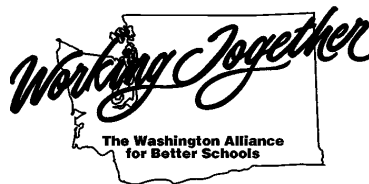


Student Booklet
Winter (December/January)
Reading Performance Task

Grade 3
Identifying Story Elements Through Story Mapping

Name: _____



The Monkey and the Crocodile

A Jataka Tale from India taken from Paul Galdon

NARRATIVE TEXT FOR INDEPENDENT READING

Students will read this narrative text independently before completing their Story Maps. This is a sample text. Teachers may select another narrative if they prefer.

Beside a river in the jungle stood a tall mango tree. In the tree lived many monkeys. They swung from branch to branch, eating fruit and chattering to each other.

Hungry crocodiles swam in the river and sunned themselves on the banks. One young crocodile was hungrier than all the rest. He could never get enough to eat. The young crocodile watched the monkeys for a long time. Then one day he said to a wise old crocodile, "I'd like to catch a monkey and eat him!"

"How would you ever catch a monkey?" asked the old crocodile. "You do not travel on land and monkeys do not go into the water. Besides, they are quicker than you are."

"They may be quicker," said the young crocodile, "but I am more cunning. You will see!"

For days the crocodile swam back and forth, studying the monkeys all the while. Then he noticed one young monkey who was quicker than all the others. This monkey loved to jump to the highest branches of the tree and pick the ripe mangoes at the very top.

"He's the one I want," the crocodile said to himself. "But how am I going to catch him?" The crocodile thought and thought, and at last he had an idea.

"Monkey," he called, "wouldn't you like to come with me over to the island where the fruit is so ripe?"

"Oh, yes," said the monkey. "But how can I go with you? I do not swim."

"I will take you on my back," said the crocodile with a toothy smile.

The monkey was eager to get to the fruit, so he jumped down on the crocodile's back. "Off we go!" said the crocodile, gliding through the water.

"This is a fine ride you are giving me," said the monkey.

"Do you think so? Well, how do you like this?" asked the crocodile. And suddenly he dived down into the water.

"Oh, please don't!" cried the monkey as he went under. He was afraid to let go and he did not know what to do.

When the crocodile came up, the monkey sputtered and choked. "Why did you take me under water, Crocodile?" He asked. "You know I can't swim!"

"Because I am going to drown you," replied the crocodile. "And then I am going to eat you."

The monkey shivered in fear. But he thought quickly and before the crocodile dived again, he said, "I wish you had told me you wanted to eat me. If I had known that, I would have brought my heart."

"Your heart?" asked the crocodile.

"Yes, it is the tastiest part of me. But I left it behind in the tree."

"Then we must go back and get it," said the crocodile, turning around.

"But we are so near the island," said the monkey. "Please take me there first."

"No," said the crocodile. "First I am taking you straight to your tree. You will get your heart and bring it to me at once. Then we will see about going to the island."

"Very well," said the monkey.

And the crocodile headed back to the river bank.

The monkey jumped onto the bank and swung up into the tree. From the highest branch he called down to the crocodile, "My heart is way up here. If you want it, come for it! Come for it!" And, he laughed and laughed while the crocodile thrashed his tail in anger.

When the crocodile saw the trick the monkey had played on him, he said, "Monkey, I thought I was cunning, but you are much more cunning than I. And, you know no fear. I will leave you alone after this."

"Thank you, Crocodile," said the monkey. "But I shall be on the watch for you just the same." And, so he was, and the crocodile never, never caught him.

STORY MAP

____/12
____% Correct

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

STUDENT: _____

DATE: _____

Points: ____/1

SETTING:

Points: ____/1

MAIN CHARACTERS:

Points: ____/3

PROBLEM:

Points: ____/1

EVENTS LEADING TO THE SOLUTION:

Points: ____/4

SOLUTION(S):

Points: ____/2