
| 6. useful | f) a plant you can eat |



The giant turnip



Before you read

- How many vegetables can you think of which grow under the ground?
- Have you ever eaten a turnip?

Lindiwe lived with her grandmother, her grandfather, her brother Gamba and her big sister Anoona. She was the youngest child in her family. They lived on a farm, and they grew vegetables. They grew pumpkins, maize, turnips, carrots and onions in their fields. Grandma planted turnips one year, and they did very well. One of the turnips grew bigger and bigger. The family were excited about how big it was. It was the biggest turnip they had ever seen.

One day Grandpa decided it was time to pull the turnip up. He tried to pull it out of the ground, but he couldn't do it. It was too big. He called to his wife, "Can you help me, please? It's too big for me to pull up alone!"

Grandma came and held onto grandpa. They both pulled, but the turnip was too big. She called to Gamba, "Come and help us! This turnip is so big!"

Gamba came and held onto his grandmother. They all pulled together, but the turnip didn't move.

Gamba called to his sister, Anoona. "Come and help us, Anoona! We need another person to help pull this turnip up!"

So Anoona held on to Gamba and they all pulled together, but still the turnip wouldn't come out of the ground.

Gamba said, "Lindiwe is too small to help. It is impossible. We will never get the turnip out of the ground."

Grandfather called to Lindiwe. "Come and help us, little Lindiwe!"

So Lindiwe held onto Anoona and Anoona held onto Gamba. Gamba held onto Grandma and Grandma held onto Grandpa.

"One, two, three, pull!" shouted Grandpa.

With a pop, the turnip came out of the ground and everyone fell over.

"Look! I pulled up the turnip!" said Lindiwe.

"Yes, well done, Lindiwe!" said Grandma. "We couldn't have done it without you!"

Answer the questions

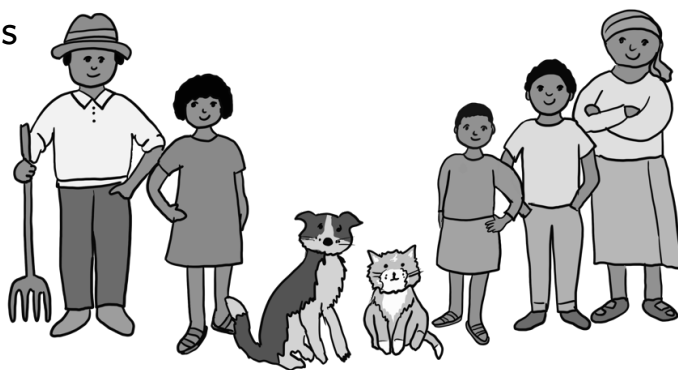
1. What kind of story is this?
a) a true story b) a funny traditional story c) a newspaper story
2. Who is the youngest person in the family?
3. What do Lindiwe's family grow in their fields?
4. Who was the first person to try to pull up the turnip?
5. How many people did it need to pull the turnip out of the ground?
6. What do you think is the message of the story?

Looking at words

Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

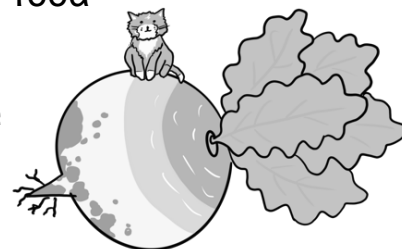
fall pull hold grow plant help

1. It's time to _____ the carrots out of the ground.
2. _____ me with this work, please.
3. When the turnip came up, they all _____ over.
4. I'm going to _____ some cabbage seeds.
5. Can you _____ this bag for me, please?
6. In our fields we _____ maize and pumpkins.



Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. pop | a) pleased about the future |
| 2. impossible | b) a piece of land where you can grow food |
| 3. alone | c) not possible, you can't do it |
| 4. excited | d) on your own, not with other people |
| 5. field | e) a short noise |



Writing

Retell the story in your own words. Use the pictures to help you.

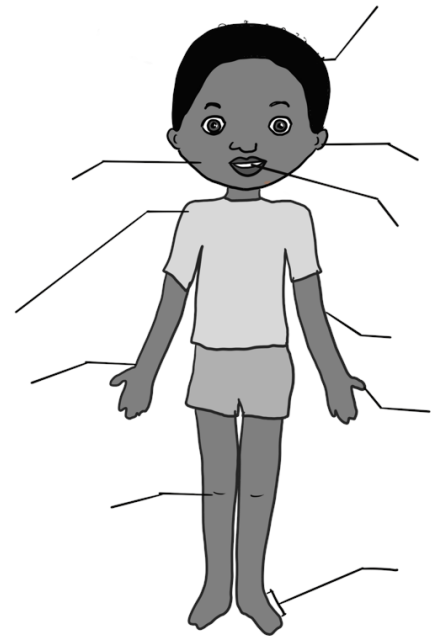
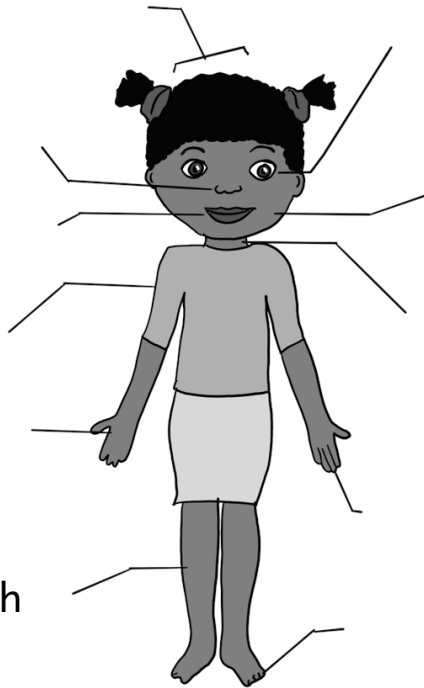


Three riddles: parts of the body

Before you read

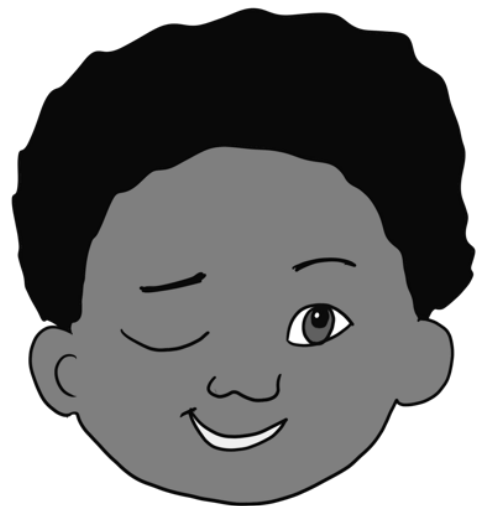
How many of these words do you know? Label the body parts.

| | |
|-------|---------------|
| toe | shoulder |
| leg | ear |
| nose | head |
| chin | hair |
| knee | mouth |
| neck | foot / feet |
| cheek | elbow |
| arm | hand |
| thumb | tooth / teeth |

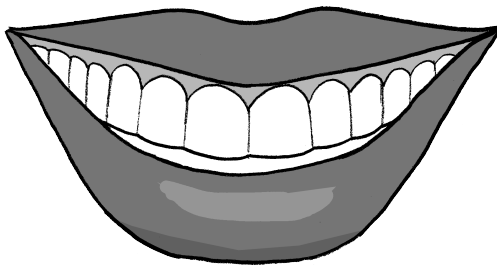


A **riddle** is a kind of guessing game. Some riddles have rhyming words. Can you guess what these things are?

We're on your face.
 One left, one right.
 We wink, we blink,
 We close at night.
 When you are sad,
 We are not dry.
 When you feel bad,
 We sometimes cry.
 You'll guess our name
 If you are wise.
 Oh yes, you're right.
 We are your _____



In the middle,
 Here I sit.
 You say I smell.
 I don't mind a bit.
 Sometimes I sniff, sometimes I snore.
 If I catch cold, I run, for sure.
 Where I run to, nobody knows.
 Can you guess right?
 I'm your _____



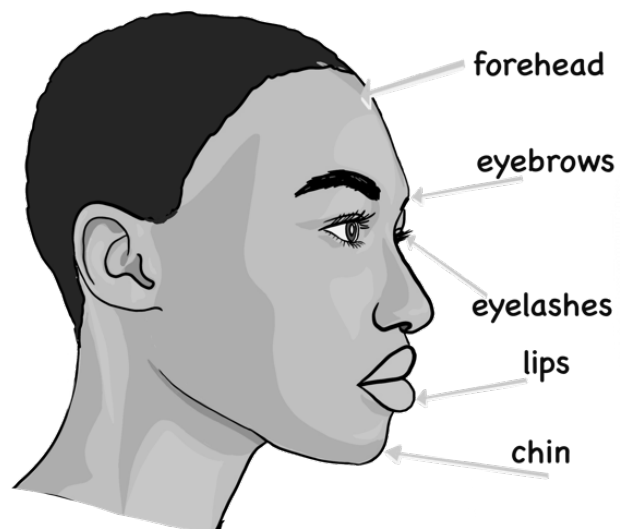
We are small
 But we are many.
 When you're born,
 You don't have any.
 I help you smile and speak and eat.
 Without me you can't chew your meat.
 I'm hard and shiny, that's the truth.
 Have you guessed yet?
 I am a _____

Rhyming words

- Find the rhyming words in the poem.
- Which words rhyme with other body parts? Choose parts of the body to match the rhyming words.

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| egg | farm | sand |
| mum | older | south |
| there | speak | here |
| bed | eat | we |

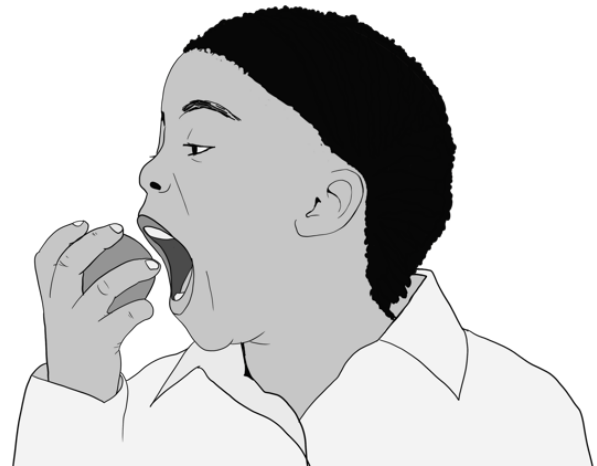
- Which word is different and why?
 - noise sound smell hear listen**
 - bite eat chew watch taste**
 - sneeze wink blink look see**



Making a wish

Before you read

- Do you remember losing your first tooth?
- What did you do with it?



Once there was a little girl called Aneni. One day, Aneni was sitting at home with her grandmother. Grandma was stirring a pot over the fire. Aneni bit into an apple. Crunch! It was ripe and delicious.

“Mmm... I wish we had more apples like this one,” she thought.

Just then she noticed something strange about one of her teeth.

“Oh no!” she said to Grandma. “What is wrong with my tooth? It moved!”

“Don’t worry about that, little Aneni. Your first baby tooth is coming out. That’s a sign you are growing up to be a big girl. When it falls out, plant it in the garden and make a wish.”

On the next bite of her apple, Aneni’s tooth fell out. She took the tooth and the rest of her apple into the garden and put them both in the ground near a big gourd. Every day, she watered the place in the garden.

“Why are you doing that?” asked Grandma.

“I want to grow a new tooth,” she replied.

Grandmother laughed, but Aneni carried on.

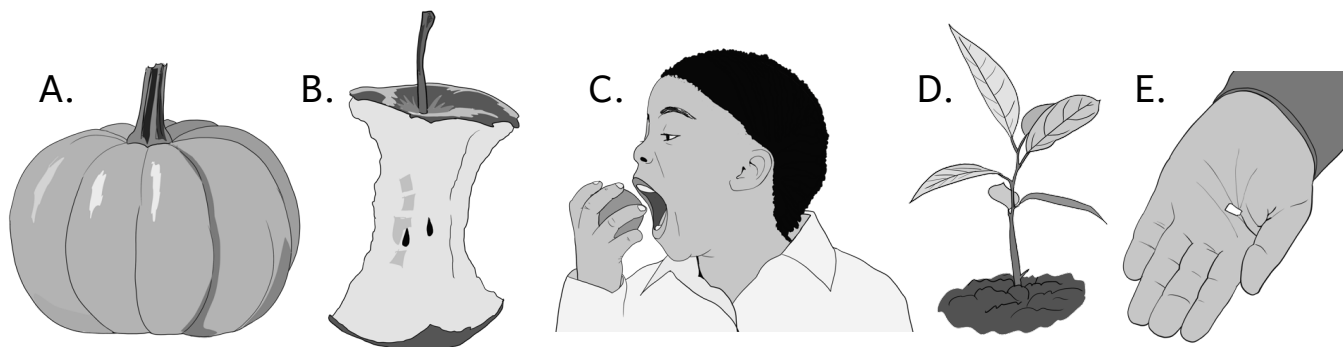
One day, she went out into the garden and saw that there was a small plant growing there.

“Do you see that? I was right!” she told her grandmother. “It’s is my tooth tree. But I have a new tooth already. I don’t need it!”

“I don’t think this is a tooth tree, Aneni” her grandmother explained. “This is your wish come true. You wished for more apples like the one you ate that morning. This will be an apple tree with delicious apples on it!”

Answer the questions

Put the pictures in the order you read about them in the story.



1. Why was Aneni worried about her teeth?
2. What did her grandmother tell her to do with her tooth?
3. Where did Aneni put her tooth?
4. What did Aneni believe was growing?
5. What was really growing in the garden?

Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentences.

bite grow water carry wish stir

1. Can you _____ the sadza in this cooking pot, please?
2. Does your dog _____?
3. I _____ I had a bicycle.
4. We always _____ our plants in the morning.
5. Don't stop working. _____ on!
6. When I _____ up, I want to be a teacher.

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. a gourd | a) not usual |
| 2. explain | b) tasting very good |
| 3. strange | c) a kind of pumpkin |
| 4. crunch | d) to make an idea clear |
| 5. delicious | e) the noise when you eat something hard |



A circle game

Before you read

- What games do you like playing?
- What is happening in this picture?
- Which way do the hands on a clock move?



I'm Mbada. I like playing games.

This is my favourite game. We play it at school.

We all make two circles. The smaller circle is on the inside.

The bigger circle is on the outside.

The children on the inside go to their left. They dance clockwise.

The children on the outside go to their right. They dance anticlockwise.

One child in the middle sings a song.

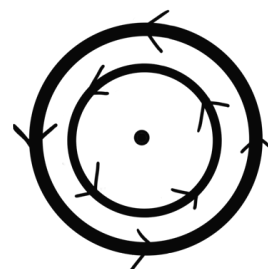
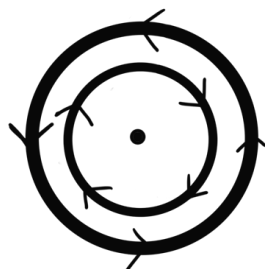
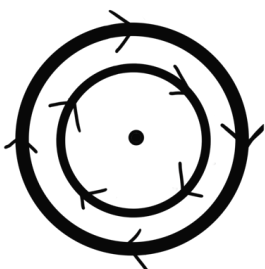
Everybody in both circles copies the song.

After the song is finished, we have a different singer.

Sometimes we make mistakes. It is funny when we make mistakes.

We laugh a lot when we play this game.

Choose the best diagram to describe this game.



Are these sentences true or false?

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Mbada doesn't like playing games. | True / False |
| 2. Mbada plays this game at school. | True / False |
| 3. There are two circles in this game. | True / False |
| 4. The children all dance clockwise. | True / False |
| 5. One child sings a song first. | True / False |
| 6. They never make mistakes. | True / False |
| 7. The children laugh when they play the game. | True / False |

Looking at words

Choose the right word.

clap sing play make

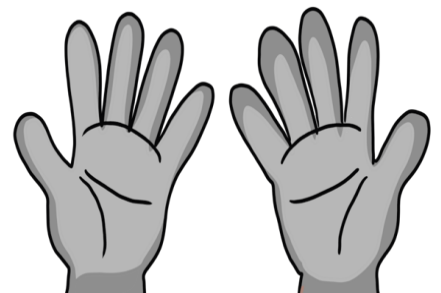
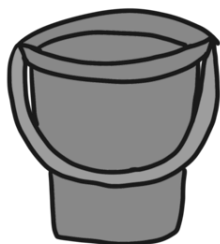
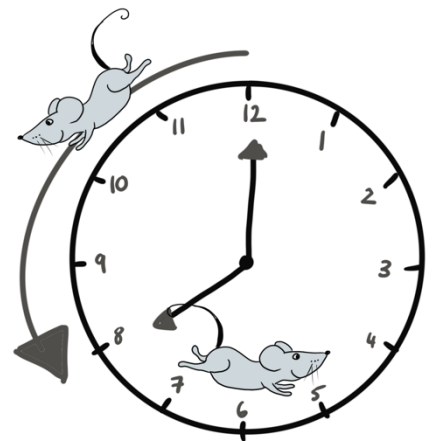
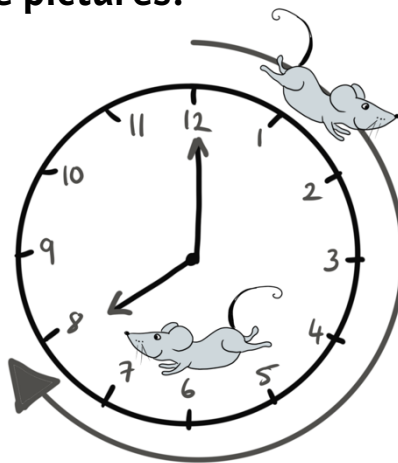
1. It is OK if you _____ a mistake.
2. Let's _____ a song.
3. Would you like to _____ a game?
4. _____ your hands now!

Match the words with the pictures.

left / right

inside / outside

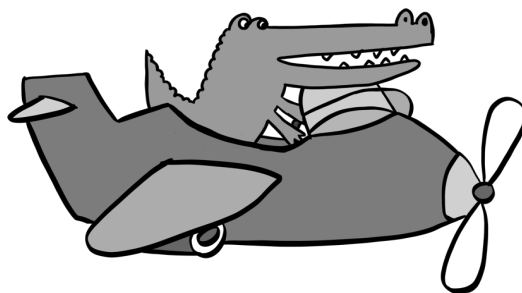
clockwise / anticlockwise



The magic pen

Before you read

- How often do you have homework?
- Where do you usually do it?



One day Msiszi's grandfather gave her a pen. "Take good care of this pen, he told her, "It's very special." It looked like any other pen, but Msiszi thanked her grandfather anyway.

That evening, Msizi took out the pen to start her homework. She had English homework to do. She had to write 20 sentences using words they learnt in class that day. Msiszi was sleepy, but she wanted to finish her homework before it got dark. She picked up the piece of paper with the list of words, and she put her pen to the paper.

"What was the first word from the lesson? Ah yes, 'usually', I think." she said to herself. She looked down at the paper, and she was very surprised. The sentences were already there, in her own handwriting.

"I don't understand. I've finished all my homework, but I don't remember doing it," she thought. "It must be the pen! It's magic."

On the way to school the next day, Msiszi told her friend Noxolo about her magic pen.

"I'll never need to do any homework again!" she told Noxolo.

Noxolo looked at Msiszi's homework and shook her head.

"I'm not sure about that. Look at the answers you wrote here..."

Msiszi looked at the sentences on her piece of paper.

The pink crocodile usually flies round the village in a fat aeroplane.

Our brave cow sometimes sits in my coat pocket.

My angry pumpkin never eats sad elephants.

Your dangerous grandmother often sneezes angrily.

My purple dog hardly ever rides a bike to school.

His noisy chair always wakes me up in the afternoon.

"What silly sentences! Your pen might be magic," Noxolo laughed, "but I don't think it is a very good student!"

"You're right." said Msiszi. "I like my pen's silly sentences, but I'll have to do my homework the normal way!"

Match the questions with the answers.

1. What kind of story is this?
2. Where did Msiszi get her pen?
3. What homework did Msiszi have?
4. What happened when she started to write?
5. Who did she show her homework to?
6. What was special about the sentences?
7. What is Msiszi going to do in the future?



- a. Her pen wrote the homework for her.
- b. To Noxolo, her friend.
- c. To do her own homework.
- d. A funny story about a pen.
- e. They were very silly.
- f. Some sentences in English.
- g. From her grandfather.

Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentences.

dark silly surprised sleepy care

1. Please take _____ of your brother this afternoon.
2. When it gets _____, I put the chickens in their chicken house.
3. Don't be _____ in lessons!
4. I was _____ to see a dog in the classroom.
5. I'm feeling very _____ tonight.

Write some of your own silly sentences using these words

| | adjective | noun | How often? | verb | extra information |
|-------|-----------|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| My | silly | elephant | always | flies | to school |
| Our | clean | teacher | sometimes | drinks | in the morning. |
| Your | clever | goat | often | sleeps | at home. |
| Her | sleepy | pencil | usually | laughs | in bed. |
| Their | scary | house | hardly ever | dances | at night. |
| His | pink | jacket | never | rides a bike | on the table |

My pink goat sometimes dances on the table.

Four famous Zimbabweans

Before you read

- Look at the pictures. What do you think these people do?
- Do you know any of these people?

Knowledge Musona was born in 1990, in Mashonaland West. He is a professional footballer.

He plays for the Zimbabwean national team and for a football team in Belgium.



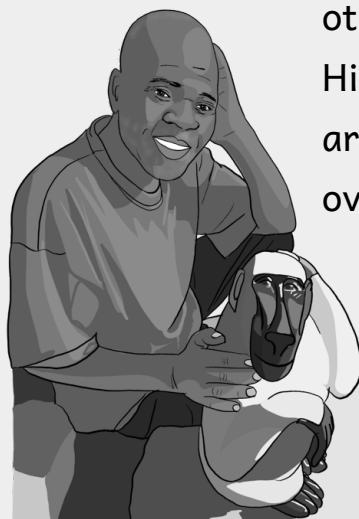
NoViolet Bulawayo was born in 1981 in Tscholotsho. She is a writer. She writes novels and short stories. She studied in the US. Her books often win prizes.



Hope Masike was born in 1984 in Harare. She is a musician, singer and dancer. She plays traditional and modern music. People often call her The Princess of the Mbira.



Sylvester Mubayi was born in 1942, near Marondera. He is a sculptor. He makes stone sculptures of animals, people and other shapes. His sculptures are famous all over the world.



Answer the questions

Complete the table.

| Name | Year of Birth | Place of Birth | Occupation |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| Knowledge Musona | 1990 | | |
| NoViolet Bulawayo | | | |
| Hope Masike | | | |
| Sylvester Mubayi | | | |

True or False?

1. Knowledge sometimes plays for the United States football team.
2. Sylvester was born before Hope.
3. Hope only plays modern music.
4. NoViolet's books win prizes.
5. Sylvester makes stone animals.
6. Hope can dance.

Looking at words

Match the words with the pictures.

1. mbira
2. sculpture
3. team
4. prize



Complete the sentences with the missing words.

1. He plays music. He is a _____.
2. They play football. They are football _____.
3. I write books. I am a w_____.
4. We sing songs. We are _____.
5. She dances. She is a _____.
6. He makes sculptures. He is a _____.

I've never seen that

Before you read

- Look at the pictures. What can you see?
- Match the words **in bold** with things in the pictures

I've never seen a **zebra** play the **drums**.

I've never seen a mouse that was good at sums.

I've never heard a flower whisper my name.

I've never seen a rabbit win a card game.

Never seen a **shoe** bite. Never seen a shark fight.

Never seen an elephant **dancing** down the street.

Never heard a bee sing. Never seen a tree sting.

Never seen a monkey with **shoes upon his feet**.

I've never seen a snail without its home.

I've never seen a **wildebeest** using a **comb**.

I've never seen a crocodile **drive a car**.

I've never seen a rhino **play the guitar**.

Never seen a snake fly. Never seen a cake cry

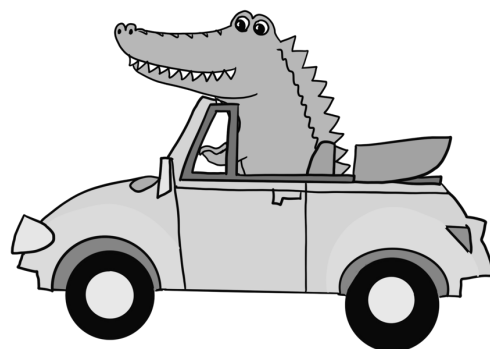
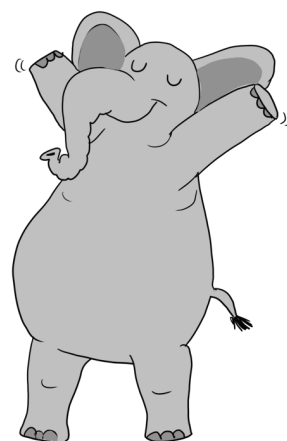
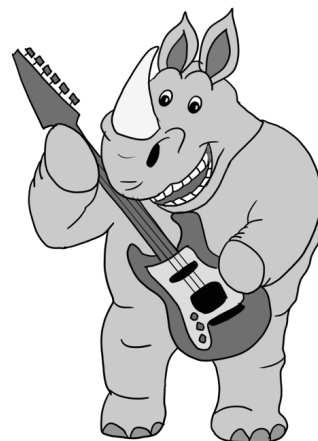
Never seen a blue pig nor a dog get on a bus.

Never heard a cat talk. Never seen a hat walk

Never seen a giraffe kiss a hippopotamus.

I've never seen a lot of things, it's more than a few,

And I've never seen a friend who is nicer than you.



Answer the questions

Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

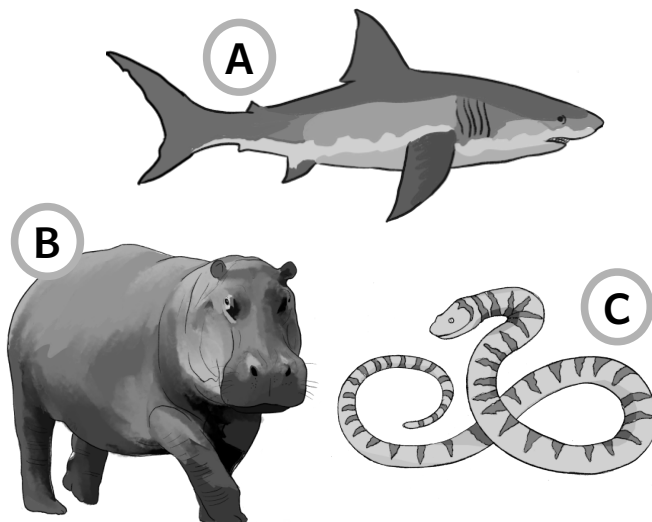
comb monkey zebra guitar shoe crocodile elephant

1. The _____ is dancing.
2. The rhino is playing the _____.
3. The _____ is driving.
4. The wildebeest is using a _____
5. The _____ is wearing shoes.
6. The _____ is biting.
7. The _____ is playing a drum.

Looking at words

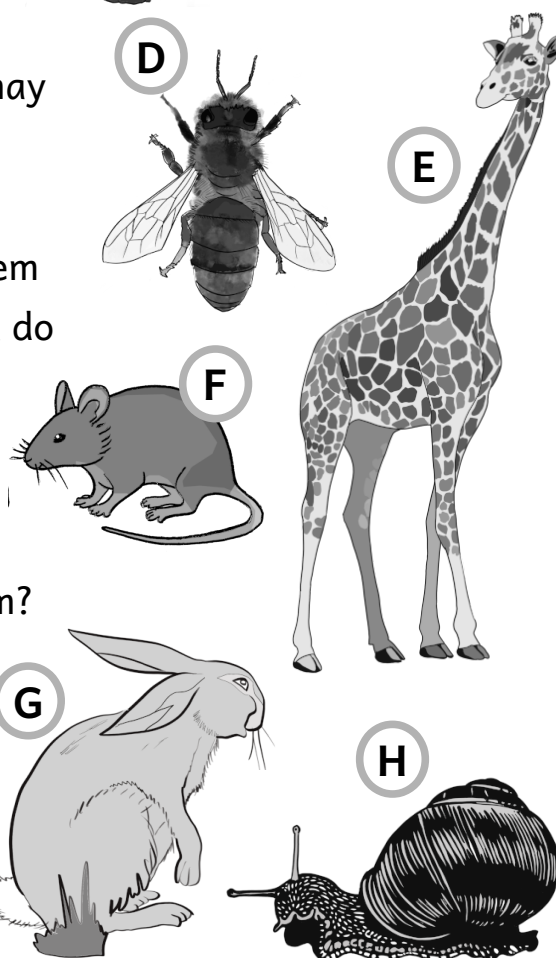
Match the words with the pictures.

mouse bee rabbit snake
snail hippopotamus giraffe



Match the words with the meanings

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. sums | a) If you touch a bee, it may do this to you. |
| 2. whisper | b) To speak very quietly. |
| 3. cards | c) You can play games them |
| 4. bite | d) You do these when you do maths. |
| 5. sting | e) To cut with your teeth. |



Rhythm

Read the poem aloud. Can you hear a rhythm?

Say the poem again, and tap the rhythm.

Writing

Write some silly sentences beginning with

‘I’ve never seen...’

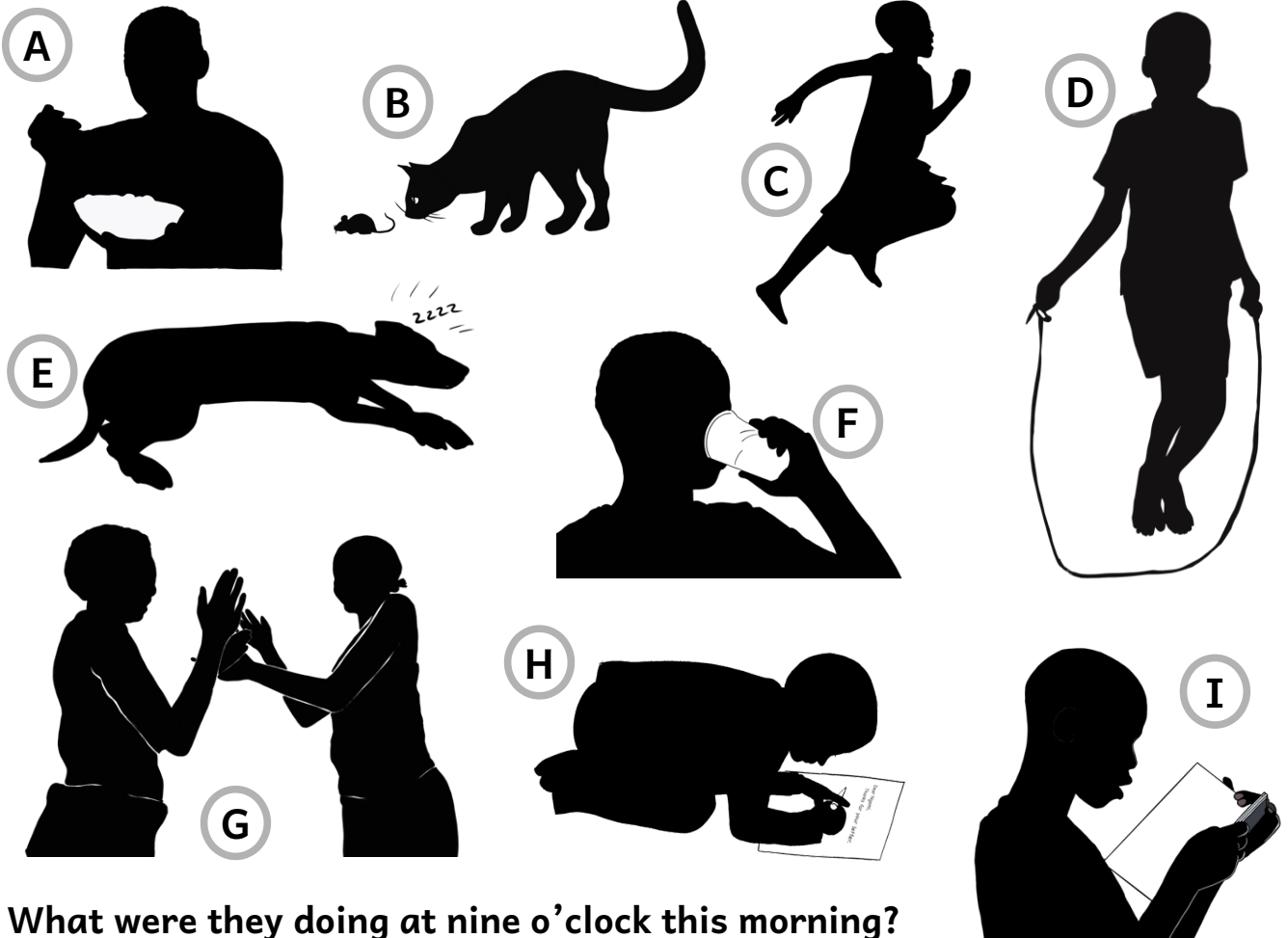
Your sentences can be as silly as you like!

What were they doing?

Before you read

Match the words with the pictures.

run clap hunt skip read write eat walk drink sleep



What were they doing at nine o'clock this morning?

Match the people with the pictures.

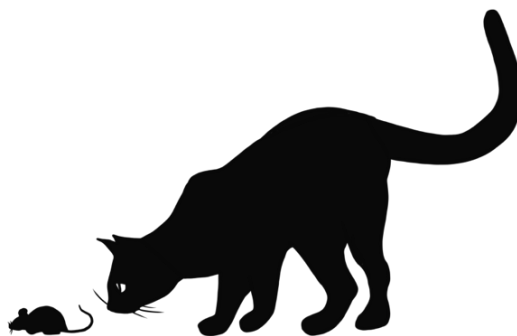
1. Sandile was reading a book.
2. Chokwadi was eating some sadza.
3. Miriro was drinking a glass of water.
4. Dadirai was skipping.
5. Masimba was writing a letter.
6. Rudo was running to school.
7. The dog was sleeping.
8. Ngoni and his mother were walking.
9. Thandi and Lindiwe were playing clapping games.
10. The cat was hunting a mouse.



Answer the questions

Match the questions and the answers.

1. Was Sandile reading a book?
2. Was Rudo running home?
3. What was Dadirai doing?
4. What were Thandi and Lindiwe doing?
5. Were Ngoni and his mother eating?
6. Was the dog sleeping?
7. Were Thandi and Lindiwe playing clapping games?
8. Who was writing a letter?



- a. She was skipping.
- b. They were clapping.
- c. Masimba was.
- d. Yes, they were.
- e. No, they weren't. They were walking.
- f. Yes, it was.
- g. No, she wasn't.
- h. Yes, he was.

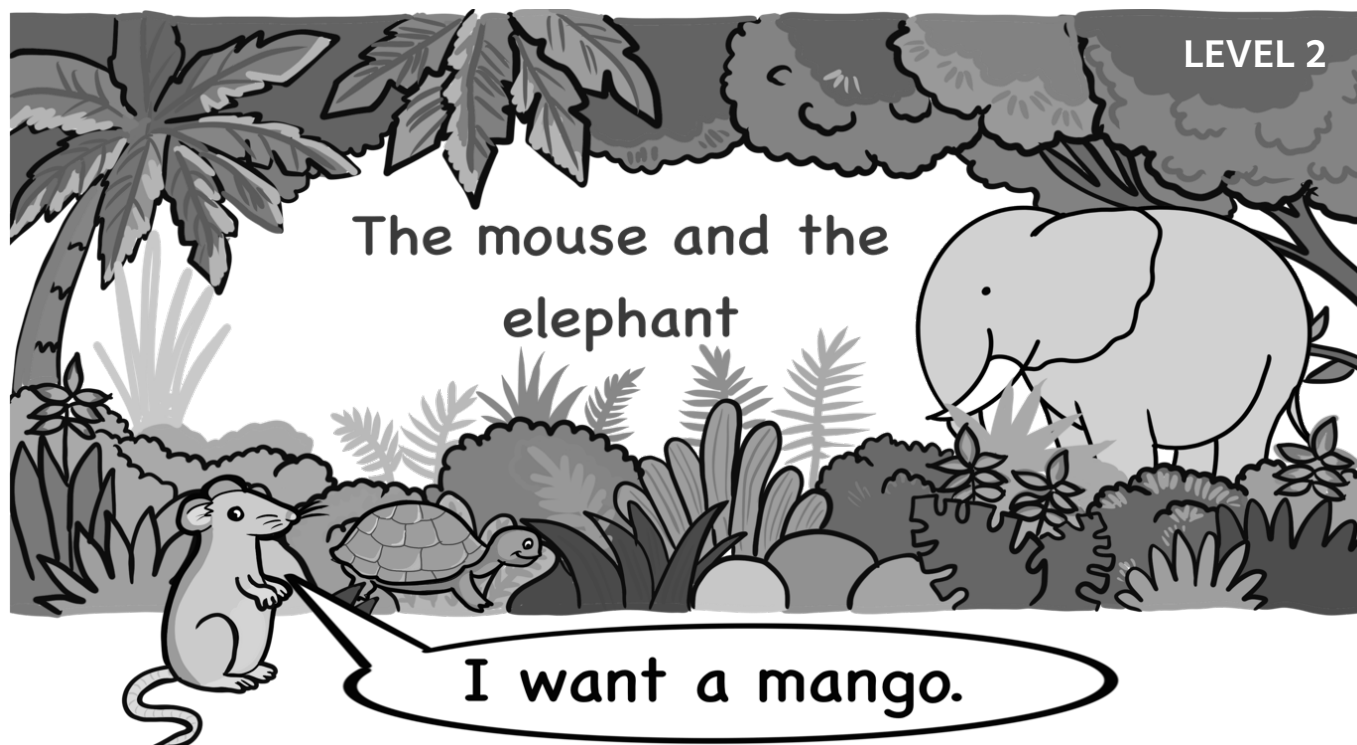


Change the word to the *-ing* ending.

| | | | |
|----------------|------|-------|------|
| read – reading | run | write | walk |
| hunt | clap | drink | eat |

Match the half sentences.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. I was writing... | a. a mouse |
| 2. My brother was eating... | b. all afternoon. |
| 3. We were playing... | c. a glass of water |
| 4. I was walking... | d. a banana. |
| 5. The cat was hunting... | e. a letter to my cousin. |
| 6. My sister was drinking... | f. a game of football. |
| 7. The babies were sleeping... | g. playing skipping games. |
| 8. My friends and I like... | h. home with my friends. |



The mouse and the elephant

I want a mango.

Before you read

Find these things in the pictures on other side of the card.

a mango a mouse an elephant an elephant's trunk
an elephant's back a branch a snake a cheetah

A mouse was hungry. He saw some mangoes high in a tree. "I want a mango," he said.

There was an elephant under the tree. The mouse went up the elephant's leg. He ran between the elephant's ears. Then he went onto the elephant's head. Then the mouse went up the elephant's trunk and into the tree.

Then the mouse saw a snake. The snake was asleep on a branch. The mouse went under the snake.

Next, the mouse saw a cheetah. The cheetah was asleep in the tree too. The mouse went above the cheetah. The cheetah started to wake up.

"Shh! Quiet, now!" said the mouse. The cheetah went back to sleep.

The mouse found two delicious mangoes.

"One mango for me and one for the elephant," he said. He picked the mangoes.

The mouse dropped the mangoes down from the tree. One! Two!

The elephant took the first mango. The second mango fell to the ground.

The mouse jumped out of the tree, and onto the elephant's back.

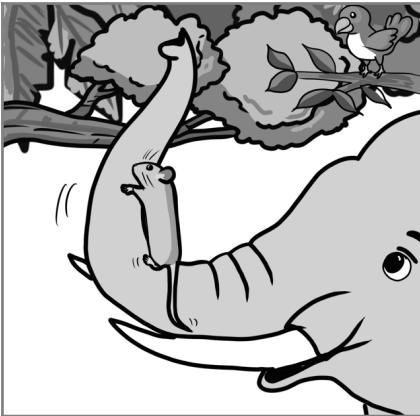
"Thank you, Elephant!" said the mouse.

"Thank you, Mouse!" said the elephant.

The mouse ate his mango. "Mmm. I like mangoes," he said.

Put the pictures in the right order.

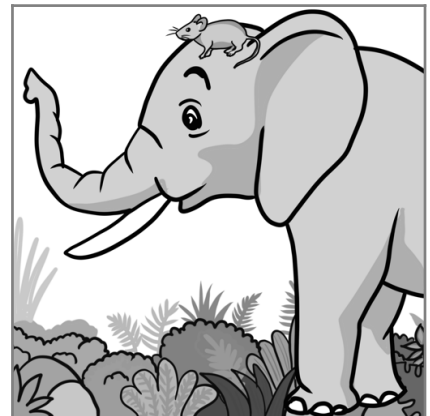
A.



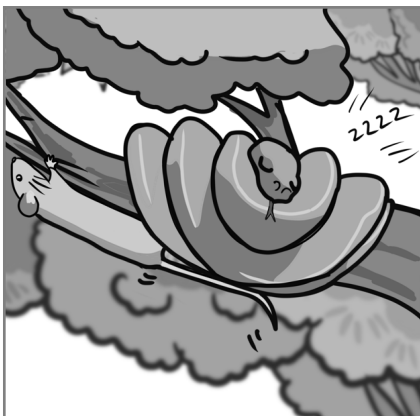
B.



C.



C.



D.



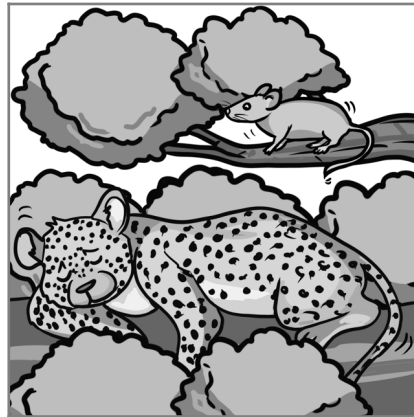
E.



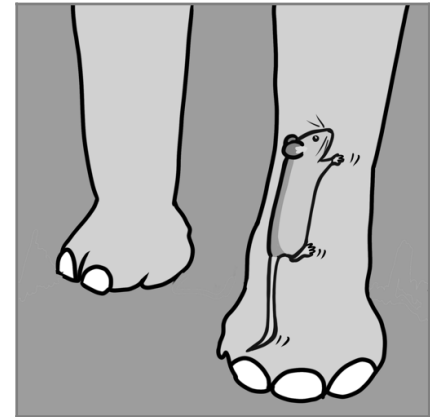
F.



G.



H.



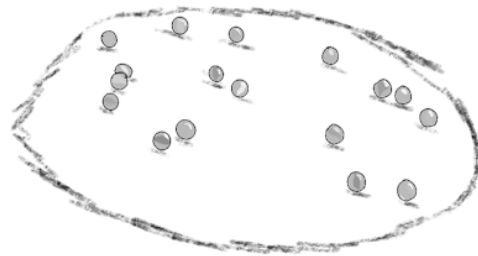
Write a summary of the story. Write about 50 to 100 words.

A mouse saw some mangoes in a tree. He...

A game of marbles

Before you read

- What are the boys doing in the picture?
- Do you play games like this?
- What can you use if you don't have marbles?



My name is Sipho.

I have two good friends.

Their names are Chamirai and Masimba.

We like playing marbles.

I draw a circle on the ground.

We throw one marble into the circle.

The winner throws the marble very near to another one.

Masimba is very good at marbles.

I'm not very good yet, but I'm learning, and I'm getting better.

We have lots of fun.

Playing marbles is my favourite game.

Answer the questions

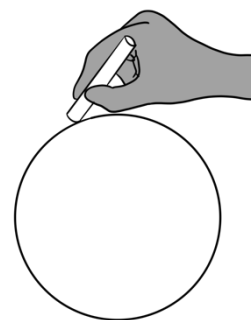
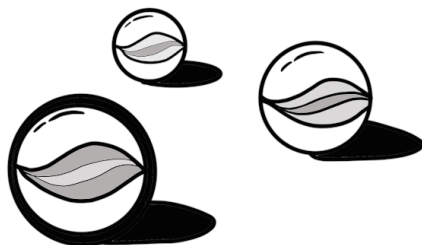
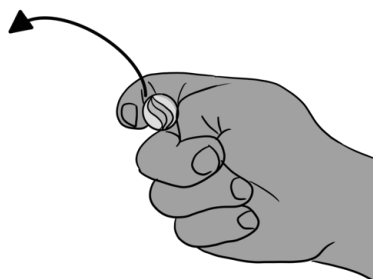
Match the questions and answers.

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. How many good friends does Sipho have? | a. a circle |
| 2. Who is good at playing marbles? | b. Two |
| 3. Who isn't good at playing marbles yet? | c. Masimba |
| 4. What do they draw on the ground? | d. Marbles |
| 5. What is Sipho's favourite game? | e. They throw them. |
| 6. What do they do to the marbles? | f. Sipho |

Looking at words

Match the words with the pictures.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. some marbles | 2. to draw a circle | 3. to throw a marble |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|



Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

throw are is like have draw

1. I _____ fun when I play with my friends.
2. I _____ playing marbles.
3. We _____ a circle on the ground.
4. I _____ a marble to hit another one.
5. Marbles _____ my favourite game.
6. Chamirai and Masimba _____ my best friends.

Choose the best word for the sentence.

1. I can't **play / to play / playing** marbles today. I'm too busy.
2. Are you good at **throw / to throw / throwing** a ball?
3. I am learning **write / to write / writing** English.
4. **Play / Playing / Played** with my friends is fun.
5. Do you like **draw / drawing / drew** pictures?

Writing

Write about how to play a game you know.

The snail and the apple tree

Before you read

- What do you know about snails?
- Have you ever seen an apple tree?
- When can you pick fruit from fruit trees?



It was a beautiful day in spring. The flowers on the trees were opening. The pink and white blossom was beautiful. On the trunk of an apple tree there was a snail. It was climbing up the tree trunk very slowly. A green beetle was coming down the tree trunk the other way. The beetle met the snail.

“Hello, snail! Where are you going?” asked the green beetle.

“I’m going to eat the apples on this tree. They’ll be delicious,” replied the snail.

“But that’s silly, snail!” said the beetle. “It’s spring! Don’t you know that there are no apples on the tree at this time of year? They won’t be ready yet. It’s only flowers and leaves at the moment. You’ll have to wait until the autumn for apples.”

The snail smiled.

“Yes, that is true, I know,” said the snail, “But by the time I get to the top of the tree, the apples will be ripe!”



Match the questions with the answers.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What time of year is it in the story? | a. Up the tree. |
| 2. Who does the snail meet? | b. Because the snail is so slow. |
| 3. Which direction is the snail going? | c. It's spring. |
| 4. Which direction is the beetle going? | d. To eat the apples. |
| 5. Why is the snail climbing the tree? | e. Down the tree. |
| 6. Why does the beetle call the snail 'silly'? | f. A green beetle. |
| 7. Why will the apples be ripe when the snail reaches the top of the tree? | g. Because it is the wrong time of year for apples. |

Looking at words

Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

1. *By / On / In / Over* the time I get home it will be dark.
2. Don't eat this *yet / already / by / until* you get to school.
3. I'm not hungry *of / at / by / with* the moment.
4. Are you ready *until / soon / till / yet*?
5. The trees have flowers *at / in / on / for* spring.

Put the words into the right boxes.

autumn beautiful blossom delicious flowers leaves
ready ripe spring summer trunk winter

| Seasons | Parts of a tree | Describing words |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| autumn | | |

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ripe | a) a small living thing with six legs |
| 2. beetle | b) the opposite of bottom |
| 3. shake | c) the opposite of quickly |
| 4. top | d) ready to eat |
| 5. snail | e) the opposite of happily |
| 6. sadly | f) a small animal with a shell |
| 7. slowly | g) to move from side to side |



The Animal Fair

Before you read

What animals can you see in the pictures?

I went to the Animal Fair.

The birds and beasts were there.

The big baboon

By the light of the moon

Was combing his golden hair.

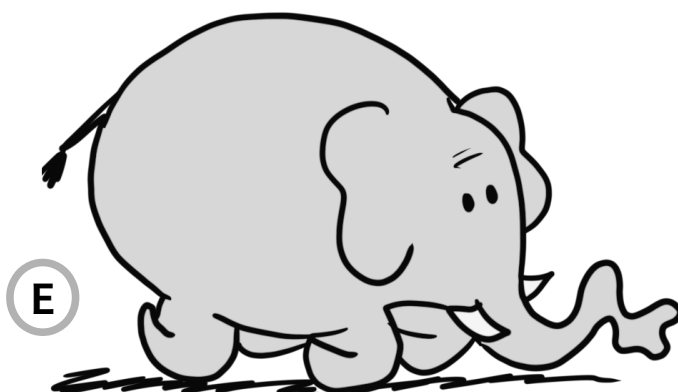
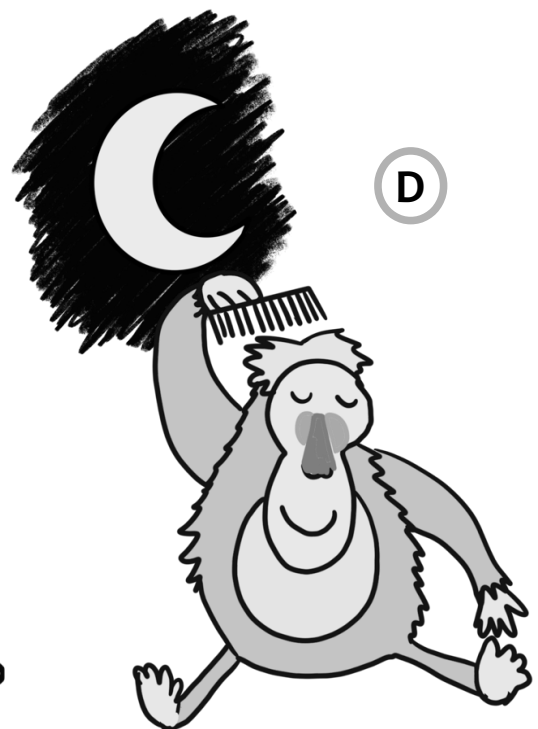
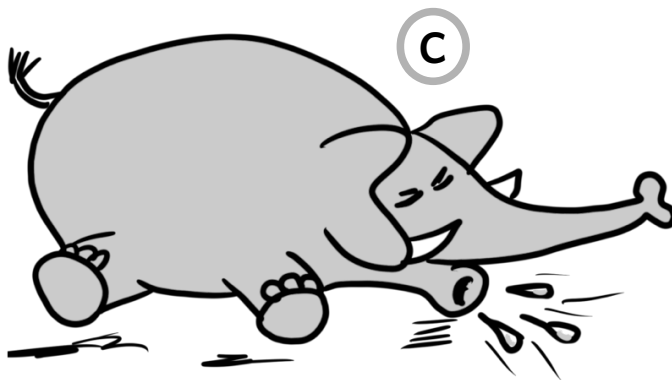
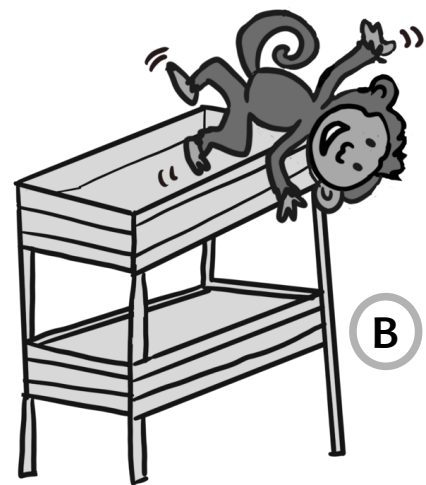
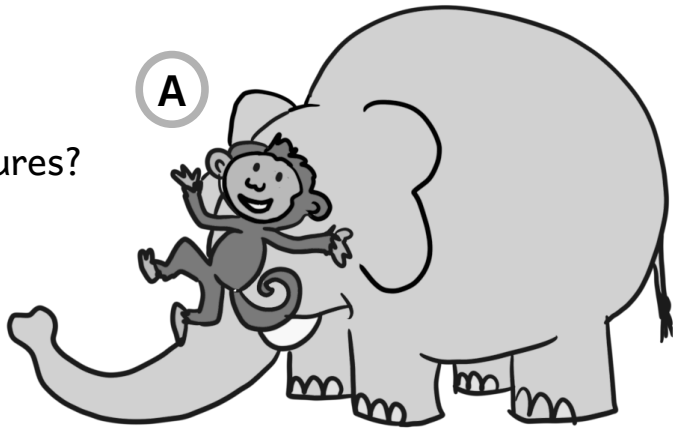
The monkey fell out of his bunk,

And slid down the elephant's trunk.

The elephant sneezed and fell to his knees

But what became of the monkey?

Monkey, monkey, monkey, monkey...

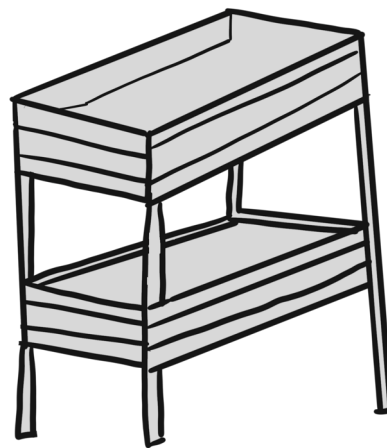


Read or sing the song, and put the pictures in the right order.

Looking at words

Find the past forms of these words in the song.

1. go w _____
2. fall f _____
3. slide s _____
4. sneeze s _____
5. become b _____



Match the words to the definitions.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. comb | a. you can see it in the sky at night |
| 2. trunk | b. animals |
| 3. knee | c. something you use to make your hair tidy |
| 4. moon | d. a kind of bed |
| 5. sneeze | e. the long nose of an elephant |
| 6. beasts | f. the part of the leg that bends in the middle |
| 7. bunk | g. to loudly push air from your mouth |



Find the rhyming words in the poem.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| fair | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| baboon | _____ |
| bunk | _____ |
| sneezed | _____ |



You can sing this song as a 'round'. Three or four groups start singing at different times. The first group starts, 'I went to the Animal Fair'. When they begin the second line, the second group starts the first line. This carries on until everyone is singing. When your group gets to the last line, you carry on singing *monkey, monkey, monkey*, until everyone finishes.