



Elephant and Monkey

- 1 One day, an elephant was lumbering slowly through the jungle when she heard a faint cry. She looked around and saw a very small monkey up to the top of his legs in some mud. The poor animal was terrified.
- 2 The elephant watched the monkey struggling to get out and realized that with every move he made, he was sinking deeper into the mud. It was now up to his middle.
- 3 By the time the elephant got to the edge of the pool, the mud had reached the monkey's armpits. She reached over with her trunk and grabbed him. It took all of her strength to pull him out of the sticky mud.
- 4 Very gently the elephant carried the muddy monkey to the river so he could scrub himself clean. He thanked her and told her that one day he hoped he could do something to help her. She just looked down at the tiny monkey and laughed and laughed.
- 5 A few weeks later, the monkey noticed an elephant lying down beside the river. When the curious monkey went to take a closer look, he saw that it was the elephant who had rescued him. He raced up to her.
- 6 She had hurt her leg and couldn't get up. For days she'd been stuck there with only river water to drink, and she was weak with hunger. The monkey wanted to help, but what could a tiny monkey do?
- 7 He scampered up a tree and was gone in a flash. A few minutes later he was back again, followed by about twenty friends. They all ran about collecting leaves and berries, which they fed to the elephant. They fed her for days until she was strong enough to get up and walk. The moral of this fable is: *One good turn deserves another.*

Questions

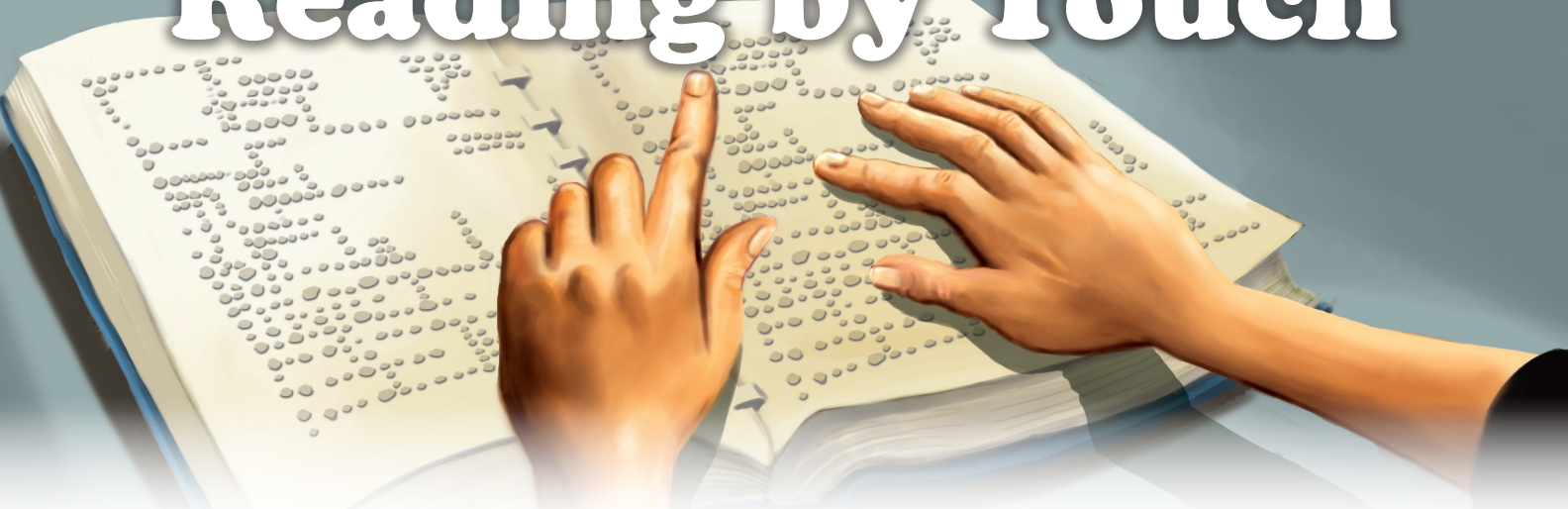
1. The monkey was sinking deeper into the mud because he:
(a) stayed still.
(b) couldn't swim.
(c) kept moving.
2. The person who wrote this fable wanted to:
(a) explain how something works.
(b) teach people something.
(c) make people laugh.
3. The main idea in Paragraph 7 is:
(a) the monkeys saved the elephant.
(b) a monkey ran up a tree.
(c) the little monkey had lots of friends.
4. Which happened last?
(a) The elephant took the monkey to the river.
(b) The monkey was pulled out.
(c) The monkey thanked the elephant.
5. The word **lumbering** in Paragraph 1 means:
(a) moving heavily. (b) running. (c) leaning.
6. The animal rescue stories are similar because both animals:
(a) were the same size. (b) were hungry. (c) couldn't get away.
7. The elephant couldn't stand up so she was unable to:
(a) drink. (b) eat. (c) call for help.
8. The word **it** in Paragraph 2 is used instead of:
(a) the elephant.
(b) the mud.
(c) the monkey.



Something Extra

- ★ Draw a picture of the monkey stuck in the mud.
- ★ Read the fable **The Lion and the Mouse**, and talk about how the fables are similar and different.

Reading by Touch



- 1 Learning to read can be quite difficult, but think how much harder it would be if you couldn't see. This was the problem a French boy, Louis Braille, had almost 200 years ago.
- 2 When Louis was three, he wandered into his father's workshop where he accidentally stabbed himself in the eye with a sharp tool. That eye became infected, which then spread to the other eye. Poor Louis lost sight in both his eyes.
- 3 Louis was a very clever boy, therefore he was allowed to go to school with the other children. He sat in the classroom every day and learned a lot by just listening, but he still couldn't read or write.
- 4 When he was about 12, he was sent to a special school for the blind in Paris. At this school he learned how to read night-writing. It used letters made up from twelve little, raised dots. The army had developed this writing because they thought their soldiers would be able to use it to read messages in the dark. Unfortunately, it was very slow and too hard for them to learn.
- 5 Louis decided to improve night-writing and to make it smaller so it would be easier and quicker to read. He wanted people to be able to feel a whole letter with only one of their fingertips, so he changed all the letters and only used six dots.
- 6 The letter "w" wasn't used in the French alphabet, so Louis added another letter to cater to people who wanted to read English. Since then, many other changes have been made. Today it is known as braille, and it is used around the world to help people who can't see to read.

Questions

1. Louis Braille was blind because he:

- (a) was born blind. (b) was sick. (c) hurt his eye.

2. Night-writing and braille are similar because:

- (a) they use 12 dots.
(b) you can read them in the dark.
(c) people can feel a whole letter with a fingertip.

3. Which happened to Louis first?

- (a) His eyes became infected.
(b) He became blind.
(c) His eye was injured by a sharp tool.

4. The text doesn't tell you, but you can infer that Louis probably:

- (a) wanted to share his ideas.
(b) didn't like reading.
(c) didn't want others to use braille.

5. The word **cater** in Paragraph 6 means to:

- (a) cook. (b) provide help. (c) give.

6. It is an opinion, not a fact, that Louis was:

- (a) kind. (b) blind. (c) French.

7. The text, **Reading by Touch**, was written to:

- (a) give instructions.
(b) entertain.
(c) give information.

8. The word **it** in Paragraph 1 is used instead of:

- (a) not seeing.
(b) learning to read.
(c) the boy.



Something Extra

- ★ Find out how to read and write some braille letters. Use them to write short words or a message for a friend to read.