

Name _____

Date _____

The Two-Day Talent Show

Read every detail. The title does not mean what it first appears to mean.

No one had announced a talent show at Browns Lake, but Elliana and Ari spent two days showing off skills nobody had requested. Adults had made the rule clear: the boat, dock, and powered boat lift were not toys, and children did not use them without an adult.

While unsupervised, the twins played with the lift control and lowered the boat all the way into the water. Once a boat is floating, wind and waves can move it away from the dock. Neither child had a safe plan for catching a drifting boat. They also had no answer for slippery boards, deep water, heavy moving metal, pinch points, or electrical equipment near water. 'We would have figured it out' was not a plan. It was a sentence wearing a fake mustache and pretending to be a plan.

Dad later tried to raise the boat and lift back into place. The lift went too far and then dropped. Dad's operation caused the final failure, but the emergency began with a choice that never should have happened. If the twins had left the equipment alone, no one would have needed to recover the situation. A broken lift and a dangerous dock problem replaced an ordinary evening.

The next day, Elliana and Ari gave Vanessa a hard time instead of following directions promptly. Then came Act Two: The Art-Class Horror-Movie Meeting. The teacher was explaining the activity, but Elliana and her friend Juju kept talking about filming a horror movie. The topic was not part of class and was not appropriate for eight-year-olds to plan at school. More important, they continued after the teacher gave several warnings.

Ari had also needed reminders, but he eventually made one better choice: he told Elliana to stop talking. That did not erase his earlier behavior, but it showed that he recognized the class needed quiet. Elliana and Juju were relentless. That means they kept going even when they had clear reasons to stop. Their talking forced the teacher to correct them instead of helping everyone create art.

When an idea pops up during class, a child can save it, quietly note it with permission, or let it go. A classroom is not a movie studio, and a boat lift is not a playground ride. Both places require children to respect the adult in charge and stop the first time.

The twins finally understood the title of their two-day talent show. It was not a show at all. It was a display of unsafe judgment, arguing, interrupting, and ignoring warnings. The talents that would rebuild trust were less dramatic: keeping hands off adult equipment, staying with an adult near the dock, listening to Vanessa, following the teacher's first direction, using a quiet voice, and apologizing without excuses. Those talents would not win a trophy, but they could prevent a floating boat, a broken lift, and another class from turning into a very expensive horror movie.

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The Two-Day Talent Show - Circle the best answer.**1. Why is the title deceptive?**

- A. The children won a real talent contest.
- B. Their two days showed poor choices, not requested talents.
- C. The art teacher planned a performance.
- D. The marina sold tickets to a show.

6. What were Elliana and Juju discussing during art class?

- A. A science fair
- B. A horror movie
- C. A boat race
- D. A hummingbird feeder

2. What did the twins operate without permission?

- A. A lawn mower
- B. A movie camera
- C. A powered boat lift
- D. A zoo gate

7. What better choice did Ari eventually make?

- A. He left the school.
- B. He hid the art supplies.
- C. He told Elliana to stop talking.
- D. He started filming.

3. What could have happened after the boat began floating?

- A. Wind and waves could move it away.
- B. It could turn into a submarine.
- C. It could paint the dock.
- D. It could charge the lift.

8. What does relentless mean in this story?

- A. Continuing even after clear warnings
- B. Working quietly and carefully
- C. Forgetting an idea
- D. Asking one useful question

4. What happened when Dad tried to restore the boat and lift?

- A. The motor became quieter.
- B. The lift rose too far and then dropped.
- C. The boat drove itself away.
- D. The dock disappeared.

9. What should a child do with an unrelated idea during class?

- A. Interrupt until everyone listens.
- B. Save it, quietly note it with permission, or let it go.
- C. Leave class to work on it.
- D. Ask a friend to talk louder.

5. Which danger was NOT named in the story?

- A. Slippery boards
- B. Pinch points
- C. Electrical equipment near water
- D. A wild bear on the dock

10. Which plan best rebuilds trust?

- A. Avoid adults so no one gives directions.
- B. Explain that every warning was unfair.
- C. Leave adult equipment alone and follow first directions.
- D. Promise to be careful while breaking the same rules.

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The Bird That Came Back to Life

Read every detail. The title does not mean what it first appears to mean.

Near sunset at Browns Lake, Ari spotted a tiny bird gripping a thin branch beside the flower garden. Its green back looked dull in the fading light, and it did not move when Elliana whispered, 'Hello, pocket-sized chicken.' The bird's eyes were closed. Its feathers were puffed, and its chest moved so slowly that the twins feared it had died.

Vanessa told them not to touch it. She recognized the bird as a ruby-throated hummingbird, the hummingbird that commonly breeds in eastern North America. A male's throat can flash bright red in the right light, but the same feathers may look dark from another angle. This bird's throat looked like a tiny black necktie because the sun was nearly gone.

The twins watched from a distance. During the day, a ruby-throated hummingbird's heart may beat more than 1,200 times each minute while it flies. Its wings beat about 53 times each second. A body working that fast uses an enormous amount of energy. Hummingbirds drink nectar for fuel, but they also eat tiny insects and spiders for protein. Ari decided that the bird followed a diet of flower juice and flying raisins. No one approved the new name for insects.

Night creates a problem. A hummingbird cannot keep eating while it sleeps, and a small body loses heat quickly. Some hummingbirds solve this by entering torpor, a deep, sleep-like state. During torpor, body temperature drops, and breathing, heart rate, and metabolism slow greatly. Metabolism means all the processes a body uses to turn food into energy and keep itself working. Torpor saves enough energy to survive the night.

'So it is not dead?' Elliana asked. 'It is running on extreme battery-saver mode,' Vanessa said. The twins backed away and left the bird alone. They did not poke it, pick it up, or offer it a plate of syrup-soaked insects. Wild animals usually need space, not surprise room service.

The next morning, sunlight warmed the branch. The bird's breathing quickened. It opened its eyes, shook its feathers, and shuffled sideways. Ruby-throated hummingbirds have legs so short that they cannot truly walk or hop; they can only shuffle along a perch. Then the bird launched into the air.

It hovered over a red flower, flew backward from Elliana's curious face, and zipped sideways.

Hummingbirds can power both the downstroke and upstroke of their wings, which helps them hover and move in directions most birds cannot. Its long tongue gathered nectar, and a moment later it snapped a tiny insect from the air.

The bird had not come back to life because it had never died. The title described how torpor looked to two worried children. By breakfast, the little bird's heart and wings were racing again, while Ari was still moving toward his cereal at the speed of a sleepy turtle. For once, the animal with battery-saver mode woke up faster than he did.

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The Bird That Came Back to Life - Circle the best answer.**1. Where did Ari first see the hummingbird?**

- A. On a branch beside the flower garden
- B. Under the boat lift
- C. Inside the art room
- D. On the kitchen floor

6. What is torpor?

- A. A kind of flower
- B. A deep state that slows the body and saves energy
- C. A backward flight trick
- D. A hummingbird nest

2. Why did the bird's throat look dark?

- A. It was covered in mud.
- B. The light angle was wrong for the red feathers to flash.
- C. It had eaten a black insect.
- D. All males lose red feathers at night.

7. What does metabolism mean in the story?

- A. The color of feathers
- B. The speed of the wind
- C. Body processes that turn food into energy and keep it working
- D. A bird's ability to walk

3. About how fast can its heart beat during flight?

- A. 53 times per minute
- B. 225 times per hour
- C. More than 1,200 times per minute
- D. One time per second

8. What did the twins do after learning about torpor?

- A. They picked up the bird.
- B. They fed it syrup.
- C. They left it alone and watched from a distance.
- D. They moved its branch indoors.

4. About how many times do its wings beat each second?

- A. 5
- B. 15
- C. 30
- D. 53

9. Which event happened last?

- A. The bird closed its eyes at sunset.
- B. Vanessa explained torpor.
- C. Sunlight warmed the branch.
- D. The bird caught an insect after flying backward.

5. Why do hummingbirds also eat insects and spiders?

- A. For protein
- B. To make red feathers
- C. To practice hunting
- D. For water only

10. Why is the title deceptive?

- A. The bird was a different species.
- B. The bird was in torpor, not dead.
- C. The twins imagined the entire event.
- D. The bird could not fly.

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Own It, Repair It, Change It

Answer honestly in complete sentences before checking any answers.

1. What did I touch or operate at the dock, and what rule did I break?

2. Name two dangerous things that could have happened to a person, the boat, or the lift.

3. What exact rule will I follow around the dock, boats, and powered lift from now on?

4. What happened during art class after the teacher gave warnings?

5. What did Ari do better, and what should each child do the first time a teacher asks for quiet?

6. How did these choices make Vanessa's and the teacher's jobs harder?

7. Write one apology and three specific actions that will rebuild trust.

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Lesson 14 Special Edition Answers**The Two-Day Talent Show****1. B****6. B****2. C****7. C****3. A****8. A****4. B****9. B****5. D****10. C****The Bird That Came Back to Life****1. A****6. B****2. B****7. C****3. C****8. C****4. D****9. D****5. A****10. B***Hummingbird facts checked with Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Smithsonian's National Zoo.***Adult check-in: Review the reflection before discussing the answer key.**