

GEM'S SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

3

.37

FAMOUS FABLES

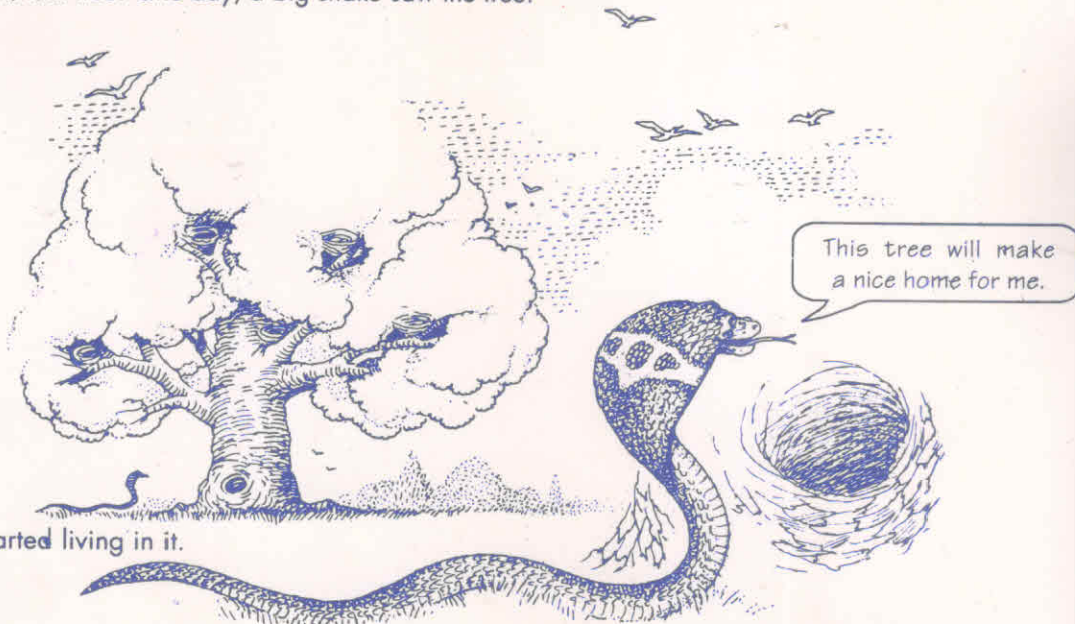
Selections from Panchatantra



Ratna Sagar

The Crows and the Snake

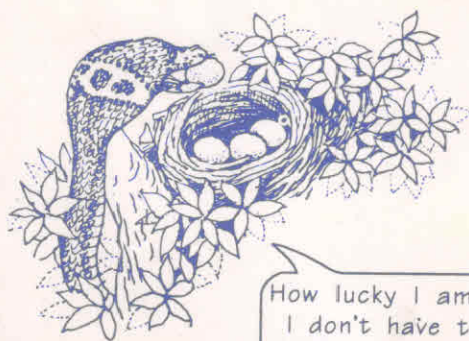
There was a huge tree in a forest. Many birds had built their nests in that tree. One day, a big snake saw the tree.



He started living in it.

When the birds came back they found their nests empty.

One day, the snake saw a nest full of eggs.



The snake has eaten our eggs.
But we cannot do anything about it.

How lucky I am! Now
I don't have to go
out to find food!

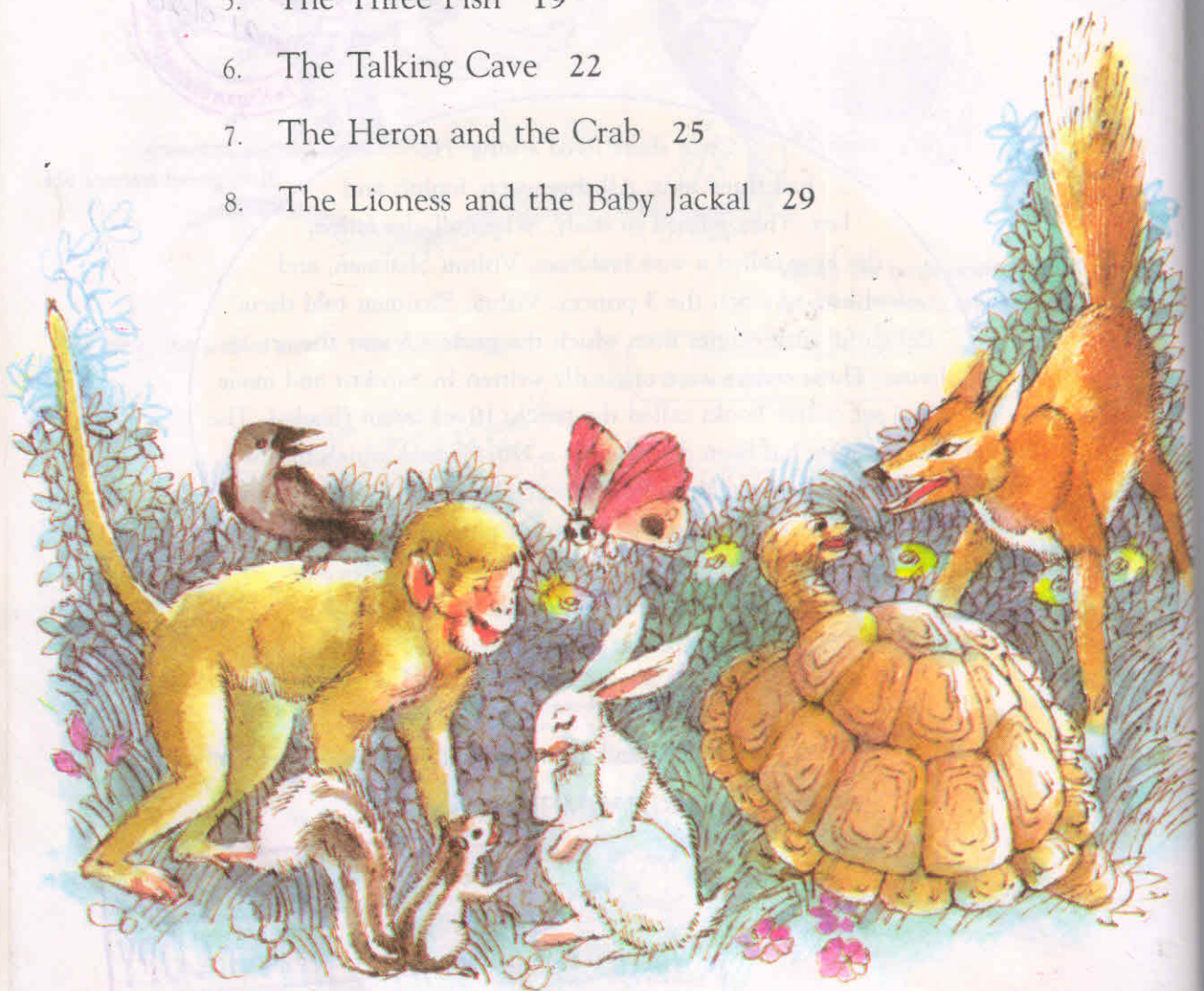


All the birds who lived in that tree got together and thought about it.



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THE CLEVER JACKAL

Long ago, in a forest, there lived a jackal called Chatur. He was very clever. One day, Chatur saw a dead elephant.

"Ah!" he said. "Here is plenty of meat to eat."

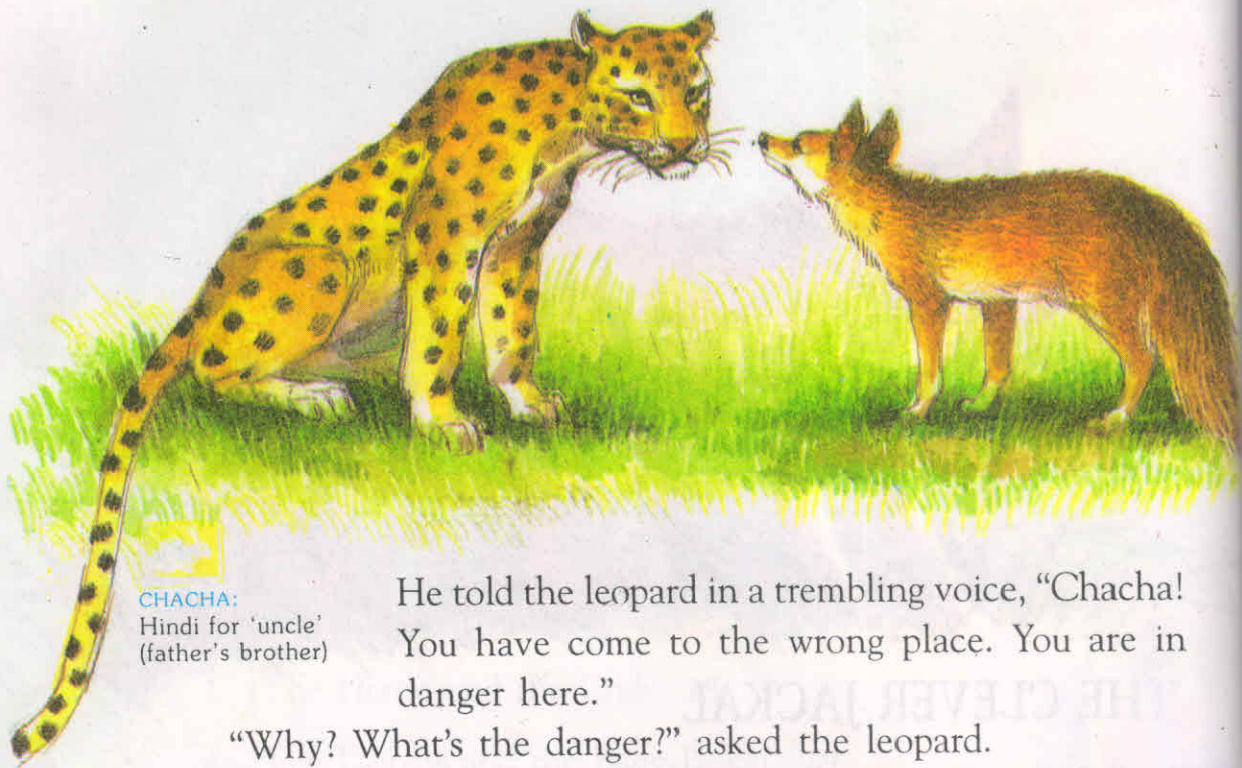
But the elephant's skin was very thick and hard. Chatur's teeth could not cut into it.

Just then, Chatur saw a lion coming that way. Chatur said to himself, 'The lion will surely want to eat this elephant's meat. I must stop him somehow. After all, I found the elephant first.'

He bowed low and said to the lion, "My Lord! I have found some meat for you to eat."

The lion threw back his head proudly and replied, "I am the king of the forest. I eat only what I kill, not what others give me." And he went away.

Soon after that, a leopard came along. Chatur thought, 'I have got rid of the lion. Now, I must stop this leopard from eating my dinner.'



CHACHA:
Hindi for 'uncle'
(father's brother)

He told the leopard in a trembling voice, "Chacha! You have come to the wrong place. You are in danger here."

"Why? What's the danger?" asked the leopard.

The jackal answered, "This elephant was killed by a lion. He has gone to have a bath. I am here to guard his dinner. He said to me before he went, 'Let me know at once if a leopard dares to come near my dinner. I'll tear him to pieces.'"

The leopard felt very scared and ran away.

In a short while, a tiger came along. He looked at the dead elephant, and licked his lips hungrily. Chatur thought, 'The tiger has strong and sharp teeth. I can use him to tear the elephant's skin.'

MAMA:
Hindi for 'uncle'
(mother's brother)

Before the tiger could dig his teeth into it, Chatur said, "Mama, you look very hungry. Here's plenty of meat to eat. However, the kill belongs to a lion. He left me to take care of it."

"Oh, no!" said the tiger, scared. "Then I cannot touch it. The lion will kill me."

So saying, the tiger was about to run away, when Chatur

said, "Do not be scared! I will keep watch while you eat. I will tell you when I see the lion coming. You'll have plenty of time to escape."

The tiger dug into the elephant's skin with his sharp teeth. Then he pulled it with his strong jaws. Seeing this, the jackal called out, "Quick! Run! Here comes the lion."

On hearing this, the tiger turned and ran.

Chatur had a good laugh and settled down to a grand feast.



EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

- A. Complete the following sentences with the correct word/phrase.
1. Chatur was very stupid/clever/foolish.
 2. The elephant's skin was thick and soft/thin and hard/thick and hard.
 3. First, Chatur saw a lion/rabbit/dog.
 4. The tiger dug into the elephant's skin with his strong claws/sharp teeth/straight nose.
- B. Why do you think the jackal called the leopard his chacha and the tiger his mama? Were they really his relatives?

ACTION TIME

The tiger is a very beautiful animal. But, unfortunately, it is found only in a very few places in India now. Find out the names of these places. Also find out and discuss why the number of tigers is decreasing and what is being done to prevent it.

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Have you ever filled in a crossword puzzle before? The words in the Across and Down lists are called CLUES. The across clues mean that the answer to each clue has to be written from left to right. The down clues mean that the answer has to be written from top to bottom. The number before each clue indicates where you should start writing from. For example, the answer of 5. *Similar* (7) under across is synonym. (7) indicates the number of letters in the answer.

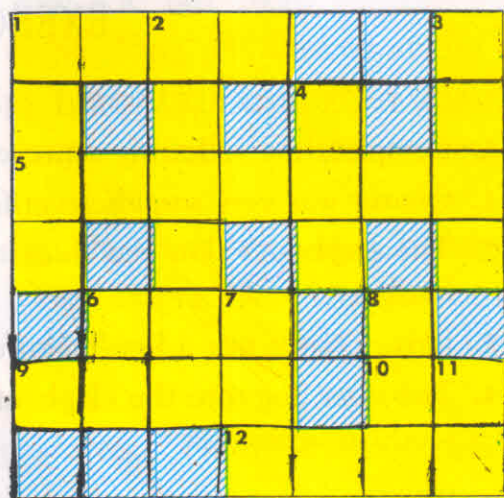
Now, read the clues and fill in the crossword.

ACROSS →

1. Two plus three (4)
5. Similar (7)
6. Employ (3)
9. P.T. _____ (4)
10. It is morning. The time is 10 _____ (2)
12. Anger (4)

DOWN ↓

1. The person in 9. Across
used to run very _____ (4)
2. Disappear (6)
3. A soldier is from this (4)
4. A tiny insect (3)
6. You and me (2)
7. You hear with this (3)
8. A shopping _____ (3)
11. I (2)



THE MONKEY'S HEART

On a big jamun tree, near a river, lived a monkey. The tree was laden with juicy jamuns. The monkey ate the jamuns and also gave some to his friends.



LADEN WITH:
full of

One day a crocodile came out of the river and stopped under the tree.

"Have some jamuns," called the monkey. "They are delicious." He threw some down to the crocodile.

The crocodile liked them. "They're very sweet," he said. "They're the best I've ever had."

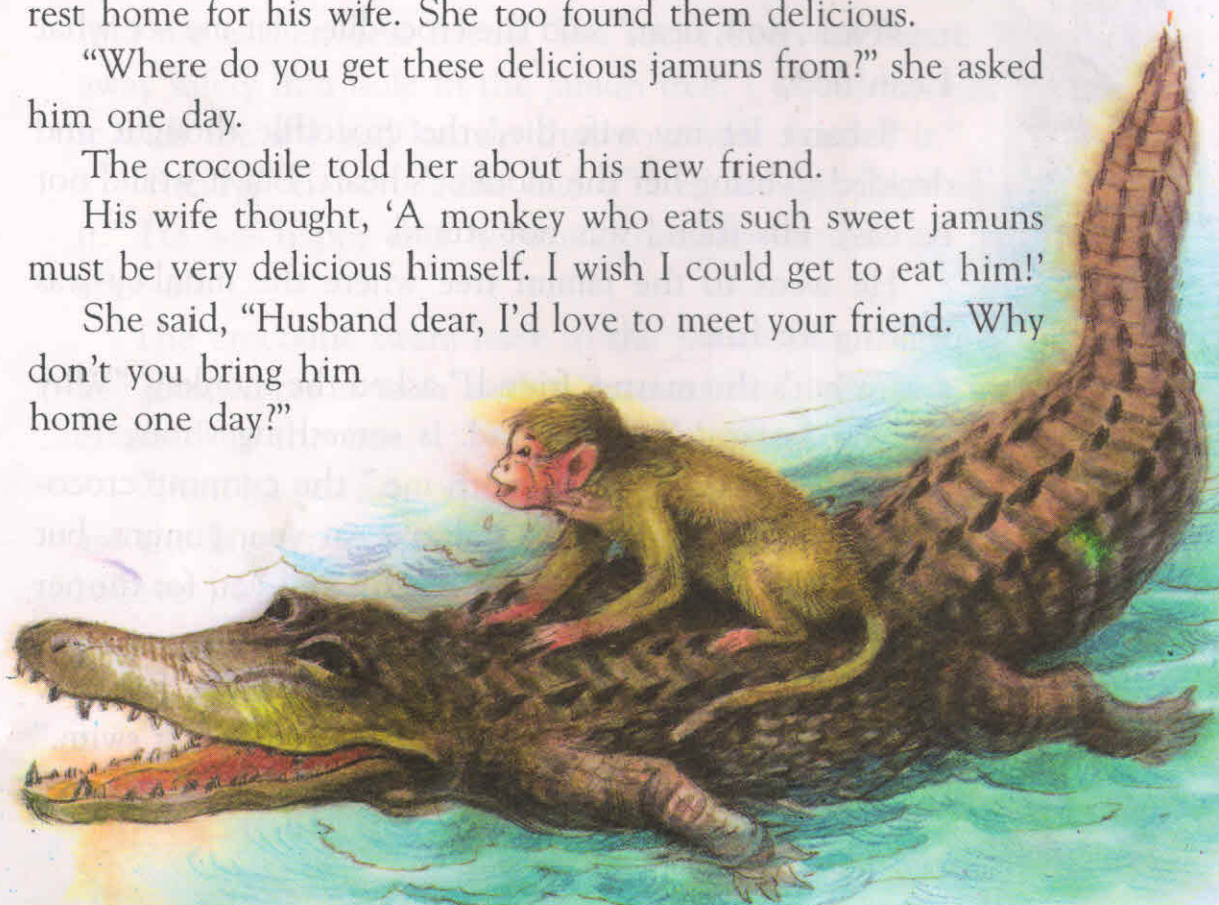
The two became close friends. The crocodile would come every day to meet the monkey. And the monkey would give him sweet jamuns. The crocodile would eat some and take the rest home for his wife. She too found them delicious.

"Where do you get these delicious jamuns from?" she asked him one day.

The crocodile told her about his new friend.

His wife thought, 'A monkey who eats such sweet jamuns must be very delicious himself. I wish I could get to eat him!'

She said, "Husband dear, I'd love to meet your friend. Why don't you bring him home one day?"



But the crocodile knew the monkey could not swim. So he did not ask him.

Each day his wife's desire for the monkey increased. Finally she thought of a plan. She pretended to be sick.

"What's the matter, dear?" the worried crocodile asked. "Can I get you some medicine?"

"A-ah!" his wife groaned. "The doctor said only a monkey's heart can cure me."

"A monkey's heart?" the crocodile asked.

"Yes. You will have to get your friend's heart if you want me to get well."

"But he's my best friend. I can't kill him!" the crocodile said.

"That shows you care more for him than you do for me," the wife said. "You don't care if I die!"

"Now, now, dear," said the crocodile, "let me see what I can do."

'I can't let my wife die,' the crocodile thought and decided to bring her the monkey's heart. But it would not be easy. His friend was not stupid.

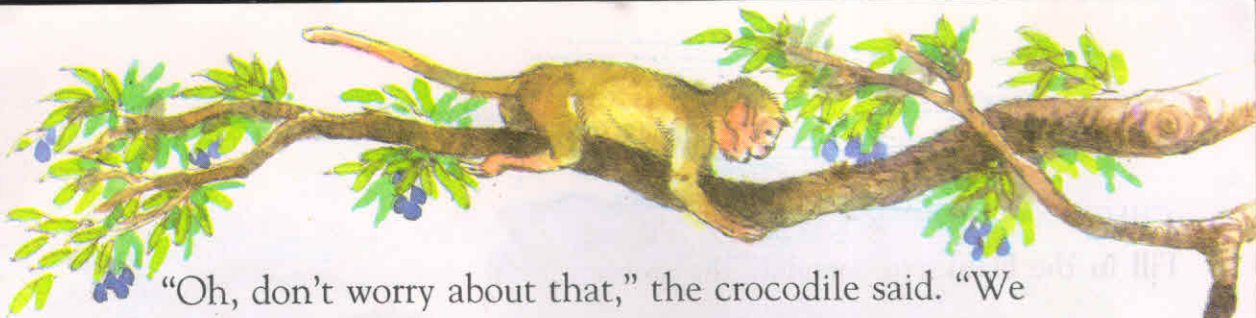
He went to the jamun tree where the monkey was waiting for him.

"What's the matter, friend?" asked the monkey. "Why are you so late? You look sad. Is something wrong?"

"My wife is very angry with me," the cunning crocodile replied. "She says that I always eat your jamuns, but I never invite you home. She has invited you for dinner today."

"That's very kind of her," the monkey said. "But how can I come? Your home is in the water and I can't swim."





"Oh, don't worry about that," the crocodile said. "We live on a sand bank near the river. I can carry you there on my back."

"All right," said the monkey. He jumped onto his friend's back. The crocodile swam out to the river. Soon he started to dive into the water. The monkey was very scared.

"Stop, stop!" he cried. "I will drown if you do that."

"I am sorry, my friend," the crocodile said. "But I have to kill you. My wife is very ill. The doctor says only a monkey's heart can cure her."

The monkey knew he had to escape somehow.

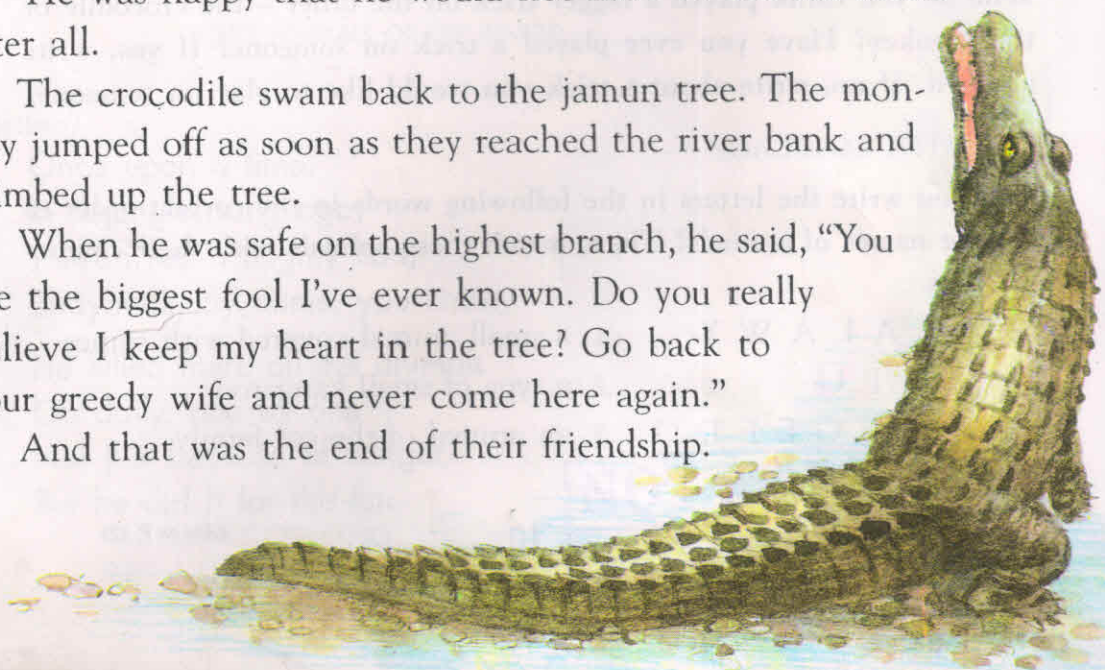
"Is that all?" he asked in a friendly voice. "I wish you had told me earlier, dear friend. You see, I keep my heart hidden away safely in a hole in the jamun tree. I would have brought it with me if I had known that your wife needed it."

"Really?" the crocodile said. "Then let's go back and get it." He was happy that he would not have to kill his friend after all.

The crocodile swam back to the jamun tree. The monkey jumped off as soon as they reached the river bank and climbed up the tree.

When he was safe on the highest branch, he said, "You are the biggest fool I've ever known. Do you really believe I keep my heart in the tree? Go back to your greedy wife and never come here again."

And that was the end of their friendship.



EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Fill in the blanks to complete the story.

1
A crocodile is
offered _____
by a _____

2
The two become
good _____

3
The crocodile starts
taking the _____
home to his _____

4
The crocodile's
_____ wants to
_____ the monkey.

5
She pretends to be

6
She says that only a
monkey's _____
can _____ her.

7
The crocodile goes to
the _____ tree where
the _____ is waiting.

8
He invites the
_____ home
for _____

9
The monkey jumps
on the _____
back.

10
The _____ tells the
_____ that he has to
_____ him for his wife.

11
The monkey says that
his _____ is hidden
in the _____ tree.

12
The crocodile takes
the _____ back to
the jamun _____

13
The monkey tells
the _____ what
a _____ he is.

14
That is the
_____ of their

ACTION TIME

Who do you think played a bigger trick on the other – the crocodile or the monkey? Have you ever played a trick on someone? If yes, write about it. If no, write about a trick you would like to play on someone.

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Can you write the letters in the following words in the correct order to get the names of animals? Then, match these animals with their characteristics.

L B A L A W Y

M A P U

H H G G E E D O

1. a small animal covered with spines

2. a type of small kangaroo

3. an animal of the cat family



A PLAY

CHHOTU, THE CLEVER RABBIT

CHARACTERS

BHAYANAK, the lion

CHHOTU, a small rabbit

NARRATOR, any animal

OTHER ANIMALS OF THE JUNGLE

(a jungle setting)

NARRATOR: Once upon a time,
In a jungle, long ago,
There lived a mighty lion,
Bhayanak, by name, you know.

He killed there all the animals
Oh daily, one by one
Not just because of hunger,
But he did it for the fun.

NOT FOR SALE
COMPLIMENTARY COPY

BHAYANAK: (comes out of his den, licking his lips, a satisfied look in his eye. He settles down at the opening.)

That was a delicious piece of meat.

I wonder what these animals eat?

They make such a tasty treat!

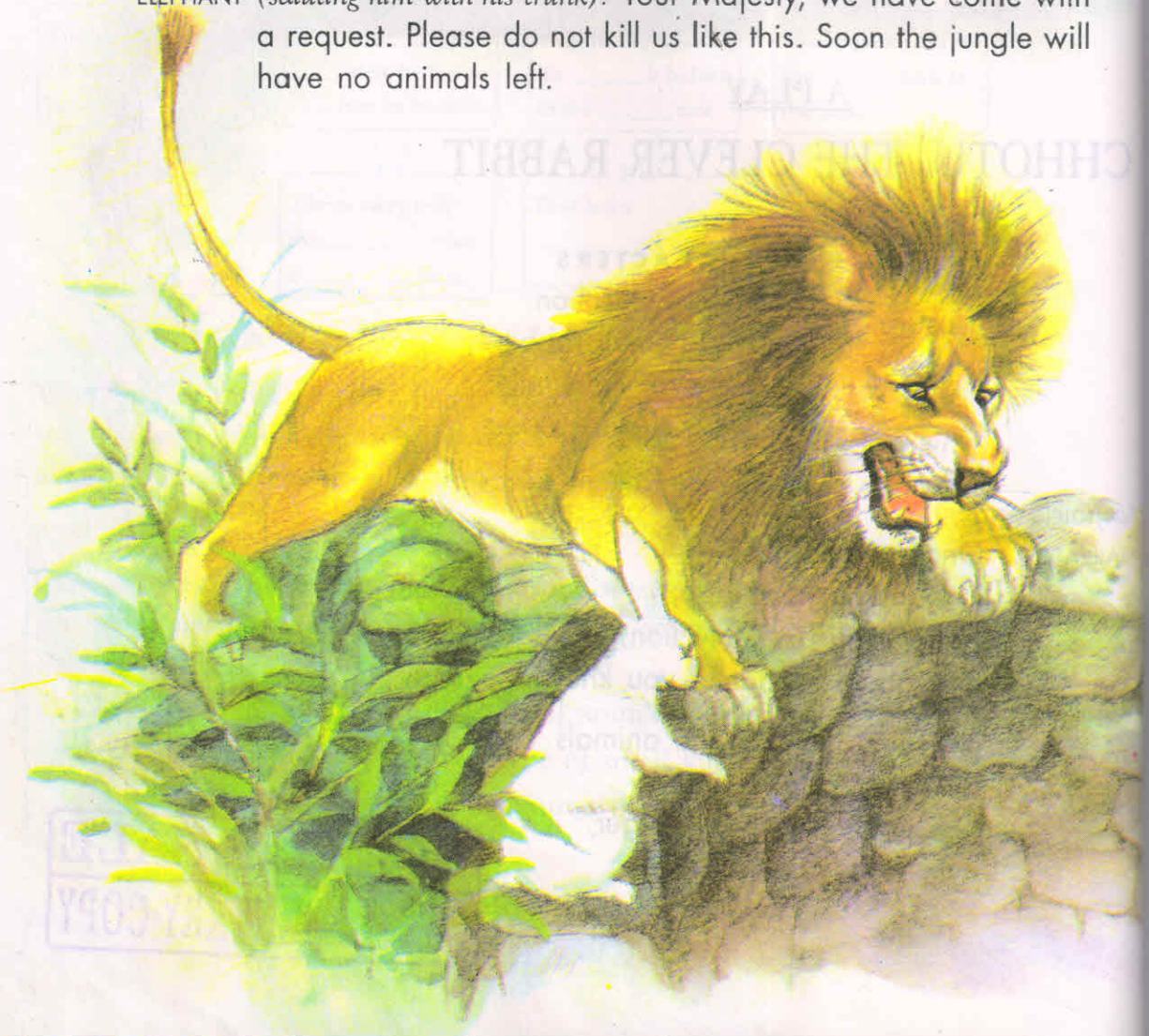
And now, for a good, long sleep.

(He stretches out and closes his eyes. Enter animals of the jungle, slowly, filled with fear, some whining.)

BHAYANAK: What is this awful noise? Who dares disturb me now?

(The animals push one another forward but each one turns back, too scared to face the lion, until BHAYANAK roars): Stop this nonsense and tell me what you want.

ELEPHANT (saluting him with his trunk): Your Majesty, we have come with a request. Please do not kill us like this. Soon the jungle will have no animals left.



BHAYANAK: Not kill you? Then what will I eat?

ELEPHANT: Sir, we will send you one animal every day. You will not have to go out to hunt. But spare the rest of us.

BHAYANAK (to himself): That sounds good! I do nothing, yet I get food!
(to the animals) Very well. But remember, even if one animal fails to turn up, I shall kill all of you!

ALL THE ANIMALS: Thank you, Your Majesty.

(They start going away, saluting Bhayanak on their way out.)

NARRATOR: Thus the lazy lion

Got his daily dinner

While the number of animals

Got thinner and thinner.

The big and the small

Were sent to him by lot

Till it was the turn of a rabbit

Chhotu—'the mischief-pot'.

CHHOTU (to himself, on his way to the lion's den): I do not think it is fair, how Bhayanak spreads a scare. Oh! Must I die? Does it have to be me? (suddenly) Hurray! Now I know a way to be free! (He hurries to find Bhayanak waiting outside his den.)

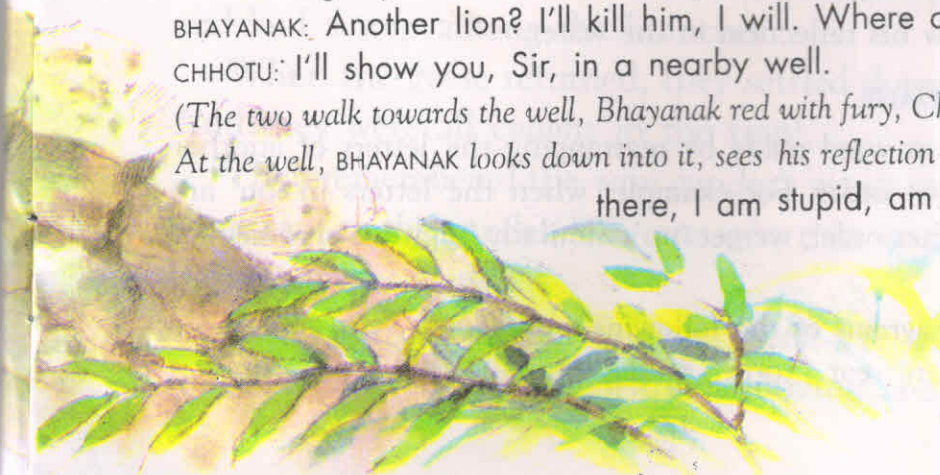
BHAYANAK: Why are you so late?

CHHOTU: Pardon me, Sir. This other lion on the way stopped me and nearly killed me. He said you were stupid and that he would fight you and become king.

BHAYANAK: Another lion? I'll kill him, I will. Where does he dwell?

CHHOTU: I'll show you, Sir, in a nearby well.

(The two walk towards the well, Bhayanak red with fury, Chhotu hiding a grin.
At the well, BHAYANAK looks down into it, sees his reflection and roars): You in there, I am stupid, am I? I will kill you!



(Back comes the echo, many times louder):

I'll kill you . . . I'll . . . kill . . . you . . .

(Mad with anger, Bhayanak jumps into the well with a S-P-L-A-S-H and is drowned. Chhotu dances with glee and is surprised to find himself suddenly surrounded by his friends who had secretly followed him all the way. Together they dance and sing):

Thank you, dear Chhotu,
You're a hero and a friend,
Bhayanak is dead
And this is **THE END!**

adapted from the story by

RITU SINGH

EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Write the statements in the correct order of the events as they happened in the story.

1. Chhotu took the lion to a deep well.
2. Chhotu became the hero of the jungle.
3. Bhayanak was about to set out to kill all the animals.
4. The animals decided with Bhayanak that they would send one animal every day to him.
5. One day, it was the turn of Chhotu.
6. Bhayanak was angry when he heard the lion shouting at him.
7. Bhayanak saw his reflection in the water.

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

An ANAGRAM is a word made by rearranging the letters of another word in a different order. For example, when the letters in 'on' are rewritten in another order, we get 'no'. Similarly 'night' is an anagram of 'thing'.

Can you write anagrams of the following words?

eat now ten ear tone prod

THE WISE GANDER

In a jungle was a big tree. On the tree lived some geese and a wise old gander.

One day, the gander saw a tiny creeper at the bottom of the tree. It looked pretty, but the gander was not happy to see it there.



CREEPER:
a plant that grows
along the ground
and up trees

"Do you see that tiny creeper at the bottom of our home?" he asked the geese. "It is pretty, but not good for us."

"What harm can a creeper do?" asked the geese.

"The creeper will soon reach the top of the tree. With its help someone can climb up and lay a trap for us. Cut it while it is small," said the gander.

"Cut it! Oh no! We cannot do that. It is such a pretty little thing," cried some of the geese.

Others said, "It is so tiny. There is still time for it to grow. We will cut it later."

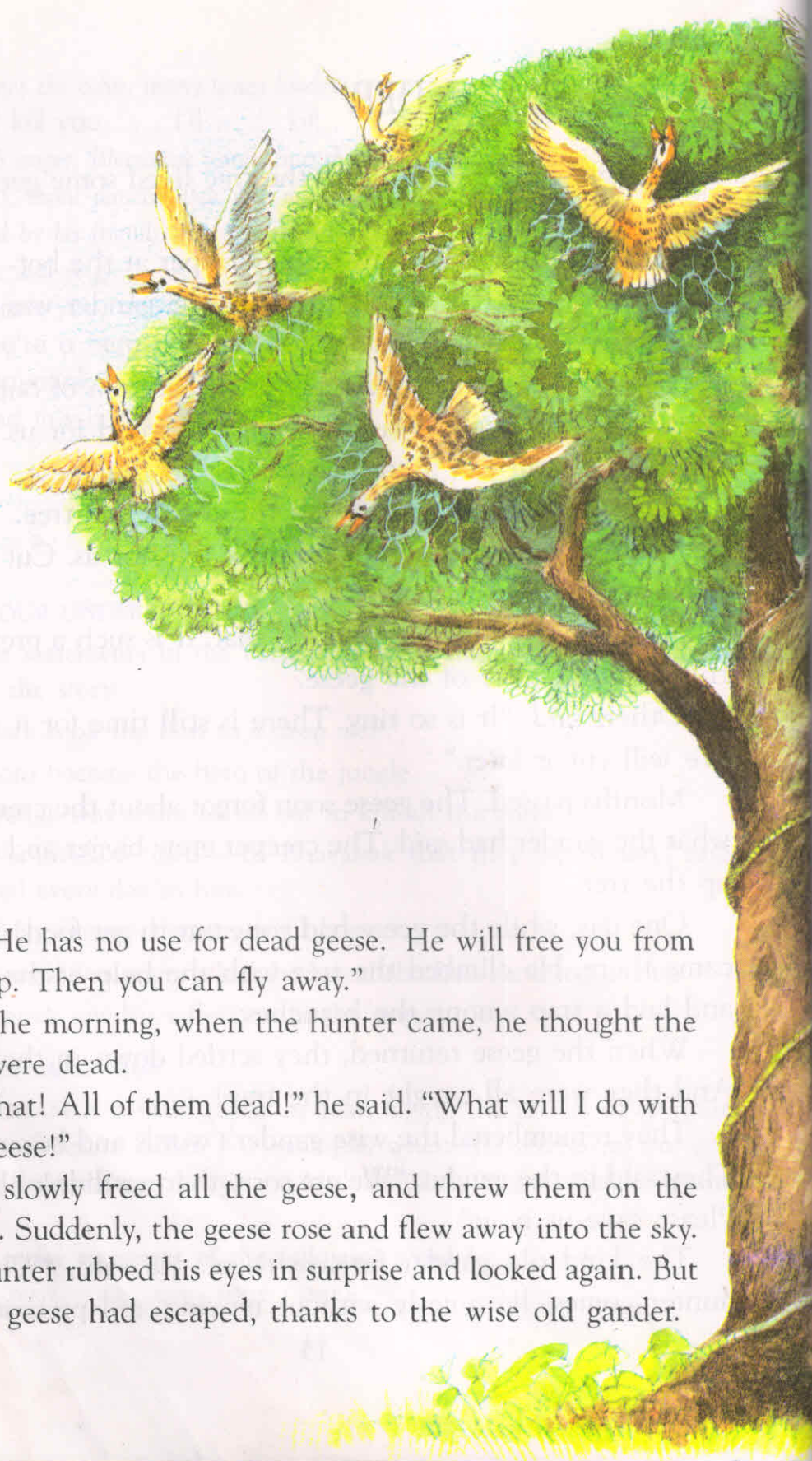
Months passed. The geese soon forgot about the creeper and what the gander had said. The creeper grew bigger and climbed up the tree.

One day, while the geese had gone out to get food, a hunter came there. He climbed the tree with the help of the creeper and laid a trap among the branches.

When the geese returned, they settled down in their nests. And they were all caught in the trap!

They remembered the wise gander's words and began to cry. They said to the gander, "We are sorry that we didn't obey you. Please save us now."

The kind old gander forgave them. He said, "When the hunter comes, lie quietly without moving and pretend to be

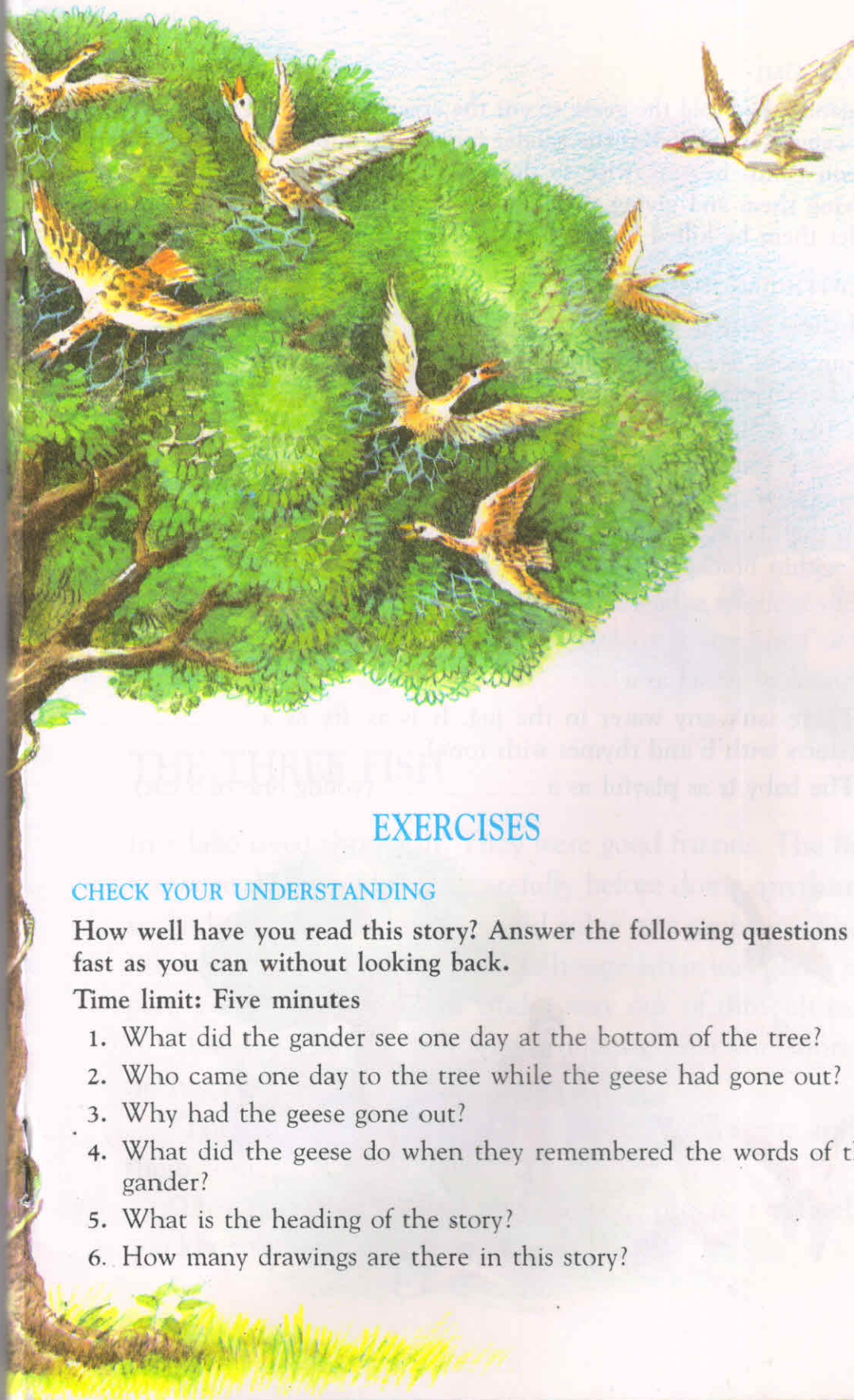


dead. He has no use for dead geese. He will free you from the trap. Then you can fly away."

In the morning, when the hunter came, he thought the geese were dead.

"What! All of them dead!" he said. "What will I do with dead geese!"

He slowly freed all the geese, and threw them on the ground. Suddenly, the geese rose and flew away into the sky. The hunter rubbed his eyes in surprise and looked again. But all the geese had escaped, thanks to the wise old gander.



EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

How well have you read this story? Answer the following questions as fast as you can without looking back.

Time limit: Five minutes

1. What did the gander see one day at the bottom of the tree?
2. Who came one day to the tree while the geese had gone out?
3. Why had the geese gone out?
4. What did the geese do when they remembered the words of the gander?
5. What is the heading of the story?
6. How many drawings are there in this story?

ACTION TIME

The gander had told the geese to cut the creeper. They did not. So they were caught one day. But the gander forgave them for not obeying him. Do you think he was wise to do so? Do you think that instead of forgiving them and giving them advice he should have punished them and let them be killed by the hunter? Discuss in the class.

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Read these sentences.

The sun looks like a ball of fire in the evening.

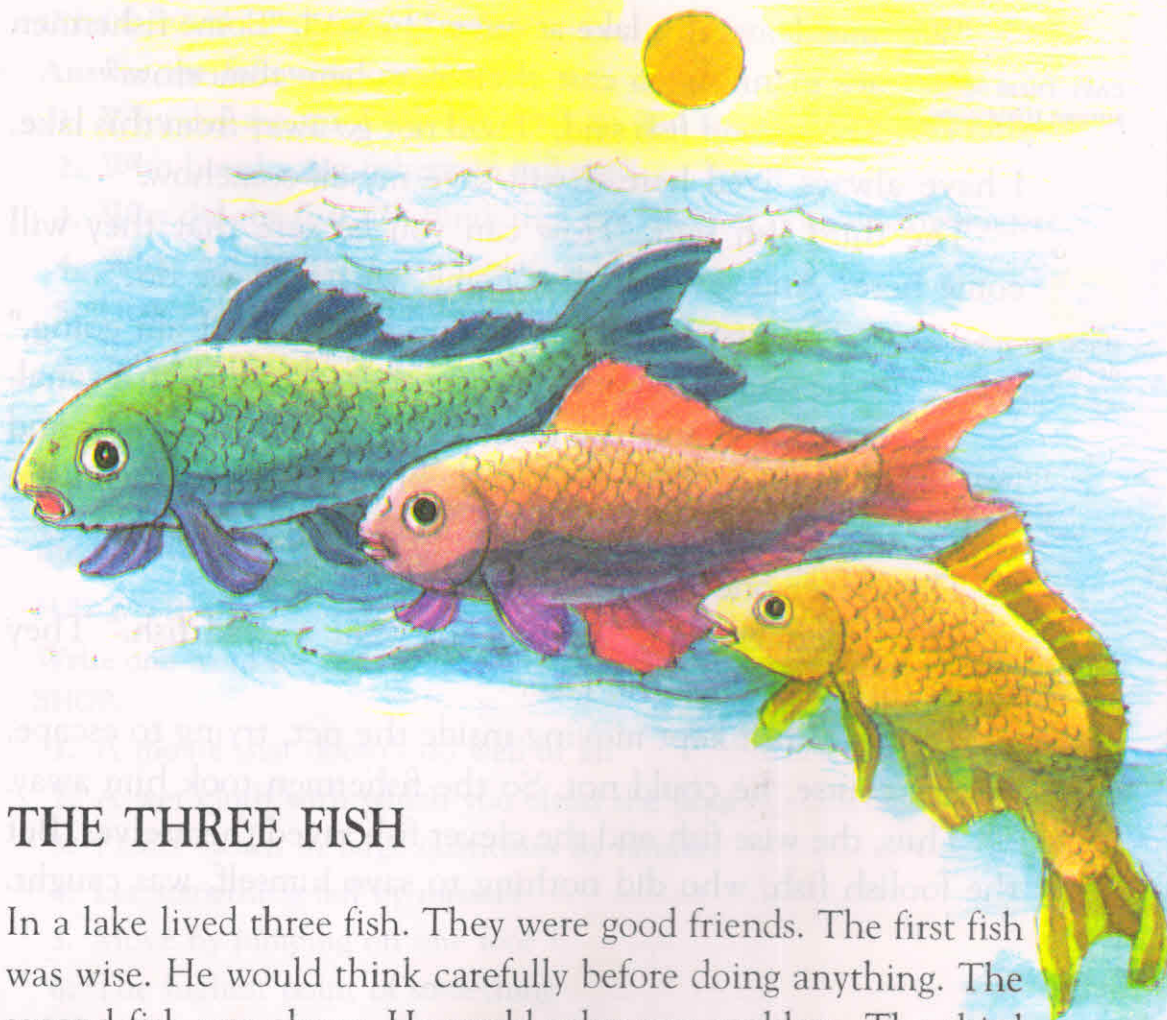
He is as blind as a bat.

Here 'like a ball of fire' and 'as blind as a bat' are called **SIMILES**. A simile is a phrase that shows how two different things are alike. A simile always uses the word *like* or *as*.

Fill in the blanks to complete the similes using the clues given on the right within brackets.

1. She is always as busy as a _____
2. His hand was as cold as _____
3. She is as proud as a _____
4. There isn't any water in the jug. It is as dry as a _____
(starts with b and rhymes with tone)
5. The baby is as playful as a _____ (young one of a cat)





THE THREE FISH

In a lake lived three fish. They were good friends. The first fish was wise. He would think carefully before doing anything. The second fish was clever. He could solve any problem. The third fish believed that no one could change what was going to happen. So he never tried to find a way out of difficulties.

One day, the first fish was swimming near the shore when he heard some fishermen talking.

"There are plenty of fish in this lake. We'll come and catch them tomorrow," they said.

'This place is not safe any longer,' the fish thought. He quickly swam to his friends to tell them.



CAST THEIR NETS:
spread their nets

"We must leave this lake at once," he said. "Some fishermen are planning to cast their nets here tomorrow."

The second fish said, "I will not go away from this lake. I have always lived here. I will save myself somehow."



MADE UP HIS MIND:
decided

The third fish said, "How can you be sure that they will come here? And, even if they come, what can we do?"

The first fish had made up his mind. "I am going," he said and swam off to another lake through a canal.

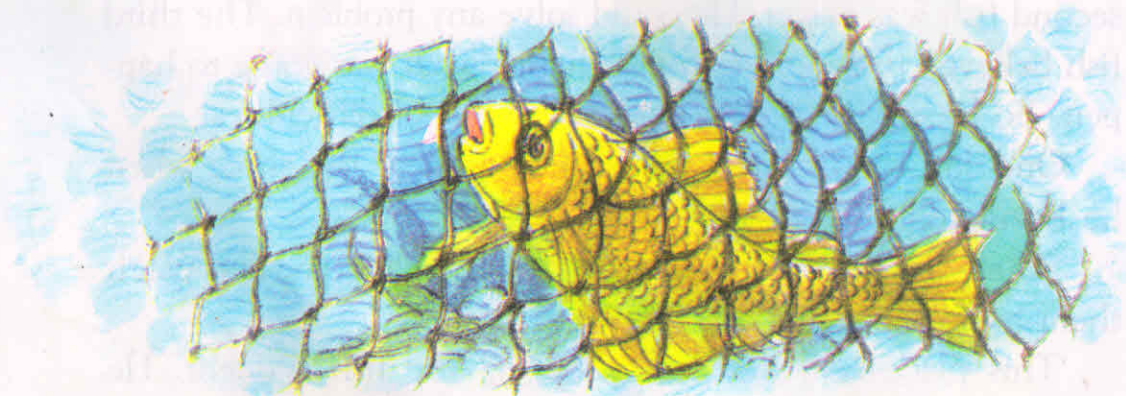
The fishermen came the next day. They cast their nets and caught all the fish. The two friends who had stayed back were caught too.

The clever one pretended to be dead.

The fishermen said, "We do not want a dead fish." They threw him back into the lake.

The third fish kept moving inside the net, trying to escape. But, of course, he could not. So the fishermen took him away.

Thus, the wise fish and the clever fish saved themselves. But the foolish fish, who did nothing to save himself, was caught.



EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the third fish never try to find a way out of difficulties?
2. Who heard some fishermen talking?
3. Why did the first fish think that the lake was not safe any longer?
4. What did the third fish reply?
5. How did the second fish escape?
6. What happened to the third fish?

ACTION TIME

If you were to act like a fish, how would you do it? [CLUE: Think about fins and tail.] Change this story into a play and enact it in Class with the help of your teacher.

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Write one word for each of the following. The word should rhyme with SHOP.

1. A movie that doesn't do well at all FLOP
2. A wet cloth with which you clean the floor _____
3. Plants grown in large quantities by farmers _____
4. Let something fall by mistake _____
5. Move by jumping on one foot _____
6. The highest point of something _____



THE TALKING CAVE

Once upon a time, a lion lived in a jungle. He used to hunt smaller animals for his food.

One day, the lion hunted everywhere but found no animal to kill and eat. He was very hungry.

At sunset, he reached a cave. He went inside.

'Some animal will surely come to spend the night in this cave. When he does I will eat him up,' he said to himself.

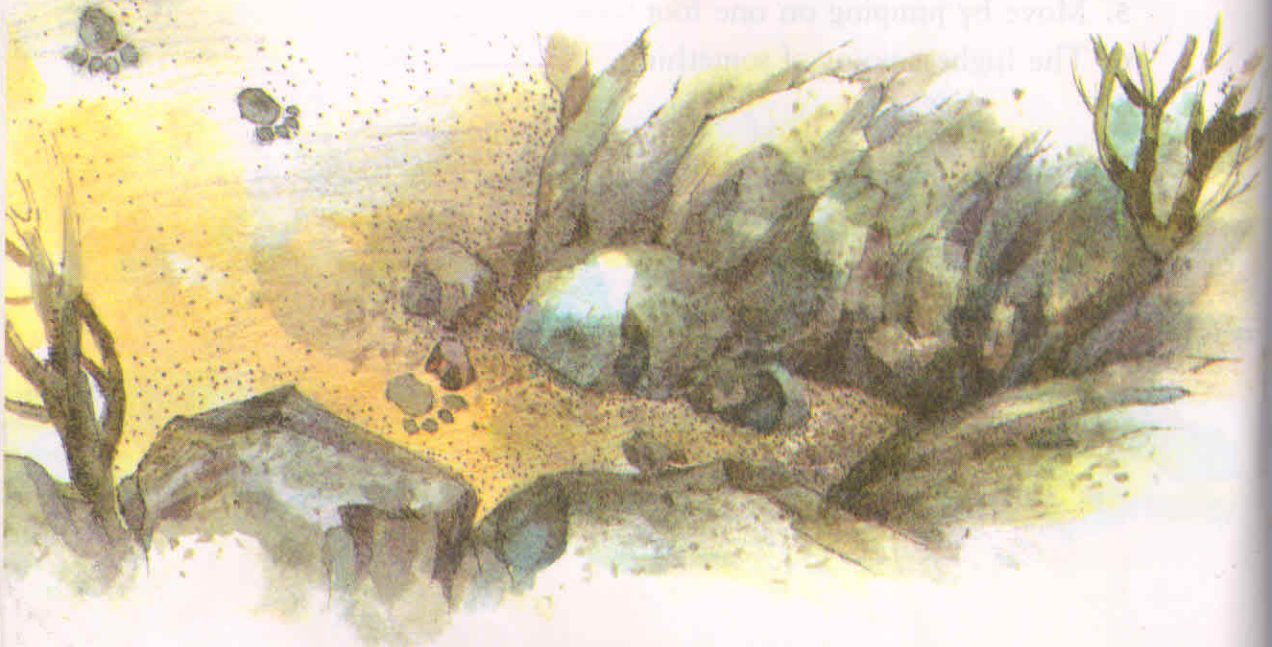
After a while, a jackal came along. The cave was his home. He came there every night to sleep.

As he was about to enter the cave, he saw some footprints.

So he stopped outside and called out, "Good-evening to you!"

No one answered him. It was quiet. The lion heard the jackal, but did not make a sound. Licking his lips, he waited for the jackal to come inside.

After some time, the clever jackal spoke again, "O





Cave, every day when I come to you, you welcome me so nicely. Why are you silent today? If you do not answer I will go away to another cave."

The lion heard this and thought that the jackal would really go away if he did not reply. So he roared loudly.

The whole forest shook with the terrible roar of the lion. All the animals of the forest heard it and were very scared. They all ran away.

The hungry lion waited for the jackal to enter the cave. But the jackal laughed. He stood outside the cave and called out, "I have never heard a cave talking. Caves do not talk." Having said this, the jackal ran off.

The foolish lion slowly came out of the cave. He looked around but found no one. He knew now that he should not have opened his mouth.

EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Read this sentence and answer the following questions.

"If you do not answer I will go away."

1. Who said this?

2. Who was the speaker talking to?
3. Where would the speaker go away?
4. What answer did the speaker want to hear?
5. Did he get an answer in the end?
6. What did he do when he got an answer?

ACTION TIME

The jackal actually talked to the cave. But the lion, instead of replying in words, roared loudly. What do you think he would have said if he had spoken at that time?

What should you say in reply to each of the following?

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Good-evening! | 4. Nice to meet you! |
| 2. How are you? | 5. Thank you! |
| 3. How do you do? | 6. Hello! |

FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Can you write the words in the following sentences in the correct order to make them meaningful? The first is done for you.

1. name friend's his Ranjan was
His friend's name was Ranjan.
2. me pen please a give
3. work pass exam I will to hard the
4. have might to go office he to the
5. crossed to side river other they the of the
6. the of ways solving problem this the one of is

THE HERON AND THE CRAB

In the middle of a jungle was a large lake. Many fish swam about and played in the water all day long with their friend, a crab.

On the shores of the lake lived a heron. The heron loved to eat fish. But he was too lazy to go and catch them himself.

'If only I could get some fish every day,' he said to himself one day. He thought of a clever plan.

Next morning, the fish and the crab were surprised to see the heron standing quietly by the lake.

"Why are you standing so quietly?" asked the crab in surprise. "I hope you are not ill?"

"No, not ill. But I am very unhappy!" said the heron.

"Why, what is the matter?" asked the crab.

"I've decided to fast till I die," replied the heron.

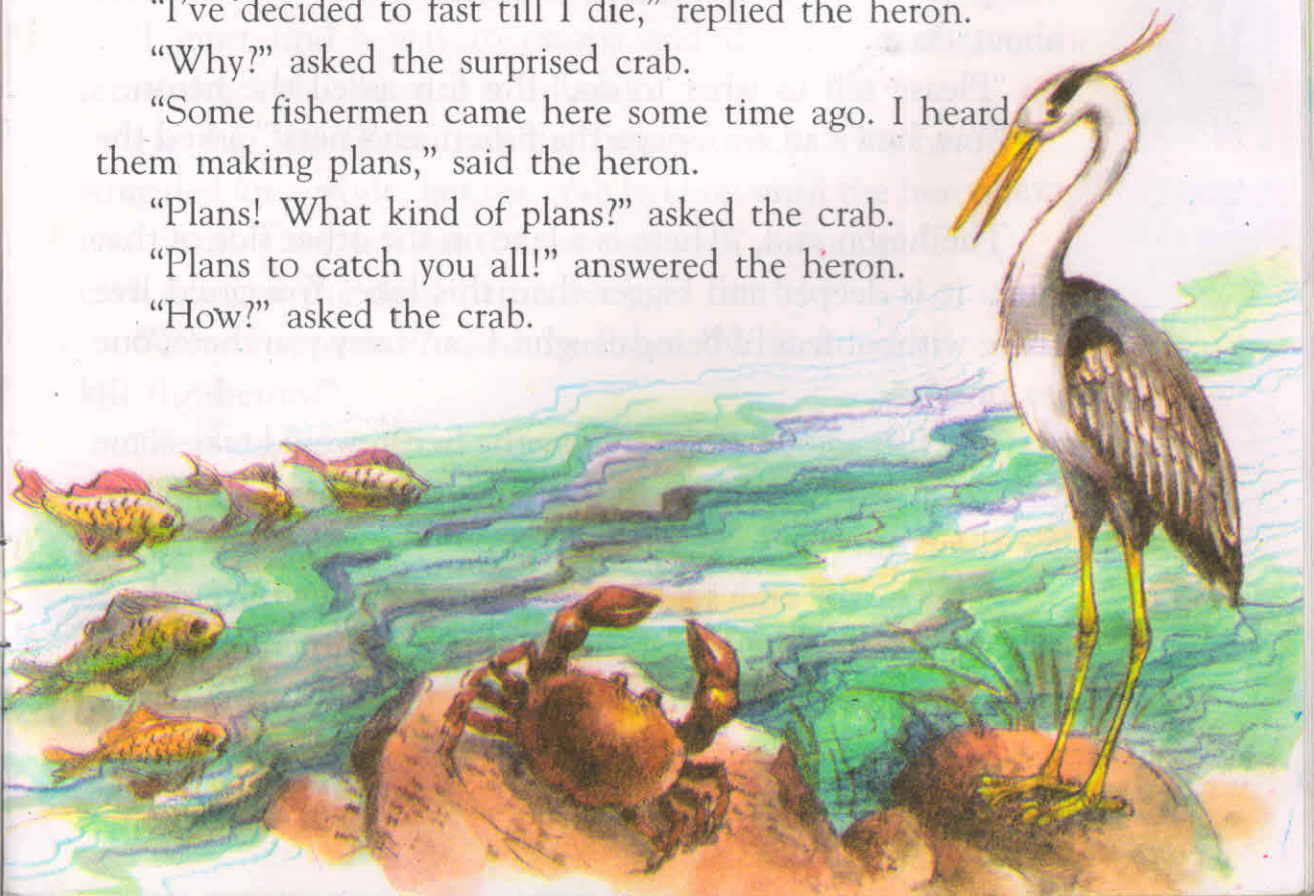
"Why?" asked the surprised crab.

"Some fishermen came here some time ago. I heard them making plans," said the heron.

"Plans! What kind of plans?" asked the crab.

"Plans to catch you all!" answered the heron.

"How?" asked the crab.



"I heard one of them say, 'This lake is full of fish, friends. Let's go home and call all the others. We shall bring our nets and catch them all.' So now you know why I'm so worried."

"But they want to catch us, not you. Why are you worried?" the crab asked.

"Yes, but if they take all of you away, what will I eat? So I have decided to starve myself to death from now!"

The crab thought to himself, 'The heron only catches a fish or two every day. But the fishermen will catch all of them in one day.'

"Did the fishermen say when they would be back?" asked the crab. "Will they catch us all today?"

"No, no!" said the heron. "It'll take them some time to tell everybody and get hold of large nets. But they will come."

The fish heard the two talking. They did not feel scared of the heron any more. They thought that he was worried about them.

"Please tell us what to do," the fish asked the heron.

"Yes, how can we escape the fishermen's nets?" asked the crab.

The heron said, "There is a lake on the other side of that rock. It is deeper and bigger than this lake. You could live there without fear of being caught. I can carry you there, one by one."

The fish agreed. So every day the heron would take some fish to a rock nearby and eat them. The other fish waited for their turn.

One day the crab said to the heron, "It is my turn today."

"Very well," the heron said, smiling at the crab. "I shall take you today. But you are too large to hold in my beak."





"Don't worry. I'll put my claws round your neck and hold on somehow," said the crab.

Up flew the heron carrying the crab with him. But the crab could not see the lake on the other side of the rock. "There is no lake here," cried the crab. "Where are you taking me?"

"Look down and you will see where I am taking you," said the heron with a nasty laugh. "All the others are also there."

The crab was horrified to see lots of fish bones on the rocks below. He understood at once.


HORRIFIED:
shocked

'I must find a way to escape and then try and save the remaining fish,' he said to himself.

He dug his claws into the heron's neck. The heron struggled for a while, but the crab held on until the heron was dead. They fell on the ground with a thump. The crab dragged the dead heron back to the lake.

"What happened?" cried the fishes. "Why did you kill the heron?"

"Because he was our enemy!" said the crab.

He then told them the whole story and became a hero.



EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Match the following columns to make complete sentences.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The heron | decided to | eat fish. |
| 2. The crab put | the crab | on the ground. |
| 3. The fish and | the heron fell | around the heron's neck. |
| 4. The heron had | loved to | fast unto death. |
| 5. The crab and | his claws | were friends. |

ACTION TIME

Here is a riddle. Can you solve it?

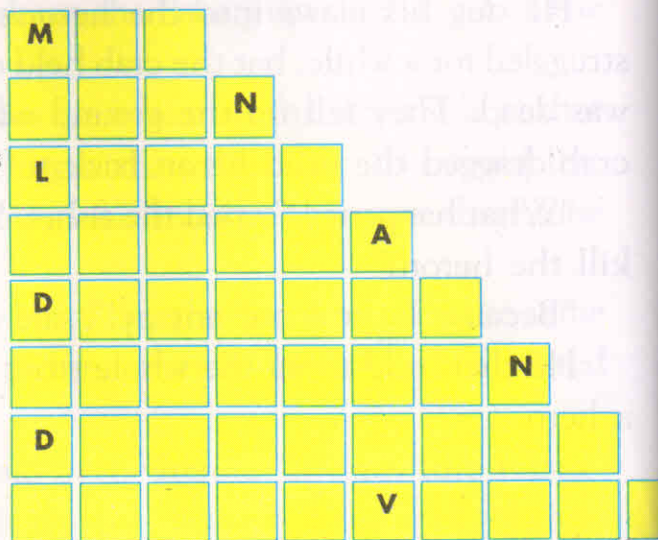
Two women and their daughters are eating in a restaurant. Only three people are at the table. How is this possible?

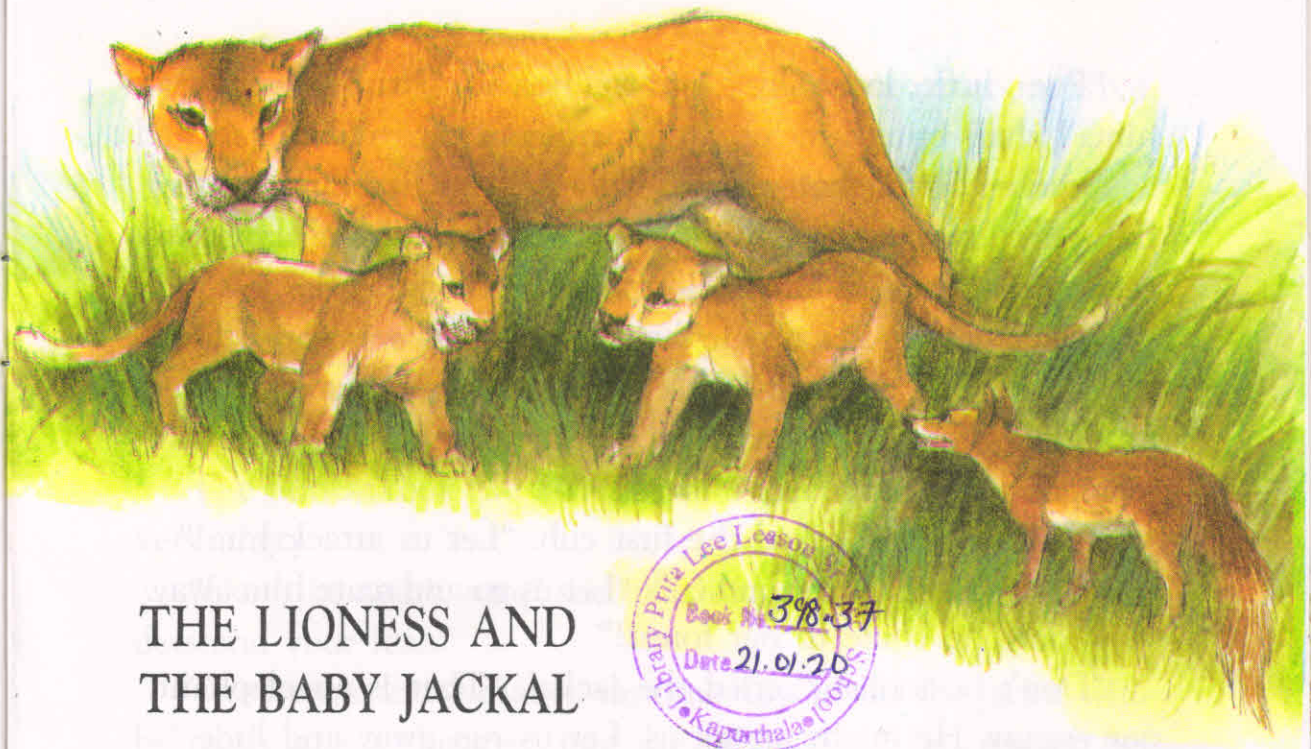
FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Try your hand and head at this alphabet game. The answers to these clues are words in which the first and the last letters are the same.

Can you find words in this story in which the first and the last letters are the same?

1. Call your mother
2. A part of speech
3. A sticker for an address
4. Saudi _____
5. Valuable stone
6. Eleven plus eight
7. Became less
8. Columbus _____
America





THE LIONESS AND THE BABY JACKAL

A lioness had just given birth to two cubs. She would stay in her cave to look after her little ones. The lion would go out hunting for food.

One day the lion could not find anything. He was worried. He could stay without food for a day or two. But the lioness, who was still not very strong, had to eat.

He was wondering what he should do when he saw a tiny creature near a bush. It was a baby jackal. The lion felt sorry for it. He picked it up carefully and brought it home.

The lioness was very hungry. "Did you find any food?" she asked.

"No. There were no animals around," said the lion.

"But what is that?" asked the lioness pointing to the tiny bundle.

"A baby jackal. I did not feel like killing him," said the lion. "But you can eat him if you like. You must be very hungry."

"Poor, little, lost baby!" said the lioness. "No, I will not eat him. I shall bring him up along with our own cubs."

So the baby jackal grew up with the two lion cubs, getting the same love and care from the lioness. The three played together in the forest all day long.

One day they saw an elephant. The jackal was very scared. It was the first time he had seen such a big animal. He tried to hide behind the lion cubs. The cubs, however, were not scared.

"Who is that?" asked the first cub. "Let us attack him!"

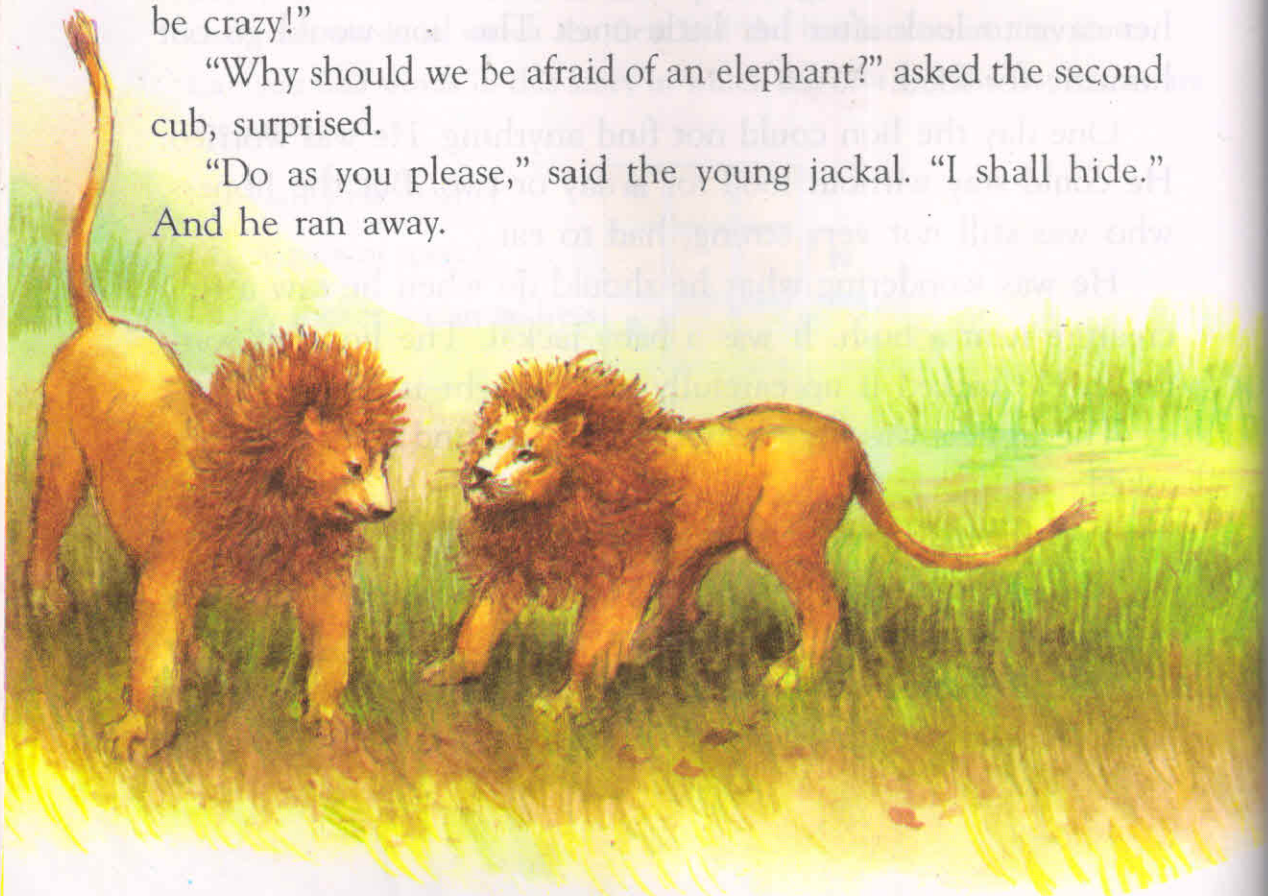
"Yes," agreed the second cub. "Let us go and scare him away. How dare he come to our forest!"

"Don't be foolish," cried the jackal. "That is an elephant, our enemy. He might attack us. Let us run away and hide."

"Run away from an elephant?" asked the first cub. "You must be crazy!"

"Why should we be afraid of an elephant?" asked the second cub, surprised.

"Do as you please," said the young jackal. "I shall hide." And he ran away.



Later that day, the two cubs told their mother about what had happened that morning.

"He was so scared and looked so funny!" said the first cub, laughing loudly.

"Imagine being afraid of an elephant!" said the second.

The jackal was angry. "You are fools, both of you! That elephant could have killed you both."

The cubs laughed even louder.

The lioness took the little jackal aside. She saw that he was very angry.

"Don't be angry, son," she told him gently. "They don't understand your fear."

The lioness knew that it was time now to tell the jackal who he really was. Otherwise, one day, when the cubs grew up his life could be in danger. So she gently told him that she was not his real mother. He was not a lion but a jackal.

At the end she said, "You are almost grown up now and not helpless any longer. So you'd better go and live with other jackals before my sons find out that you are a jackal."

The jackal trembled at the thought of facing two full-grown lions and ran off to find his own pack.



EXERCISES

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Fill in the blanks with the correct word/phrase from the brackets.

1. The lion found a baby _____ near a bush.
(elephant/dog/jackal)
2. The baby jackal grew up with the two _____.
(kittens/puppies/lion cubs)
3. One day, they saw _____ (a lion/an elephant/a jackal)
4. If the _____ did not tell the jackal, his life would be in danger. (lioness/lion/cubs)
5. The _____ ran away to find his own pack.
(dog/jackal/lion)

ACTION TIME

Have you heard of Ramu, the boy who was brought up by wolves? This is not a story but a factual report in the newspapers. Find out about him. Discuss in the class how the wolves must have brought him up.

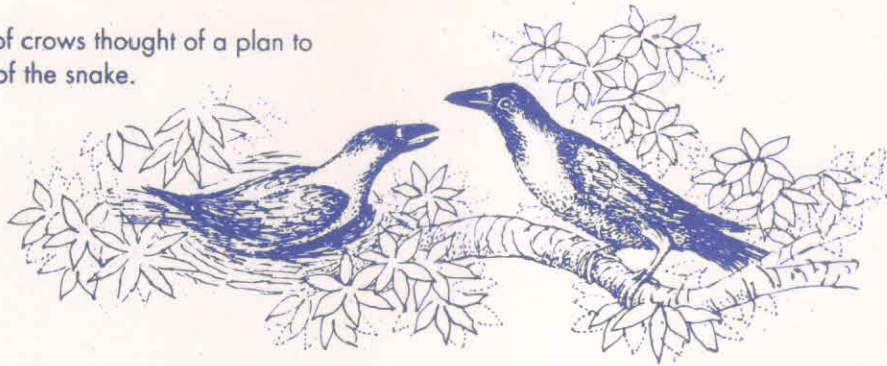
FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Across! Down! Diagonal!
You have been reading stories of animals in this book. Find names of 10 of them in this Wordsearch.

E	J	A	C	K	A	L	X
P	L	I	O	N	Y	Z	F
G	E	E	S	E	O	I	R
A	A	B	P	Q	S	N	A
N	F	T	O	H	Z	V	B
D	D	U	C	R	A	B	B
E	R	H	E	R	O	N	I
R	C	H	A	T	U	R	T



A pair of crows thought of a plan to get rid of the snake.



They flew to a lake where a queen came to bathe. They flew off with a necklace she had left on the bank of the lake. They reached the tree and dropped the necklace in front of the snake's hole.



The queen's servants chased the crows and came to the tree. They killed the snake and took away the necklace.



The crows and the other birds lived happily ever after and their eggs were safe.