

Chapter 1

The Stork and the Crab



READING SKILL

Once upon a time, there was a stork which caught the fish in a tank. The stork always had a full meal. As the years went by, the stork grew older and weaker, he could not catch many fish. At times he would even **starve**. He knew he had to do something to **survive**.

One day he stood by the side of the tank with a very sad look on his face. The frogs, fish and crabs **wondered** why he was not trying to catch any food. A big crab asked him, "What is the matter?" The stork answered, "I am sad because all the fish in the tank are going to die and I will have to starve."



He said, "I have heard that people are going to fill the tank with mud and grow crops over it." The fish were very **worried** and asked the stork to help them.

The stork **offered** to take all of them to a bigger tank some distance away. "I can take you to a safer place." But he said that he needed to rest between trips because of his age. He would only be able to carry a few fish at a time.

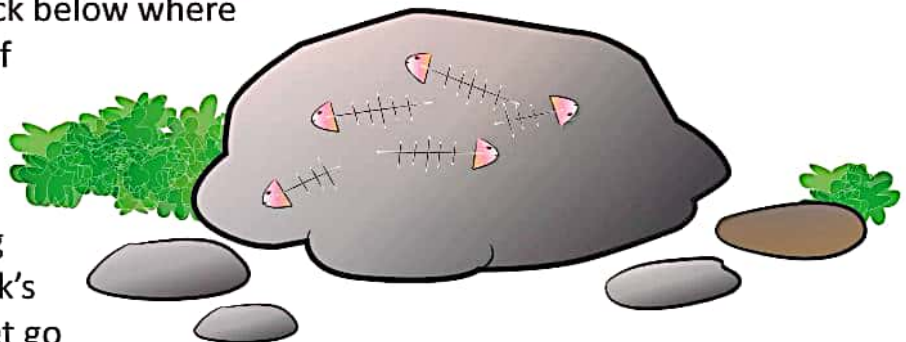


The stork took a beakful of fish on his first trip. He flew to a big rock and had a good meal. He rested **awhile**, and when he was hungry again, he took a second trip. In this manner, he took a trip each time that he was hungry.

The big crab in the tank also wanted to save himself and he requested the stork to take him too. The stork thought it was a good idea to try a new dish. "Let me try something new." He agreed to take the crab on his next trip.

After the stork flew up with him, the crab looked down to see what his new surrounding would be like. All he could see was dry land. He questioned the stork about this, "Where is the big tank?" The stork laughed **wickedly** and pointed to the rock below where

the crab saw a **heap** of fish bones. The crab realised that he was to be the stork's next meal. So, the crab dug his claws into the stork's neck and would not let go till the stork fell to the ground.



The crab then cut off the stork's head and returned home to show it to all the other fish and share the story of his **adventure**.



VOCABULARY SKILL

A. My Dictionary

1. Starve — Die from hunger
2. Survive — Be alive
3. Wondered — Feeling surprised
4. Worried — Became unhappy and fearful
5. Offered — Ready to do something
6. Awhile — For a short time
7. Wickedly — Morally wrong or evil
8. Heap — Pile
9. Adventure — Exciting incident



COMPOSITION SKILL

B. Make sentences with the above words in your notebook.



COMPREHENSION SKILL

C. Answer the following questions.

1. Why was the stork afraid of starving?
2. What did he tell the frogs, crabs and fish?
3. What was his actual plan?
4. What did the crab see?
5. Who killed the stork and how?



D. Fill in the blanks.

1. The stork knew that he had to do something to
2. The stork offered to take all of them to a some distance away.
3. The stork took a of fish on his first trip.
4. The stork thought it was a good to try a new dish.
5. The stork laughed and pointed to the rock below where the crab saw a heap of fish bones.

E. Name the following using words from the story.

1. A water body —
2. An animal with a shell and claws —
3. A long-legged water bird —
4. With evil purpose —

F. Who said these words and to whom.

1. "What is the matter?"
2. "I am sad because all the fish in the tank are going to die and I will have to starve. I have heard that people are going to fill the tank with mud and grow crops over it."
3. "I can take you to a safer place."
4. "Let me try something new."
5. "Where is the big tank?"