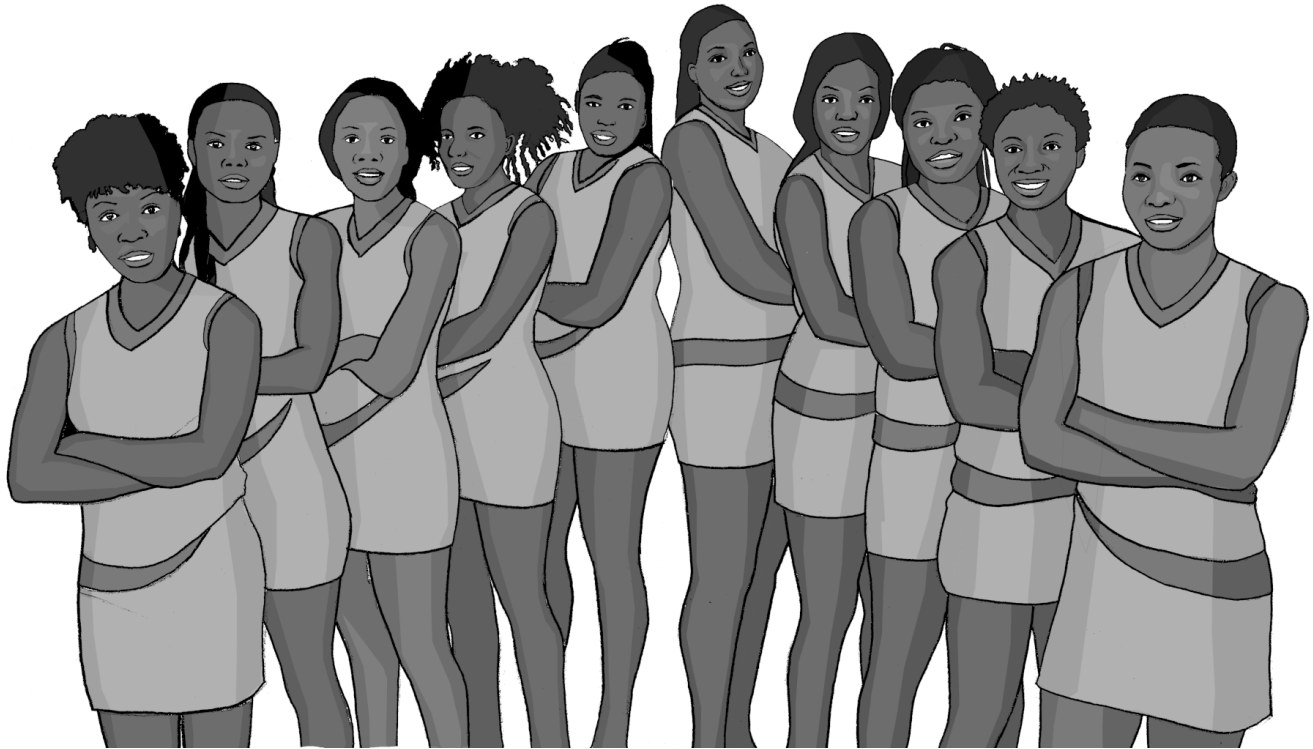


The Zimbabwe Gems

Before you Read

- What do you know about netball?
- Have you ever played netball?
- What do you know about Zimbabwe's national netball team?



The Gems are Zimbabwe's national netball team. In 2019 they played for the first time in the Netball World Cup. To qualify for the World Cup, they played many countries in Africa and won every match except one. Then they travelled to Liverpool, England and they played national teams from countries around the world. They were cheered by lots of very enthusiastic fans, and the matches were watched on TV by millions of people.

In total, there were 16 countries in the tournament, and the Gems finished 8th – a very good result, considering that they were playing against the very best teams in the world.

“You look at Zimbabwe and they had trust between every single player on that court,” said Northern Ireland's coach after the Gems beat his team “They were amazing!”

The Gems' hard work and excellent playing means that Zimbabwe is now in the list of the world's top netball teams.

Answer the questions

- What is this?
a) a funny story b) a magazine article c) a true story about a person
- Why was 2019 a special year for the Gems?
- Why did they play against other countries in Africa?
- Why did they travel to England?
- Who watched them play?
- How many teams were in the tournament?
- Who came 8th in the tournament?
- What did another team's coach say about the Gems?



Looking at words

Complete the sentence with words from the text.

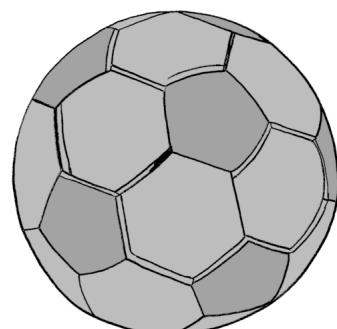
- In netball, two _____ play against each other.
- A netball _____ lasts for 60 minutes.
- Netball is played on a netball _____.
- Each team has seven _____ on the court.

Find words in the text with the meanings

- To be good enough to enter a competition: _____
- To shout for your team _____
- A person who likes a sports team _____
- A sports competition _____
- A place where people play netball and tennis _____
- A person who teaches people to do a sport _____

Writing

Choose a sport you know. How do you play it?
Explain the rules.



The Magic Pumpkin

Before you Read

- Do you like eating pumpkin?
- Have you ever planted a pumpkin seed?
- What is the biggest pumpkin you have ever seen?



One day Miriro was walking home when she saw an old lady with a big pile of firewood. It was heavy and it was difficult for the old lady to carry it, so Miriro stopped to help her. When Miriro reached the old lady's hut, the woman thanked her and put a pumpkin seed into her hand.

"This is a special seed," she told Miriro. "Plant it and water it well. Don't pick it until it tells you it's ready."

When Miriro got back home, she planted the seed in her garden. The next day, when she looked at the spot, she was amazed to see that the plant was already growing, and it had one pumpkin on it. Every day, the pumpkin grew bigger and bigger. Miriro gave the plant lots of water and looked after it well. After a week, the pumpkin was the size of a large chicken, and Miriro's neighbour said

"Why don't you eat it? It looks good."

But Miriro said, "No, I'll wait. The pumpkin hasn't told me it's ready yet."

The next day, the pumpkin was the size of a goat. "Will you pick it today? It's so enormous!" her neighbour asked again, but Miriro shook her head. "No, not yet."

The next day, the pumpkin was the size of a cow, but still Miriro said, "This pumpkin hasn't told me that it's ready. I'll wait." At the end of the second week the pumpkin was bigger than Miriro's hut. She put her hand on the side of the huge yellow pumpkin. "Are you ready yet, pumpkin?" she asked.

Suddenly there was a big noise. Crack! The pumpkin burst open. From the pumpkin flew up thousands of seeds in the air. They flew into the sky and fell in every garden in the village. They all grew into the best pumpkin plants anyone had ever seen. Everyone in the village was very pleased.

Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) facts about pumpkins b) a traditional story c) a newspaper story
2. Why did Miriro stop on her way home?
3. What did the old lady give to Miriro?
4. What did Miriro do when she got home?
5. Why was Miriro amazed?
6. What did her neighbour want her to do?
7. How big was the pumpkin when it burst open?
8. What happened to the pumpkin seeds?

Looking at words

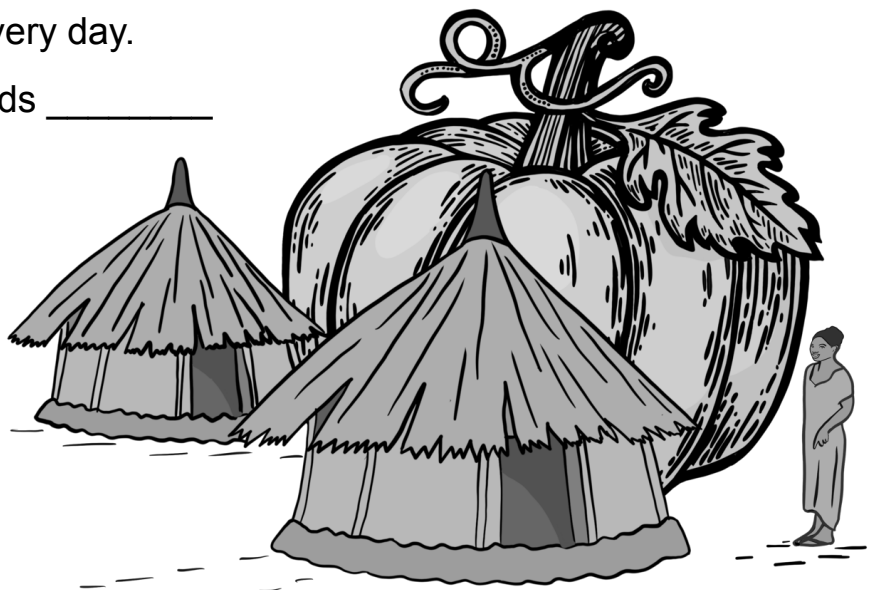
Find three words that mean big

h_____ e_____ l_____

Choose a word to complete the sentences.

carry look after fly pick plant thank

1. When the fruit is ready, we can _____ it from the tree.
2. I want to _____ you for helping me today.
3. Can you help me _____ some firewood, please?
4. I'm going to _____ this seed tomorrow.
5. I _____ the goats every day.
6. The noise made the birds _____
up into the air.



Night sounds

Before you read

- How long does it take you to fall asleep at night?
- What can you hear when you are trying to sleep?
- What can you hear right now?



The moonlight on my bed at night is keeping me awake.

My sister is snoring and making the bed shake.

I close my eyes right now and tell you what I hear:

A mosquito in the bedroom, buzzing in my ear.

My brother breathing in and out, lying very near.

The crickets in the darkness, singing all night long.

My mother's voice just outside, singing a gentle song.

The sound of the wind moving in the trees.

The noise of the cat, scratching at her fleas.

My father laughing loudly, the baby waking up.

My grandmother pouring water into her cup.

I listen to the sounds of home. I hear myself yawning.

Here comes sleep. until tomorrow morning.



a flea

Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) a story b) facts about sleeping c) a poem
2. Why can't the girl sleep?
3. What two noises is the girl's sister making?
4. Who and what are singing in the poem?
5. What is the weather like?
6. Why do you think the baby wakes up?
7. What does the grandmother do?
8. What happens at the end of the poem?
9. Number the pictures in the order you read about them in the poem.



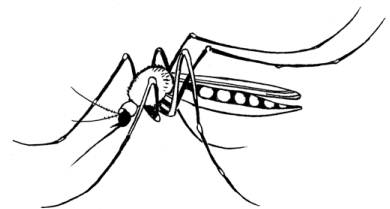
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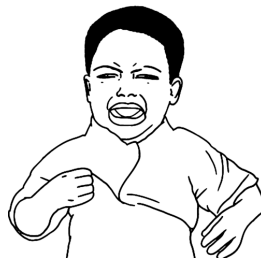
Number ____



Number ____



Number ____



Number ____



Number ____

Looking at words

1. Find three **insects** in the poem.
2. Find five words ending in **-ing**, which talk about sounds.
3. Put the **rhyming words** in the right boxes.

awake bake clear ear fleas hear here keys
knees make near please sees shake take yawning

| | | | |
|------|------|-------|---------|
| cake | year | trees | morning |
| | | | |

Chido Govera

Before you read

- Do you like mushrooms?
- Where do you think they grow?
- Is it easy to grow them?



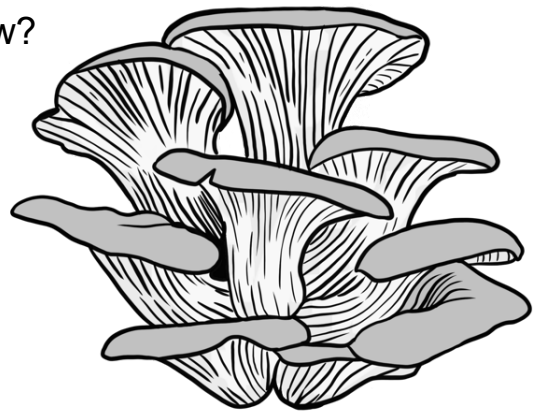
Chido Govera and her brother were orphans. They lived with their grandmother in a small village. They didn't have any land or any money. Chido worked in other people's fields to get a bowl of maize every day to help feed her brother and grandmother. When she was eleven, a woman came to the church in her village. She spoke to a group of girls and young women about farming mushrooms. She invited them to go on a course to learn about mushrooms. Chido was very interested, because she wanted to make money to feed herself, her brother and her grandmother.

Chido learned a lot about mushroom farming. To farm mushrooms, you don't need a lot of money or land. Mushrooms don't need light to grow, so you can farm them inside. Mushrooms can grow in old straw, or the waste from coffee or in the waste from maize plants. You need some plastic bags, some gloves, water and spawn. ('Spawn' is the name for the seeds of the mushrooms.) The mushrooms usually take from one to three weeks to grow.

Chido studied very hard until she became an expert on mushrooms. She made enough money to feed her family. Now Chido travels around Zimbabwe and other countries. She teaches other orphans how to grow mushrooms and to change their lives.

Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) a true story b) a recipe c) a letter
2. What is it about?
a) farming problems b) someone who grows mushrooms c) orphans
3. Who did Chido Govera live with?
4. How did she earn money to buy maize?
5. What did the woman at the church talk to the girls about?
6. What do you not need to grow mushrooms?
7. What is 'spawn'?
8. How long do mushrooms usually take to grow?
9. What does Chido do now?



Looking at words

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1. plastic | a) something you wear on your hands |
| 2. feed | b) dried grass or other plant with long stalks |
| 3. church | c) some lessons teaching you about a subject |
| 4. a course | d) material which you usually throw away |
| 5. straw | e) a man-made material |
| 6. gloves | f) a building where you pray |
| 7. waste | g) to give food to |

Find words for three types of people in the article:

a f_____ an o_____ an e_____

Find words for three things you need to grow mushrooms.

p_____ b_____ w_____ s_____

Unwanted advice

Before you read

- Have you ever ridden on a donkey?
- Do donkeys go fast or slowly?



Once there was a girl called Rufaro, who lived with her mother, Tendo. One day, Tendo wanted to travel with Rufaro to the next village to visit her grandmother. Their donkey wasn't strong enough to carry both mother and daughter, so Tendo put her little girl on the donkey's back and they set off on their journey.

As they were going along the road, they passed a group of strangers. One man pointed at them.

"Look at that!" he said. "That daughter has no respect for her mother. She rides along like a princess, while her poor mother has to walk. Young people today are terrible!"

"Please let me walk instead," said Rufaro to her mother. "I feel embarrassed to ride while you walk. It isn't right."

The mother and daughter changed places. They walked more slowly on their journey until they passed another group of strangers.

"Look at that! That mother doesn't love her poor daughter very much," said one woman. Look how hard it is for her little legs to keep up. The little girl walks behind while the mother lazily rides the donkey. What a bad mother!"

Now Tendo was embarrassed. "Let's both walk, shall we?" she said to her daughter. "That way nobody can complain about us."

They carried on their journey, moving even more slowly now. Then they passed another group of strangers. One boy pointed at the pair and laughed.

"Look at that pair of idiots!" he said. They have a donkey, but they aren't riding it! Have you ever seen anything so stupid?"

At this the mother and daughter started to laugh.

"I think I understand now," said Tendo. "Whatever you do, someone will think badly of you!"

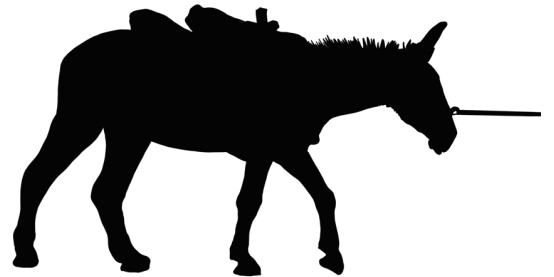
Answer the questions

1. What is this story about?
 - a) a long journey
 - b) how to travel with donkeys
 - c) what other people think about you
2. How did the words of the strangers make Rufaro and Tendo feel?
3. What does the title of the story mean? Do you like getting unwanted advice?
4. What are the messages of the story? Choose the sentences you agree with.
 - a) Don't ride donkeys.
 - b) Don't judge other people.
 - d) Children shouldn't ride donkeys.
 - e) Don't worry about what other people say about you.
 - f) You can't please everyone.
 - g) Only give advice when someone asks for it.
 - h) Strangers' opinions are important.

Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentences.

carry complain ride set point keep



1. You're going too fast! I can't _____ up with you.
2. It was a long journey so we _____ off early in the morning.
3. These bags are too heavy for me to _____.
4. I want to learn to _____ a horse.
5. We all _____ about things we don't like.
6. Don't _____ at people! It's rude.

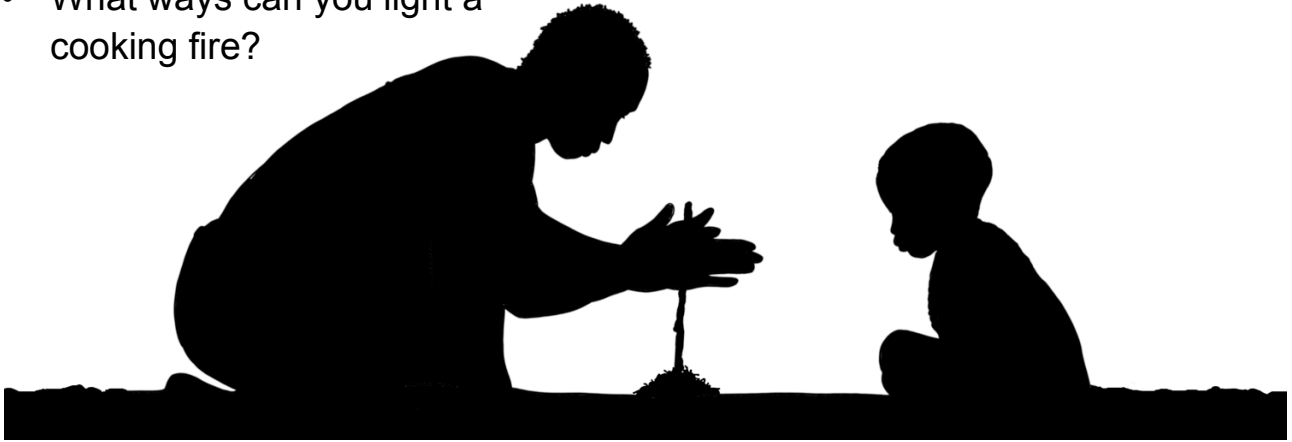
Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. advice | a) a feeling that you trust and admire someone |
| 2. respect | b) feeling bad about yourself, ashamed |
| 3. idiot | c) in a way that shows you don't like working hard |
| 4. embarrassed | d) someone you don't know |
| 6. lazily | e) words telling someone what they should do |
| 7. stranger | f) a stupid person |

Starting a fire without matches

Before you read

- What do you need to cook sadza?
- What ways can you light a cooking fire?



Sibongile was at her home. She was with her grandfather. The other members of her family were working in their field. Grandpa took some pieces of wood, and put them together to make a cooking fire.

“I’m going to cook sadza for lunch,” said Sibongile’s grandpa. “Do you want to help?”

“OK!” said Sibongile. “But first, can I have some water? I’m thirsty.”

Grandpa poured a cup of water for Sibongile. He gave it to her, but the cup fell from her hands.

“Oh dear!” said Grandpa.

Sibongile looked down. Her water had spilled over the box of matches.

“We can’t use these matches today,” said Grandpa, “They’re too wet. And we don’t have any more matches.” Then he smiled. “When I was a child about your age, my grandmother showed me how to start a fire without matches. Maybe I can remember how to do it.”

He took a piece of firewood, and he put some some dry grass and leaves on it. Then he took a stick and put it on the firewood, with one end in the dry grass and leaves. He rubbed the stick between his hands so it went round and round.

“The end of the stick will get hotter and hotter, and that will start a fire,” he said. But for a long time nothing happened.

“I don’t think it’s going to work,” said Sibongile.

“Be patient,” said Grandpa.

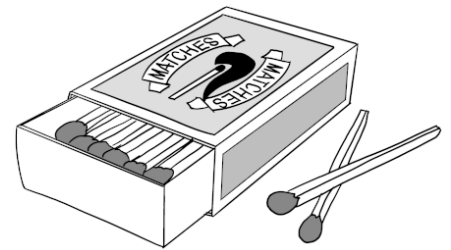
After a few more minutes, a little smoke came from the grass and leaves.

“Blow on it very gently” said Grandpa.

Sibongile blew gently. Then she saw a small flame. The grass and leaves started to burn. Soon they had a good cooking fire.

Answer the questions

- Where was Sibongile?
A. in the field with her family
B. at home alone
C. at home with her grandfather
D. alone in a field
- What did Grandpa ask Sibongile to help him to do?
A. carry water
B. pour a cup of water
C. make a cooking fire
D. cook sadza
- Why couldn't they start a fire?
A. The matches were wet.
B. They didn't have any matches.
C. They didn't have dry wood.
D. They didn't have enough wood.
- How did Grandpa learn to start a fire without matches?
A. He read about it.
B. His grandmother taught him.
C. Sibongile taught him.
D. He doesn't remember how.
- How did Grandpa start the fire?
A. He quickly turned a stick.
B. He rubbed leaves together.
C. He found a piece of hot firewood.
D. He found some more matches.
- Which word shows that Grandpa started the cooking fire?
A. blew
B. gently
C. flame
D. good



Looking at words

Choose the best word to complete the sentences.

- Your grandfather and grandmother are _____ of your family.
A. fields B. members C. pieces D. together
- It was a hot, dry day, and I felt very _____.
A. thirsty B. poured C. wet D. first
- Please _____ some oil into the cooking pot.
A. make B. give C. fall D. pour
- If you have to wait for something, you must be _____.
A. patient B. few C. without D. dry
- If your food is too hot, you can _____ on it to make it cooler.
A. rub B. round C. blow D. show
- When something starts to burn, you see _____.
A. leaves B. smoke C. stick D. hotter

Rindai's statues

Before you read

What do you know about **Great Zimbabwe**?

Who lived there? When was it built?



Rindai is twenty-three years old. She grew up in the mountains, and she has been a sculptor since she was a small child. When she was still very young, her grandfather taught her to carve rock into the shapes of different animals.

Now Rindai sometimes makes statues of people, but most of her sculptures are animals from Zimbabwe. Rindai is fascinated by the eight famous statues of birds from the ruins of Great Zimbabwe. These bird statues were probably carved more than nine hundred years ago. They have long necks, and they are sitting on eggs. These bird statues are a symbol of our country - you can see one on the national flag. Rindai makes very accurate copies of them, but at a smaller size. Making these sculptures is her favourite work.

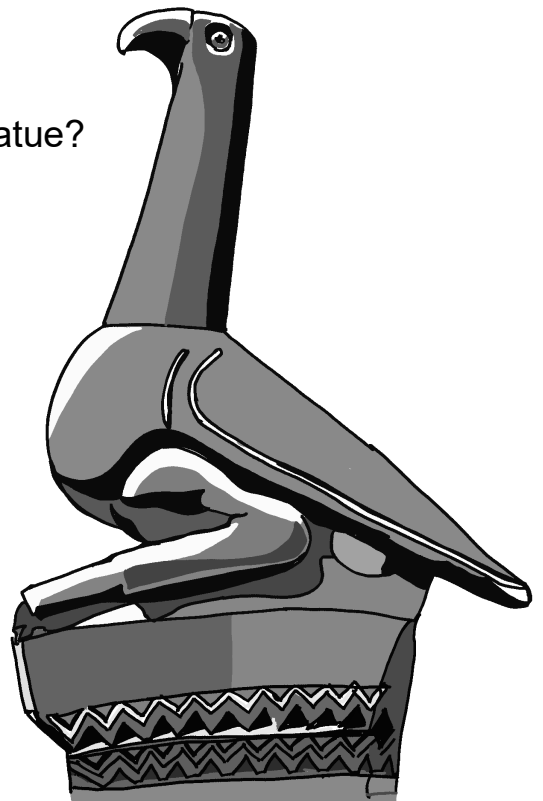
Her statues are carved out of a soft rock called soap stone. It isn't particularly difficult to cut the rock, but her statues are still quite large, even though they are smaller than the originals. It usually takes her three or four days to finish one. She sells her statues in a handicraft centre in Harare. Her birds from Great Zimbabwe are the most popular of her sculptures, and she sells more of them than any other type of sculpture. Visitors from other countries buy many of them. Rindai likes to think of her stone birds flying all over the world to live in other people's homes!

Answer the questions

1. What is this?
a) a story b) information about a job c) a letter
2. What is it about?
a) making statues b) birds of Zimbabwe c) rock
3. How did Rindai learn to make statues?
4. What are her favourite statues?
5. Where does she sell her statues?
6. How many statues of birds were found in the ruins of Great Zimbabwe?
7. How old are these statues?
8. What does Rindai use to make her statues?
9. How long does it take Rindai to make one statue?
10. What are her most popular sculptures?

Looking at words

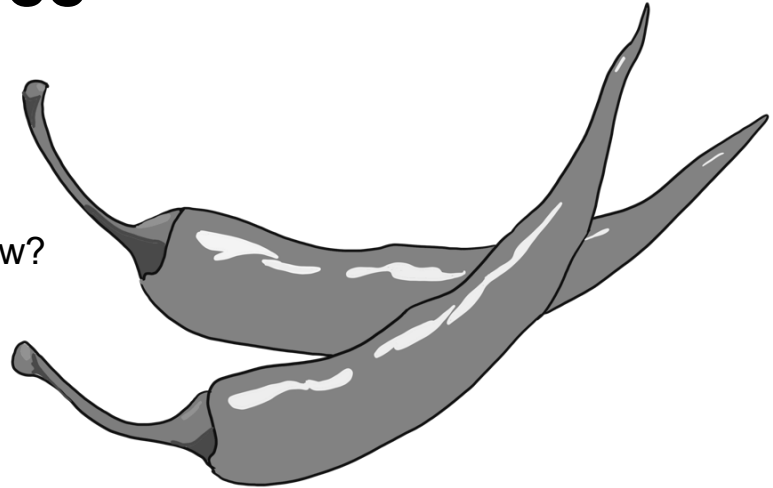
1. What is a **sculptor's** job?
2. What can you buy in a **handicraft** centre?
3. What is the difference between “a building” and “the **ruins** of a building”?
4. What is an **accurate** copy?
5. The text says “These bird statues are a **symbol** of our country.” How are these bird statues a **symbol** of Zimbabwe? Where have you seen them?



A pinch of spice

Before you read

- Do you like spicy food?
- Have you ever made a stew?



Onayi came from a large family. Last spring the family gave a big party for her brother's wedding. They invited lots of family members, and all of them came.

Onayi's grandmother was busy making a beef and vegetable stew for everyone on the fire. People always complimented her on her excellent cooking, and everybody was looking forward to tasting the stew.

For a moment, Grandma left her cooking pot to welcome a new guest to the party. While her back was turned, Onayi said to herself, "Grandma's stew is great, but it'll be even better with a little pinch of spice." She added some, but she didn't mention it to her grandmother.

A little while later, Grandma had to leave her pot again, and Onayi's brother, Regai walked past the pot of stew. He thought to himself, "I like Grandma's stew, but with a little more spicy pepper it'll be amazing!" He added a pinch of spice and walked away. Three more times, Grandma left her stew, and while she was away, Onayi's brothers and sisters each added a pinch of spice. Grandma knew nothing about it. Soon she called out that the food was ready. Everyone gathered round with a bowl in their hands. This stew was going to be the best ever.

Grandma put one spoonful of stew in her mouth, but then spat it out again right away. "Too spicy!" she complained. "Who has spoilt my stew? Nobody can eat it like this. Now I have to add more lots more water and vegetables"

The grandchildren apologised to their grandmother and helped her to chop up more vegetables. "I promise I'll never interfere with your cooking again," said Onayi.

"Not without my permission, no." laughed Grandma, "Do you know the old saying? Too many cooks spoil the broth!"

Answer the questions

- What is this?
 - a funny story with a message
 - A traditional story about magic
 - a magazine article
 - a recipe for stew
- How many people put extra spice in Grandma's stew?
 - two
 - three
 - four
 - five
- What happened to the stew?
 - Grandma threw it away and made more.
 - They ate it, even though it was too spicy.
 - They didn't eat any of it.
 - Grandma added more water and vegetables.
- Which word shows that Grandma was not very angry about what happened?
 - complained
 - laughed
 - apologised
 - spat
- What do you think 'Too many cooks spoil the broth' means?
 - A job is easier with lots of help.
 - Make the best of difficult things.
 - If too many people try to do a job, it won't end well.
 - Do the job now, or it will be more work later.



Looking at words

Choose the best word to complete the sentences.

spoil chop interfere mention spat

- The mango was bad, so I _____ it out.
- The party is a surprise, so please don't _____ it to her.
- If you put too much salt in the soup it will _____ the flavour.
- I need to _____ up some more vegetables.
- I can do this on my own. Please don't _____.

Match the words with the examples.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. apologise | a. "Come to the party!" |
| 2. complain | b. "I won't tell anyone!" |
| 3. invite | c. "I'm sorry!" |
| 4. promise | d. "Good work! That's great." |
| 5. compliment | e. "This is terrible!" |

Writing

- Here are some traditional sayings. What do you think they mean?

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Money doesn't grow on trees.</i> | <i>Many hands make light work.</i> |
| <i>A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.</i> | <i>Better late than never.</i> |
| <i>Don't put all your eggs in one basket.</i> | <i>A stitch in time saves nine.</i> |
- Do you know any other traditional sayings in your home language?
- Write a story based on a traditional saying.

The worry tree

Before you read

- Do you drink tea?
- Where do you think it grows?



Amadika lived with her two brothers, her grandmother and her mother. Her mother worked in a tea plantation.

Every day, Amadika's mother picked the tea leaves very carefully and put them into a basket. Every time the basket was full, she took the tea to a building to dry. It was a difficult job, and the hours were very long.

At the end of the day, after her work was over, Amadika's mother walked slowly back home with her empty basket. Amadika could see from her mother's face how tired she was. Every evening her mother stopped at a tree near the family home. She put her hand on the tree and, then she hung the empty basket from a branch. After this, her face became happy again, and she looked less tired. She went inside the hut and kissed her children.

One evening, Amadika waited for a moment, then asked her mother, "Why do you touch the tree like that and hang the basket up there every day?"

"That is my magic worry tree," her mother explained. "I hang my worries and all the troubles of the day on the tree before I go inside to be with you. I know I shouldn't bring them inside our home, so I leave them there every night."

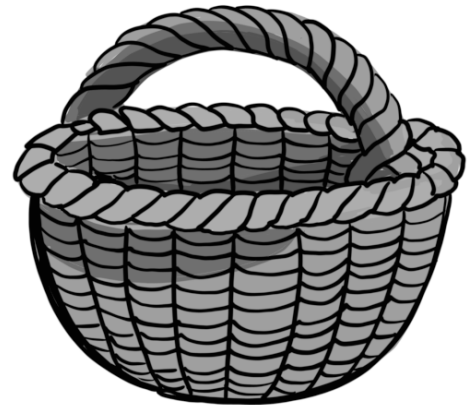
"How is that magic?" asked her daughter.

"Well, the funny thing is, every morning, when I go to pick the basket up again, there are fewer worries and troubles than there were the day before."

Based on a traditional story. There are many different versions of the story, with different characters and different jobs.

Answer the questions

1. How many people does Amadika live with?
2. Where does her mother work?
3. How does her mother feel at the end of the day?
4. What does she do with the basket?
5. How does she look when she goes inside the hut?
6. Why does Amadika's mother leave the basket outside?
7. Do you think the tree is really magic?
8. What is the message of this story?



Looking at words

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. plantation | a) a part of a tree |
| 2. basket | b) problems or difficulties |
| 3. building | c) a container made of grass or twigs |
| 4. branch | d) a large area of land where a crop like tea is grown |
| 5. troubles | e) a house, hut or other shelter |

What are the past forms of these words? They are all in the story.

| | | |
|------|--------|------|
| live | pick | put |
| take | can | stop |
| hang | become | wait |

lived

picked

waited

Say ***lived***, ***picked*** and ***waited***.

How is the sound of **-ed** different?

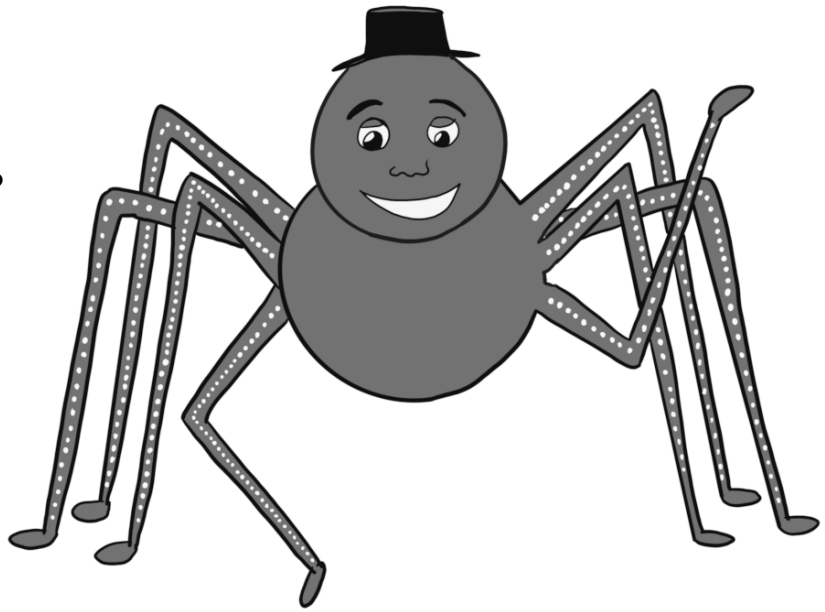
Writing

Choose different job and different people, and write different version of the story with the same message.

Anansi has dinner with turtle

Before you read

- Do you know any stories about Anansi the Spider?
- What is he like?
- Can you trust him?



One evening, Turtle went to visit Anansi the Spider. Turtle could smell a delicious meal. All his favourite foods were on Anansi's table. It was the custom to offer guests food and drink when they arrived, but Turtle knew that Anansi was greedy. He was surprised and pleased when Anansi said, "Please join me for dinner."

Turtle was just about to eat when Anansi said to him, "Your hands are dirty. Aren't you going to wash your hands? It's polite to wash your hands before you eat."

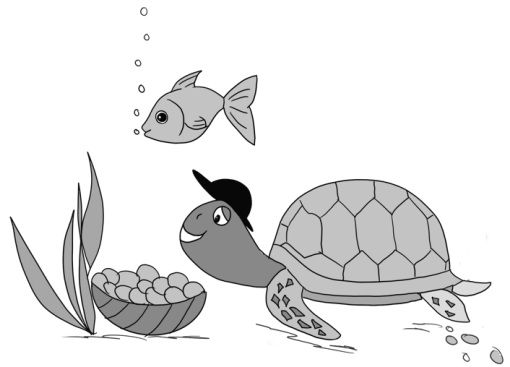
Turtle walked to the water bowl to wash his hands. By the time he got back to the table, the plates were empty and all the food was gone. Anansi had eaten it all. Turtle was angry at Anansi's trick, but he was a polite animal. "Thank you for your kindness, Anansi," he said. "I'd like to invite you to eat with me tomorrow at my house."

The next day, Anansi arrived at Turtle's house. Turtle lived under the water, at the bottom of the river. "Welcome," said Turtle. "Dinner is ready. Please join me at my table." Anansi jumped into the river to eat, but he was too light to stay under water. He just floated on top. He swam back to the land. He put some stones into his coat pockets to make himself heavier and he tried again. This time he sank to the bottom of the river.

He was about to eat his first bite, when Turtle said, "It is polite to take your coat off before you eat, you know." Anansi didn't want to, but he took off his coat. Without his stones, he floated to the top of the water again. Turtle ate all the food by himself. Anansi went home hungry.

Answer the questions

1. What time of day did Turtle visit Anansi?
2. Why was Turtle surprised that Anansi invited him to eat?
3. What does Turtle feel when he says "Thank you for your kindness"?
4. Why couldn't Anansi stay under the water?
5. What did he do to sink to the bottom?
6. Why did Anansi go home hungry?



Looking at words

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1. invite | a) being kind and generous |
| 2. guest | b) what you say when you have a visitor |
| 3. Welcome! | c) a bag in your clothes where you can put things |
| 4. custom | d) a visitor who comes to your home |
| 5. pocket | e) a dish or deep plate |
| 6. bowl | f) a traditional way to act |
| 7. trick | g) to ask someone to do something with you, like eat |
| 8. kindness | h) a clever thing to fool someone |

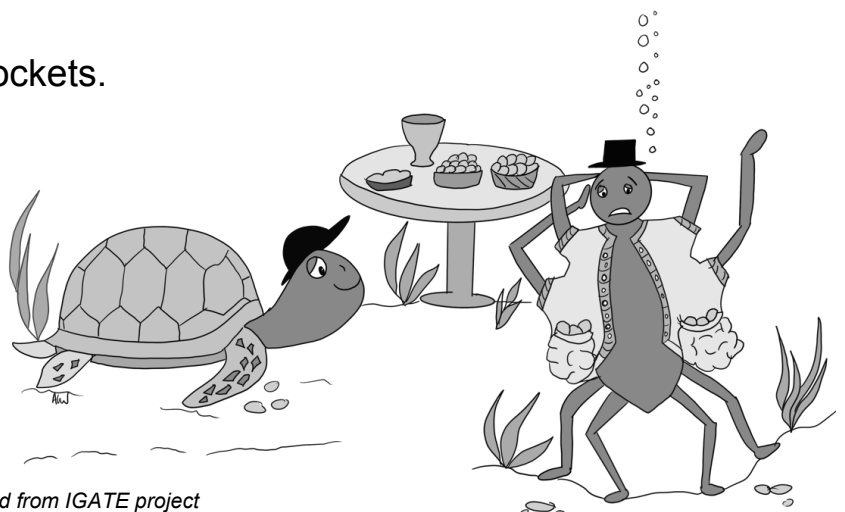
Find words in the story with the opposite meaning.

1. It is _____ to eat without offering some to guests. (*polite*)
2. The stones were very _____ in his pockets. (*light*)
3. I need to wash my hands because they are _____. (*clean*)
4. My brother was _____ with me because I broke his pencil. (*pleased*)
5. If you drop a stone in water it will _____. (*float*)
6. Can I have some water, please? My glass is _____. (*full*)

Writing

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

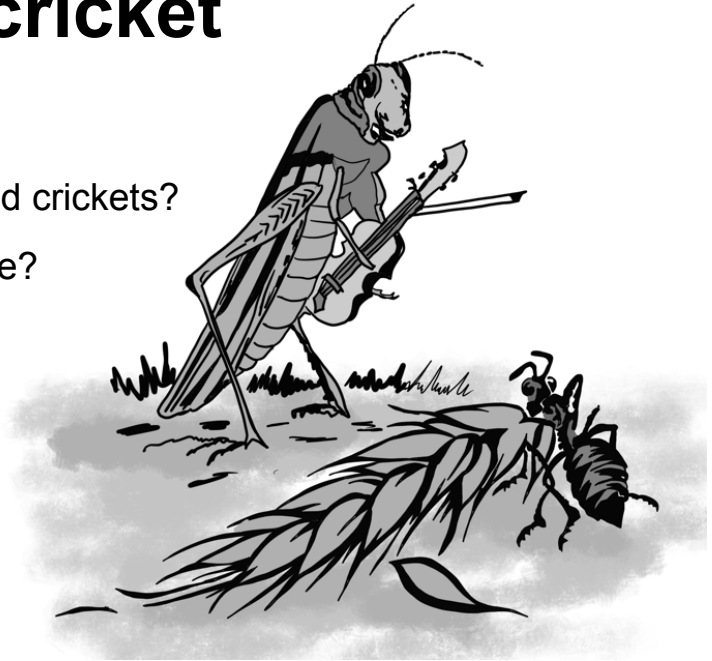
- a. Anansi puts stones in his pockets.
- b. Turtle eats all the food.
- c. Anansi eats all the food.
- d. Turtle visits Anansi.
- e. Anansi visits Turtle.
- f. Anansi takes off his jacket.
- g. Turtle washes his hands.



The ant and the cricket

Before you read

- What do you know about ants and crickets?
- What noise does the cricket make?
- Where do ants live?



An ant and a cricket met when the days were hot and long.
Ant was working hard all day, while Cricket played a song.

“Enjoy the day,” said Cricket. “You work too hard”, he said.
“Winter’s coming,” said the ant. “Without food I’ll be dead.”

“You’re right, of course,” the cricket said, with a voice full of sorrow.
I play and sing for today. You work for tomorrow.”

Winter came, and Ant’s food store was full on every shelf.
She thought, “This food will last for years. It’s only for myself.”

But then she saw poor cricket. He was looking rather thin.
“I told you you’d be hungry now. But never mind, come in.”

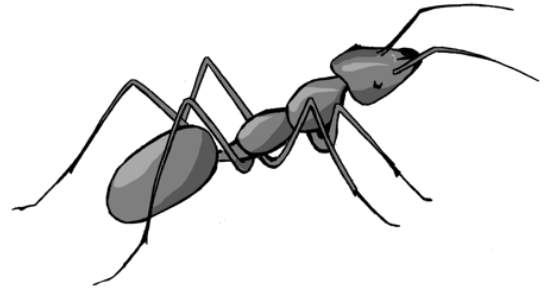
“I thank you for your kindness. I’m sorry I can’t pay.
The cricket was embarrassed, and nearly went away.

“You paid with tunes all summer. What’s life without a song?
Let’s eat and drink together. This winter won’t last long.

“I’ve food to spare, so we can share,” said Ant. “Winter will soon pass.
Teach me to dance and laugh and sing, and spring will come at last.”

Answer the questions

1. What season is it in the beginning of the poem?
2. What season is it at the end of the poem?
3. What does Ant do during the summer?
4. What does Cricket do during the summer?
5. What happens to Cricket in the winter?
6. How does Ant say Cricket can pay for his food?
7. Have you heard this story before? Do you like it?
8. What is the message of the poem?



Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentence.

shelf tune kindness store embarrassed

1. I felt _____ when I gave the wrong answer.
2. You are very generous. Thank you for your _____.
3. Put the books on the _____, please.
4. Grandma put the rice into the food _____.
5. I want to sing but I don't know the _____.

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. sorrow | a) how you feel when you need food |
| 2. thin | b) something which is more than you need |
| 3. full | c) the opposite of fat |
| 4. hungry | d) the opposite of happiness |
| 5. spare | e) the opposite of empty |



Rhyming words

In the poem, find words at the ends of lines which rhyme with:

tin • yourself • go • red • say • wrong • grass

The partridge and the hare

Before you read

- Look at the picture. Which is the partridge and which is the hare?
- This traditional story is at least 2,000 years old.



Once there was a partridge who lived in a comfortable hole. One day she went out to look for food. When she got back home, she found a hare in her hole.

“Go away. This is my hole now,” said Hare.

“That’s not fair. It belongs to me. Go and find your own hole,” said Partridge.

“Well, I’m in it now, and that means it’s mine,” replied Hare.

Partridge flapped her wings and made a lot of noise and dust. Hare kicked and stamped his feet but he would not leave. The fight went on for hours and disturbed the other animals nearby. A passing tortoise stopped to watch the fight and called out to them.

“You need a judge. You two will never agree without a judge to decide.”

“Who should be our judge?” asked Partridge.

“There’s an old wise cat who lives just over the hill. He will help you.”

The Hare and the Partridge went to the old wise cat’s house. The cat was sitting inside his garden, and they told him their problem.

“It’s no good,” the cat said, “I am a little deaf. I can’t hear you. You’ll have to come closer and tell me again.”

The two animals went closer to the cat and repeated their story.

“I am sorry,” said the cat again. “I’m afraid I still can’t hear you. Come even closer and tell me, in my ear.”

So Hare and Partridge went right up to the old cat, and he ate them both.

Answer the questions.

1. Why did the fight start?
2. How long did the fight last?
3. Who told the hare and partridge where to find a judge?
4. Where was the cat sitting?
5. Why did the cat want them to come closer?

True or False?

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. The partridge left the hole to drink. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 2. The hare stole the hole from the partridge. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 3. The tortoise wanted to have the hole. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 4. Other animals noticed the fight. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 5. The cat wasn’t really deaf. | TRUE / FALSE |

Looking at words

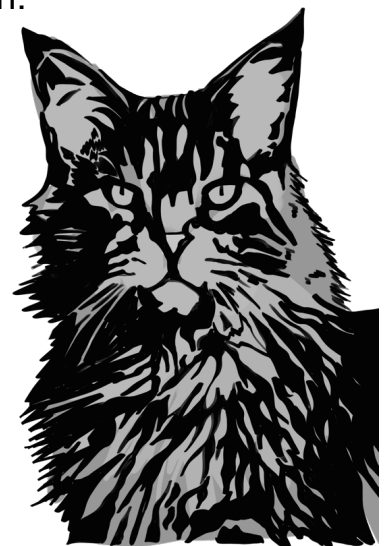
Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

decided repeated stamped disturbed kicked flapped

1. The chicken _____ its wings but it didn’t fly.
2. I _____ the football into the goal.
3. The horse _____ its hooves on the ground.
4. The noisy baby _____ us last night.
5. The teacher _____ to give the class a test on Monday.
6. The man _____ the same words again and again.

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. judge | a) equal and right |
| 2. argument | b) intelligent and knowing things |
| 3. fair | c) someone decides what is right |
| 4. dust | d) a fight with words |
| 5. deaf | e) dry powdered earth or dirt |
| 6. wise | f) feels nice to be in |
| 7. comfortable | g) not able to hear |



Power from the sun

Before you read

What things need electricity to work? Make a list of ten things.

My name is Honour, and I come from a rural area in Gutua district. It is a farming area, and it is a long way from any towns. Until this year, we had no electricity here. When it was dark, we had to stop working. This year things have changed a lot. A project to bring electricity to our school and farms started in our area. The electricity is produced by the sun. When my father first heard about the solar power project, he said, "Well, that's no problem. We have plenty of sun!"

The sun shines onto solar panels. These are silver and blue, and look as though they are made of lots of small rectangles. When the sun shines on them, these panels absorb the energy. This energy is stored in batteries. Then you can use the energy like any other electricity. You can use it to power lights, to pump water to the farms, or to give power to computers.

My father is very happy about the solar panels. It helps him to pump water from a well which is a long way from our fields. It saves him a lot of work and a lot of time. He says we will have better crops this year because of the water.

Now our school has solar panels on the roof, and the school has a computer we can use. I want to study computers when I am older, and I want to learn more about how they work. At home, we have light in the evening now, after dark. After our evening meal, and after the chores, my brothers and I can do our homework.



Answer the questions

- What is the text about?
 - how electricity works
 - a solar energy project
 - Honour's ambitions
 - Honour's school
- What has changed in Honour's life?

Complete the sentences with a word from the text.

- Honour comes from a _____ in _____ district.
- The _____ to bring electricity to the area started this year.
- The electricity is made by the _____.
- The solar panels _____ energy from the sun.
- The energy from the solar panels is stored in _____.
- The project has helped Honour's father to _____ water to his fields.
- In the future, Honour wants to study _____.
- Honour and her brother can now _____ in the evenings.

Looking at words

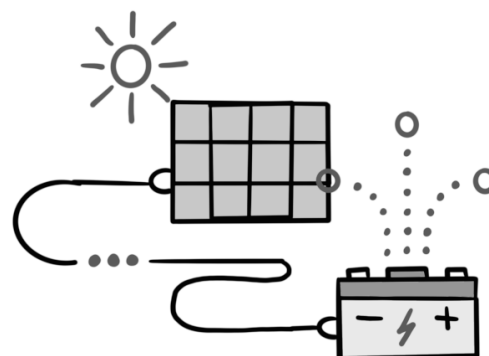
Choose a word to complete these sentences.

crops energy rectangle chores well

- I have to do my _____ every evening.
- We walk to fetch water from the _____.
- The _____ in the fields are growing well.
- You can store _____ in a battery.
- A _____ is a shape with four sides.

Match the words with the definitions.

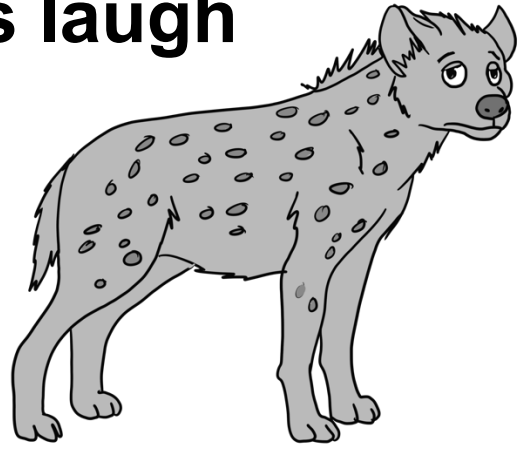
- to absorb a) to give energy
- to pump b) to make a bright light, like the sun
- to produce c) to take in, to soak up (water or energy)
- to power d) to make, to create
- to shine e) to use a machine to move water



How the hyena got his laugh

Before you read

- What do you know about hyenas?
- What noise do they make?



Long ago, Hyena was always sad. He spent a lot of time on his own. The other animals were worried about him.

“Poor Hyena,” said Impala. “He never smiles or laughs. What can we do to cheer him up?”

“We could make him a cake,” said Elephant.

“I’ve got a better idea,” said Crocodile, “Let’s tell him some jokes, to make him laugh.”

So they all went off to find Hyena.

“Hello!” said Hyena sadly. “Why have you all come to visit me? I’m afraid I’m not very good company. I’m feeling sad today.”

“We’ve come to tell you some jokes, said Elephant. “I’ll go first. What time is it when an elephant sits on your bed? It’s time to get a new bed.”

The Hyena smiled politely, but he didn’t laugh.

“My turn now,” said Lion. “Why do lions like eating raw meat? Because they don’t know how to cook.”

Lion looked at Hyena’s mouth, but Hyena wasn’t laughing yet.

“Now me,” said Crocodile. “What do you get if you cross a flower with a crocodile? I don’t know, but it’s very dangerous to smell it.”

“I’m next,” said Impala. “Did you know that the impala can jump higher than a house? Of course they can. Houses can’t jump.”

The animals looked at Hyena’s face. He still wasn’t laughing.

Elephant sighed a big sigh. All the other animals sighed too. It was no good. Their jokes didn’t work.

Just then, Hyena started to smile. Then his smile turned into a grin. Then his grin turned into a small laugh, and then his laugh grew bigger and bigger until he couldn’t stop.

“Why are you laughing?” asked Impala. “We’ve finished all our jokes.”

“When you all sighed together, it made me laugh, after all your lovely silly jokes,” said Hyena, wiping tears of laughter from his eyes. “Thank you! You are very good friends to come and try to make me happy.”

And now if you hear Hyena laughing you know that he is remembering the day when all his friends told him silly jokes.

Answer the questions

1. What kind of story is this?
a) a sad story b) a true story c) a happy story with a message
2. Why are the animals worried about Hyena?
3. How many different animals prepare jokes to tell him?
4. What happens when they tell Hyena the jokes?
5. Why does Hyena start laughing?
6. Do you like any of the jokes? Do you think they are funny?

Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentences

spend work cheer laugh telling remember

1. I don't _____ a lot of time on my own.
2. Do you _____ what the teacher said yesterday?
3. My brother is good at _____ jokes.
4. I gave my mum a hug to _____ her up.
5. My friend makes me _____ a lot.
6. He tried to fix his phone, but it still didn't _____.

Match the two parts of the jokes.

1. What can a monkey hold in its right hand that it can't hold in its left hand?
2. How do you get an elephant down from a tree?
3. Why do elephants paint the soles of their feet white?
4. What's a crocodile's favourite game?
5. Which is the strongest animal?
6. Which animal has the highest intelligence?
 - a. A snail, because it carries its whole house on its back.
 - b. So they can hide upside down in the sadza.
 - c. A giraffe
 - d. Put it on a leaf and wait till autumn
 - e. Snap
 - f. Its left hand



How the zebra got her stripes

Before you read

- What do you know about zebras?
- Why do you think they have stripes?



Once long ago, there was a drought. The land was dry and the rivers were empty. All the animals were thirsty. There was a large watering hole which still had water in it. Lots of animals came to try to drink from this last watering hole, but a large angry baboon was guarding it. He stayed by the side of the water night and day, and he wouldn't let any other animals drink from the water. "Stop! No drinking!" he shouted at them. "You aren't allowed to touch this water!"

One day, a zebra arrived at the watering hole. At that time, all zebras were a milk white colour, like a white donkey. This zebra was very hot and thirsty, and she went to the waterside to drink. Before she could even have one sip, the baboon shouted out to him: "Stop! This is my water. It's all mine, not yours. Go away!" Zebra looked up to see the angry baboon by the side of a fire, cooking some maize over it.

"Sorry, my friend, but it doesn't work that way," Zebra replied. "You can't own a watering hole. It belongs to all of us, and I'm going to drink now."

"I'm not your friend. I make the rules around here," said the baboon, "and I say you aren't allowed to drink any of my water."

"I don't want to pick a fight with you, Baboon, but if you try to stop me from drinking, I will kick you," warned the zebra.

Zebra started to drink, and the baboon attacked her. He bit and scratched and screamed at the top of his voice: "It's my water! Mine! You can't have it!"

"Well, you can't say I didn't warn you," said the Zebra, and she kicked Baboon with her strong back legs. Baboon flew up into the air and landed very hard on his behind. He lost all the fur on the place where he landed.

"I can have a drink in peace, finally," said the Zebra. Just then Baboon threw a rock at her, and knocked Zebra over. She fell into Baboon's fire and burnt his fur. Her lovely milk white coat was covered in black stripes from the burnt wood.

This is why the baboon has no fur on his behind and zebras have black and white stripes. To this day, the zebra is not friends with the baboon.

Answer the questions

1. Have you heard this traditional story before?
2. Who do you think is right in this story, the zebra or the baboon?

Match the questions with the answers.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Why was the land dry? | a. Because he was angry about being kicked. |
| 2. Why couldn't the animals drink from the watering hole? | b. Because Baboon attacked her. |
| 3. Why did Zebra stop drinking? | c. Because the baboon shouted at her. |
| 4. Why did Baboon have a fire? | d. Because there was a drought. |
| 5. Why did Zebra kick Baboon? | e. Because the baboon was guarding it. |
| 6. Why did Baboon throw a rock? | f. Because he was cooking maize on it. |
| 7. Why does Zebra have stripes? | g. Because she fell onto the fire. |

Put the events of the story in the right order.

- a. The zebra warned the baboon.
- b. The baboon attacked the zebra.
- c. The zebra arrived at the watering hole.
- d. The baboon threw a stone at zebra.
- e. The zebra kicked the baboon.

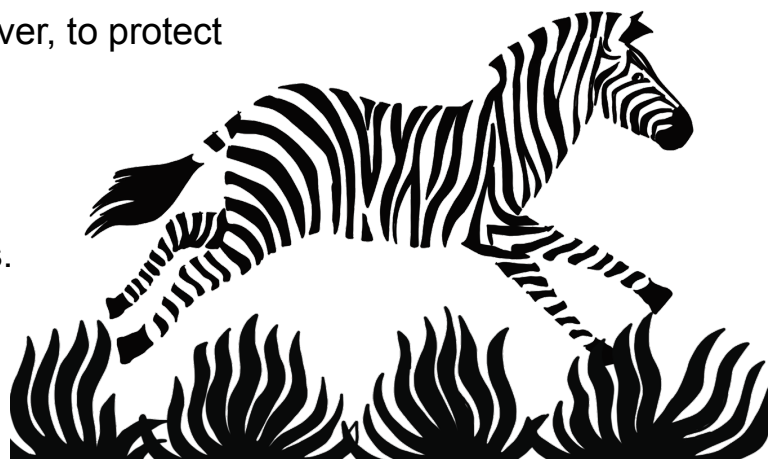
Looking at words

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. attack | a. to use your teeth to cut |
| 2. warn | b. to damage something by fire |
| 3. kick | c. to tell someone about a future danger |
| 4. bite | d. a long period with no rain |
| 5. watering hole | e. to hit with your feet |
| 6. burn | f. to start a fight |
| 7. guard | g. a place where animals drink |
| 8. drought | h. to watch over, to protect |

Writing

Tell the story of how the zebra got her stripes in your own words.
Write 100 – 150 words.



The magic drum

Before you read

- Do you like listening to drums?
- Have you ever played a drum?



Dudu was walking home one day. On the road, she met an old man with some goats. One of the goats was trapped in a thorn bush. The old man was trying to free the goat, but his hands were bleeding.

“Let me help you with that,” said Dudu.

The thorns were sharp and it was difficult, but soon the goat was free.

“For your kindness to me, I want to give you this drum. It’s special, so I hope you like it.”

Dudu thanked the old man and she went on her way. As soon as she got back home, she sat down with the drum. She had never played a drum before.

At first, she beat the drum with a slow regular rhythm. Then she beat the drum faster and faster. Dudu’s rhythm was very good. Her hands were dancing. She looked up and she saw her family’s chickens were all around her. They were dancing to her drum beat.

Dudu carried on beating the drum. Her rhythm was so fast, she couldn’t see her hands. She looked up again and she saw the cow moving her feet. The goat was dancing in circles. Even the cat and the dog were dancing to the beat of her drums.

Dudu laughed but her hands didn’t stop the beat. Soon Dudu’s sisters, brothers and cousins heard the drums and started to dance. Then her mother and her uncle started to dance. After a few more minutes, everyone in the village was dancing to the beat. Only Dudu’s grandfather, who was deaf and couldn’t hear, was still sitting quietly by the tree.

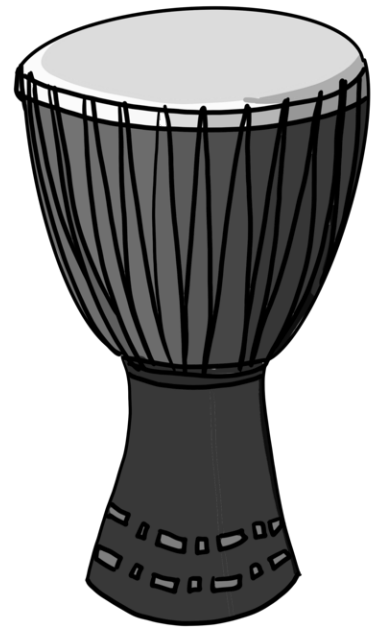
At last, after an hour, her grandmother called out,

“Stop now, please, Dudu! We’re so tired but we can’t stop until you do.”

So Dudu stopped drumming. Everyone in the village laughed and talked about the girl with the magic drum.

Answer the questions

1. Why did Dudu stop on the road home?
2. Why were the old man's hands bleeding?
3. Why did the man give Dudu a gift?
4. Did Dudu already know how to play the drums?
5. Who started dancing first?
6. Why did Dudu's grandmother ask her to stop?
7. Why did her grandfather not dance?
8. Do you think this is a true story? Why? Why not?



Looking at words

Choose the right word to complete the sentence.

bleed free carry circles sharp beat

1. Listen to the music and dance to the _____.
2. The thorns on the bush were very _____.
3. I danced round and round in _____.
4. My clothes are trapped in the thorns. I can't get _____.
5. I cut my foot and it started to _____.
6. Please _____ on with your work.

Match the words with the definitions.

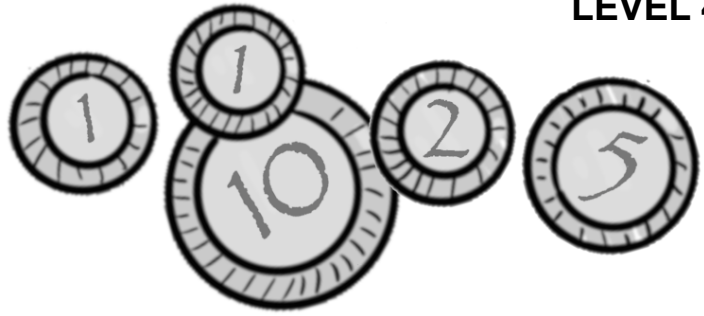
- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1. trapped | a. to move your body in time to music |
| 2. rhythm | b. a musical instrument that you hit to make a noise |
| 3. deaf | c. the beat of music |
| 4. drum | d. not able to hear |
| 5. dance | e. better than usual |
| 6. special | f. not able to move or become free |

Find 5 words for animals in the story.

Find 7 words for family members in the story.



A fair price



Before you read

- What is your favourite smell?
- Why do you like it?

One day a boy named Tino sat down under a tree near a restaurant. The smell of food from the restaurant was delicious, but he didn't have any money to pay for a meal. He had some bread so he started to eat it. He noticed that the bread tasted better than usual, because of the delicious smells from the restaurant. A friend of his, Peter, came along and he called out to him.

"Come and eat your bread here with me. The smell of the beef stew makes the bread taste better."

So the two boys ate their bread together, by the tree. The restaurant owner heard what Tino said, and he was angry. He came out and shouted at the boys, "You have to pay me for enjoying the smell of my food!"

"We don't have any money," said Peter. "We only have five coins and we need those to get home this evening."

"I will take you to the judge, if you don't give me that money right now," said the restaurant owner. The boys refused, so they all went to see the judge.

This judge was a wise woman. She helped when people needed to decide about right and wrong.

"What is your complaint?" she asked the restaurant owner.

"These boys have stolen the smell of my beef stew," complained the restaurant owner. "It's wrong for them to have it for free. I demand payment!"

The judge listened and asked the boys, "How much money do you have?"

The boys were sad and surprised at the judge's words, but they gave her their five coins.

The restaurant owner was very pleased. He watched the judge hold the coins. He greedily held out his hand for the judge to give him the money. The judge shook the coin in her hand.

"Did you hear the coins?" asked the judge.

"Yes, I did," the restaurant owner replied.

"Did you like the sound?" she asked.

"I did. I'm glad you made the right decision," said the restaurant owner, smiling.

"The sound of the coins is your payment," the judge told him. "It is a fair price for the smell of your beef stew. Now go away and try to learn to be less greedy."

Answer the questions

Match the questions with the answers.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. What kind of story is this? | a. beef |
| 2. How many characters are in the story? | b. the restaurant owner |
| 3. What did Tino eat? | c. four |
| 4. How many coins did the boys have? | d. bread |
| 5. What kind of stew was it? | e. traditional, with a message |
| 6. Who complained to the judge? | f. five |

True or False?

1. The restaurant owner was angry because the boys stole food.
2. Peter and Tino needed their coins to get home.
3. The judge took the five coins into his own hands.
4. The boys didn't give the coins to the judge.
5. The restaurant owner smiled about the decision.
6. In the end, the restaurant owner went away happy.

What do you think the message of the story is?

Write a summary of the story in 100 to 200 words.

Looking at words

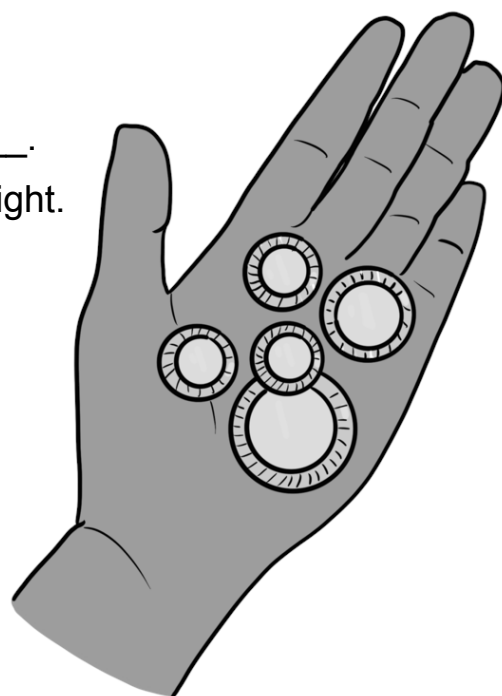
Choose the right word to complete these sentences.

greedy complain judge wrong payment decision

1. It's hard to make a _____ when you don't know the facts.
2. I demand _____ for what you took.
3. I'm going to _____ to the company.
4. Share with your sister and don't be _____.
5. The _____ decided that the boys were right.
6. He doesn't know the difference between right and _____.

Which word is the odd one out? Why?

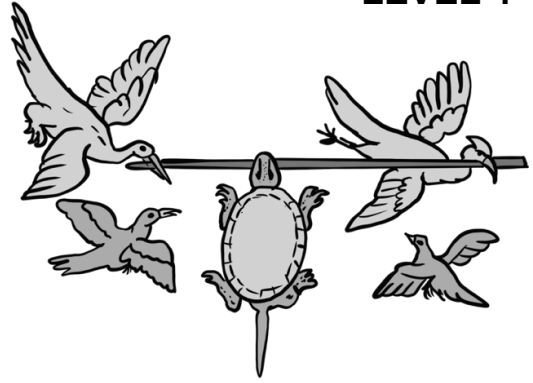
- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------|------------|
| 1. judge | owner | boy | restaurant |
| 2. greedy | surprised | coins | angry |
| 3. steal | taste | smell | sound |
| 4. wise | fair | right | delicious |
| 5. stew | price | bread | beef |



The tortoise who flew

Before you read

- Imagine how it would feel to fly.
- What would your home and school look like from above?



One day there was a tortoise who was not like the other tortoises. They were happy to stay in one place for the whole of their lives. But this tortoise wanted to see the world. One day he met two birds who had landed to eat near to where he lived.

“How lucky you are! You can fly anywhere you want. Your wings give you freedom. The world is yours.”

“That’s strange. I always thought you were the lucky one,” replied one of the birds. “You have a comfortable home that nobody can take from you.”

“But it’s true. Flying is amazing,” said the second bird.

“If I could fly, I’d be so happy,” said the tortoise. “I wish I could.”

The first bird said, “I have an idea. Maybe you can fly, with our help.”

“What do you mean?” said the Tortoise. “I have no wings.”

“Hold onto this stick in the middle with your mouth, and we’ll take one end each. We can fly up into the sky and then you will know how it feels,” the bird explained.

“How kind!” said the tortoise, and he bit hard into the middle of the stick.

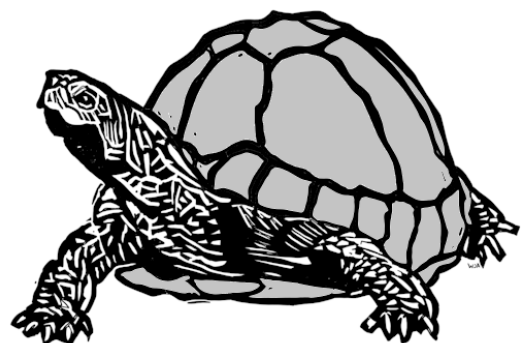
“Don’t forget to hold on tight,” reminded the bird “Up we go!”

The view down to the ground was even better than the tortoise imagined. The world he knew became small below him. He could see tiny people like ants, and tiny mountains like ant hills.

“Wow! This is fantastic!” he said to the birds.

As soon as he opened his mouth, he fell all the way down to the ground. Bump!

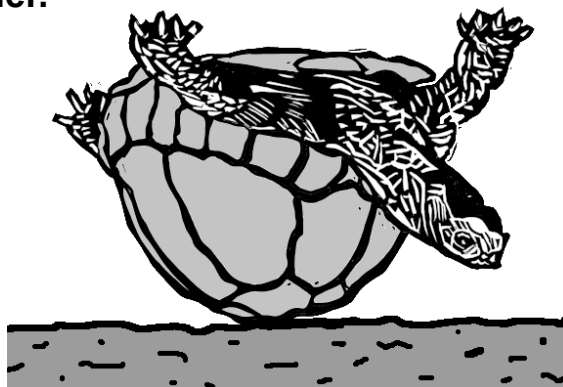
Fortunately, his hard shell saved his life, but when he looked at his back, he saw that his shell was cracked into lots of different pieces. To this day, the tortoise’s shell reminds him of his flying adventure, and even now he does not like looking up to the sky.



Answer the questions

Put the events of the story in the right order.

- The tortoise falls to the ground.
- The birds offer to take him into the air.
- The tortoise never looks at the sky again.
- The tortoise and birds talk about flying.
- The tortoise meets some birds.
- The tortoise lets go of the stick.



True or False?

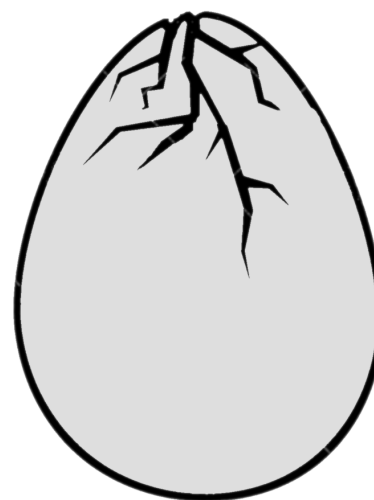
- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. The tortoise was happy to stay in one place. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 2. One bird said the tortoise was lucky to have a home. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 3. The birds agreed that flying was very good. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 4. The birds told the tortoise to hold on with his hands. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 5. One bird flew up with the tortoise. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 6. The tortoise forgot to hold on. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 7. The tortoise's shell was cracked. | TRUE / FALSE |

Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentences.

explain hold stay remind landed crack

- If you drop an egg, the shell may _____.
- I don't understand. Can you _____ again how to do it, please?
- _____ on tight to my hand, and don't let go.
- I don't want to go out. I want to _____ at home.
- _____ me to bring my book tomorrow.
- The bird _____ on the roof.



Match the words to the definitions.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. adventure | a) to hit something hard |
| 2. bump | b) very small |
| 3. freedom | c) an unusual or exciting activity |
| 4. tiny | d) to break, but not into pieces |
| 5. fortunately | e) being able to do what you want |
| 6. wings | f) luckily |
| 7. crack | g) the part of a bird which is used for flying |

Zamani and the feast

Before you read

- Have you ever been to a special meal?
- What clothes did you wear?
- This is a traditional story about a feast (a big special meal).



Once long ago there lived a man called Zamani. One day, he received an invitation from a wealthy chief to go to a feast. Zamani was looking forward to the feast very much. He dreamed of the food he would eat when he was there. When he arrived at the chief's home, the men at his gate didn't want to let Zamani in.

"Your clothes are too dirty and torn," they told him. "Our chief is too important to want a man like you as his guest!"

Zamani persuaded them to let him inside. The men let him sit at the very outside of the group of guests. The food was brought to the guests, but by the time the bowls reached Zamani, there was no food left for him. So Zamani left the feast and visited a cousin of his. "Can I borrow your best jacket, cousin?" he asked. "I want to eat at a feast."

So Zamani returned to the feast wearing his cousin's best jacket. This time the men at the gate took him to where the chief was eating and made him feel welcome. More bowls of food were brought to the guest, and Zamani took plenty. With every dish he took a little food, and rubbed it onto the jacket. When a bowl of soup was served, Zamani poured a little of the soup on the jacket. One of the chief's guests asked Zamani about it.

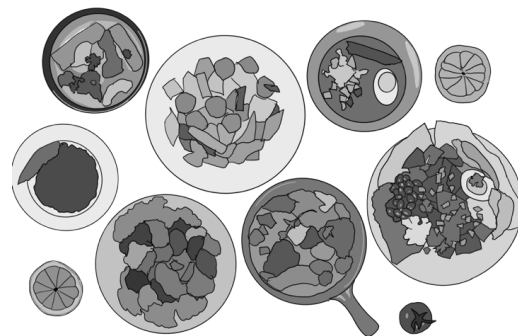
"My friend, I have noticed how you have been putting food on your beautiful jacket this evening. Can I ask why?"

Well, Zamani replied, "It was this jacket that brought me here to all this delicious food, and so it's only right that I should share the food with it."



Answer the questions

- Who invited Zamani to the feast?
 - his cousin
 - the men at the gate
 - a guest
 - a rich chief
- What did the men at the gate want Zamani to do first?
 - buy new clothes
 - go away
 - sit near the chief
 - bring his cousin
- What happened when the bowls of food reached Zamani?
 - They were empty.
 - He ate a lot.
 - He saved the food for his cousin.
 - He wasn't hungry.
- Why did Zamani visit his cousin?
 - to borrow money
 - to ask for food
 - to borrow a jacket
 - because he was bored
- Where did Zamani sit the second time he arrived at the feast?
 - near the gate
 - outside the gates
 - at the back of the feast
 - near the chief
- What did Zamani do with the food?
 - he saved it for later
 - he ate it all
 - he rubbed it on the jacket
 - he did nothing
- Which of these sentences do you think are parts of the message of this story?
 - Good clothes don't make good people.
 - Wear expensive clothes if you can.
 - Don't believe everything you see.
 - Be kind to everyone, whoever they are.
 - Rich people only like other rich people.



Looking at words

Choose a word to complete the sentences.

pour receive rub persuade borrow

- I didn't _____ an invitation to the party.
- Could I _____ a pencil, please?
- Your hands are wet. _____ them on this towel.
- I want to _____ people to help me,
- Can you _____ the water into the bowl?

Match the words with the definitions.

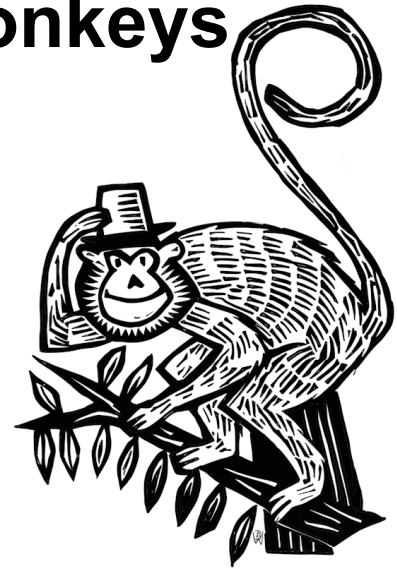
- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. guest | a) more than enough |
| 2. wealthy | b) a door or entrance |
| 3. invitation | c) rich |
| 4. torn | d) a round deep dish for food |
| 5. plenty | e) with a hole in it (usually for cloth) |
| 6. gate | f) a message to ask someone to visit or to come to a party |
| 7. bowl | g) someone who visits a home or goes to a party |

The hat seller and the monkeys

Before you read

- Have you ever seen a monkey?
- What do you know about them?

Once there was a man named Tanaka. He made beautiful hats, and sold them in markets all around the country. He had a bicycle and he used to cycle to different towns with all his hats on his bicycle.



One summer's day he was cycling towards a town in the mountains. It was difficult to cycle uphill in the midday heat. He felt hot and tired. He saw a large shady tree by the side of the ride.

"That looks like a nice place to have a little nap," he said to himself.

So he leaned his bicycle against the tree, closed his eyes and fell asleep.

After a short nap, Tanaka stood up and brushed off his clothes. It was time to leave, but when he looked for his bicycle he had a terrible shock. The bike was still there, but all his hats were gone. The only hat he still had was the one that he had on his head.

"Thief! Stop, thief!" he shouted. "Who has stolen my hats?"

Tanaka heard a noise about his head and he looked up into the tree. There in the branches was a group of monkeys. On every monkey's head there was one of his beautiful hats.

"Give them back, you terrible monkeys!" Tanaka shouted. He waved his arms and the monkeys were excited at his movement and his noise. They shouted back at him from the top of the tree. They waved their arms at him. When he climbed a branch, the monkeys climbed higher. The monkeys chattered at him and laughed. After an hour of this, Tanaka was very annoyed.

"I give up. I can't catch you. Keep the hats, then!" he shouted angrily.

He threw his own hat on the ground and stamped his feet.

Immediately, the monkeys copied him. They threw their hats to the ground and stamped their feet too. Tanaka quickly picked up all the hats and cycled off to the market to sell them.

So the next time you see a man with a bicycle selling hats in the market place, remember that perhaps monkeys tried them all on first!

Answer the questions

1. What kind of story is this?
 - a) a story with a serious message
 - b) a funny story
 - c) a true story about a real person
2. How did Tanaka earn money?
3. Why did he stop by the tree?
4. What did he notice when he woke up?
5. How did he try to get his hats back?
6. Why did he throw his own hat on the ground?
7. What happened to Tanaka's hats in the end?



Looking at words

Choose the right word to complete the sentence.

1. Let's sit under a nice _____ tree.
 - A. tired
 - B. shady
 - C. uphill
 - D. excited
2. I had a _____ when I noticed I had lost my phone.
 - A. heat
 - B. branch
 - C. noise
 - D. shock
3. It's difficult to carry water _____.
 - A. midday
 - B. excited
 - C. uphill
 - D. shady
4. If you are tired, you should have a _____.
 - A. nap
 - B. bike
 - C. shock
 - D. heat
5. I'm _____ with myself because I forgot my book.
 - A. excited
 - B. terrible
 - C. annoyed
 - D. angrily
6. We _____ the picture that the teacher drew on the board.
 - A. stamped
 - B. copied
 - C. threw
 - D. laughed
7. The man _____ his arms to get their attention.
 - A. remembered
 - B. chattered
 - C. waved
 - D. stamped

