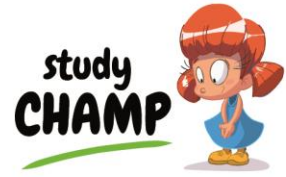




## Challenging comprehension exercise

### Down by the pond



Read the story below then answer the questions which follow.

A red fox crept across the yard, his black-tipped tail was twitching hard in the farmyard, by the pond.

His tail twitched hard, for he heard the hens clucking in their wire net pens (the henhouse was next to the pond).

The hens didn't know that the fox was there, but the Jersey cow raised her head to stare (she'd been drinking, down by the pond).

The cow raised her head and saw something slink past the sty of the pig (who was black and pink and lived very near the pond).

The fox was seen (as he slunk through the farm) by the old collie dog, who rushed out of the barn and raced, barking, down to the pond.

The dog rushed out with a yelp and a yap, while a little grey kitten was taking a nap in the shade of a bush, by the pond.

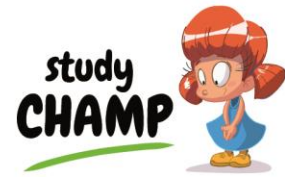
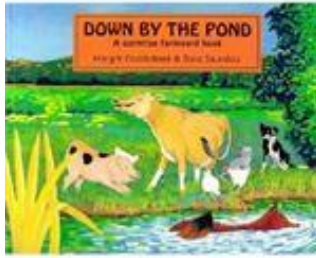
She sat up in fright, the little grey kitten then narrowed her small green eyes to a slit and stretched herself, down by the pond. She narrowed her eyes, for she'd seen the twitch of a hairy red tail with a pointy black tip. Who do you think it belonged to?

The cat went MIAOW, and she pounced on the tail. The fox went YOWL with a shattering wail. The pig went OINK as the fox leapt away. The dog went WOOF and joined in the fray. The cow went MOO I'll enjoy this too. The hens went CLUCK.

What a hullabaloo! The pig went OINK, the cat went MIAOW, the dog went WOOF, the fox went OW as the dog nipped his heels, and the jersey cow lowered her head and butted him...WOW...he flew right into the pond!

CLUCK said the hens that serves him right! OINK said the pig, I gave him a fright! Woof said the dog, I scared him away! MOO said the cow, I saved the day! But the little grey kitten, she winked a green eye and went back to sleep in the sun by and by!

Taken from "Down by the pond" by Magrit Cruikshank and Dave Saunders



Questions.

1. Who are the authors of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Just by looking at the picture above, what would you say the story is about?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Give a different name for the story. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What happened to the fox when he heard the hens clucking in their wire net pens?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Name all the animals in the story and say what sound they make.

\_\_\_\_\_

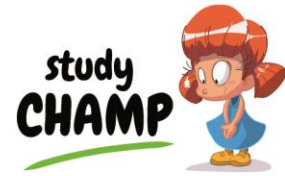
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Where did the grey kitten take a nap? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Look for five rhyming pairs. ( A pair is made up of two words, example MOO and too)

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_



### Questions (Memo)

1. Who are the authors of the story? *The authors of the story are Margrit Cruikshank and Dave Saunders.*
2. Just by looking at the picture above, what would you say the story is about? *Example: the story is about animals who are having fun at the pond. There is a pig, cow, dog, fox and a hen.*
3. Give a different name for the story. *Example: On the farm / The happy animals / The animals fun day at the pond / The animals and the water.*
4. What happened to the fox when he heard the hens clucking in their wire net pens? *The fox' tail twitched hard when he heard the hens clucking in their wire pens.*
5. Name all the animals in the story and say what sound they make. *The cat makes a miaow sound, the fox makes a yowl sound, the pig makes an oink sound, the dog makes a woof sound, the cow makes a moo sound and the hens make a cluck sound.*
6. Where did the grey kitten take a nap? *The little grey kitten took a nap in the shade of a bush, by the pond.*
7. *hens – pens  
yap – nap  
tail – wail  
away – fray  
right – fright  
away – day  
eye – by  
there – stare  
slink - pink*