

TAKE NOTES

Literary Analysis

Personification sometimes shows human behavior in a funny way. What human behavior is the author showing in a funny way in this story?

Stop to Reflect

Do you think Tortoise learned his lesson? Explain.

Reading Skill

Recall the **purpose** you **set** at the beginning of the story. Restate your purpose here. Did you achieve your purpose while reading? Explain.

husband's hoes, machetes, spears, guns, and even his cannon. Tortoise looked down from the sky and saw his wife bringing things out, but it was too far to see what they were. When all seemed ready, he let himself go. He fell and fell and fell until he began to fear that he would never stop falling. And then like the sound of his cannon he crashed on the compound."

"Did he die?" asked Ezinma.

"No," replied Ekwefi. "His shell broke into pieces. But there was a great medicine man in the neighborhood. Tortoise's wife sent for him and he gathered all the bits of shell and stuck them together. That is why Tortoise's shell is not smooth."

Vocabulary Development

machetes (ma SHET eez) *n.* large heavy-bladed knives

Why the Tortoise's Shell Is Not Smooth

1. **Analyze:** The birds are not going to help Tortoise at first. Why do the birds decide to help Tortoise go to the feast?

2. **Interpret:** Tortoise tells the birds to call him by a new name. Explain how Tortoise's new name allows him to eat before the birds eat.

3. **Reading Skill:** Your **purpose** for reading is the reason you read a text. What would your purpose be for reading a nonfiction article about tortoises?

4. **Literary Analysis: Personification** gives human qualities to nonhuman subjects. Use the chart below to analyze the personification of Tortoise. First, list the ways in which Tortoise behaves like an animal. Then, list the ways in which Tortoise behaves like a human.

Character's Name: Tortoise	
Animal Qualities:	Human Qualities:

Writing: Invitation

Write an **invitation** to the birds' feast in the sky. Use the following questions to help you include details in your invitation.

- What is unusual about the feast?

- How should guests dress for the feast?

- What is the reason for such a feast?

Listening and Speaking: Dramatic Reading

Prepare for the dramatic reading by deciding who will read each part. Make sure that each group member has a copy of the text for the reading. Then, each group member can mark his or her lines on the copy.

- Ekwefi the storyteller (reads the parts that are not dialogue):

- The Birds: _____

- Tortoise: _____

Answer the following questions about the part that you will read.

- What are my most important lines? _____

- How should I say them? _____

- Which words should I stress for effect? _____

Word List A

Study these words from “He Lion, Bruh Bear, and Bruh Rabbit.” Then, complete the activity that follows.

awhile [uh WYL] *adv.* for a short time

After looking through the bookstore awhile, Sheila went home.

dangerous [DAYN jer uhs] *adj.* likely to cause harm or injury

It was dangerous to drive on the icy road.

distance [DIS tuhns] *n.* the amount of space between two places

Steve walked the distance between school and his home.

drags [DRAGZ] *v.* pulls something along the ground

The wounded dog drags its hurt leg along the ground.

fellow [FEL loh] *n.* a man or boy

Most people thought that Louis was a very nice fellow.

lair [LAIR] *n.* a place where a wild animal rests and sleeps

The fox returned to his lair after a day of hunting.

thunder [THUHN der] *n.* the loud, rumbling sound after lightning

During the storm, lighting flashed and thunder rumbled.

whatever [hwut EV er] *pron.* anything or any

Alex enjoyed the summers because he could do whatever he wanted to.

Exercise A

Fill in each blank in the paragraph below with an appropriate word from Word List A. Use each word only once.

As a young man, Ricardo was the type of [1] _____ who always enjoyed an adventure. He liked to hike in the woods by himself, even though he knew this could be [2] _____. Once, he became lost in the woods for quite [3] _____. It started to rain, and lightning and [4] _____ filled the sky. Soon he found himself standing next to the [5] _____ of a wild animal. “Wow,” he thought. “What if I’m standing here when that animal [6] _____ its prey home for dinner? It won’t be very happy to see me.” Ricardo knew that he needed to do [7] _____ it took to get out of the woods. So he began walking. He walked a great [8] _____. Finally, he found his way home.

1. Underline the words that explain the meaning of whatever. Then, use whatever in a sentence.
2. Circle the words that tell why bears have surprised a fellow or two. Then, define fellow in your own words.
3. Circle the sentence that tells you why black bears are not dangerous. What is something that you know is dangerous?
4. Underline the words that describe the word thunder. Then, use the word thunder in a sentence.
5. Underline the words that tell you what awhile means. What is something that you would like to do for awhile?
6. Circle the nearby word with a meaning similar to lair. Then, define lair in your own words.
7. Circle the words that tell you what a bear drags to make its home. Then, write a sentence using the word drags.
8. Circle the words that tell what distance the bear swam. Then write a sentence with the word distance.

Read the following passage. Pay special attention to the underlined words. Then, read it again, and complete the activities. Use a separate sheet of paper for your written answers.

Black bears live throughout North America. They live in forests from Mexico to Canada. Most bears live in national parks. There, they are protected from hunters and other humans.

Black bears eat a mixture of fruit, nuts, acorns, and meat. These bears will generally eat whatever food they can find. They search through the woods and will eat anything that they can. Often, bears will follow the smell of food to campsites. Black bears have surprised more than one fellow as they enter a man's tent, searching for food.

Many people believe that black bears are dangerous animals, but this is not really true. Most bears are not actually likely to harm people. A black bear will attack only if it is threatened. An angry bear will let out a booming roar. This shout can be so loud that it sounds like thunder.

Most bears hibernate during the winter. During this time, a bear will sleep for months, but it will wake up and leave its home for awhile every few days. It is important for the bear to move around for these short periods of time. A bear will sleep in its lair. This home may be created out of the hollow in a tree. It may also be created out of a group of logs that a bear drags together into a pile.

Adult black bears are excellent swimmers. In fact, one black bear was recorded swimming the distance of nine miles in the Gulf of Mexico. Bears can also run as fast as thirty miles an hour. Bears have an extremely sensitive smelling ability. Also, their sense of hearing is twice as strong as humans'.

Today, many black bear habitats are threatened as humans move into the forests where bears live. Hopefully, people will respect the territory of North American black bears and the animals will be allowed to thrive.