

Printer Warning:

This packet is lengthy. Determine whether you want to print both sections, or only print Section 1 or 2.



Grade 2 Reading

Student At-Home Activity Packet

This At-Home Activity packet includes two parts, Section 1 and Section 2, each with approximately 10 lessons in it. We recommend that your student complete one lesson each day.

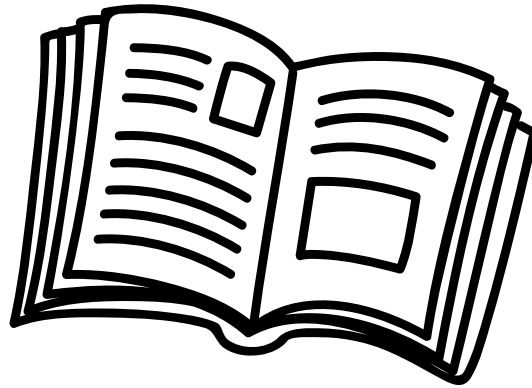
Most lessons can be completed independently. However, there are some lessons that would benefit from the support of an adult. If there is not an adult available to help, don't worry! Just skip those lessons.

Encourage your student to just do the best they can with this content—the most important thing is that they continue to work on their reading!

Flip to see the Grade 2
Reading activities
included in this packet!



Independent Reading!



See pages
60 and 61
of this
packet.



Use the questions/ prompts on the Discourse Card resource to start a conversation about something the student has read. You may talk about a text the student read in one of the lessons above, or anything else the student is reading.

Encourage daily reading. And remember, reading isn't just about the books on the shelves—it's about anything around you with letters! Turn on the closed captioning feature on your TV or read catalogs that come in the mail. The backs of cereal boxes work, too, as do directions to board games!

Running out of stuff to read? **Grab some sticky notes, and label household objects, or make up new, silly names for things!** Communicating with sticky notes, instead of talking, is fun, too—start with a half hour and see if you can go all afternoon. Reading is everywhere!

Don't worry about right/wrong answers when you talk about text—the important thing is that you and your student share a reading experience and have fun!

Here are some websites that offer fun, free, high-quality material for kids:

www.starfall.com

www.storyplace.org

www.uniteforliteracy.com

www.storynory.com

www.freekidsbooks.org

en.childrenslibrary.org

Word Learning Routine

Use the following steps to figure out unfamiliar words. If you figure out what the word means, continue reading. If not, then try the next step.

1. Say the Word or Phrase Aloud.

Circle the word or phrase that you find confusing. Read the sentence aloud.

2. Look Inside the Word or Phrase.

Look for familiar word parts, such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Try breaking the word into smaller parts. Can you figure out a meaning from the word parts you know?

3. Look Around the Word or Phrase.

Look for clues in the words or sentences around the word you don't know and the context of the paragraph or selection.

4. Look Beyond the Word or Phrase.

Look for the meaning of the word or phrase in a dictionary, glossary, or thesaurus.

5. Check the Meaning.

Ask yourself, "Does this meaning make sense in the sentence?"

Lesson 7

Recounting Stories



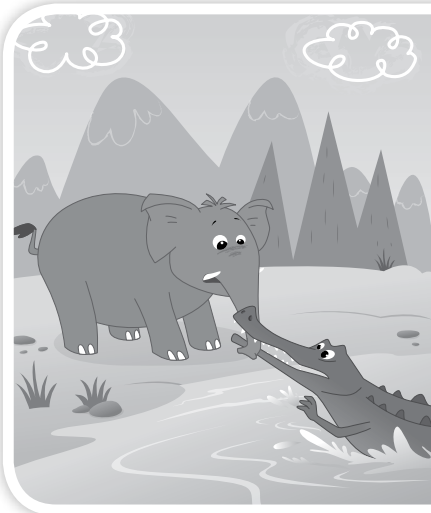
Learning Target

Retelling stories will help you understand the order of events and how these events happen.

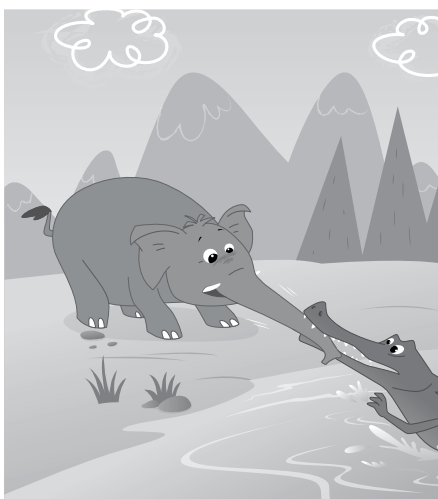
- ▶ **Read** Good storytellers take care to retell, or **recount**, the important **events** of the story in the **order** they happen. You can recount a story by telling the important events from the beginning, middle, and end.

Read this story. Think about what happens at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end.

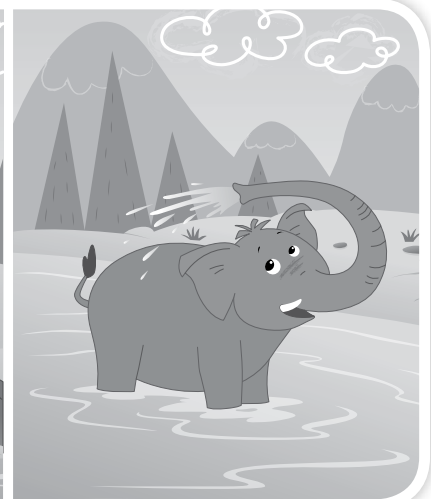
How the Elephant Got Its Long Nose



A long time ago, elephants had short noses. But one day, a crocodile bit a young elephant on the nose.



The elephant tried to pull away. As he pulled and pulled, his nose got longer and longer.



When he pulled free, his nose was five feet long! He didn't like it at first. Then he found new things to do with his long nose. He reached into the trees to grab leaves to eat. Best of all, it was fun to take baths!

- **Think** Fill in the chart to tell the important story events in the order they happen.

Beginning	
Middle	
End	

- **Talk** Retell the story “How the Elephant Got Its Long Nose” to your partner. Use the events from your chart to help you.

**Academic Talk**

Use these words to talk about the text.

- **recount**
- **event**
- **order**

The Lion and the Mouse

an Aesop fable



- 1 A long time ago, a mouse was looking for a good place to sleep. He climbed up onto what he thought was a small hill of warm, soft grass. He had really crawled up onto a sleeping lion!
- 2 The lion woke up and grabbed the mouse with a huge paw. Then he opened his mouth to eat him. The mouse said, “Forgive me! I didn’t mean to wake you. If you let me go, I’ll do something to help you someday.”
- 3 The lion laughed at the idea that the little mouse could ever help him. “What could a tiny thing like you ever do for me?” the lion said. But he let the mouse go.
- 4 The very next day, two hunters caught the lion. They tied the lion to a tree while they went to get a wagon.
- 5 The lion couldn’t move. Just then, the little mouse appeared. “Don’t worry, my friend,” he said. “I’ll help you!” The mouse gnawed at the ropes that held the lion. Soon, the lion broke free. He said to the mouse, “You were right, little one! Already you have helped me and have saved the King of the Beasts!”

Close Reader Habits

Underline sentences that tell important events. As you reread, think how you would retell those events in your own words.

Explore

What important events should you include when you recount the story "The Lion and the Mouse"?



As you recount a story, be sure to tell what the important events make the characters do.

Think

- 1 Complete the chart by writing the important events in order.

What Happens in the Story?

Beginning	
Middle	
End	

Talk

- 2 Recount the whole story to your partner in your own words.



Write

- 3 **Short Response** Why does the lion tell the mouse, "You were right, little one!"? Use the chart to help you write your answer. Write your answer in the space on page 112.

HINT What important event happens just before the lion says this?



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 109.

The Lion and the Mouse

- 3 Short Response** Why does the lion tell the mouse, "You were right, little one!"? Use the chart you filled out on page 109 to help you write your answer.

HINT What important event happens just before the lion says this?



Don't forget to check your writing.

Tools for Instruction

Retell Details and Events

When students retell text, they repeat orally what they remember after they read. To retell the text successfully, students must recall and organize the most important information in a logical sequence. However, students often struggle with identifying which information to omit. Retelling is useful during and after reading as a way to monitor comprehension. It also paves the way for summarizing, which is a closely related but more complex strategy. The activities below will build students' understanding of what constitutes a successful retelling.

Step by Step 30–45 minutes

1 Introduce retelling.

- Connect retelling informational text with retelling events in students' lives.
- Say, *When you retell something that happened to you, you tell the most important events and details so someone else can understand what happened.*
- Give students a prompt about their everyday lives, such as *Retell what happened to you on a really good day.*
- Then ask questions such as these, and have students jot down a few notes about their answers.

- *What was your really good day?*
- *What were the most important things that happened on that day? Write three or four events.*
- *Write two details that tell more about each event.*

- Have students review their notes. Then tell them that they will each have three minutes to tell a partner orally what happened on their really good day. Time each retelling.
- Come back together as a whole group. Invite a few volunteers to share retellings.
- Ask, *Did you tell every single thing that happened? (no) What did you tell? (the most important things that happened)*

2 Model retelling informational text.

- Explain how retelling informational text is similar to the previous exercise. Say, *Readers can retell the most important events in informational text, just as they retell what happened on a very good day.*
- Select a brief informational passage, and read it aloud.
- Think aloud as you determine which details to omit, and which to include in your retelling.

Abraham Lincoln didn't have very much education growing up, but he did like to read. I think this is an important detail because he was a president, so I want to find out how he learned. I see a list of the titles of books he liked to read, but those details are too specific for my retelling. They are interesting to know, but I will leave them out.

- Complete your retelling from start to finish.

3 Provide guided practice with retelling.

- Select an informational text with rich visuals—photographs, diagrams, maps, and so on. Read the text together.
- Make one-sided copies of the pictures, so that the back of each copy is blank.
- On the back of each copy, work with students to write short descriptions of what each picture shows. Then put the copies of the pictures aside.
- Show the cover of the book, and reread the title. Ask, *What is this book about?* Work with students to brainstorm a list of the important facts or ideas that the author wants to tell readers about the topic. Then work together to reduce the list to three or four facts or ideas.
- Bring out the copies of the pictures again. Refer back to your list of the most important facts or ideas. Work with students to eliminate some of the pictures.
- When you have reduced the pictures to those that show the most important ideas, put them in order. Say, *Now we are going to retell the text, using these pictures.* Have volunteers stand in a line, displaying each picture. Have them read the information on the back.

Connect to Writing Have students write their retelling of the informational text, using the picture cards that they created.

4 Provide independent practice with retelling.

- Provide repeated opportunities for students to practice retelling the important information in other informational texts.

Check for Understanding

If you observe...	Then try...
confusion about which details to omit	writing the main idea of the text, and then having students list the details they think are most important. Review each detail, and ask <i>Is this detail directly related to [main idea]?</i> If it is not, list it under the heading "Interesting Information." Gradually decrease the amount of support to allow students to engage in this thought process independently.

PECOS BILL

and the Mountain Lion

a tall tale of the Old West



- 1 Almost everybody knows about Pecos Bill. He was born in Texas a long time ago. He grew up with a pack of coyotes. He was one of the toughest cowboys in the West.
- 2 Pecos Bill had a horse named Flash. He treated Flash like his best friend. But Bill didn't just ride horses. He could ride anything that came along.
- 3 One day, Bill was riding Flash through the mountains. A giant mountain lion jumped out in front of them. The big cat growled and showed its sharp teeth. Bill jumped off Flash and sent him home so he was safe.
- 4 Was Bill scared? Of course not! He grabbed a rattlesnake and made it into a lasso. Then he threw the lasso over the mountain lion and pulled it in. The cat knew it was no match for big Bill, so it gave up. Quickly, Bill jumped onto its back. Then he rode the mountain lion all the way home.

Close Reader Habits

What important events happen in the beginning, middle, and end of the story? As you reread, **underline** those important events.

Think

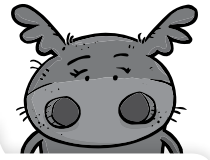
- 1 Which sentence tells something that happens in the middle of the story?
 - A Bill grew up with a pack of coyotes.
 - B Bill was born in Texas a long time ago.
 - C Bill sends Flash home to keep him safe.
 - D Bill rides the giant mountain lion back home.
- 2 Why does Bill grab the rattlesnake?
 - A to use it like a rope to catch the mountain lion
 - B to save it from being hurt by the mountain lion
 - C to stop it from scaring his horse, Flash
 - D to try to scare away the mountain lion with it

Talk

- 3 What does Bill do when the mountain lion jumps in front of him? Recount these events to your partner in your own words.

Write

- 4 **Short Response** Recount the end of the story. Tell the most important events in order, using your own words. Write your answer in the space on page 113.



The mountain lion is important to this story. I'm going to reread what happens when Pecos Bill first meets the mountain lion.

HINT Reread paragraph 4 to find out what Pecos Bill does with the mountain lion.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 111.

PECOS BILL

and the Mountain Lion

HINT Reread paragraph 4 to find out what Pecos Bill does with the mountain lion.

4 Short Response Recount the end of the story. Tell the most important events in order, using your own words.


Check Your Writing

- Did you read the question carefully?
- Can you say the question in your own words?
- Did you use proof from the text in your answer?
- Are your ideas in a good, clear order?
- Did you answer in full sentences?
- Did you check your spelling, capital letters, and periods?



Lesson 18

Using Context Clues

 **Introduction** When you see a word you don't know, look at the other words in the sentence. They can give you **clues** about what the word means.

- Sometimes other words in a sentence tell the **definition**, or meaning, of the word.

definition

The tops of trees in rain forests form a canopy, or **covering of leaves**.

- Sometimes other words in a sentence give an **example** that helps explain what the word means.

example

The forest canopy is like a **really big sun hat**.

 **Guided Practice** Look at the underlined word in each sentence. Circle the other words that help you understand what the word means.

HINT Look for the words *or*, *like*, and *such as*. They often come before clues that help you figure out what a word means.

- 1 Many creatures, or animals, live in the rain forest.
- 2 Big flocks, or groups, of birds dive through the sky.
- 3 Mammals, like tigers and monkeys, climb on high branches.
- 4 Bright blue butterflies flutter, or fly, between tall trees.
- 5 Tiny amphibians such as frogs hide in the leaves.
- 6 Enormous snakes can be 30 feet long.

 **Independent Practice**

Read the sentence below. Then answer the questions.

Big and small nocturnal animals only come out at night.

- 1** What do nocturnal animals do?
 - A** stay asleep all the time
 - B** come out when it gets dark
 - C** stay inside all the time
 - D** come out only during the day

- 2** Which words help you know what nocturnal means?
 - A** animals only
 - B** Big and small
 - C** only come out at night
 - D** small nocturnal

Read the sentence below. Then answer the questions.

Wild cats hunt for prey, or food, after dark.

- 3** What does the word “prey” mean?
 - A** where wild cats live
 - B** when wild cats sleep
 - C** what wild cats look like
 - D** what wild cats eat

- 4** Which word helps you know what the word “prey” means?
 - A** cats
 - B** food
 - C** dark
 - D** Wild

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **fleece**
- **delicious**

A stylized illustration of a wolf in sheep's clothing. The wolf is dark grey with a long, white, fluffy fleece that covers its head and neck. It has a long, pointed snout and a small, dark eye. The wolf is looking towards the right. The background is a light grey with some faint, stylized clouds and a small, dark, triangular shape.

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

an Aesop fable

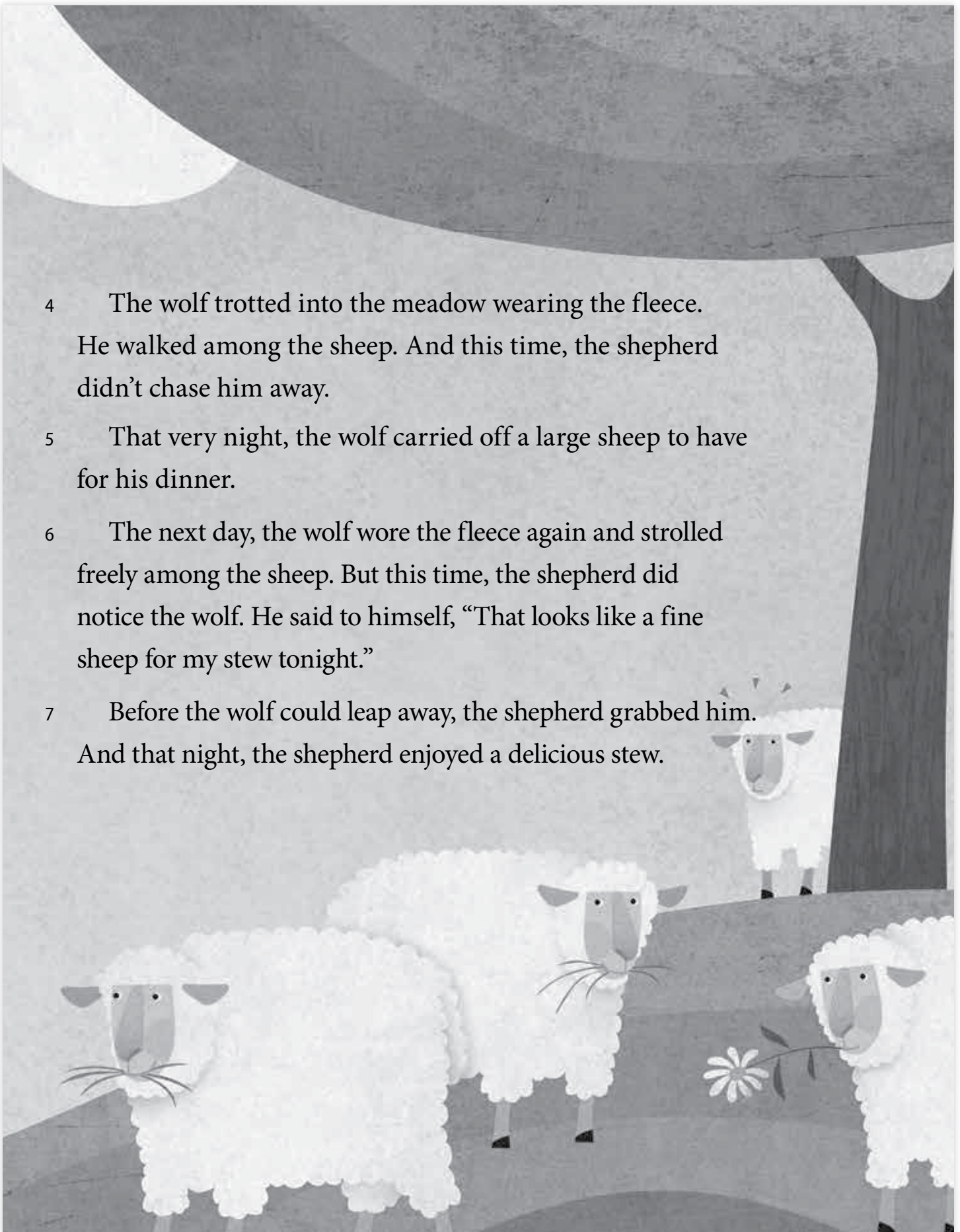
- 1 Once there was a wolf who wanted nothing more than to eat one of the sheep that lived in the meadow. But the shepherd kept a close watch over the sheep. Every time he saw the wolf, he chased him back into the forest.
- 2 Then one night, the wolf found a sheep's fluffy, white fleece. The shepherd had forgotten it. "Aha!" cried the wolf. "I think this fleece might solve my problem."
- 3 With a tug and a pull, the wolf dressed himself in the fleece. Now he looked just like a sheep.


4 The wolf trotted into the meadow wearing the fleece. He walked among the sheep. And this time, the shepherd didn't chase him away.

5 That very night, the wolf carried off a large sheep to have for his dinner.

6 The next day, the wolf wore the fleece again and strolled freely among the sheep. But this time, the shepherd did notice the wolf. He said to himself, "That looks like a fine sheep for my stew tonight."

7 Before the wolf could leap away, the shepherd grabbed him. And that night, the shepherd enjoyed a delicious stew.



 **Think** Use what you learned by reading “The Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing” to respond to the following questions.

1 Read this sentence from the story.

Every time he saw the wolf, he chased him back into the forest.

Why is this event important to the beginning of the story?

- A** It tells why the wolf can’t get near the sheep.
- B** It tells why the sheep are not afraid of the wolf.
- C** It tells why the wolf wanted to eat the sheep.
- D** It tells why the shepherd forgot the fleece.

2 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

How did the wolf fool the shepherd?

- A** He made a noise like a sheep.
- B** He hid in the forest.
- C** He waited until the shepherd left.
- D** He wore the fleece of a sheep.

Part B

Write the sentence from the text that explains why the wolf’s trick worked.

- 3 Look at the chart. It tells the order of some of the events in the story.

1	2	3
<i>The wolf puts on a sheep's fluffy, white fleece.</i>		<i>The wolf carries off a sheep for his dinner.</i>

Which sentence belongs in the empty box?

- A The shepherd chases the wolf into the forest.
 - B The wolf walks into the herd of sheep.
 - C The shepherd notices the wolf.
 - D The shepherd cooks a delicious stew.
- 4 Which choice **best** shows what “strolled” means in the following sentence?

The next day, the wolf wore the fleece again and strolled freely among the sheep.

- A He ran through the herd of sheep.
- B He walked slowly among the sheep.
- C He stayed away from the sheep.
- D He chased the sheep in the meadow.



Write What happens in this story?

- 5 Plan Your Response** List important events from the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

- 6 Short Response** Recount the whole story. Be sure to use your own words. Tell what happens at the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Use the events from your list.



Learning Target

Now you know how to recount a story. Why is it important to tell the important events in order?

A graphic of a sheet of paper with a perforated top edge, resembling a page from a notebook.



Read the two passages. Then answer the questions that follow them.

Cinderella

*a Brothers Grimm fairy tale
retold by Annika Pedersen*

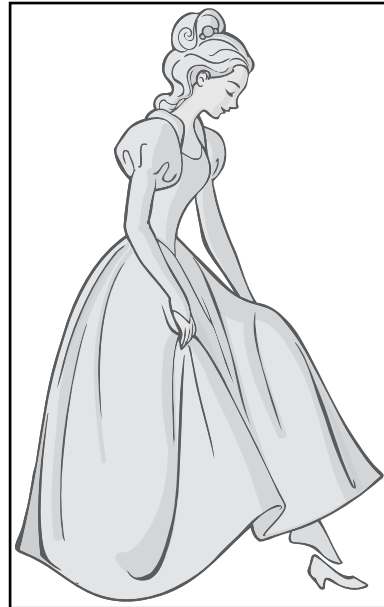
- 1 Cinderella missed her real mother. Her new stepmother made Cinderella work day and night. She cleaned and cooked, and cooked and cleaned, and cleaned some more. All the while, her two new stepsisters did nothing. At night, Cinderella slept in the cold ashes by the fireplace. The ashes and cinders made her face and clothes look dirty. That is how she came to be called “Cinderella.”
- 2 One day her father was going to town. His new wife and stepdaughters told him to bring back fine dresses and jewels. He asked Cinderella what he might get for her.
- 3 “Bring back the first branch that strikes your hat on the way home,” she said.
- 4 Her father found this strange. But he brought her what she had asked for.
- 5 Cinderella planted the branch on her mother’s grave. Then she cried and cried. Her many tears watered the twig. It grew at once into a beautiful hazel tree. A white bird sat in it. The bird told Cinderella it would grant any wish.
- 6 At that time, the king made plans for a great party. His son, the prince, would choose a bride at the party.

Go On

7 Cinderella wanted to go. But her stepmother and stepsisters just laughed at her. “You do not even have a nice dress or shoes!” they said.

8 Cinderella went to the hazel tree and made a wish. The white bird gave her a gold dress with gold slippers. Cinderella put them on and ran to the party.

9 No one knew her in her beautiful new dress. But the prince liked her so much, he would dance with no one else! And she liked him. As soon as the party ended, though, Cinderella ran away. But one of her gold slippers stuck to some mud and came off.



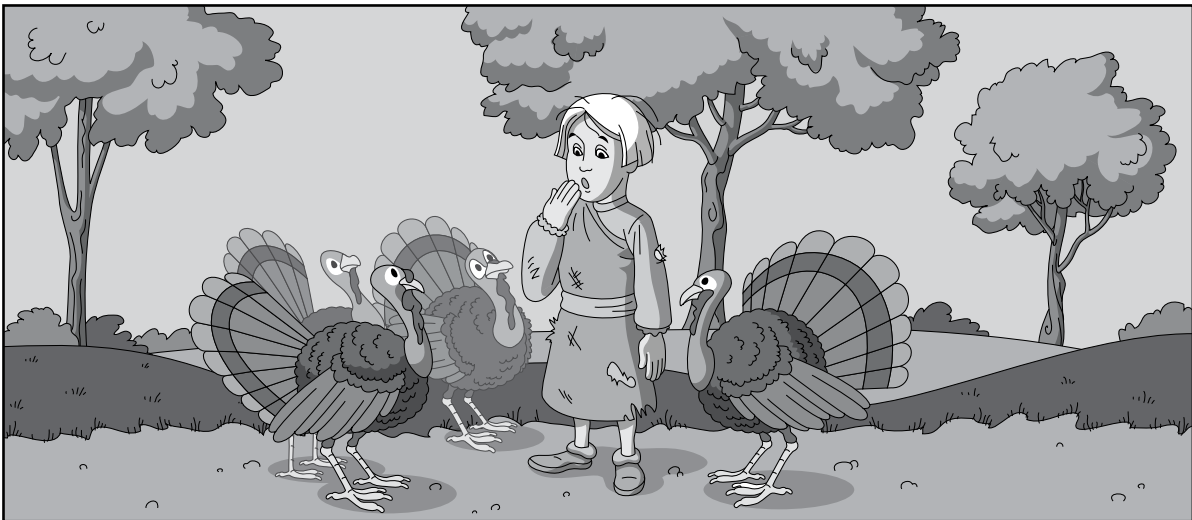
10 The next day, the prince and his men searched for the owner of the gold slipper. But the slipper did not fit anyone, not even the stepsisters. The prince sadly asked, “Is there no one else?” And the family said, “Only Cinderella.”

11 Her foot fit easily into the slipper. At last, the prince had found the lovely woman who had danced with him. So Cinderella would become his bride. As they rode to the castle, the white bird landed on Cinderella’s shoulder. At last, all her wishes were coming true.

The Turkey Girl

a Zuni folktale

- 1 Long ago, there lived a poor girl who herded turkeys for a living. Every morning, she drove them out to the fields. And every evening, she drove them back to the safety of their cages. She treated them with great kindness, and the turkeys loved her for this.
- 2 One day, the girl heard some people in town talking. They wanted to go to the Dance of the Sacred Bird. This great event happened only once a year. And it was to take place in just four days.
- 3 “Oh, how I wish I could go!” the girl said to the turkeys. “But I cannot go in such old, ugly clothes.”
- 4 The girl never once thought the turkeys could understand her. But on the day of the dance, one turkey stood tall and spoke. “Dear friend,” he said. “We will help you go to the dance. You shall laugh and be merry. You have earned some fun!”



Go On

5 At first, the girl was shocked. Then somehow it felt right that the turkeys—her only friends—should speak.

6 “We only ask that you come back before sunset,” said the turkey. “You are the one who keeps us safe.” The turkeys then danced around the girl. They turned her old, ragged clothes into a beautiful white dress.

7 The girl thanked the turkeys again and again. She promised them she would return before sunset. Then she turned and ran down the path toward town.

8 At the dance, no one knew the girl in her new dress. Everyone praised her beauty. And all the young men wanted to dance with her. She was having so much fun that she forgot all about her friends the turkeys.

9 Finally, the sun set. The turkeys wondered why the girl had not returned. “She has forgotten us,” one of them said. “For that reason, we will give her no more help! Come, let us move up into the hills. Our keeper is not as kind as we had once hoped.”

10 When at last the dance ended, the girl ran back to the fields. She looked for the turkeys everywhere. But they were gone. As she stood there, sad and alone, her dress turned back into rags. She was the poor turkey girl once more.

- 22** What challenge does Cinderella face because of her new stepmother?
- A** She must find a way to leave for town with her father.
 - B** She must keep her two stepsisters from getting new dresses.
 - C** She must learn to love her stepmother as much as her real mother.
 - D** She must do all the hard work while her stepsisters do nothing.

- 23** Read these sentences from paragraph 1 of "Cinderella."

She cleaned and cooked, and cooked and cleaned, and cleaned some more. All the while, her two new stepsisters did nothing.

Which **best** explains why the author repeats the words "cleaned" and "cooked"?

- A** to show that Cinderella wanted to please her new stepmother
 - B** to show that Cinderella had so much work that she could never stop
 - C** to show that Cinderella was very good at both cooking and cleaning
 - D** to show that Cinderella liked to keep busy to make her stepsisters happy
- 24** What do the stepsisters think about Cinderella wanting to go to the dance?
- A** They would let her go if she had better shoes.
 - B** They are surprised she even knows how to dance.
 - C** They feel she is foolish for thinking she could go.
 - D** They are worried the prince will like her the best.

Go On

- 25** What do we learn about Turkey Girl at the beginning of the story?
- A** She is a good dancer who has a lot of friends.
 - B** She is very poor but takes good care of the turkeys.
 - C** She is tired of taking care of turkeys and wants to dance.
 - D** She is sometimes late because she forgets what time it is.
- 26** Which sentence **best** tells what happens soon after Turkey Girl wishes she could go to the special dance?
- A** The girl hears some people in town talking about a dance.
 - B** The turkeys turn the girl's old clothes into a beautiful dress.
 - C** The girl runs back to the fields, but the turkeys are gone.
 - D** The girl's beautiful white dress turns back into old rags.
- 27** Which sentence **best** tells the lesson to be learned from "The Turkey Girl"?
- A** Don't worry about others.
 - B** Be happy with what you have.
 - C** Enjoy your life.
 - D** Keep your promises.

28 What is one way both Cinderella and Turkey Girl are **alike**?

- A** Both sleep by a fireplace at night.
- B** Both have stepsisters who laugh at them.
- C** Both are kind to the animals they herd.
- D** Both have to spend all day working.

29 Which story event is the **same** in “Cinderella” and “The Turkey Girl”?

- A** The girls are given new dresses so they can go to the dance.
- B** The girls plant twigs that quickly grow into pretty hazel trees.
- C** The girls need to fit their feet into slippers only they can wear.
- D** The girls almost forget to go back to the birds who helped them.

Go On