Name _____ Date _____

Poems

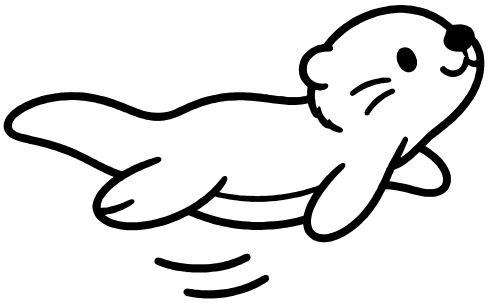
Read the poem aloud. Each group of lines is a stanza.

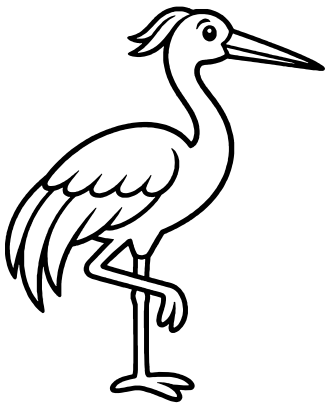
What the River Knows

The river wakes before the sun
and hums a song to everyone.
It tumbles over stones and sand
and sparkles past the sleepy land.

At noon the otters dive and play;
they twist and splash the hours away.
A crane stands on one long, thin leg,
as still as any wooden peg.

At night the river slows its run
and hums a hush to everyone.
The moon floats on it like a boat,
and all the stars come out to float.





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Name _____ Date _____

Poems

What the River Knows: look back at it to answer.

1. How many stanzas does the poem have? **twelve** **four** **three**

2. Which stanza tells about the middle of the day? **stanza 3** **stanza 1** **stanza 2**

3. How does each stanza build on the one before it?

_____

_____

_____

4. Stanza 1 says the river "hums a song." What does stanza 3 say instead? Why the change?

_____

_____

_____

5. "The moon floats on it like a boat." What does the reader see?

the moon falling into the river

a boat sailing down the river

the moon shining on the water

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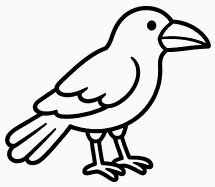
Name _____ Date _____

Plays

Read the play aloud in parts. A play is told in scenes.

The Fox and the Crow, Scene 1

Cast



Narrator

Crow



Fox



Squirrel

(A forest, in the morning. Crow sits high in a tree with a piece of cheese in her beak. Squirrel sits on a branch below.)

Narrator: Crow has found a fine piece of cheese, and she has flown up to eat it where no one can reach her.

Squirrel: *(whispering)*
Be careful, Crow. Fox is coming down the path, and he is very sly.

Crow: *(nodding)* Mmm-hmm.

Squirrel: Whatever Fox says, keep your beak shut tight. If you open it, you will lose your cheese.

Narrator: Squirrel scurries away to her nest just as Fox trots out of the bushes.

Fox: *(sniffing the air)*
Do I smell cheese? I believe I do. And I believe I will have it for my breakfast.

End of Scene 1

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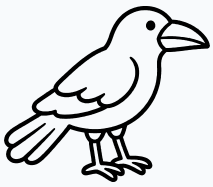
Name _____ Date _____

Plays

Read the play aloud in parts. A play is told in scenes.

The Fox and the Crow, Scene 2

Cast





Narrator **Crow** **Fox**

(The same tree, a moment later. Fox sits below Crow and looks up at her.)

Fox: *(sweetly)*
Good morning, lovely Crow! What shiny feathers you have, and what bright eyes!

Narrator: Crow fluffs her feathers proudly, but she keeps her beak shut tight.

Fox: A bird so beautiful must have the most beautiful voice in the forest. If only I could hear you sing just one song, I would know you are the queen of all birds.

Narrator: Crow forgets every word of Squirrel's warning. She opens her beak wide to sing.

Crow: *(loudly)* Caw! Caw! Caw!

Narrator: The cheese tumbles down, and Fox snaps it up.

Fox: *(licking his lips)*
Thank you for breakfast. Next time, remember: do not trust someone who flatters you.

The End

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Name _____ Date _____

Plays

The Fox and the Crow: look back at it to answer.

1. Which character is in Scene 1 but not in Scene 2? **Fox** **Squirrel** **Crow**

2. What do the words in ( ) under each scene's title tell the readers?

what Fox is thinking

where and when the scene takes place

who wrote the play

3. How does Scene 1 set up what happens in Scene 2?

_____

_____

_____

4. How should Fox sound when he says, "Good morning, lovely Crow"? How do you know?

_____

_____

_____

5. Why does Fox say such nice things to Crow?

He thinks she sings well.

He wants to be her friend.

He wants her to open her beak and drop the cheese.

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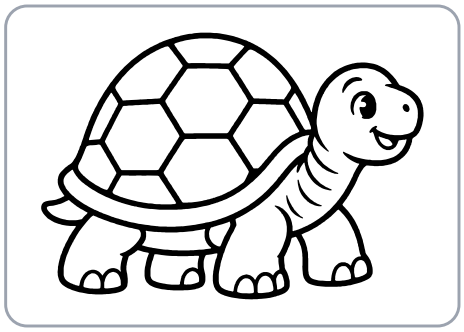
Name _____ Date _____

Chapters

Read the story. It is told in three short chapters.

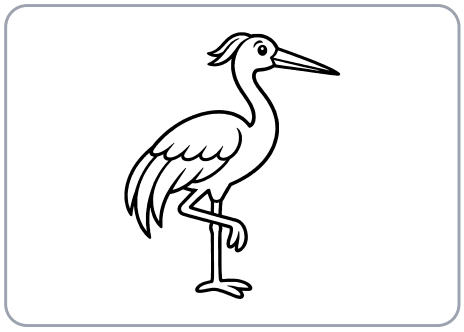
Tortoise Finds *a* New Home

Chapter 1: The Water Hole Dries Up



Tortoise had lived beside the same peaceful little water hole for forty years. But that summer no rain fell at all, and the water hole shrank smaller and smaller until it was nothing but a patch of dry, cracked mud. “I cannot stay here any longer,” Tortoise said sadly. “I must travel away and find a new home.”

Chapter 2: A Long, Slow Walk



Tortoise walked slowly for days and days. The afternoon sun was blazing hot, and her stubby legs grew tired. On the fifth morning, she met Crane, who was resting beside the dusty road. “I know a river where the water never dries up,” said Crane. “Follow me, and I will show you the way.” Crane flew ahead and waited, then flew ahead and waited again, so that Tortoise would never get lost.

Chapter 3: The River

At last Tortoise heard the sound of rushing water. There was the river, wide and cool, with soft green plants growing thickly along its banks. Tortoise dipped her head into the shallow water and drank and drank. “Thank you, Crane,” she said. “I have found a new home, and a new friend as well.”

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Name _____ Date _____

Chapters

Tortoise Finds a New Home: look back at it to answer.

1. What problem starts the story in Chapter 1?

Tortoise gets lost. Crane flies away. Tortoise's water hole dries up.

2. In which chapter does Tortoise meet Crane? **Chapter 3** **Chapter 1** **Chapter 2**

3. How does Chapter 2 build on Chapter 1?

_____

_____

_____

4. How is the river in Chapter 3 different from the water hole in Chapter 1?

_____

_____

_____

5. Why do you think each chapter has its own title?

_____

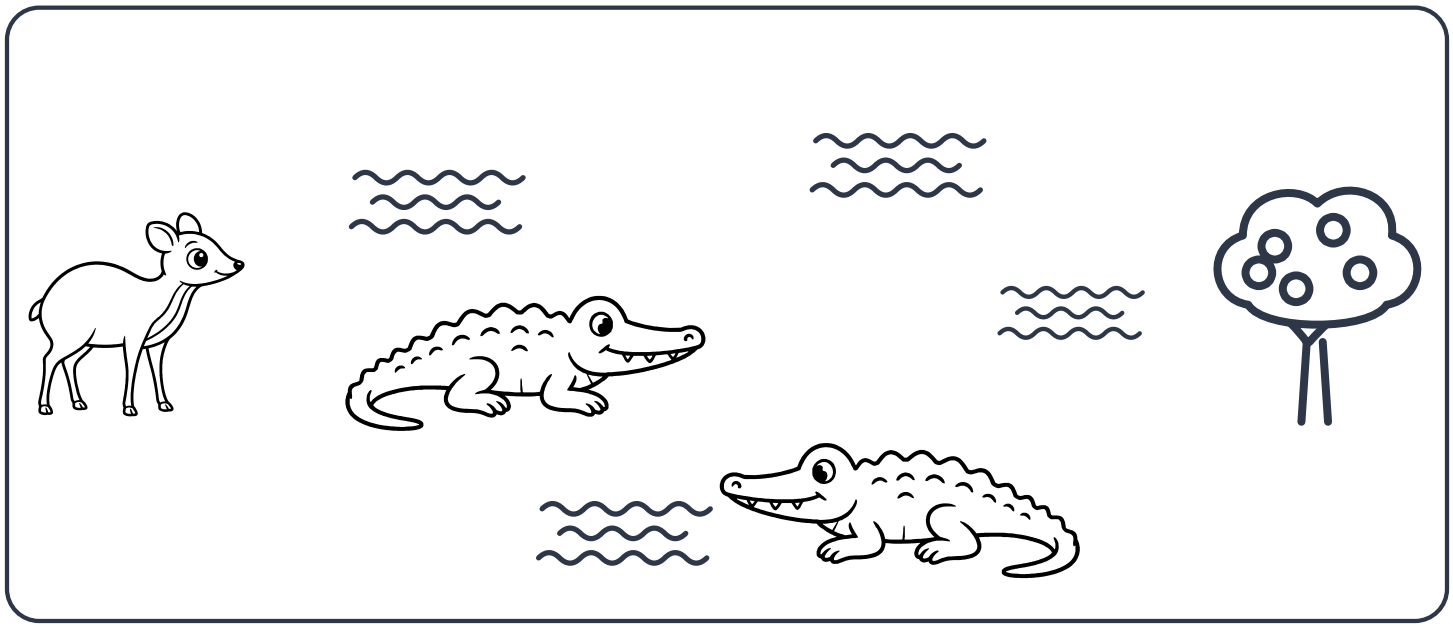
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Name _____ Date _____

Pictures and Words

Read the words and look at the picture. Then answer the questions.



Mouse Deer stood at the edge of the wide river and gazed across it. On the far bank grew a tree full of ripe, sweet fruit. "I am so hungry," she said to herself. "If only I could get to the other side."

1. What does the picture show that the words do not tell you?

2. How does the picture change the way you feel about Mouse Deer's plan?

3. What do you think Mouse Deer's problem will be?

learning to swim getting past the crocodiles finding a tree

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Name _____ Date _____

Stanzas, Scenes and Chapters

Think about the poem, the play and the story. Then answer the questions.

1. A poem is written in parts called **scenes** **stanzas** **chapters**

2. A play is written in parts called **stanzas** **chapters** **scenes**

3. A longer story or book is written in parts called **chapters** **scenes** **stanzas**

4. What does a play have that a story does not? Name two things.

_____

_____

5. Why do writers break a text into parts? Use one text you read as an example.

_____

_____

_____

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Poems

What the River Knows: look back at it to answer.

1. How many stanzas does the poem have? **twelve** **four** **three**

2. Which stanza tells about the middle of the day? **stanza 3** **stanza 1** **stanza 2**

3. How does each stanza build on the one before it?

Each stanza is a later time of day: morning, then noon, then night.

4. Stanza 1 says the river "hums a song." What does stanza 3 say instead? Why the change?

It "hums a hush," because at night the river is slow and quiet.

5. "The moon floats on it like a boat." What does the reader see?

the moon falling into the river

a boat sailing down the river

the moon shining on the water

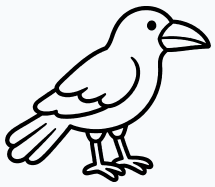
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Plays

Read the play aloud in parts. A play is told in scenes.

The Fox and the Crow, Scene 1

Cast







Narrator **Crow** **Fox** **Squirrel**

(A forest, in the morning. Crow sits high in a tree with a piece of cheese in her beak. Squirrel sits on a branch below.)

Narrator: Crow has found a fine piece of cheese, and she has flown up to eat it where no one can reach her.

Squirrel: *(whispering)*
Be careful, Crow. Fox is coming down the path, and he is very sly.

Crow: *(nodding)* Mmm-hmm.

Squirrel: Whatever Fox says, keep your beak shut tight. If you open it, you will lose your cheese.

Narrator: Squirrel scurries away to her nest just as Fox trots out of the bushes.

Fox: *(sniffing the air)*
Do I smell cheese? I believe I do. And I believe I will have it for my breakfast.

End of Scene 1

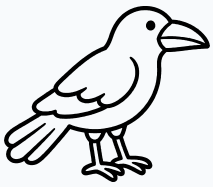
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Plays

Read the play aloud in parts. A play is told in scenes.

The Fox and the Crow, Scene 2

Cast





Narrator **Crow** **Fox**

(The same tree, a moment later. Fox sits below Crow and looks up at her.)

Fox: *(sweetly)*
Good morning, lovely Crow! What shiny feathers you have, and what bright eyes!

Narrator: Crow fluffs her feathers proudly, but she keeps her beak shut tight.

Fox: A bird so beautiful must have the most beautiful voice in the forest. If only I could hear you sing just one song, I would know you are the queen of all birds.

Narrator: Crow forgets every word of Squirrel's warning. She opens her beak wide to sing.

Crow: *(loudly)* Caw! Caw! Caw!

Narrator: The cheese tumbles down, and Fox snaps it up.

Fox: *(licking his lips)*
Thank you for breakfast. Next time, remember: do not trust someone who flatters you.

The End

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Plays

The Fox and the Crow: look back at it to answer.

1. Which character is in Scene 1 but not in Scene 2?

Fox **Squirrel** **Crow**

2. What do the words in ( ) under each scene's title tell the readers?

what Fox is thinking

where and when the scene takes place

who wrote the play

3. How does Scene 1 set up what happens in Scene 2?

In Scene 1, Squirrel warns Crow to keep her beak shut. In Scene 2, Crow forgets and opens it, so she loses the cheese.

4. How should Fox sound when he says, "Good morning, lovely Crow"? How do you know?

Sweet and friendly. The direction in ( ) says "sweetly."

5. Why does Fox say such nice things to Crow?

He thinks she sings well.

He wants to be her friend.

He wants her to open her beak and drop the cheese.

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Chapters

Tortoise Finds a New Home: look back at it to answer.

1. What problem starts the story in Chapter 1?

Tortoise gets lost. Crane flies away. Tortoise's water hole dries up.

2. In which chapter does Tortoise meet Crane?

Chapter 3 **Chapter 1** **Chapter 2**

3. How does Chapter 2 build on Chapter 1?

In Chapter 1 Tortoise decides to leave. In Chapter 2 she goes on her walk and meets Crane, who shows her the way.

4. How is the river in Chapter 3 different from the water hole in Chapter 1?

The water hole dried up into mud, but the river is wide and cool and never dries up.

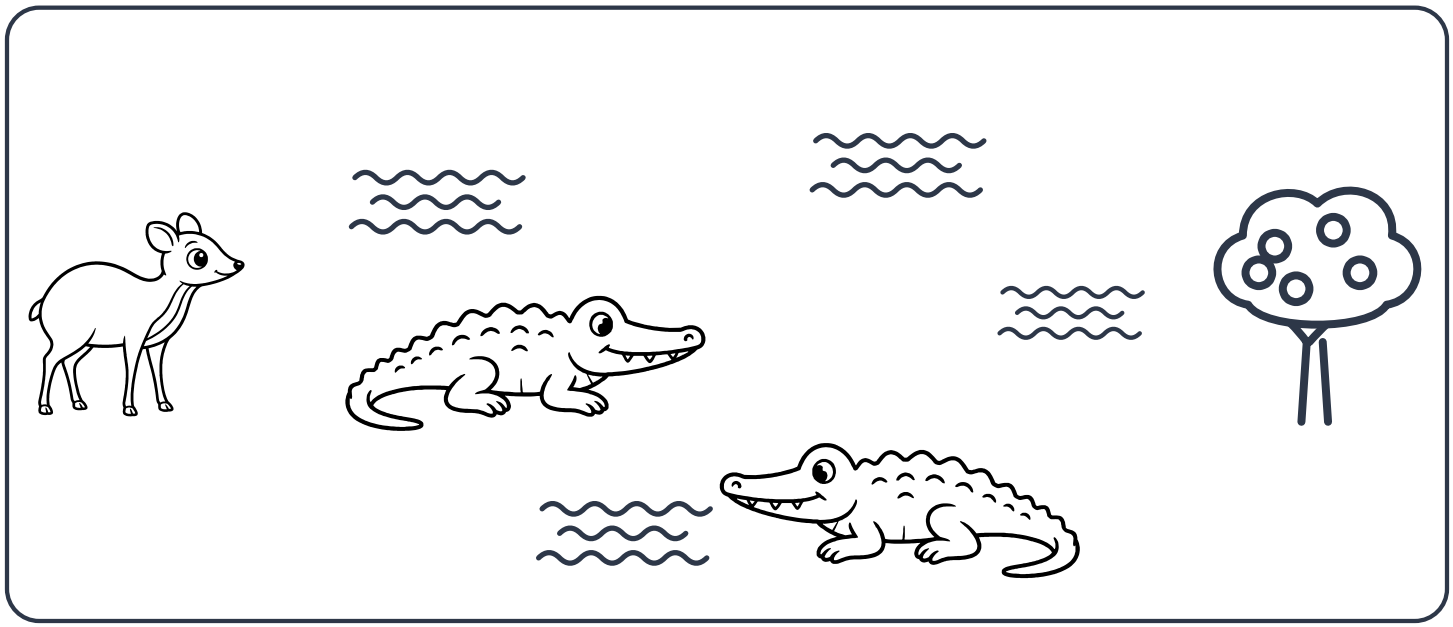
5. Why do you think each chapter has its own title?

The titles tell what each part of the story is about.

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Pictures and Words

Read the words and look at the picture. Then answer the questions.



Mouse Deer stood at the edge of the wide river and gazed across it. On the far bank grew a tree full of ripe, sweet fruit. "I am so hungry," she said to herself. "If only I could get to the other side."

1. What does the picture show that the words do not tell you?

It shows crocodiles in the river between Mouse Deer and the fruit tree.

2. How does the picture change the way you feel about Mouse Deer's plan?

It makes me worried, because crossing the river looks dangerous.

3. What do you think Mouse Deer's problem will be?

learning to swim getting past the crocodiles finding a tree

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Stanzas, Scenes and Chapters

Think about the poem, the play and the story. Then answer the questions.

1. A poem is written in parts called **scenes** **stanzas** **chapters**

2. A play is written in parts called **stanzas** **chapters** **scenes**

3. A longer story or book is written in parts called **chapters** **scenes** **stanzas**

4. What does a play have that a story does not? Name two things.

A cast of characters, stage directions in ( ), and names before each line.

5. Why do writers break a text into parts? Use one text you read as an example.

Each part tells one piece. In the play, Scene 1 sets up the warning and Scene 2 shows what happens.

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