

Animal Stories



VIPERS
Comprehension Pack

Chicken Licken

Chicken Licken was on the farm. The sun was shining. The sky was blue. It was a beautiful day. Chicken Licken pecked at the seed on the ground. An acorn fell from a tree. It landed on Chicken Licken's head! Chicken Licken looked up and was worried. 'Oh no!' said Chicken Licken. 'The sky is falling down! I must go and tell the king.'

E: Why does Chicken Licken think the sky is falling down?

Chicken Licken hurried off. She went down the track. She went into the trees.

'What's the hurry?' asked Henny Penny.

'The sky is falling down. I must go and tell the king,' said Chicken Licken.

'Oh no!' said Henny Penny. 'I must go with you.'

Chicken Licken and Henny Penny rushed off to tell the king.

Chicken Licken and Henny Penny went through the trees. They hurried to the pond.

'What's the hurry?' asked Ducky Lucky.

'The sky is falling down. We must go and tell the king,' said Chicken Licken.

'Oh no!' said Ducky Lucky. 'I must go with you.'

So, Chicken Licken, Henny Penny and Ducky Lucky rushed off to tell the king.

V: Underline the words in the story that tell us they are going fast.



Chicken Licken, Henny Penny and Ducky Lucky went past the pond. They hurried to the fields.

'What's the hurry?' asked Goosey Loosey.

'The sky is falling down. We must go and tell the king,' said Chicken Licken.

'Oh no!' Said Goosey Loosey. 'Then I must go with you.'

So, Chicken Licken, Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky and Goosey Loosey rushed off to tell the king.

Chicken Licken, Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky and Goosey Loosey went through the fields. They hurried to the woods.

'What's the hurry?' asked Turkey Lurkey.

'The sky is falling down. We must go and tell the king,' said Chicken Licken.

'Oh no!' said Turkey Lurkey. 'Then I must go with you.'

So, Chicken Licken, Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey rushed off to tell the king.

I: How do you think all the animals are feeling?

The animals rushed this way and that way. The animals rushed up and down. The animals found they were lost. Along came Foxy Loxy. Foxy Loxy licked his lips.

'I can show you the way,' he said. 'Follow me.'

P: Why do you think Foxy Loxy licked his lips?
What do you think will happen next?

So, Chicken Licken, Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey followed Foxy Loxy. Foxy Loxy led them to his den. Inside his den, they saw his family. His family were very hungry! His family were more than happy to show them the way...into their bellies!

Maybe we should not believe everything we are told. We should check for ourselves first.

R: Who did the animals want to go and see?



How The Elephant Got Its Trunk

The elephants lived deep in the jungle. They were very big. They were very grey. They had short stumpy noses.

I: What is different or unusual about the elephants in the story?

Baby elephant liked asking questions. Baby elephant asked a lot of questions. Why this? Why that? Why? Why? Why? The other elephants soon got tired of it. One day, baby elephant asked, 'What do crocodiles eat?'.
The other elephants ignored him.

V: What does the word ignored mean? Circle your answer.

Paid lots of attention to Took no notice of Played with

Baby elephant wanted to find out. He wandered off into the jungle. He found snake.

'What do crocodiles eat?' he asked snake.

'I don't know,' said Snake. 'Crocodile lives in the river. Why don't you go and ask him?'

Baby elephant thought that was a very good idea. He went off to find the river.

R: Where does crocodile live?

Baby elephant got to the river. He found crocodile floating in the water.



'What do you eat crocodile?' He asked.

'Come closer and I'll tell you,' said Crocodile.

Baby elephant moved closer.

'Closer,' said Crocodile.

Baby elephant moved closer still.

'I eat elephants!' Crocodile snapped. Crocodile opened his jaws. He bit elephant's nose. He held on tight.

'Ow!' shouted baby elephant.

R: What did crocodile bite?

Baby elephant pulled to get away. Crocodile pulled too. They pulled and pulled and pulled. Elephant's nose was getting stretched. It grew longer and longer. At last, crocodile let go. Baby elephant's nose was very long.

V: What is an elephants long nose called?

Baby elephant went back home. On his way, he found he could do new things. His new nose was very useful. It could squirt water. It could pick fruit from tall trees. It could wave away the flies. Baby elephant loved his new nose!

The other elephants gasped when they saw him.

'Where did you get that?' they asked.

'Crocodile gave it to me,' said baby elephant.

The other elephants liked baby elephant's nose. They wanted one too. They went down to the river. They found crocodile. Now, all the elephants have a long nose.

E: How did elephant get his long nose?



How The Tiger Got Its Stripes

Tiger was the proudest animal in the jungle. He was proud of his big teeth. He was proud of his sharp claws. He was proud of his big paws. He was very proud of his beautiful coat. His lovely orange coat.

Water buffalo was a powerful animal. Water buffalo was big and strong. Water buffalo had mighty horns. One day, tiger saw water buffalo in the field. He was pulling a plough. He was working for a man. The man didn't look powerful. He didn't look big and strong. He didn't have mighty horns. Tiger was confused.

'Why are you working for man?' asked Tiger. 'Man doesn't have big teeth or claws. Man doesn't have mighty horns. Why do you work for him?'

'Man has wisdom,' said Buffalo. 'He doesn't need claws or horns.'

'I want wisdom,' thought Tiger. Off he went to find some.

R: Who is water buffalo working for?

V: What is wisdom? Circle your answer.

Being strong and powerful

Having good knowledge and experience

Tiger found the man.

'Give me your wisdom!' said Tiger.

'I can't give you wisdom,' said the man.

'Give me wisdom, or I will eat you,' said Tiger. The man thought. Then he had an idea.

'Okay,' said the man. 'I will give you wisdom. I left it back at my house. I will go and get it for you.' The man went to



leave. Then he stopped.

'I am worried,' he said. 'If I leave, you will get hungry. You will eat my goats. Can I tie your tail to the tree? Then I know you can't get them.' Tiger agreed. So, the man tied Tiger's tail to the tree.

E: Why can't the man give Tiger wisdom?

The man went to leave. Then he stopped again.

'I am worried,' he said. 'Your claws are sharp. They can cut through the rope. Can I tie your paws to the tree? Then I know you can't get the goats.' Tiger agreed. So, Tiger put his body against the tree. Man tied his paws.

The man went to leave. Then he stopped again.

'I am worried,' he said. 'Your jaws are mighty. If you move your head, you can bite through the ropes. Can I tie your head to the tree? Then I know you can't get the goats. Tiger agreed. So, the man tied Tiger's head to the tree.

R: What was the first thing the man tied to the tree?

Tiger was all tied up. The man quietly led his goats away. He went home. Tiger waited and waited. Soon he got hungry.

'Maybe I'll have just one goat,' he thought.

Tiger tried to pull himself free. He was tied tight. He pulled and pulled, but the more he pulled, the tighter the ropes got. The ropes rubbed Tiger's coat. They burnt black stripes on his fur.

After a lot of struggling, Tiger was free. He looked around. The goats were gone. The man was gone.

'Where is my wisdom?' demanded Tiger.

Tiger looked down. He saw his stripes. He was not happy. All the animals laughed at him. Tiger was embarrassed. Tiger now hides deep in the jungle. He is still looking for his wisdom.

R: What made the stripes on Tiger's coat?



The Little Red Hen

A cat, a dog, a mouse and a little red hen all lived together. The cat liked to sleep all day by the fire. The dog like to nap all day in the garden. The mouse liked to rest all day in the barn.

Poor little red hen had to do all the work. All by herself. She cooked and cleaned. She washed and swept. She tidied and gardened. The other animals were too lazy to help.

R: Who lived with little red hen?

V: What does the word lazy mean?

One day little red hen found some wheat.

'Who will help me plant this wheat?' she asked.

'Not I,' said the cat.

'Not I,' said the dog.

'Not I,' said the mouse.

'Then I will do it myself,' said little red hen. And she did.

Little red hen watered the wheat every day. Soon the wheat had grown big. The wheat had grown tall.

'Who will help me cut this wheat?' asked little red hen.

'Not I,' said the cat.

'Not I,' said the dog.

'Not I,' said the mouse.

'Then I will do it myself,' said little red hen. And she did.

The wheat needed to go to the mill. The mill would turn the wheat into flour.



'Who will help me take the wheat to the mill?' asked little red hen.

'Not I,' said the cat.

'Not I,' said the dog.

'Not I,' said the mouse.

'Then I will do it myself,' said little red hen. And she did.

Little red hen took the flour back home.

'Who will help me bake a cake with this flour?' she asked.

'Not I,' said the cat.

'Not I,' said the dog.

'Not I,' said the mouse.

'Then I will do it myself,' said little red hen. And she did.

The cake smelt wonderful. The cake looked beautiful. All the animals came into the kitchen. They looked hungrily at the cake.

I: How do you think little red hen feels when the other animals won't help?

P: What do you think will happen next? Will the animals want to help eat the cake?

'Who will help me eat this cake?' asked little red hen.

'I will!' said the cat.

'I will!' said the dog.

'I will!' said the mouse.

'No, you will not!' said little red hen. 'I planted the wheat. I cut the wheat. I took the wheat to the mill. I baked the cake. I did it all by myself. So, I will eat the cake. All by myself.'

And so she did. Every last crumb. The animals were not so lazy after that.

E: Do you think it was fair that little red hen ate all the cake by herself?



Why Bats Fly At Night

Long ago, there was a war. The land animals were fighting the birds. Every day, they would battle. Every day, they would argue.

R: Who was fighting?

Bat hung in his tree. He watched them fight. He didn't know which side to join. After a while, it looked like the birds were winning. Bat wanted to be on the winning side. He decided to join the birds.

'Why are you here?' asked the birds.

'I am one of you,' said Bat.

Bat showed them his wings. He showed he could fly. The birds believed him. They let him join.

R: Why did bat want to be on the bird's side?

R: How did bat get the birds to let him join?

A few days later the land animals started to win. Bat wanted to be on the winning side. He decided to join the land animals.

'Why are you here?' asked the land animals. 'You are not



a land animal.'

'Yes I am,' said Bat. 'I am one of you.'

Bat showed them his fur and teeth. The birds had feathers and beaks. The land animals believed him. They let him join.

R: Why did bat want to be on the land animals' side?

R: How did bat get the land animals to let him join?

Soon, the fight ended. The birds and the land animals became friends. Bat flew over. He couldn't be with the birds. He couldn't be with the land animals. Everyone knew what he had done. The birds and the land animals were angry. They chased bat away. Bat felt ashamed. He hid in a dark cave. By trying to be on both sides he ended up on neither. Now, Bat only comes out at night. That way, the birds and the land animals can't find him.

V: What does the word ashamed mean? Circle your answer.

Feeling embarrassed and guilty

Feeling happy and proud

Answers - Stage 1 - Chicken Licken

E: Chicken Licken doesn't know what hit him on the head. He looks up and thinks it must have been the sky.

V: Hurried. Hurry.

I: Various answers - Scared, worried, frightened...etc.

P: Foxy Loxy licked his lips because he was hungry. He wants to eat the animals. Various answers on what happens next.

R: The king.

Answers - Stage 1 - How The Elephant Got Its Trunk

I: They have shorty stumpy noses, not trunks.

V: Took no notice of.

R: The river.

R: Elephant's nose.

V: A trunk.

E: Crocodile bit elephant's nose and wouldn't let go. When crocodile and elephant pulled, it stretched the nose. The nose grew long.

Answers - Stage 1 - How The Tiger Got Its Stripes

R: Man.

V: Having good knowledge and experience.

E: Wisdom isn't a physical thing. It can't be given.

R: Tiger's tail.

R: The ropes rubbing on his coat and burning the fur.

Answers - Stage 1 - The Little Red Hen

R: A cat, a dog and a mouse.

V: Not wanting to work or do anything.

I: Various answers...sad, angry, tired, frustrated, resentful...etc.

P: Various answers.

E: Various answers. Some possible thoughts...

Yes, because she did all the work. You have to work hard to get the benefits.

Yes, to teach the other animals a lesson.

No, it was greedy. She should have shared it with her friends.

Answers - Stage 1 - Why Bats Fly At Night

R: The land animals and the birds.

R: Because they were winning.

R: He showed them his wings and that he could fly.

R: Because they were winning.

R: He showed them his fur and his teeth.

V: Feeling embarrassed and guilty.