

### 3 A Walking Shark

One type of shark, instead of swimming, walks on her fins. The small, thin shark waddles slowly along the seafloor. She crawls up onto a coral reef, looking for food. When a shrimp pops out of a hole in the coral, the shark snatches it with her teeth.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think the shark walks instead of swims?

Why do you think the shark waddles *slowly*?

Why do you think she hunts on the coral? Why not hunt in the open water?

If the shark gets scared, she can swim away. Why do you think this is important?



## 32 The Deathwatch Beetle

Legend says a nurse gave the deathwatch beetle his name. Late at night, the nurse sat in a hospital watching over sick patients. In the midnight silence, she heard a strange tapping sound overhead. Hours later, she found that two of the sick patients had died. The scared nurse climbed up a tall ladder to the rafters. In the beams above, she found small brown beetles tapping their heads against the dark wood. From then on, the nurse called the bugs deathwatch beetles.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think the nurse called the bugs "deathwatch beetles"?

Why might she have heard the beetles' strange taps at night?

Why do you think the nurse was scared?

Why do you think the nurse climbed up to the rafters?

## 33 Dog Breath

A bulldog named Lucy almost died when she fell into an icy lake. She had chased some ducks onto the frozen lake, where she broke through the thin ice. Her owner heard the splash and rushed over to the jagged hole in the ice. He reached into the water and pulled the bulldog out. Lucy was not breathing, and her nose and paws had turned blue. The owner laid the dog down and held her mouth closed with his hand. Then he put his own mouth over her nose and blew air into the dog's lungs. A minute later, the dog gasped for air and began to breathe.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Do you think Lucy's owner was scared when he found her in the water? Why or why not?

Do you think Lucy's owner cared for her a lot or a little? Explain.

Do you think Lucy would have lived if her owner hadn't blown air into her lungs? Why or why not?

Do you think the owner took Lucy to the vet after she fell into the lake? Why or why not?

### 36 Going for a Dip

The dipper is a small bird that digs for bugs at the bottom of a stream. He dives into the rushing water and swims down to the streambed. He flaps his wings against the strong current to keep from floating back up. As he walks along the bottom, he pecks at the rocks and mud. He snatches up a bug from under a rock and swims to shore with it in his beak.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think the dipper pecks at the rocks and mud?

What might happen if the dipper didn't flap his wings against the current?

The dipper cannot breathe underwater. What do you think he does when he needs to take a breath?

Why do you think the dipper carries the bug to shore?

### 37 A Robber Squirrel

One squirrel steals from a grocery store each day. He waits outside for the front door to open, and then darts inside. From a low shelf, he grabs a hollow chocolate egg wrapped in foil. He peels off the foil and takes a big bite out of the top of the egg. Then he reaches into the egg and takes out a tiny toy dragon. He gobbles up the rest of the egg and scampers out of the store with the toy.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Do you think the squirrel is scared to enter the store? Why or why not?

Why do you think he grabs the chocolate from a *low* shelf? Why not a high one?

What do you think the squirrel does with the toy dragon?

How do you think the store's owner feels about the squirrel stealing? Explain.

## 45 Hornbill Hatching

A female African grey hornbill makes a safe nest high in a woodland tree. She climbs into a hole in a tree trunk and lays her eggs. Then she covers the entrance to the hole with clay made of mud and fruit pulp. She leaves only a tiny slit in the wall for the male hornbill to pass her spiders and small frogs to eat. She sits on the eggs, keeping them warm until they hatch.

It is very crowded in the tree hole for the mother and her baby birds. She breaks through the clay wall and leaves her hatchlings inside. Then the hatchlings rebuild the wall, once again leaving a slit. Now the female and the male both feed the hatchlings through the slit. When the baby birds grow big and strong, they burst through the wall and fly out.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think the female grey hornbill sits in the sealed hole with her eggs?

Why do you think she leaves a slit in the clay wall?

Why do you think the male hornbill brings food for the female to eat?

What might happen if the mother stayed in the trunk while the hatchlings grew bigger?

Do you think it's important that the baby birds stay in the trunk until they are strong? Why or why not?

