

Read-aloud Tales

and Questions

K
Kindergarten



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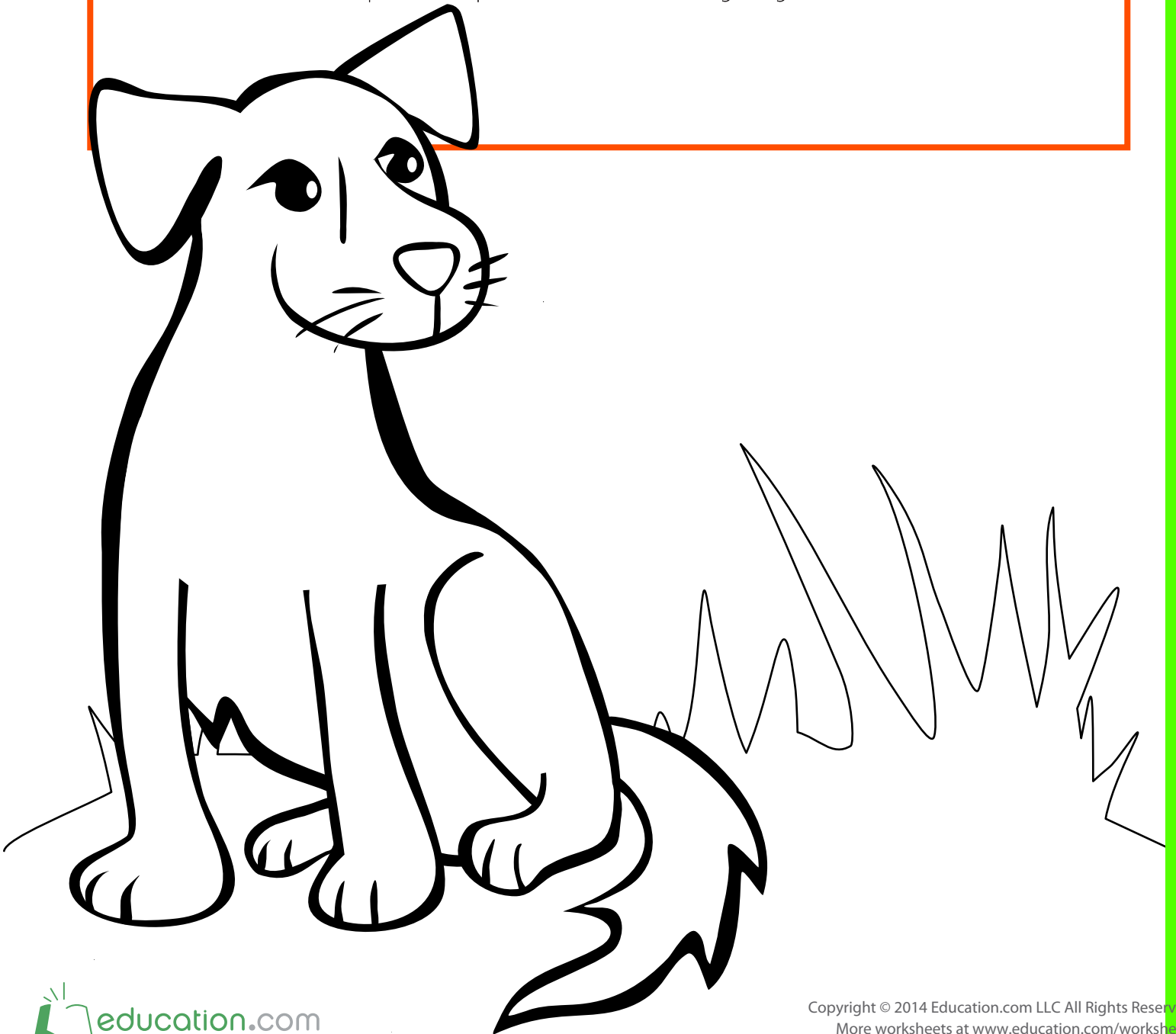
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Introduction

Read these stories aloud to your child. Then ask and discuss with them the questions that follow. Feel free to use the spaces provided to write down their answers to remember them later!

Questions in the workbook are simple, to help children recall basic details about a text, but feel free to ask them what they think the moral of a fable means and let them talk through their thoughts to help them practice their language skills.



The Frog and the Ox

An ox came down to a reedy pool to drink. As he splashed heavily into the water, he crushed a young frog into the mud. The old frog soon missed the little one and asked his brothers and sisters what had become of him.

"A *great* big monster," said one of them, "stepped on little brother with one of his huge feet!"

"Big, was he!" said the old frog, puffing herself up. "Was he as big as this?"

"Oh, *much* bigger!" they cried.

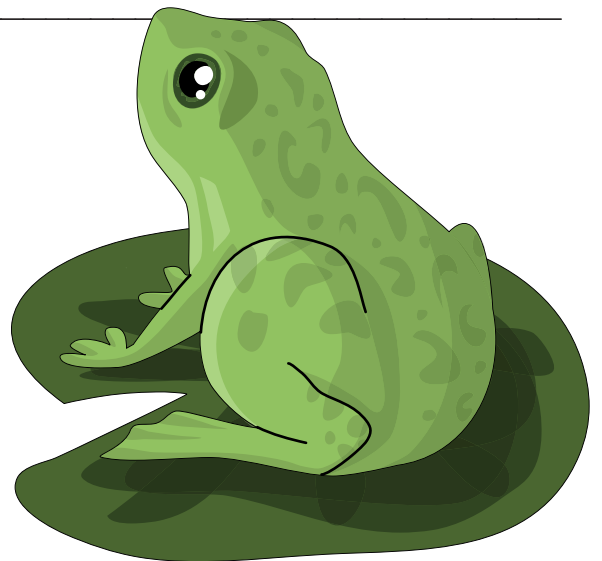
The frog puffed up still more.

"He could not have been bigger than this," she said. But the little frogs all declared that the monster was much, much bigger, and the old frog kept puffing herself out more and more until, all at once, she burst.

Moral: Do not attempt the impossible.

What happened to the young frog in the beginning of the story?

What happened to the old frog at the end of the story?





The Tortoise and the Eagle

By Aesop

A tortoise, lazily basking in the sun, complained to the birds that no one would teach her to fly. An eagle, hovering near, heard her cry and demanded what reward she would give him if he would take her aloft and float her in the air.

“I will give you,” she said, “all the riches of the sea.”

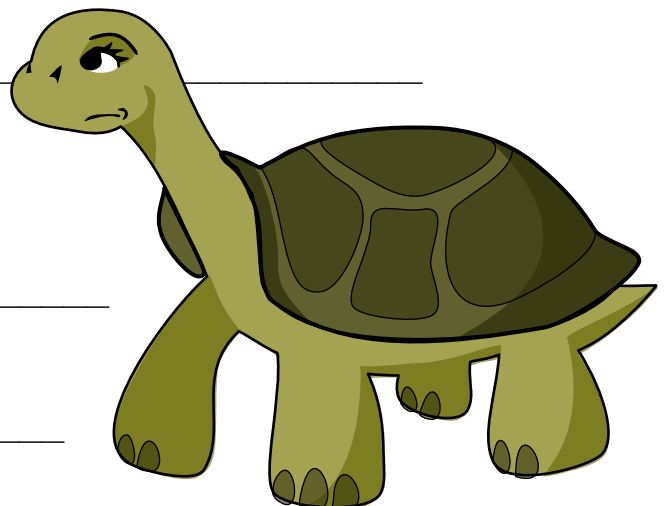
“I will teach you to fly then,” said the eagle; and taking her up in his talons he carried her almost to the clouds. Suddenly he let her go, and she fell on a lofty mountain, dashing her shell to pieces.

The tortoise exclaimed: “I have deserved my present fate; for what could I do with wings and clouds, when I move with difficulty about the earth?”

Moral: If men had all they wished, they would be often ruined.

What did the tortoise want to do in the story?

How does the eagle help the tortoise?



At the Zoo

William Makepeace Thackeray

First I saw the white bear, then I saw the black;
Then I saw the camel with a hump upon his back;
Then I saw the grey wolf, with mutton in his maw;
Then I saw the wombat waddle in the straw;
Then I saw the elephant a-waving of his trunk;
Then I saw the monkeys-mercy, how unpleasantly
they smelt!

What animal was white?

What animal had a hump on his back?

What animal was in the straw?

What animal was waving his trunk?

Little Boy Blue



Little Boy Blue, come, blow your horn!

The sheep is in the meadow, the cow is in the corn;

Where is the little boy that looks after the sheep?

Under the haystack, fast asleep!



1. Where do we find the sheep hiding?

2. Where do we find the little boy sleeping?



The Hare and the Tortoise

By Aesop

A hare was making fun of a tortoise one day for being so slow.

“Do you ever get anywhere?” he asked with a mocking laugh.

“Yes,” replied the tortoise, “and I get there sooner than you think. I’ll run you a race and prove it.”

The hare was amused at the idea of running a race with a tortoise, but for the fun of the thing he agreed. So the fox, who had consented to act as judge, marked the distance and started the runners off.

The hare was soon far out of sight, and to make the tortoise feel silly for trying to race a very fast animal like a hare, he lay down beside the course to take a nap until the tortoise should catch up.

The tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but steadily, and, after a time, passed the place where the hare was sleeping. But the hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the tortoise was near the goal. The hare now ran his swiftest, but he could not overtake the tortoise in time.

Moral: The race is not always to the swift.

1. Why was the hare upset with the tortoise in the beginning of the story?

2. The tortoise challenged the hare to a _____

3. Who won the challenge and why?

Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys jumping on
the bed,

One fell off and bumped his
head.

Mama called the doctor and the
doctor said,

“No more monkeys jumping on
the bed!”

Four little monkeys jumping on
the bed,

One fell off and bumped her
head.

Mama called the doctor and the
doctor said,

“No more monkeys jumping on
the bed!”

Three little monkeys jumping on
the bed,

One fell off and bumped his
head.

Mama called the doctor and the
doctor said,

“No more monkeys jumping on
the bed!”

Two little monkeys jumping on
the bed,

One fell off and bumped her
head.

Mama called the doctor and the
doctor said,

“No more monkeys jumping on
the bed!”

One little monkey jumping on
the bed,

He fell off and bumped his head.

Mama called the doctor and the
doctor said,

“Put those monkeys straight to
bed!”



1. The five little monkeys jumped
on the bed. What happened to
each one after they jumped on
the bed?

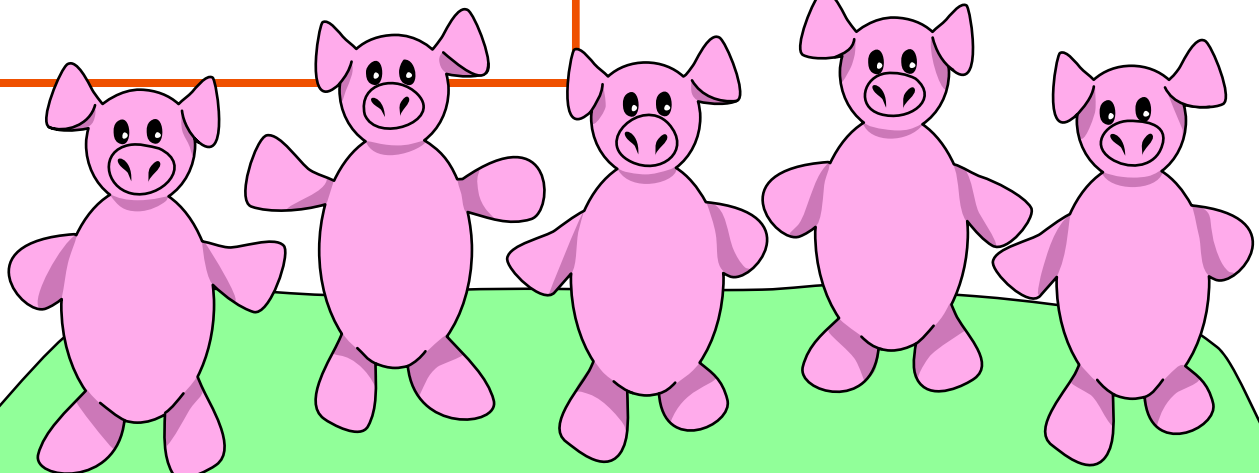
Five Toes

This little pig went to market;
This little pig stayed at home;
This little pig had roast beef;
This little pig had none;
This little pig said, "Wee, wee, wee!"
All the way home.

1. What did the second pig do in the poem?

2. Where did the first pig go?

3. Draw a picture about what happened to the fourth pig in the poem.



Sing a Song of Sixpence

Directions: For each box, draw one event from the poem

Sing a Song of Sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence,

A pocket full of rye;

Four and twenty blackbirds

Baked in a pie.

When the pie was opened,

They all began to sing.

Now, wasn't that a dainty dish

To set before the King!

The King was in his counting-house,

Counting out his money;

The Queen was in the parlor,

Eating bread and honey;

The maid was in the garden

Hanging out the clothes;

When up came a blackbird,

And nipped off her nose

The House that Jack Built

This is the house that Jack built.
This is the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.
This is the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.
This is the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.
This is the dog,
That worried the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built....



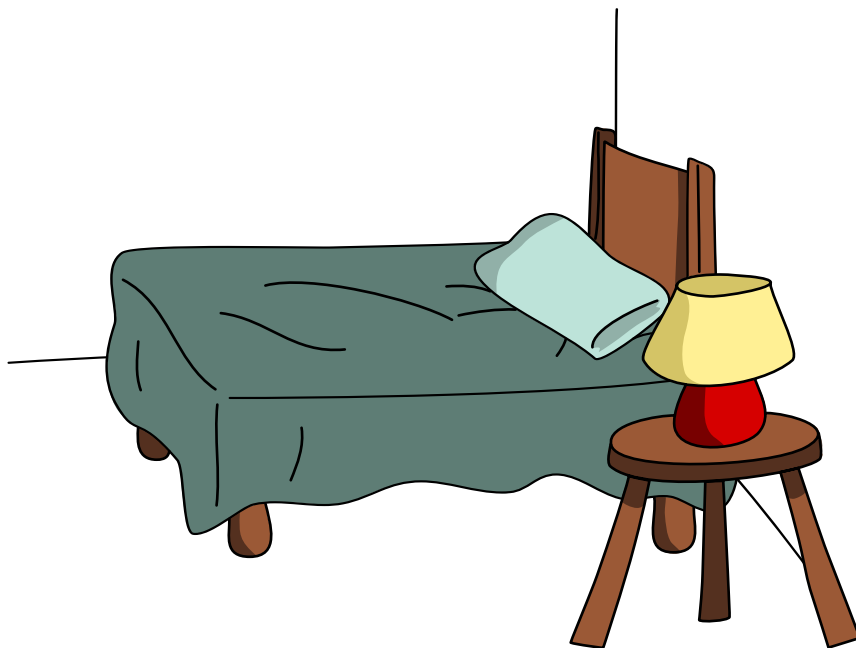
Question:

1. What animal ate the malt in the house that Jack built?

Bed in Summer

In winter I get up at night,
And dress by yellow candle light.
In summer quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.
I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet,
Still going past me in the street.
And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

What do you do to get ready for bed?



The Ants and the Grasshopper

By Aesop

One bright day in late autumn, a family of ants were bustling about in the warm sunshine, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer, when a hungry grasshopper, his fiddle under his arm, came up and asked for a bite to eat.

“What?” cried the ants in surprise. “Haven’t you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?”

“I didn’t have time to store up any food,” whined the grasshopper; “I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone.”

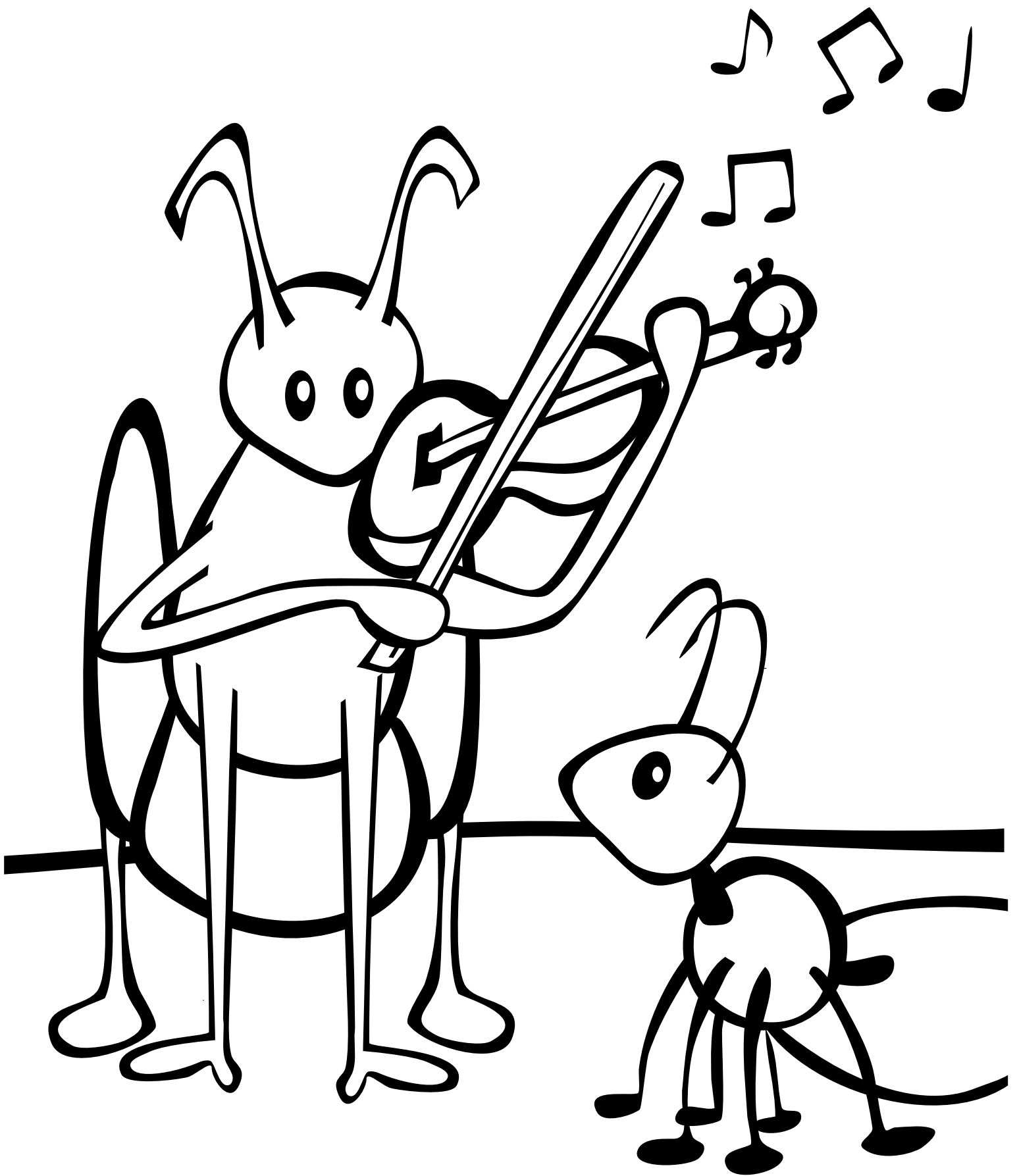
The ants shrugged their shoulders. “Making music, were you?” they cried. “Very well; now dance!” And they turned their backs on the grasshopper and went on with their work.

Moral: There's a time for work and a time for play.

1. What season were the ants preparing for?

2. What were the ants storing for themselves?

3. Why didn't the grasshopper store anything?



Little Red Hen

Little Red Hen found a grain of wheat.

"Who will plant this?" she asked.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the goose.

"Not I," said the rat.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen.

So she buried the wheat in the ground. After a while it grew up yellow and ripe.

"The wheat is ripe now," said Little Red Hen. "Who will cut and thresh it?"

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the goose.

"Not I," said the rat.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen.

So she cut it with her bill and threshed it with her wings. Then she asked, "Who will take this wheat to the mill?"

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the goose.

"Not I," said the rat.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen.

So she took the wheat to the mill, where it was ground. Then she carried the flour home.

"Who will make me some bread with this flour?" she asked.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the goose.

"Not I," said the rat.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen. So she made and baked the bread.

Then she said, "Now we shall see who will eat this bread."

"We will," said cat, goose, and rat.

"I am quite sure you would," said Little Red Hen, "if you could get it."

Then she called her chicks, and they ate up all the bread. There was none left at all for the cat, or the goose, or the rat.



Question:

1. What happened at the end of the story?

Directions:

Draw a picture of what happened first, second, third, and fourth in the story.



First



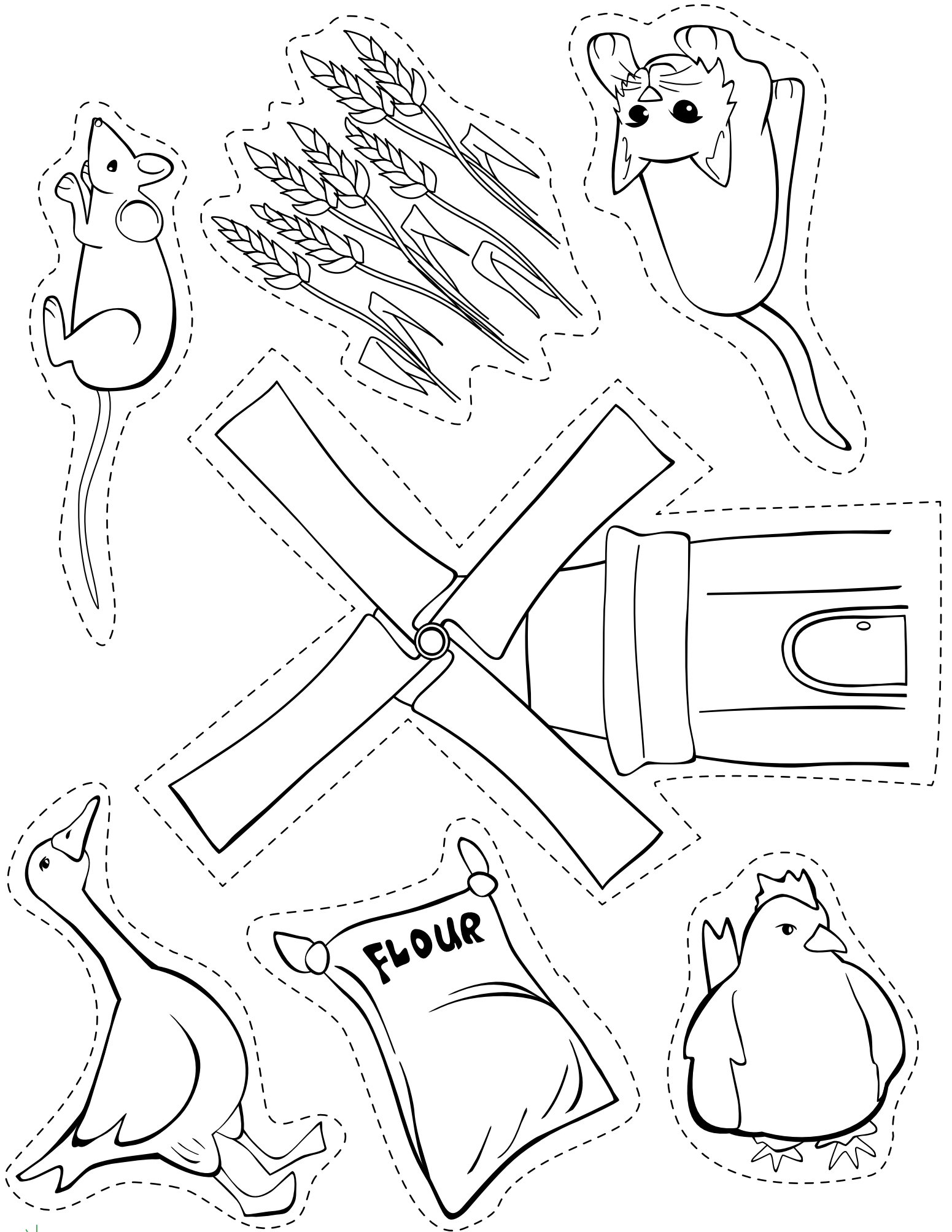
Second



Third



Fourth



Activity for the Little Red Hen

Materials:

Craft sticks	Windmill pattern
Hen pattern	Rat pattern
Cat pattern	Crayons
Goose pattern	Scissors
Flour bag pattern	Glue

Directions:

1. Color in the patterns.
2. Cut out the patterns.
3. Glue the patterns onto the craft sticks.
4. Have a puppet show using your puppets and the story The Little Red Hen!

The Sweet Soup

From Mother Goose's Treasury

Once upon a time there was a poor but very good little girl who lived alone with her mother. The two had nothing in the house to eat. The child went out into the forest, and there she met an old woman, who already knew her distress. The old woman presented her with a pot which had the following power: If one said to it, "Boil, little pot!" it would cook sweet soup; and when one said: "Stop, little pot!" it would immediately stop cooking. The little girl took the pot home to her mother, and now they could have soup as often as they pleased.


One day, the little girl went out, and while she was gone the mother said: "Boil, little pot!" The little pot began to cook, and she soon ate all she wished. But when the poor woman wanted the pot to stop, she found she did not know the special words. The pot boiled away, and very quickly was over the edge. As it boiled and boiled, the kitchen became full of soup, then the house, and the next house, and soon the whole street. Nobody knew how to stop it! At last, when nearly the whole village was filled with soup, the child returned and said at once: "Stop, little pot!"

Immediately it stopped boiling; but whoever wishes to enter the village now must eat his way through the soup!

1. What did the little pot cook when the little girl said "Boil, little pot"?

2. What happened when the mother could not stop the pot from boiling?





Great job!

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