

The Fox And The Crocodile

Once Turtle, Frog and Rat were great friends. They shared a home in a field near the ocean. They spent the afternoons sitting in the sun. Turtle would often say to frog, “What fine, smooth skin you have. How it shines!”

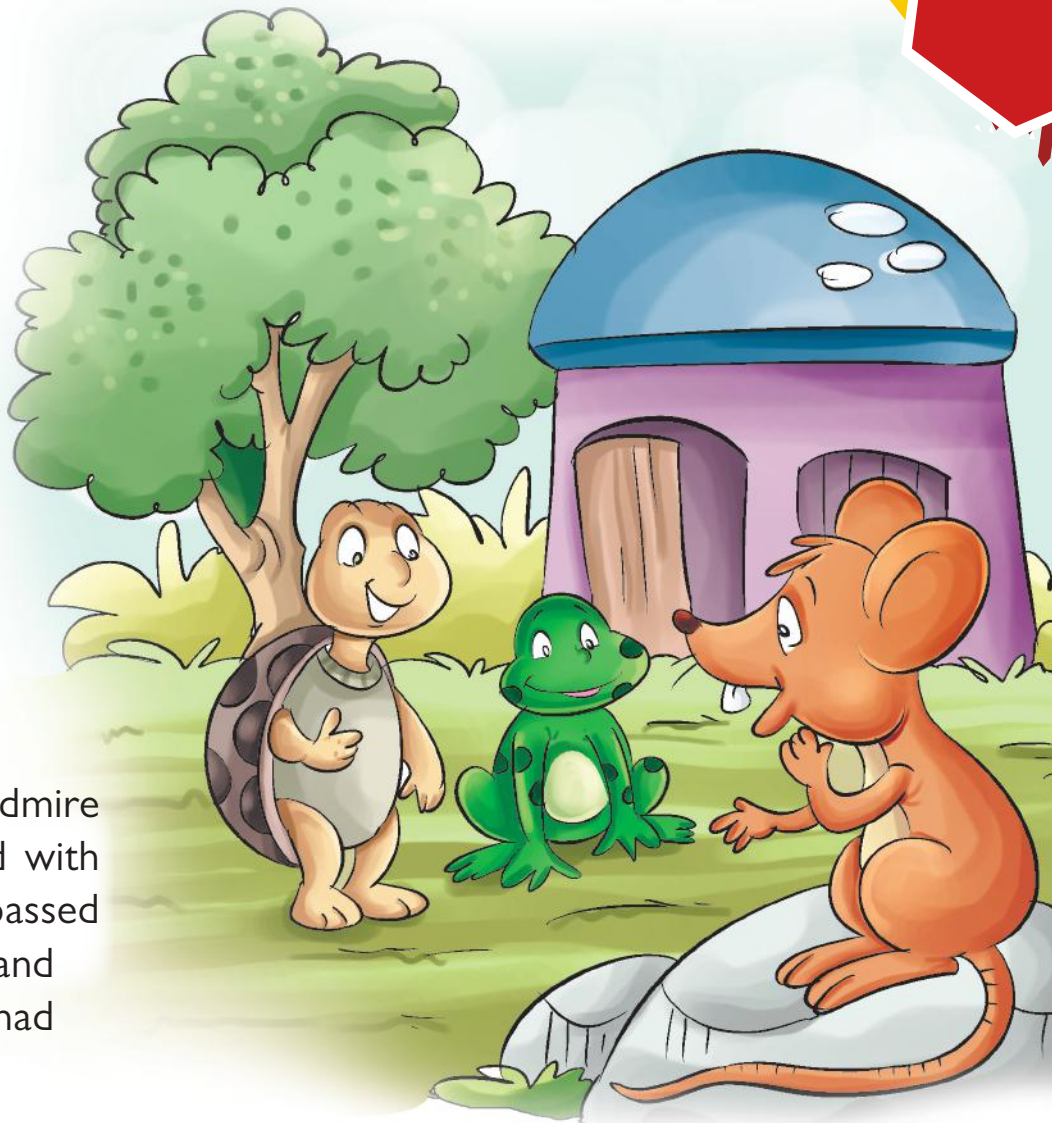
Frog would say in return, “And you! No one has a smoother and shinier shell than you.”

Then Frog or Turtle would admire Rat’s tail which was covered with long, shiny fur. Thus, they passed many hours, drinking tea and eating the good things they had gathered from their field.

Then, one night, a terrible flood covered the field. Turtle and Frog were in no danger because they could swim very well, but Rat would have **drowned** if he had not **scurried** to the forest and climbed a tall tree.

There he met a beautiful female rat who thought that he was very handsome. She especially admired his fine, furry tail. After a time, they were married, and Rat built a nice tree house for her.

Meanwhile, the water level went down, and one day Rat decided to see what had become of his old friends. The flood had destroyed their home, but soon,



he found Frog and Turtle living nearby. "Friends," he said, "I'm very glad to see you."

"And we are glad to see you," they said. "We were afraid might you have drowned in the flood."

"No," replied Rat. "I escaped to the forest. Now I have a new home and a lovely wife. Won't you come and meet her?"

"Gladly," they said. Soon they were all on their way to the forest.

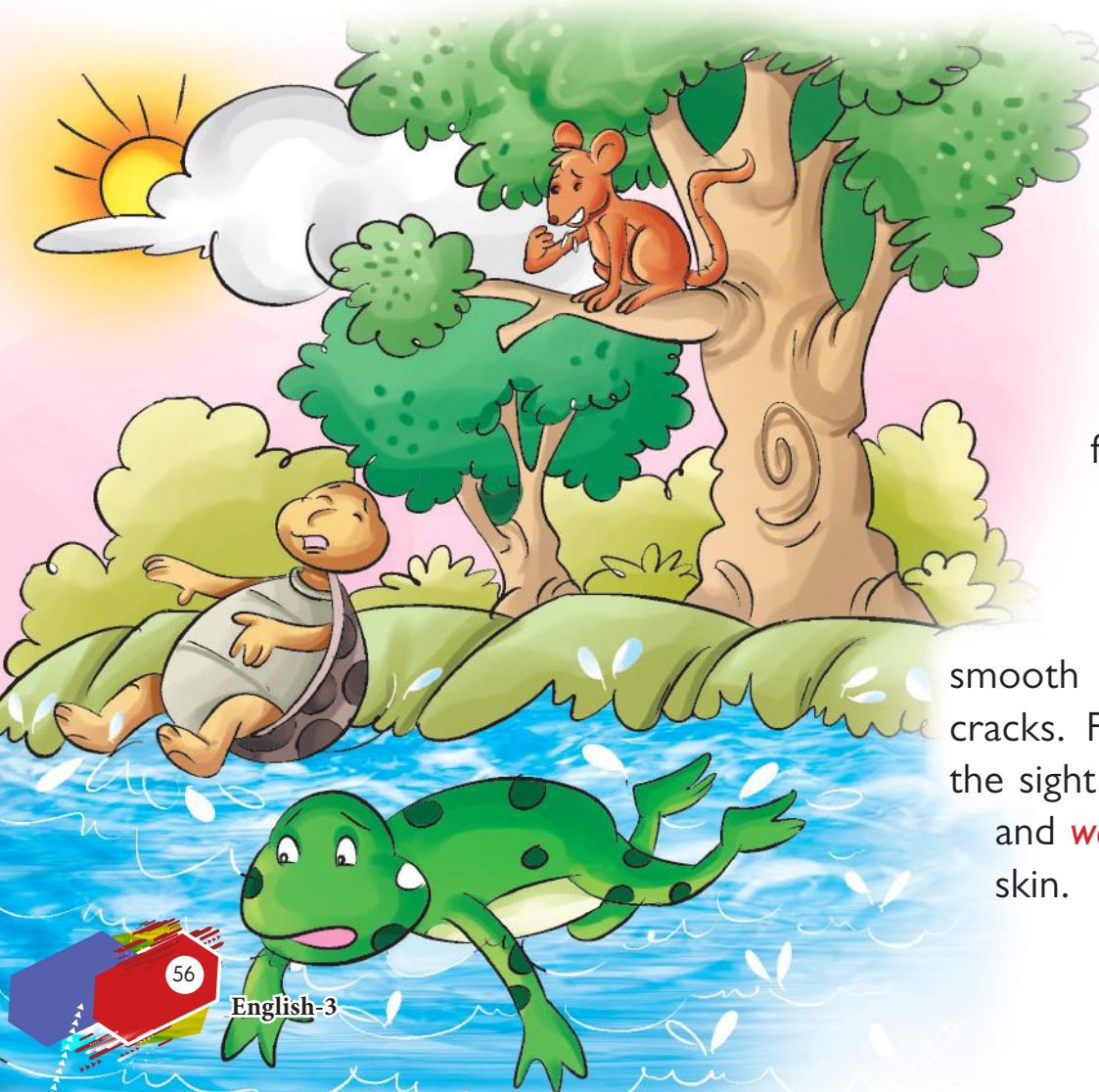
When they reached Rat's house, they saw that it was high in a tree. "We cannot climb up there."

Rat felt terrible, but he thought a minute and said, "I know ! You can hold on to my tail with your **jaws**, and I can pull you up the tree."

Turtle decided to go first. He took Rat's tail in his jaws, and Rat began to climb. Frog watched from the ground. When they neared the top, Rat called to his wife, "Look, dear, I've brought my friends to visit."

"Oh, hello!" said his wife to Turtle. Forgetting where he was, Turtle opened his mouth to say hello. Of course, when he did this he loosened his hold, **scraping** all the hair of Rat's fine tail earlier he fell to the ground with a loud thump.

Turtle landed with such force that his once-smooth shell was covered with cracks. Frog was so shocked by the sight that his eyes bulged out and **warts** stood up all over his skin.



Everyone hurried to the foot of the tree to see if Turtle was hurt. "I'm not hurt," he cried. "But, look at my shell! it's ruined!"

Frog looked at him with his *bulging* eyes.

"Not at all. I think your shell is much more interesting now than when it was smooth," he said. "But look at me. I have become ugly."

"No, no," said Turtle. "I like your bumpy skin. And just think, when you swim in the pond, you will be able to hold your eyes above the water. Don't you see? This is much better."

But Rat was the most upset of all. "My beautiful wife won't love me anymore without my fine, furry tail," he wailed.

"Don't be silly," replied his wife, "I will always love you for what you are not what you look like."

And so, you see, they got used to how they looked and they remained friends for life.

Word Treasure

drowned : died by being unable to breathe water

jaws : the lower part of the face

warts : small mounts on skin

scurried : moved quickly

bulged : stuck out in a round shape

scraping : taking out



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. They shared a home in a _____.

a. pond

b. field

c. farm

2. A terrible _____ covered the field.

a. wind

b. rain

c. flood

3. We cannot _____ up there.

a. climb

b. jump

c. slip

4. _____ decided to go first.

a. frog

b. turtle

c. rat

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. The three friends spent time in the morning with each other.
2. Turtle and frog were in danger because they could not swim very well.
3. The female rat especially admired to the tail of rat.
4. Frog was so shocked to wart stood up all over his skin.



C. For each of these statements say :

- who said it.
 - to whom it was said.
 - why it was said.
1. "No, I escaped to the forest."
 2. "This is much better."

D. Answer the following questions :

1. Where did the three friends live ?
2. What was the terrible thing that happened one day ?
3. Where did Rat now live ?
4. Who said that "I have become ugly ?"

Fun with Words

E. Choose the correct adjectives to complete these similies :

slow, light, busy, cool, playful

1. as _____ as a cucumber
2. as _____ as a snail
3. as _____ as a bee
4. as _____ as a kitten
5. as _____ as a feather

F. Match the adjectives :

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. serious | a. music |
| 2. deep | b. mistake |
| 3. hot | c. sleep |
| 4. heavy | d. water |
| 5. soft | e. rain |

Essential Grammar

G. Underline adjectives in the following :

The new girl came into the big school. She had silky black hair and dark eyes. She held a shiny blue bag. In the noisy playground she saw strange faces. Then a letter girl came and took her to a quiet room where she met a smiling teacher.

H. Rearrange these words to make proper sentences :

1. not / she is / sure / her plans / of
2. does not / my cousin / to play / want
3. is not / her neighbour / well / too
4. my book / he has / tomorrow / forget

Essential Speaking

I. Sometimes, when we speak, we do not answer questions in complete sentences. We answer them briefly at times just saying Yes or No and few more words :

Work in pairs. Ask questions like :

1. Are you coming tomorrow?

Yes, I am.

No, I'm not.

2. Is Anita busy?

Yes, she is

No, she isn't.

Fun to Do

J. Play a memory game. Your teacher will place many items in a tray. Look at them for a few minutes. Then your teacher will cover the tray. Now try and remember all the things you saw.

