

Listen and Learn

Identifying Characters

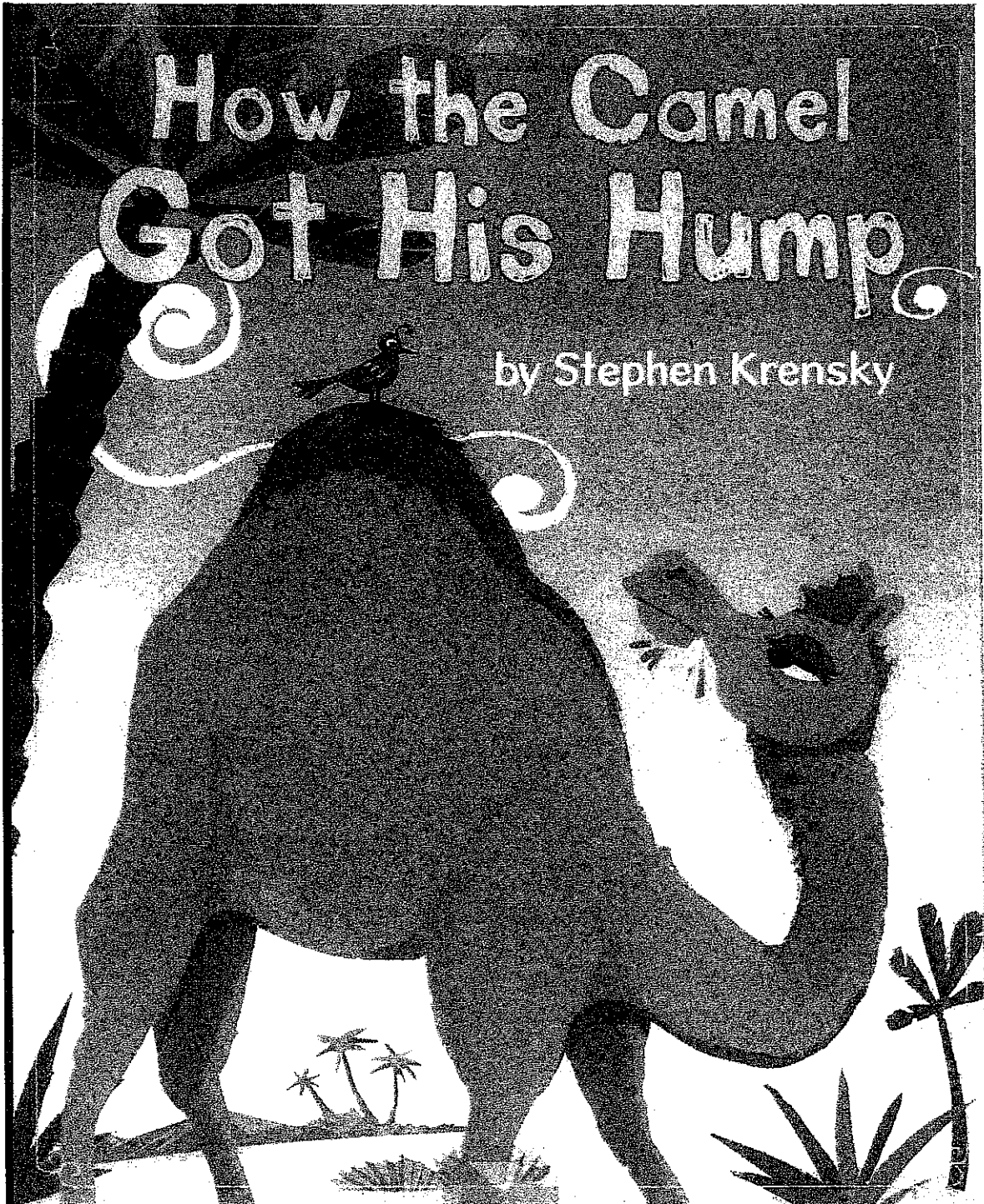


A **character** is a person or an animal in a story.

When you are reading or listening to a story, ask:

- What do the characters say?
- What do the characters do?
- How do the characters feel?

Asking questions about characters helps you understand the story.





There was once a lazy camel that lived near the desert. He did not live alone.

“Help us gather the hay,” said a horse. “If we wait too long, the wind will blow it away.”

“Humph!” said the camel. He did nothing.



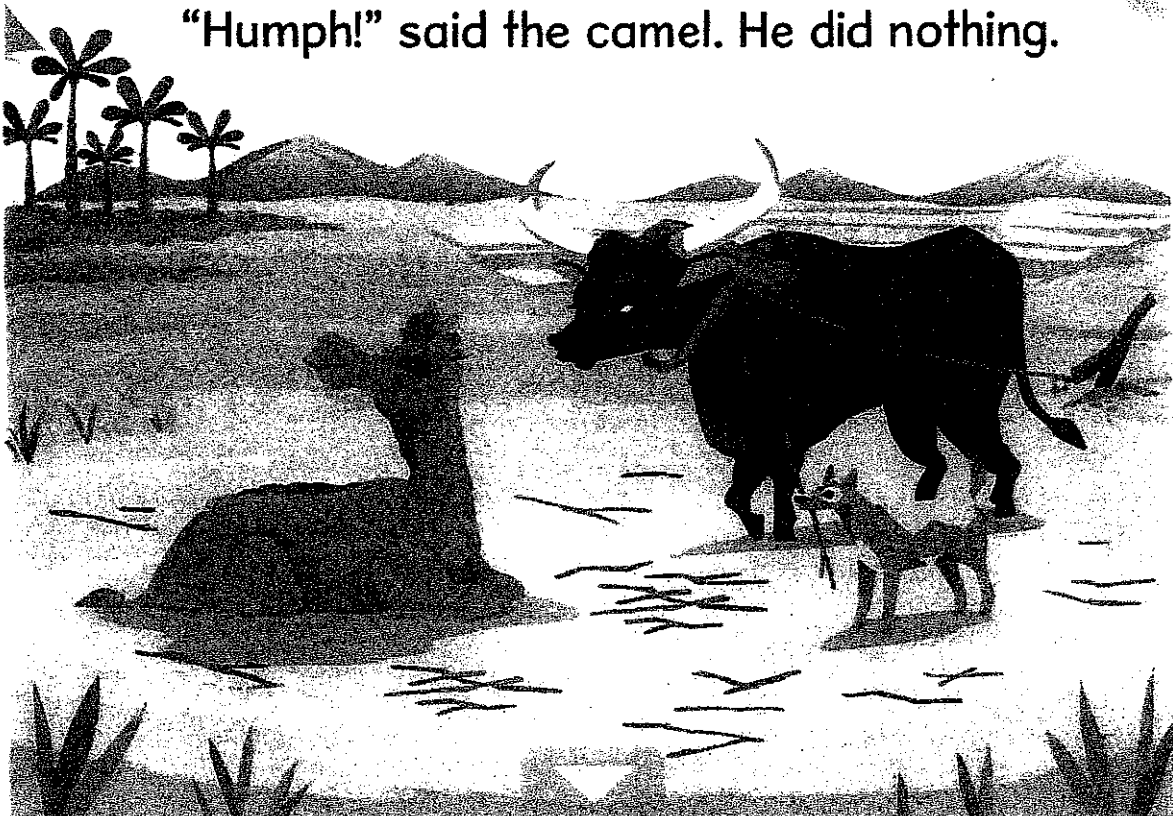


“Help us collect sticks for the fire,” said a dog. “Cold nights are coming.”

“Humph!” the camel said again.

“Help us plow the field,” said an ox. “We need to grow food.”

“Humph!” said the camel. He did nothing.





The next day, a genie came. He said, “I feel something is wrong. What is it?”

“The camel doesn’t help,” said the horse.

“We do all the work,” said the dog.

The ox nodded. “He just stands around.”

The genie said, “Let’s see about that.”





Then the genie appeared next to the camel.

“You need to change your ways,” he said.

“Humph!” said the camel.





“Is ‘humph’ all you can say?” the genie asked.

“Humph! Humph! Humph!”

“Very well. I will give you a ‘humph’ that you will always remember!” the genie yelled.





The genie waved his arms. The camel's back began to puff up. Soon, a big "humph," or hump, stuck out.

"From now on, your hump will remind you of one thing," the genie said. "You care only for yourself."

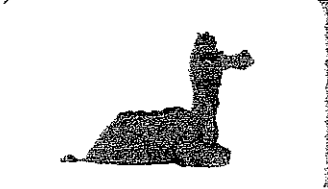
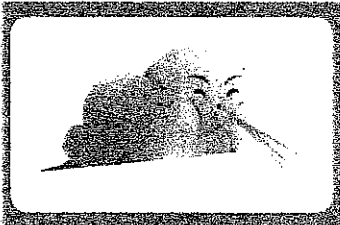
And camels have had humps ever since.



After-Reading Questions

Question 1 (from p. 1 of passage)

Who gathers hay?



Question 2 (from p. 2 of passage)

The character is the camel in the story? What does the camel do?

- a. The camel plows the field.
- b. The camel collects sticks.
- c. The camel does nothing.

Question 3 (from p. 3 of passage)

What do the animals tell the genie about the camel?

- a. The camel does not help with the work.
- b. The camel will not stand near them.
- c. The camel is not feeling well.

Question 4 (from p. 4 of passage)

Read the underlined sentence. What does the genie want the camel to do?

Then the genie appeared next to the camel.

“You need to change your ways,” he said.

“Humph!” said the camel.



- a. He wants the camel to appear near the animals.
- b. He wants the camel to get mad at the animals.
- c. He wants the camel to help the animals.



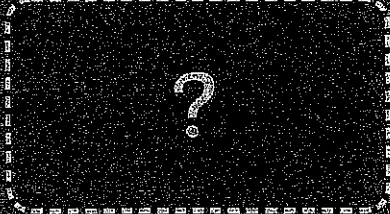
Question 5 (from p. 5 of passage)

How does the genie feel when the camel says “humph”?

- a. The genie is afraid.
- b. The genie is mad.
- c. The genie is sad.

Question 6 (from p. 6 of passage)

Look at the chart. What happens at the end of the story? Choose the correct picture.

| Beginning | Middle | End |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |

