

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Components of the Series	4
Format of Books.....	5
Suggestions for Use	6
Additional Materials for Review	8
Reading Skills and Strategies	10
Annotated Answer Key and Extension Activities	29
Reproducible Answer Sheets, Practice Test.....	130
Reproducible Skill Analysis Chart, Practice Test.....	133
Reproducible Class Proficiency Chart for Constructed-Response Items, Practice Test.....	134
Scoring Rubric for Constructed-Response Items.....	135
Listening Practice Passages and Items.....	136
Reproducible Answer Sheets, Listening Practice	140
Listening Practice Answer Key	144
Common Core State Standards for ELA, Grade 1	145
Graphic Organizers	151

Literary Elements

RL.1.3

● **Folktales**● **Skill Strategy**

Literary Elements—see pages 22–23 of the teacher's edition

Student Book Page 77

Test Yourself

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Why Cats Don't Wash Their Hands Before They Eat

a story from Africa

A long, long time ago, cats did not wash their hands or faces. Then one day, something happened to change that. A big cat was walking through the jungle. She was strong and beautiful. Cat saw a little bird. So she caught the bird. She wanted to eat it for lunch. Bird was frightened. He did not know what to do. He was too small to get away from Cat. He did not have sharp teeth. He did not have claws. His only chance was to outwit Cat.

"Oh, Cat," Bird said. "You are so strong and beautiful. You must be very important. But I am surprised that you have such bad manners."

"What do you mean?" asked Cat. She held Bird up and looked at him.

"Well," said Bird, "everyone knows that the most important animals always wash their hands before they eat."

"Is that so?" said Cat. "I am the most important animal of all. I will do it, too."



frightened
scared



outwit to
trick, to be smarter than someone

Vocabulary

chuckled, frightened, manners, outwit

Student Book
Page 78

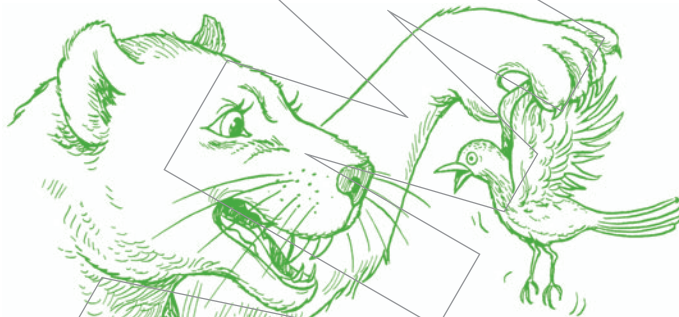
Cat put Bird down on the ground. Then she started to lick her paws. And she washed her face. Bird flew quickly to a high branch in a tree. There he chuckled at Cat. He sang a song because he was happy.

Cat was upset. She did not like to be tricked by Bird. From that day on, she only washed after she finished eating.

That is why you see cats washing themselves after they eat. They never wash before they eat. They learned their lesson.



chuckled
laughed



1 Which word *best* describes Cat?

- A kind
- ☒ B proud
- C scared
- D smart

RL.1.3

78

UNIT 2
Key Ideas and Details

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

● Listening/Speaking

Explain to students that there are many stories that tell why animals do certain things. Have them work in small groups to create their own “why” story.

Student Book Page 79

2 What is the setting of the story?

☒ A jungle

☐ B house

☐ C tree

☐ D meadow

RL.1.3

3 Cat was interested in Bird because she was ____.

☐ A nosy

☐ B friendly

☐ C worried

☒ D hungry

RL.1.3

4 How did Bird get away from Cat?

Bird told Cat that important animals wash their hands before

eating. Cat thinks she is the most important animal. So she

washes her paws. But she has to put Bird down. So Bird flies

away. RL.1.3

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

ELLs

Have students use comic-style illustrations to show what happens first, second, third, etc. in the story. Students can add speech balloons if they wish. Invite students to share their illustrations with the class.

Student Book
Page 80

5 What is the main problem in this story?

Cat catches Bird. She is going to eat Bird. Bird does not want

to be eaten. So Bird tricks Cat so he can get away. RL.1.3

6 How do you think Cat feels at the end of the story?

She probably feels foolish. She let Bird trick her. She did not

think about Bird getting away when she put him down. She

learned her lesson. She will not wash her hands before eating

again. She does not want to lose her food again. RL.1.3