

# "Fur & Feathers" –Take-Home Flyer



Stories to  
Grow by

**Parents!** Discover  
Whootie Owl's Fairytales:  
[www.storiestogrowby.org](http://www.storiestogrowby.org)!

We read a story in class from *Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series* for Level 2

"Fur and Feathers" (Africa)

Ask your child about the story we read in class from  
Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series entitled:

## "Fur and Feathers"

*Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series* builds an understanding of story elements: plot, setting, characters, and main idea.

**Bonus!** The stories offer gentle, character-building messages.

The character-building themes in this story are:

"Courage" and "Helping"



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**Please help your child with this homework assignment:**

- (1) Talk about a time when your child—or someone your child knows—showed the courage to help someone in need. Your child should write about it below:

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✓ **Adults!** This page should be returned by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quiz** → *Please Fill in the Correct Circle*

**The Characters**

1. Which statement **BEST** describes the Mongoose?

- He wishes he were a bigger animal.
- He hopes someone else will tell Mama Lion that the chicks do not belong to her.
- He thinks of a way to return the baby chicks to their real mother.

2. Which of the following **BEST** describes Mama Lion?

- She thinks the ostrich chicks are cute.
- She thinks she can do whatever she wants because she is bigger and stronger than the other animals.
- She does not like anthills because they can be tricky.

**The Setting**

3. Where does the story take place?

- United States
- Africa
- England

4. In what kind of place does the story take place?

- forest
- city
- farm

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quiz, continued**

**The Plot**

**5. Why did Mama Lion think she could keep the chicks?**

- She thought ostrich chicks look a lot like lion cubs.
- She thought no one else would notice that they were not her cubs.
- She thought the other animals would be too scared of her to tell her the chicks did not belong to her.

**6. Which event happened FIRST?**

- Mama Lion told Mama Ostrich that the chicks were her very own cubs.
- Mama Ostrich came home and saw that her chicks were gone.
- The mongoose thought of a way to rescue the ostrich chicks.

**The Main Idea**

**7. What was the main idea of this story?**

- Anthills can be useful, and big ones are the most useful of all.
- If you think about it, you can find a way to help when someone big is being mean.
- Ostrich chicks sometimes cannot tell who is their real mother.

# Reading Comprehension Questions

*Circle the correct answer*

## **Question 1**

The pride and joy of Mama Ostrich were her two baby chicks, hatched from her very own eggs. One day, Mama Ostrich came home with food for her two dear chicks.

Where were they? She looked and looked but could not find them. Then what did she see on the ground? Lion tracks!

*When she sees lion tracks on the ground, Mama Ostrich feels*

- A. excited** to meet a lion.
- B. worried** a lion took her ostrich chicks and might hurt them.
- C. glad** an important lion came to visit her ostrich chicks.
- D. angry** a lion made a mess on the ground by her home.

## **Question 2**

Fearful but sure that she must find her chicks, she followed the lion tracks. The tracks led deep into the woods. At last, they ended at the den of Mama Lion.

*When tracks lead to the den of Mama Lion, Mama Ostrich feels afraid. She worries that*

- A.** a lion may come out of the den and hurt her.
- B.** the lion has a nicer place to live than she does.
- C.** she is too deep into the woods to ever find her way home.
- D.** a lion took her ostrich chicks and has them in the den.

## Reading Comprehension Questions, *continued*

### **Question 3**

"What are you doing with my chicks?" cried Mama Ostrich.  
"Return them to me at once!"

"What do you mean *your chicks*?" Mama Lion growled.  
"These are *my cubs*, that is plain to see."

*Why does Mama Lion say that the chicks are her very own cubs?*

- A.** Mama Lion cannot tell the difference between chicks and cubs.
- B.** Mama Lion hopes Mama Ostrich will not notice that the chicks belong to her.
- C.** Mama Lion is trying to bully Mama Ostrich.
- D.** Mama Lion is trying to confuse Mama Ostrich.

### **Question 4**

"I dare you," said Mama Lion with a snarl. "Find any animal at all that will look me in the eye and tell me that these are not my cubs. Do that, and *then* I will give them back to you."

*Why does Mama Lion make this dare?*

- A.** Mama Lion wants to return the chicks to Mama Ostrich as soon as she can.
- B.** Mama Lion knows that many of the animals are too tall or too short to look her in the eye.
- C.** Mama Lion is sure no other animal in the forest will be brave enough to tell the truth.
- D.** Mama Lion is not sure herself who the chicks belong to.

## Reading Comprehension Questions, *continued*

### **Question 5**

Then came the time when Mama Ostrich said that she needed just one animal to come forward. *Just one animal* to look Mama Lion in the eye and tell her that she was not the mother of these chicks. All the animals in the meeting looked down.

*Why do all the animals look down?*

- A.** They are too scared to look Mama Lion in the eye and tell her the truth.
- B.** Animals like to look at bugs on the ground.
- C.** The animals think that the ostrich chicks really *are* lion cubs, just as Mama Lion said.
- D.** They were tired and did not know what all the fuss was about.

### **Question 6**

Not knowing about the second exit, Mama Lion paced and paced by the anthill hole. She was sure Mongoose must finally come out of the hole he had entered. The other animals at the meeting quietly moved away, one by one.

*What does the expression "paced and paced" mean?*

- A.** ran away
- B.** quietly moved away
- C.** walked back and forth
- D.** held tightly to the ostrich chicks

# Sequence of Events

*Circle the correct answer*

## Story Timeline:

**Box 1** What does Mama Ostrich see on the ground? Lion tracks!

**Box 2** In the cave are her own dear chicks—in the arms of Mama Lion!

**Box 3**

**Box 4** At the meeting, all of the animals look down at the ground.

**Box 5**

## Question A

Which one of these events belongs in Box 3?

- 1) Mama Lion paces and paces by the anthill hole.
- 2) "Mama Lion has fur! The chicks have feathers!" cries Mongoose.
- 3) Mongoose tells Mama Lion his idea.
- 4) Mama Ostrich follows tracks deep into the woods.

## Question B

Which one of these events belongs in Box 5?

- 1) Mongoose has an idea.
- 2) The ostrich chicks are freed.
- 3) Mama Lion dares Mama Ostrich to find any animal at all that will look her in the eye.
- 4) Mama Ostrich digs two holes under an anthill.

**FUR AND FEATHERS**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quiz</b></p> <p>1. <b>third</b></p> <p>2. <b>second</b></p> <p>3. <b>second</b></p> <p>4. <b>first</b></p> <p>5. <b>third</b></p> <p>6. <b>second</b></p> <p>7. <b>second</b></p>	<p><b>Reading Comprehension Questions:</b></p> <p>Question 1 – <b>B</b></p> <p>Question 2 – <b>D</b></p> <p>Question 3 – <b>C</b></p> <p>Question 4 – <b>C</b></p> <p>Question 5 – <b>A</b></p> <p>Question 6 – <b>C</b></p> <p><b>Sequence of Events:</b></p> <p>Question A – <b>3</b></p> <p>Question B – <b>2</b></p>
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# Open Response Questions

As you write, be sure to:

- Use your own ideas.
- Write neatly and clearly.
- Use the space provided below.

## Whootie Owl's Tip:

How to **ACE** these questions!

**A**nswer the question that's asked—  
read it carefully!

use **C**olorful words

give **E**xamples



## **Question 1**

Think of a story that you have read where a character stands up to another character who is big or mean. Describe what happens.

Title of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

What happens: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Question 2**

How do you think the antelopes, zebras, and the other animals felt at the end of the story? Were they proud that Mongoose saved the day? Or were they ashamed and jealous? Write what you think is most likely how they felt. Explain why.

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# About the Characters

## And About Your Favorite One

Using adjectives (describing words), try to find three words that tell about these characters from the story *Fur and Feathers* :



**Mama Ostrich:**

\_\_\_\_\_



**Mama Lion:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Which character in the story was your favorite?

My favorite character in the story was:

(circle one) →

MAMA OSTRICH

MAMA LION

MONGOOSE

ONE OF THE OTHER  
JUNGLE ANIMALS  
(which one?)

Why was that character your favorite?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Ostrich and the Mongoose

**Mama Ostrich** is the character whose chicks were stolen by Mama Lion.

### What is an ostrich?

#### ***..a very big bird!***

- ✓ It can grow up to 9 feet tall!  
(That is higher than most rooms!)
- ✓ It is a bird but it cannot fly.
- ✓ It can run faster than a horse!
- ✓ It is the only bird with two toes.
- ✓ It comes from Africa.

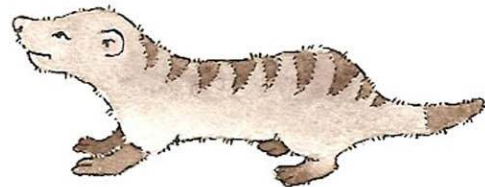


**Mongoose** is the character who tricks Mama Lion into letting go of the ostrich chicks.

### What is a mongoose?

#### ***..a very quick animal!***

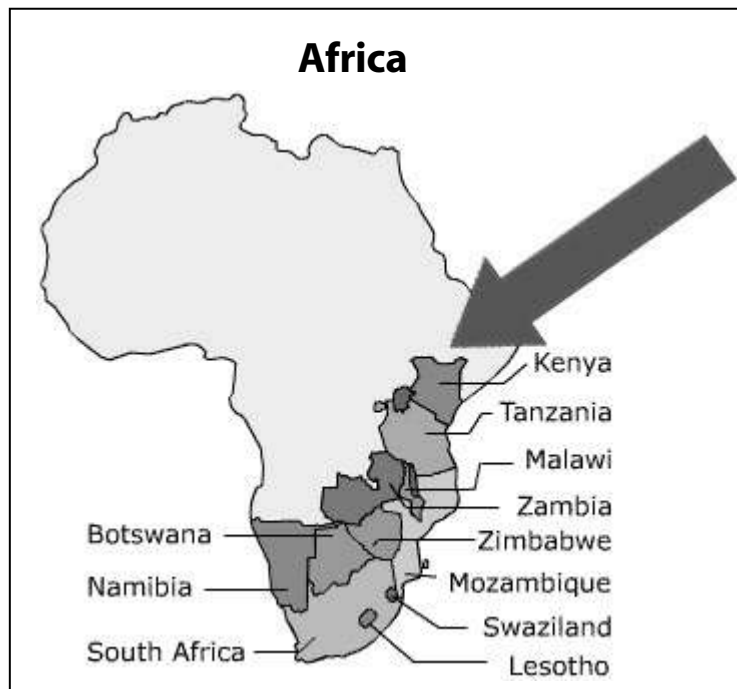
- ✓ It can beat a snake in a fight—  
even a cobra!
- ✓ In some parts of the world, the mongoose is kept as a pet.
- ✓ It comes from Africa, Asia and Europe.



## Geography: *About the Masai Tribe*

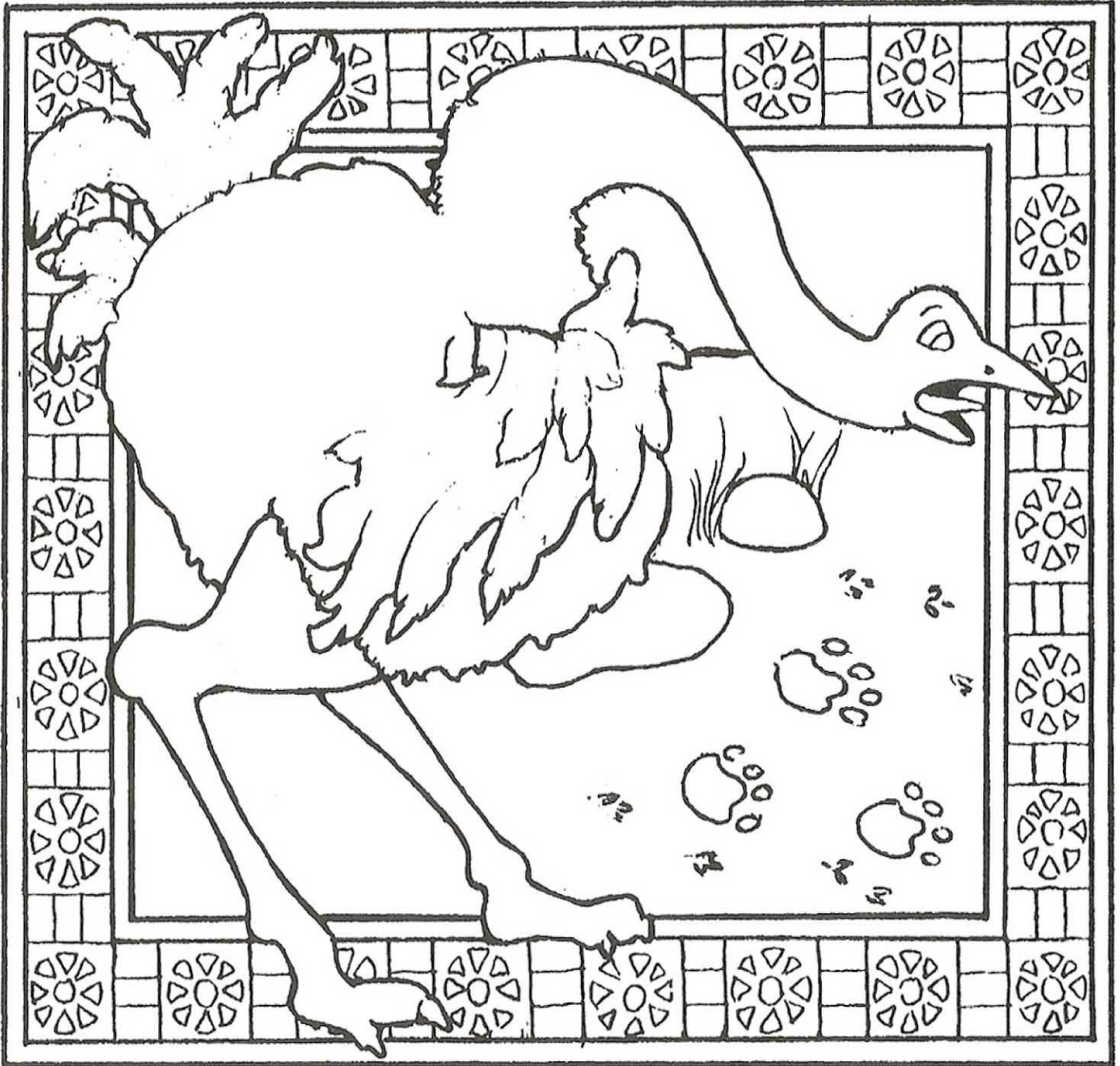
The story "Fur and Feathers" is from **Africa**. Many different groups of people live in Africa. One name for a group of people is a **tribe**.

The story "Fur and Feathers" is from one of these tribes. The tribe that tells this story is named the **Masai**. Sometimes it is also spelled this way: **Maasai**.



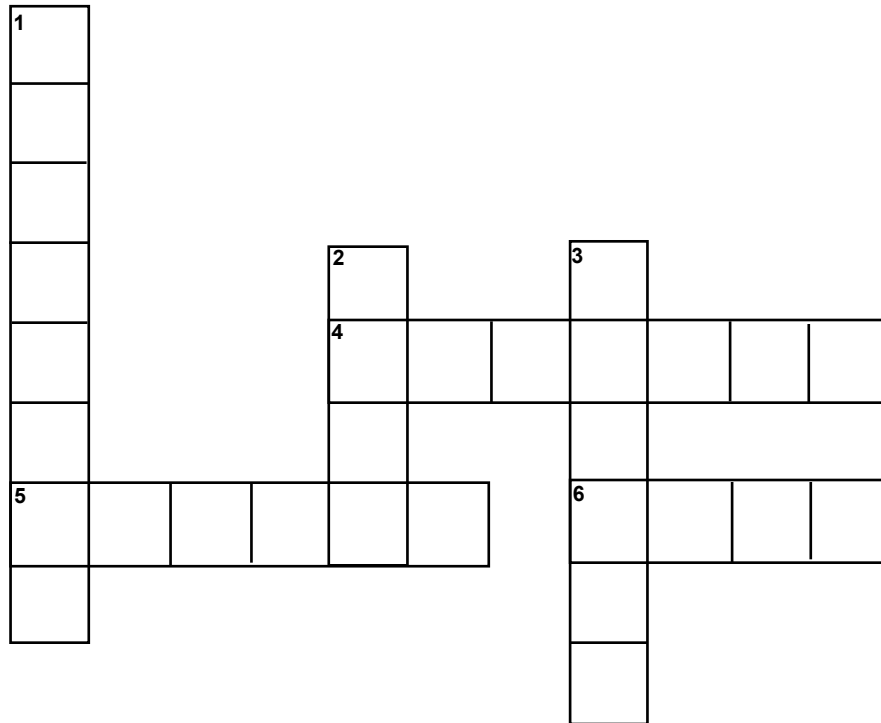
*People of the Masai Tribe live today in the countries of Kenya and Tanzania.*

**Coloring Page**  
*Fur and Feathers*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Crossword Puzzle



### Across:

4. The kind of hill that Mongoose jumped into.
5. How the other animals felt about Mama Lion.
6. Mama Lion said the chicks were really these.

### Down:

1. He found a way to rescue the chicks from Mama Lion and return them to Mama Ostrich.
2. Mama Ostrich followed the lion tracks to this place.
3. Mama Ostrich had two of these.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Word Search

*Look for words. Be careful – the words may run up or down, across, or even backwards!*

Q B Y C W X O H A M  
M R W B L S F R R O  
C A V E T E T B B N  
U V R R W O V C E G  
N E I K A L R E Z O  
O C C H I C K S R O  
H E P O S B U C K S  
G D N W H P P J N E

**BRAVE**

**OSTRICH**

**LION**

**MONGOOSE**

**CHICKS**

**ZEBRA**

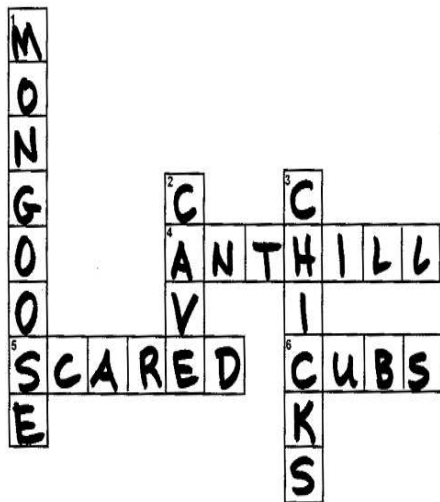
**CLEVER**

**CUBS**

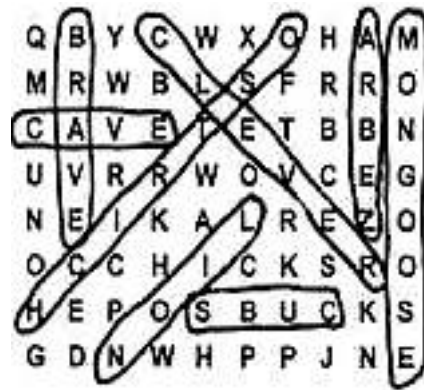
**CAVE**

### FUR AND FEATHERS

#### Crossword Puzzle



#### Word Search



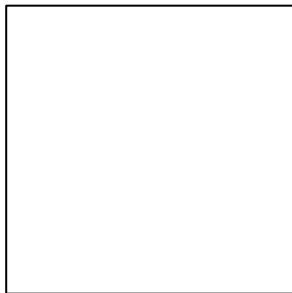
- |          |         |       |
|----------|---------|-------|
| BRAVE    | OSTRICH | LION  |
| MONGOOSE | CHICKS  | ZEBRA |
| CLEVER   | CUBS    | CAVE  |

# Other Beginnings, Middles and Ends

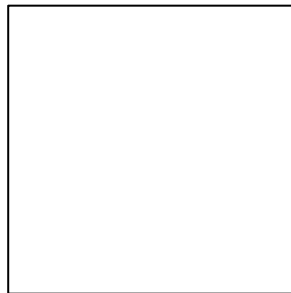
Each story has a **beginning**, a **middle** and an **end**.  
Other parts of life have **beginnings**, **middles**, and **ends**, too.

*On this page and the next page are some headings. Below each heading are three white boxes. Cut out the pictures on page 15 and paste them in the correct order.*

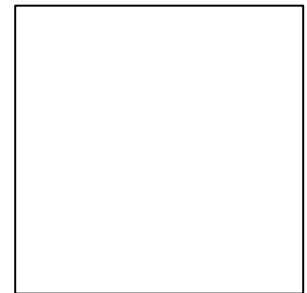
## Becoming a Butterfly



Beginning



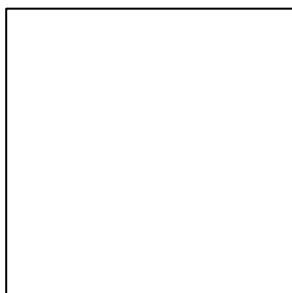
Middle



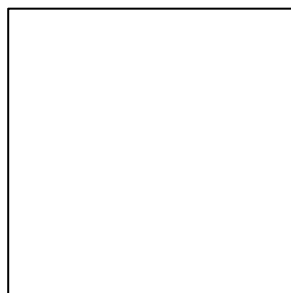
End



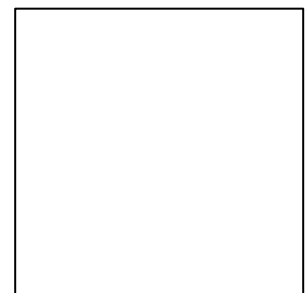
## Meals in the Day



Beginning



Middle



End

# *More* Beginnings, Middles and Ends



## **Making a Cake**

Beginning

Middle

End



## **Building a House**

Beginning

Middle

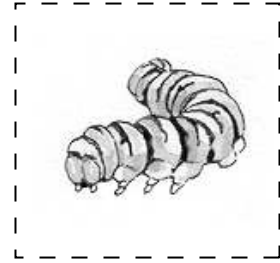
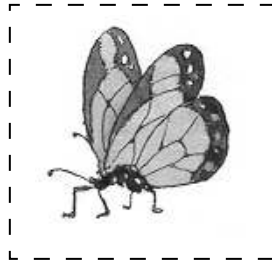
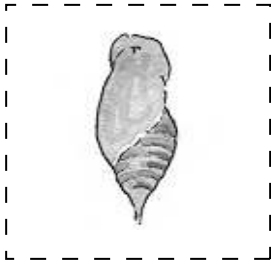
End



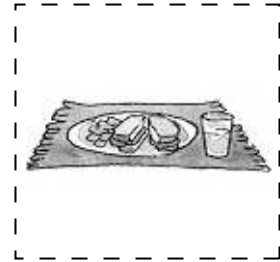
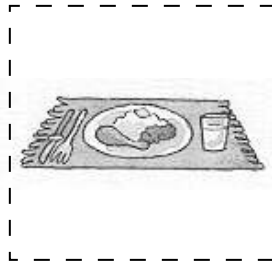
# Other Beginnings, Middles and Ends

## *Pictures to cut out*

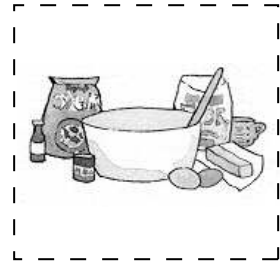
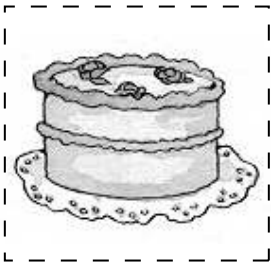
### Becoming a Butterfly:



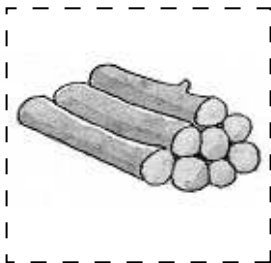
### Meals in a Day:



### Making a Cake:



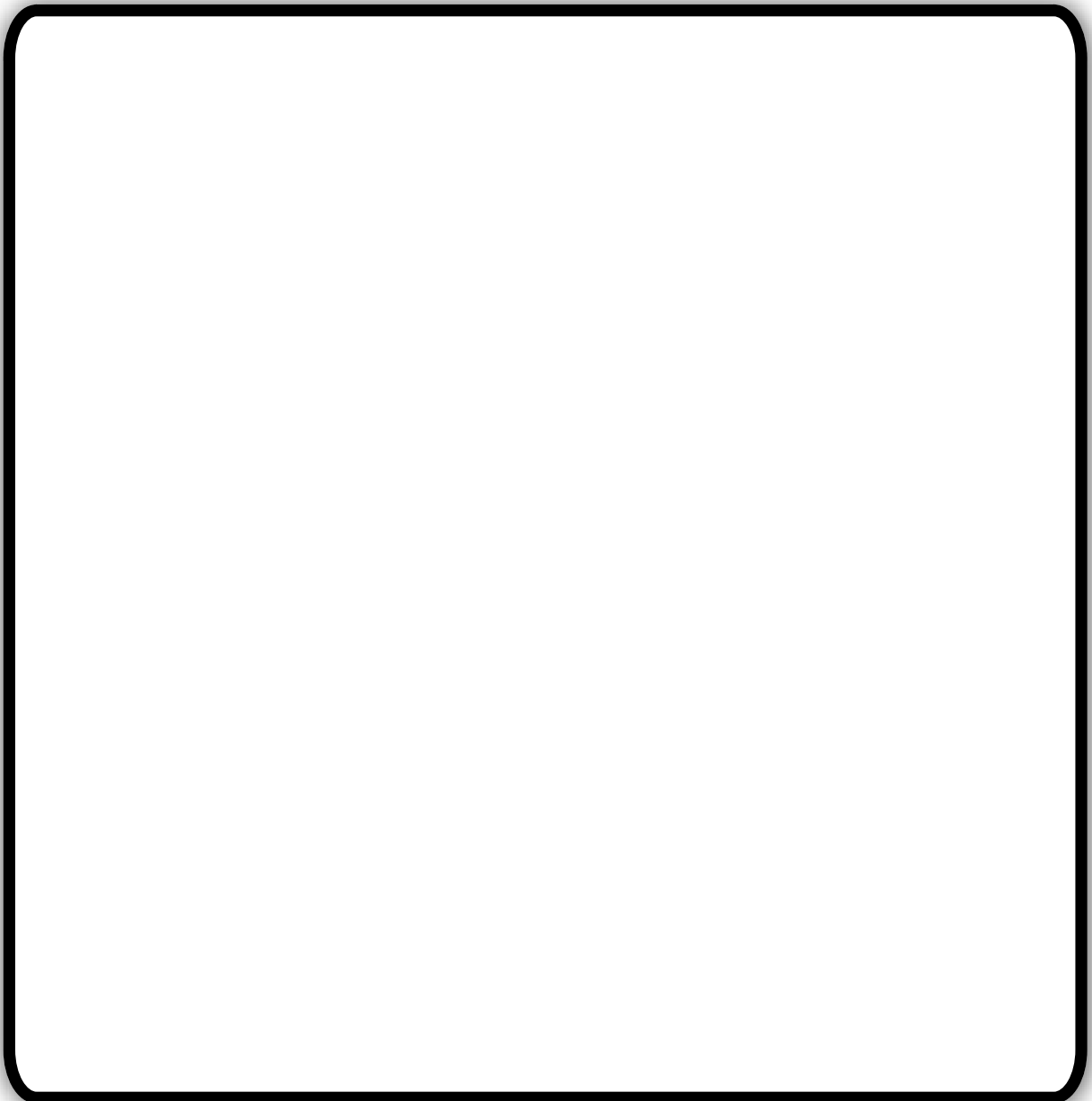
### Building a House:



## Beginning of the Story

At the **beginning of the story**, we meet Mama Ostrich.  
We find out that her ostrich chicks are gone!

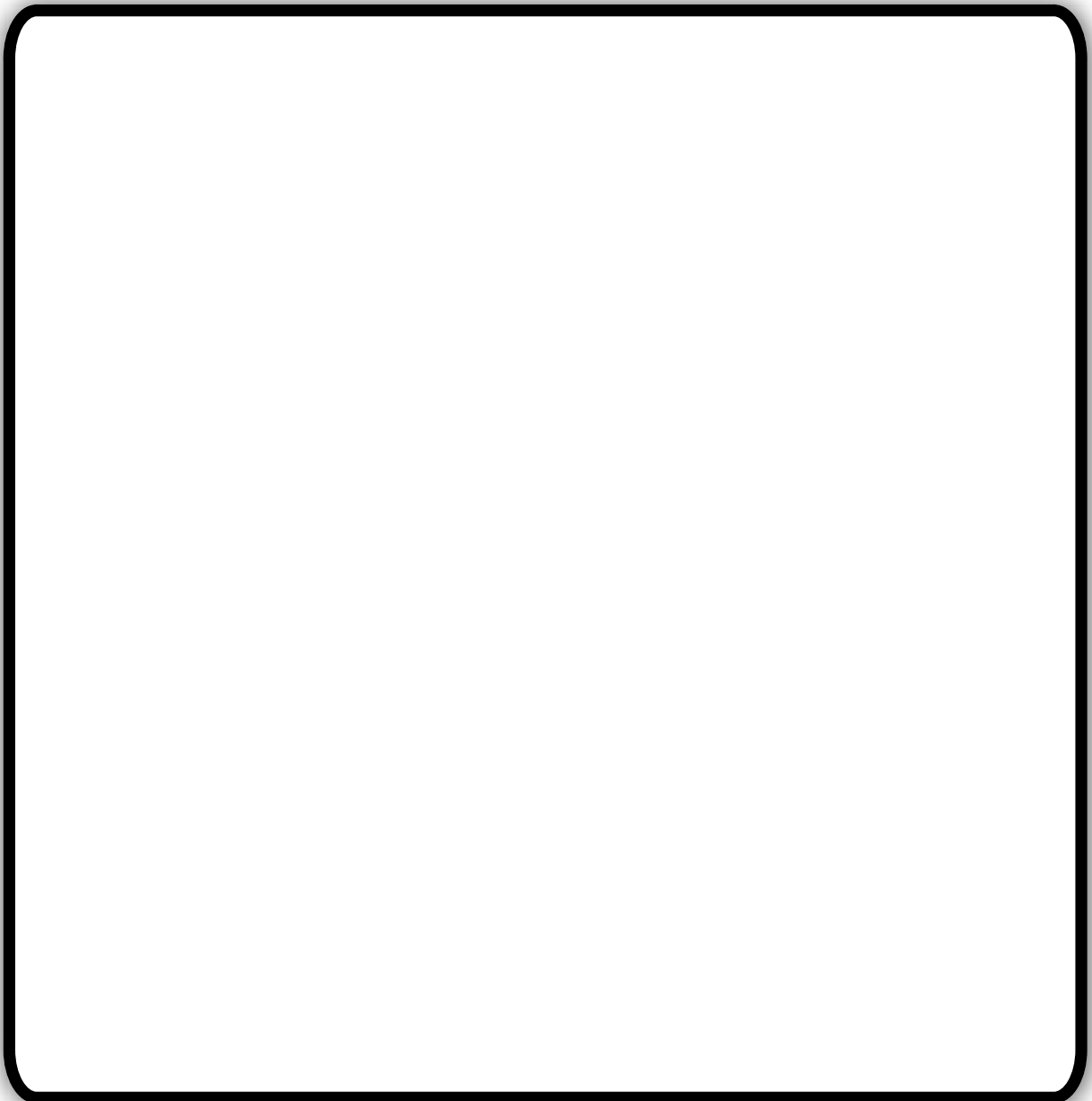
*Draw a picture that takes place at the **beginning** of the story.*



## Middle of the Story

In the middle of the story, Mama Ostrich looks for help.

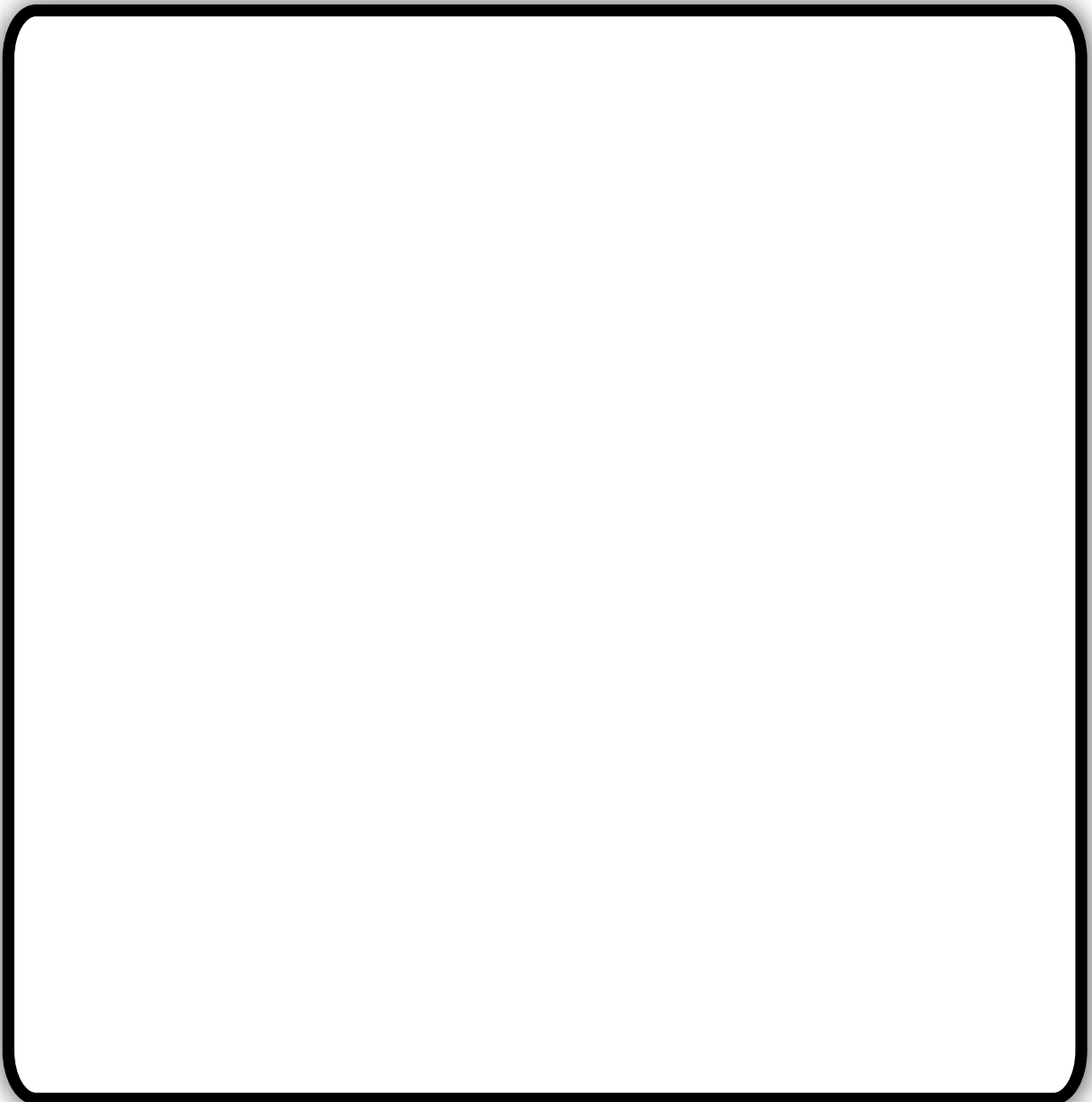
*Draw a picture that takes place at the **middle** of the story.*



## End of the Story

At the **end of the story**, the Mongoose tricks Mama Lion. The ostrich chicks run back to their mother. Mongoose escapes from Mama Lion.


*Draw a picture that takes place at the **end** of the story.*





## The Main Problem

The **main problem** in a story is the *most important problem* in the story. What do you think was the **main problem** in the story “Fur & Feathers”?

 **Clue:** *Why was Mama Ostrich upset at the beginning of the story?*

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How was the main problem in the story solved?

 **Clue:** *What did Mongoose do to trick Mama Lion?*

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Did you like the way the **main problem** was solved?

(check one box)    **YES**       **NO**

**Challenge!** Think of a better way the main problem could have been solved. Describe it in the lines below.

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# The Main Idea

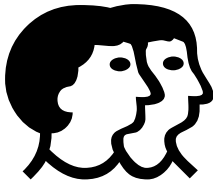
The **main idea** is the *most important idea* in a story.

 **Question:** What is the **main idea** of the story “Fur and Feathers”?

*Circle your choice. Choose any line below.*

- ◆ It is good to be brave.
- ◆ It is good to be clever.
- ◆ It is good to help others.
- ◆ **Your own idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

## TEAM ACTIVITY



*Find a partner. Did your partner circle the same line as you did? Talk about why each of you circled the line that you did. Find proof in the story to support your idea. Talk for about five minutes.*

Now do you feel the same about the main idea?

Check one ⇨  I feel the same  I changed my mind

Either way, write below what you *now* think is the **main idea**. Explain.

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## Other Stories Like: *"Fur and Feathers"*

Does the story "Fur and Feathers" make you think of another story that you know?

- ◆ Do you know another story about helping? *or*
- ◆ Do you know another story about finding a good way to fix a problem?



The story "Fur and Feathers" makes me think of...

*(name the story)*

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because...

*(why the other story is like "Fur and Feathers")*

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## ***More on the Other Story You Know***

Draw a picture from a part of the other story you know that is like the story "Fur and Feathers."



Why is your picture like the story "Fur and Feathers"?



because...

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# Write Your Own Animal Story

It is as easy as **1-2-3** to write your own animal story!



*The **Word List** below will help you get started!*

**(1) Find characters for your story!**

Just close your eyes and point to any word in the Word List under “Animal Characters.” Whatever word your finger lands on can become a character for your story!

**(2) It is just as easy to find a setting!**

Just close your eyes and point under “Setting”!

**(3) And it is easy to find a main problem, too!**

Just close your eyes and point under “Main Problem”!

## WORD LIST

Animal Characters	Setting	Main Problem
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*(find at least two)*

rabbit

forest

snake

goose

farm

lion

dog

jungle

wolf

cat

zoo

giant

rooster

cave

someone is lost

mouse

shore

someone is hurt

*Or make up your own in the lines below!*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Look what you already have for your story!**

- ✓ Characters
- ✓ Setting
- ✓ Main Problem

Write them down in the lines below:

The **animal characters:**  
(two or more)

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The **setting**  
for my story:

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The **main problem**  
for my story:

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*A question for you:*

Who has the main problem?

If one **animal character** in your story has the **main problem**, draw a line from that **animal character** to the **main problem**.

If more than one **animal character** in your story has the **main problem**, draw a line from each **animal character** to the **main problem**.

 You are doing great! 

**Now answer three questions:**

**(1)** Why does the animal (or animals) have the **main problem** in the first place?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**(2)** What do other characters in the story do to help?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**(3)** What happens at the end of the story?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....