

Animal Facts

- 1 Rabbit boasted, "I know everything! Ask me questions about animals. I'll answer all of them!" Tortoise was tired of Rabbit always showing off, so she decided to ask some hard questions. Tortoise didn't think Rabbit would know the answers.
- 2 Tortoise said, "Okay, I will. First, what color socks does Bear wear? Second, which animal can jump higher than a house? Third, which side of Cheetah has the most spots? Finally, how many books can Owl put in his empty backpack?" Tortoise was going to ask some more questions, but Rabbit interrupted.
- 3 "Even a baby could answer those questions," Rabbit sneered. "They aren't hard questions at all. They're all as easy as pie. Bear's socks aren't any color, because bears don't wear socks. They have bare feet! Second, all animals can jump higher than a house. Houses can't jump! The answer to the third question is not the left side. It is not the right side. It is the outside! Owl can only put one book in his empty backpack. After that, the backpack isn't empty."
- 4 Tortoise didn't sneer at Rabbit. She did the opposite. She complimented her. "You're clever, Rabbit!" she said. "You knew *bear* and *bare* are homonyms. *Bear* and *bare* are words that sound the same. They sound the same, but they have different meanings. I did not think you knew that."
- 5 "I'll bet you don't know this," jeered Rabbit. "I can make something. I can make it bigger and bigger. No matter how big I make it, it always weighs the same. I bet you don't know what it is I can make." Rabbit had to stop jeering when Tortoise answered. There was no reason to sneer or make fun of Tortoise because Tortoise knew. The answer was "a hole." Rabbit could make a hole bigger and bigger. The hole would always weigh the same. It would always weigh nothing.

Your Name: _____ Partner: _____

Animal Facts *(cont.)*

First Silently read "Animal Facts." You might see words you do not know. There might be parts you do not understand. Keep reading! Try to find out what the story is mainly about.

Then Sum up the story. Write the main actions and most important information. If someone reads your summary, that person should know it is this story you are writing about.

After That Read the story again. Use a pencil to circle or mark words you don't know. Note places that confuse you. Underline the main action or idea of each paragraph.

Next Meet with your partner. Help each other find these words in the text.

boasted sneered jeered homonym

Read the sentences around the words. Think about how they fit in the whole story. Write what the words mean. Which information in the text helps you and your partner figure out the meaning of the words? The first row of the chart is done for you.

Word	What It Means	Information That Helps
boasted	to show off about what you know, own, or can do	Rabbit boasted that she knew everything.
sneered		
jeered		
homonym		

Your Name: _____

Animal Facts *(cont.)*

Now Answer the story questions below.

- Who is more well-mannered, Rabbit or Tortoise? Tell why. Use some of your vocabulary words in your answer.

- Which riddle does Tortoise ask first? _____

Explain what you have to know for the answer to make sense.

- In paragraph 3, Rabbit says the riddles are “as easy as pie.” What does Rabbit mean?

Quote one sentence from the text that shows your answer above is correct.

- Imagine if Tortoise asked Rabbit, “What did one bee say to another bee?” Imagine that Rabbit answered, “Just be (bee) yourself!” Most likely, what would Tortoise do? Would she sneer at Rabbit, or would she compliment her? Check the box beside your answer.

sneer compliment

Now use evidence from the story to support your answer. _____

Write down something you think Tortoise might say when Rabbit got the right answer.

Your Name: _____

Animal Facts (cont.)

Then Reread the entire story one last time. Think about the title as you read.

5. Does the title make it seem as if the story is going to be fiction or nonfiction? Why?

When and how do you first begin to get a hint that the story does not fit with the title in this way?

6. Write a new and better title for the story.

Tell why your title fits the story better.

7. Which of these two riddles has a homonym in its answer? Fill in the circle beside your answer. Then explain your answer.

Ⓐ Why did Rabbit sit on her watch?
She wanted to be on time.

Ⓑ What part of the month sounds like it has no strength? **the week**

Learn More Work with a partner. Do one of the following:

- Work together to make a list of homonyms. Can you think of at least 10?
- Write five sentences about rabbits or tortoises. Four of your sentences should be real facts. One should be fiction. Can your classmates spot the one that is fiction?

“Dead-Tree Wishes” (pages 8–11)

Summary: A woodcutter gets two wishes for sparing a dead tree. He wishes his children were silent. Then he wishes his wish undone because their mouths are sealed.

Vocabulary: *deed* = “an act”; *grant* = “to give”; *sealed* = “closed tightly”

1. They make their homes in the holes.
2. Their lips were sealed. Answers will vary. Students should understand that a sealed mouth would mean that they couldn’t talk, eat, or drink.
3. Students should draw one tree with nothing on it and another with many leaves. “There was not one speck of green on it. It did not have even the tiniest leaf!”
4. C; The children wish to be king (boy) and queen (girl).
5. “Once upon a time”; this tells you that you are about to read a fairy tale.
6. She makes you think the woodcutter might wish for something the children want or a beach house or a new car. Accept appropriate responses.
7. The last line tells you this information about the woodcutter’s last wish.

“Going, Going, Gone!” (pages 12–15)

Summary: Little penguins on Middle Island were being killed by foxes who had been brought there. Special sheepdogs were brought in to help. The penguins were saved.

1. They crossed from the mainland when it was low tide.
2. Special sheepdogs from Italy were brought in to protect them.
3. Accept any picture that shows a small tunnel. Penguins can’t fly.
4. Both work five days, with two days off. The dogs, however, work day and night.
5. It’s about how the penguins will soon be gone because of the foxes.
7. paragraph 5; “The idea worked!” or “The dogs kept the penguins safe!”

“Helping Hands” (pages 16–19)

Summary: Darcy keeps asking her mom to carry her stuffed animals. Then she asks her mom to carry her. Her mom can’t because she only has three hands.

Vocabulary: *plead* = “beg”; *stem* = “be firm”; *appreciate* = “be thankful or glad for”

1. First, she carried a stuffed lion in her left hand. Next, she carried a stuffed octopus in her right hand. Then, she carried a stuffed horse in her middle hand.
2. a ton; when Darcy’s mom says, “I don’t think a stuffed lion weighs 2,000 pounds.”
3. It isn’t possible, because it would be too heavy to carry.
4. She is saying something nice. We know this because her mom thanks her.
5. You find out that Darcy’s mom has three hands.
6. In our world, people only have two hands, so the story cannot be realistic fiction.
7. The word *all* foreshadows that she might have more than two hands. If she had two hands, she probably would say, “Both of my hands are full.”

“Biscuit Drop” (pages 20–23)

Summary: A mountain climber named Bates tested biscuits so he could find the right ones for an expedition to K2.

Vocabulary: *hardy* = “tough, doesn’t break easily”; *resistant* = “strong, can keep something away”; *expedition* = “journey, trip”; *route* = “way, path, trail”

1. He threw them out of a second-floor window and left them in the rain overnight.
2. hardy and water-resistant; Bates tested them to see if they would crack and if they would get soggy, and his job was getting the food.
3. *Possible reasons:* It is “easier to climb,” “not as steep,” “not as hard to get to the top,” and has a “well-worn route to the summit.”
4. The top should be circled. The story uses *summit* and *top* interchangeably. The top of K2 is in the Death Zone. There is not enough oxygen.

5. 1, 2, and 5 should be filled in. The other two paragraphs are mainly about K2 and Everest, and how K2 is harder to climb.

6. We find out in the last paragraph.

“Animal Facts” (pages 24–27)

Summary: Tortoise thinks she can stop Rabbit from boasting by asking hard riddles. Rabbit answers all the riddles and then asks Tortoise a riddle.

Vocabulary: *sneered* = “smiled or spoke in a mean way”; *jeered* = “spoke or teased in a mean way”; *homonym* = “words that sound the same but have different meanings”

1. Tortoise. She doesn’t boast, sneer, or jeer. She gives Rabbit a compliment.
2. What color socks does Bear wear?; You have to know that *bear* and *bare* are homonyms and that when your feet are bare, you are not wearing socks.
3. She’s saying they are really easy; “They aren’t hard questions at all.”
4. She would compliment Rabbit.
5. nonfiction, because facts are true; right away, because rabbits can’t boast
7. B; if you are weak, you are not strong (*weak* and *week* are homonyms)

“Edward Lear” (pages 28–31)

Summary: Edward Lear is a poet who wrote nonsense poems. One poem was about bird nests in a beard. Lear was ashamed because he had seizures.

1. Birds don’t make nests in men’s beards.
2. “Two Owls and a Hen, Four Larks and a Wren”; 8 total
3. He would feel ashamed and blame himself; no, because it wasn’t his fault.
4. Yes, because he imagined things like birds making nests in beards.
5. paragraphs 3, 4, and 5; his life with his sister, and his seizures
6. It has five lines. In lines 1, 2, and 5, the words *beard*, *feared*, and *beard* all rhyme. In lines 3 and 4, the words *hen* and *wren* rhyme.

“Horribly Sick” (pages 32–35)

Summary: Mrs. Danza thinks Carlos is sick, because he is reading instead of playing video games or watching TV.

Vocabulary: b. *respond* = “react”; c. *chatter* = “talk”; d. *symptoms* = “signs”

1. playing video games or watching TV; because all the other children do it
2. largest marsupials in world, can swim, can’t walk backward, hop on two legs, walk slowly on four, can jump three times their height, babies called joeys
3. a. mammals; b. Answers may vary. Human mothers don’t carry their babies in pouches; c. Answers may vary. You can walk backwards.
4. He doesn’t react at all. He is too interested in the book he is reading.
5. You find out that Carlos was reading and wasn’t horribly sick.
You find out that his mother doesn’t understand why reading is so important.
6. No, because the surprise is that he was reading, not what he was reading about.
7. Mrs. Danza took the book Carlos was reading from his hands.

“Crocodile Tears” (pages 36–39)

Summary: Crocodiles cry when they eat, but not because they’re sad. Their jaws are strong for biting down. People who shed crocodile tears are pretending to be sad.

Vocabulary: a. The crocodile consumes or eats its prey; b. The story calls the crocodile “the reptile”; c. The story says “crocodiles don’t have emotions like people.”

1. A crocodile has small and weak muscles for opening its mouth.
2. Tears clean their eyes, get rid of extra salt, and keep their eyes from drying out.
3. Casey is crying fake tears. “Someone may pretend to be sad or upset.”