

Off to the Zoo



One sunny day, Ella and her friends decided to go on a bike ride. They packed their bikes and helmets and set off on a fun adventure. As they rode along the bike path, they saw a sign for the local zoo. Ella had never been to the zoo before, so they all decided to stop and check it out. As they entered the zoo, they saw all kinds of animals. There were lions, tigers, bears, and even some monkeys swinging from the trees. Ella and her friends decided to explore the zoo on their bikes. They rode past the flamingos, the zebras, and the giraffes. They even rode past the elephant enclosure, where the elephants were having a great time playing in the water. Suddenly, they heard a loud roar coming from the lion's den. Ella and her friends quickly rode over to see what was happening. They saw a lion pacing back and forth in his cage, looking very unhappy. Ella asked one of the zookeepers why the lion was so upset. The zookeeper explained that the lion had been pacing back and forth all morning, because he was bored and wanted to play. Ella had an idea. He asked the zookeeper if they could play with the lion. The zookeeper hesitated at first, but then he realized that Ella and her friends were responsible and careful kids. So, he agreed to let them play with the lion for a few minutes. Ella and her friends were thrilled! They rode their bikes into the lion's enclosure and started playing with the lion. They threw a ball around and watched as the lion chased after it. After a few minutes of playing, the zookeeper told them it was time to leave. Ella and her friends said goodbye to the lion and rode their bikes out of the enclosure. As they rode out of the zoo, Ella and her friends talked about how much fun they had at the zoo. They also talked about how important it is to treat animals with kindness and respect.

1. Read the passage and underline any word or sentence you struggled with.
2. Answer the questions on the following page.

Answer according to the reading passage:

1. **What kind of sign did Ella and her friends see as they started off on their bike ride?**
 - a. local park
 - b. local trails
 - c. local zoo

2. **Was this Ella's first time at the zoo?**
 - a. no
 - b. yes

3. **What does enclosure mean in this sentence '*they even rode past the elephant enclosure*'?**
 - a. door
 - b. tower
 - c. cage

4. **What did Ella ask the zookeeper?**
 - a. why was the elephant so upset
 - b. why were the monkeys so upset
 - c. why was the lion so upset

5. **What did the zookeeper let Ella and her friends do?**
 - a. let them play with the lion
 - b. let them feed the lion
 - c. let them show the lion some tricks

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Open Response Questions

Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. How would you feel if you were the lion in this zoo?
2. Describe your experience with a zoo, similar or different? If you haven't been to a zoo, describe how this zoo is similar or different that how you think about zoos.
3. In 2-3 sentences, summarize what this passage is about.
4. What did the author make you visualize as you read through this reading passage?
 - Could this story be a true story? Explain
 - How are you different and alike Ella in the story?
 - Is the setting important to the story? Explain.
 - How is the setting like a place you know?
 - What kind of animals would you NOT expect to find in a zoo?
 - Write a different ending for the story.
 - What language did the author use to create a visual image for you?
 - Does this author keep you interested? Why or why not?