

Folktale

The Quarreling Quails

✦ An Indian Folktale ✦

retold by Frederica Brown
illustrated by Micha Archer



Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

The Dragon Slayers

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Make Predictions

Skill: Theme

Vocabulary Strategy

Antonyms

Vocabulary

attempt, awkward,
cooperation, created,
furiously, interfere,
involved, timid

Content Standards

Social Studies

Civics

Word count: 638**

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Essential Question

Why is working together a good way to solve a problem?

The Quarreling Quails

An Indian Folktale

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Chapter I

A Forest Full of Quails

A flock of quails lived in a lush forest. The little quails were timid. They were afraid of hunters. Luckily, their king was a wise quail. The king created a special call to bring them all together.





One day, a hunter came to the forest. He hoped to catch some quails. But the first attempt he made was awkward. The quails ran in all directions. He didn't catch a single one.

So the hunter hid and watched the quails. He heard the king call them together. Then the hunter went home. He practiced the call over and over. Soon he could copy the call perfectly.

The hunter went back to the forest. He called the quails. Sure enough, they all came running.



Quick as a wink, the hunter threw his net. Many quails were trapped. The hunter scooped them up while the others fled for their lives. These quails were very afraid.



STOP AND CHECK

Why were the quails timid?
What were they afraid of?

Chapter 2

A Good Plan



The quail king had a plan. He called the quails together. "We can outwit this hunter," said the king. "It will involve cooperation. If you are caught, work together. Push your heads through the holes in the net. Then fly to the nearest thorn bush. The thorns will hold the net. You can wiggle out and escape."

A week later, the hunter was back. He hid in a bush and called the quails. They came running as before. He threw his net, and caught many birds.



The quails swallowed their fear and acted bravely. They followed the king's plan. As one, they pushed their heads through the holes in the net. They flew together to the thorn bush and wiggled out from under the net. Then they disappeared into the forest. The plan had worked.



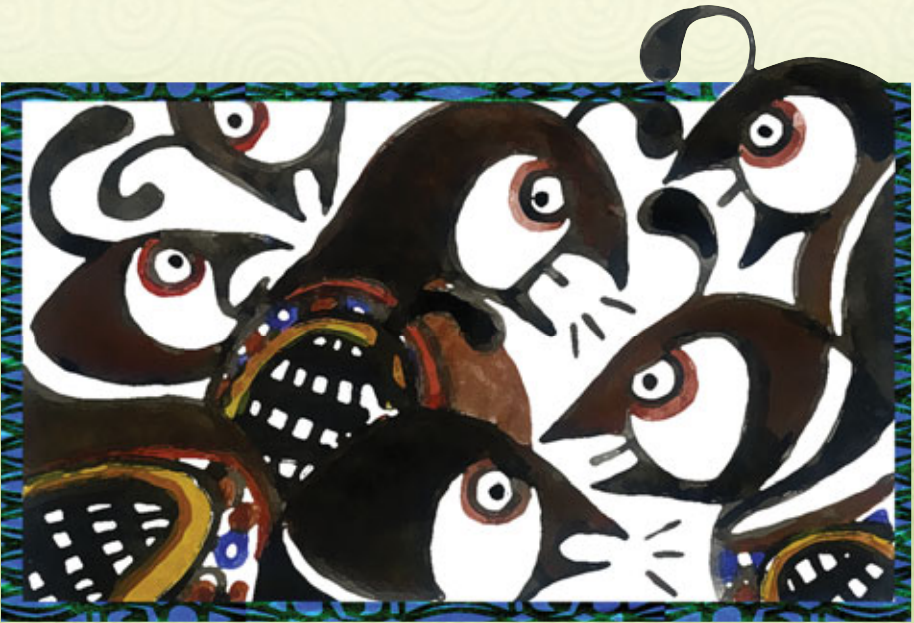
The hunter was angry to lose his catch. What's more, he had to spend the rest of the day trying to untangle his net from the thorn bush.





The quails were excited to have escaped. The next day, the hunter tried again. Once again, the quails used cooperation to outwit the hunter. The hunter spent another day untangling his net from the thorn bush.

The quails were happy with their teamwork. Then one of them complained that she had done more work than the others. The others did not agree. Another grumbled that one had stood on his toe. Soon, all the quails were quarreling.

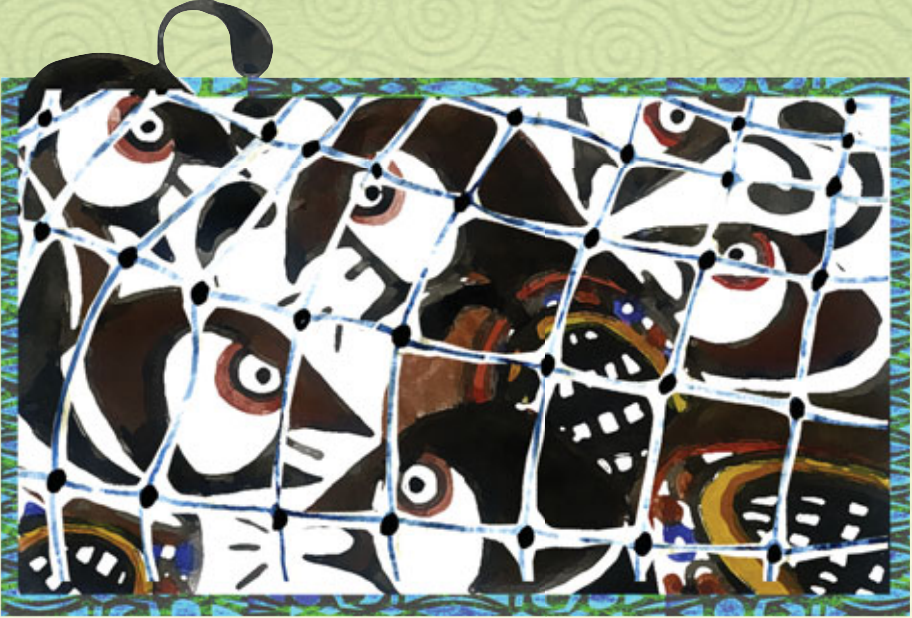


STOP AND CHECK

What did the quail king's plan need to succeed? How did the quails escape the hunter?

Chapter 3

A Bad End



The hunter came to try his luck again. The quails were quarreling so furiously they didn't even hear him.

The hunter threw his net. It landed over the quails. That should have been the signal for them all to fly up with the net.

But they carried on quarreling.

“It’s the net! Fly up!” cried one.

“Why should I?” said another.

“You fly up!”

“Stop fighting! There’s no time to lose,” said one.

“Don’t interfere,” said the other.

“And don’t tell me what to do.”



And while they quarreled, the hunter scooped them up. He stuffed them in a basket and carried them off to the market.



“If only we had stuck together instead of quarreling,” said one quail.

“Yes, if only,” said another.

Their agreement was too late.



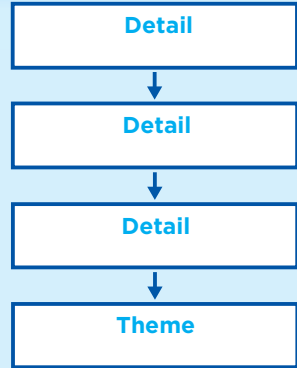
STOP AND CHECK

How did the quails' quarreling give the hunter a chance to catch them?

Respond to Reading

Summarize

What happens in *The Quarreling Quails*? Use the Theme Chart to help you.



Text Evidence

1. This story is a folktale. What is one feature that tells you this? **Genre**
2. What is the message of this story? Find a sentence that shows it. **Theme**
3. Find the word *bravely* on page 8. What sentence clues help you figure out the meaning? **Antonyms**
4. Write about the details the author uses to help you figure out the theme. **Write About Reading**

Compare Texts

Read how teens work together to solve problems in their area.

The Dragon Slayers

Aniak is a small town in Alaska. It had no emergency services team. So, if someone had an accident, there was no one trained to help. The nearest hospital was 150 miles away. In 1993, a group of teenage girls found a way to help.





Alaska

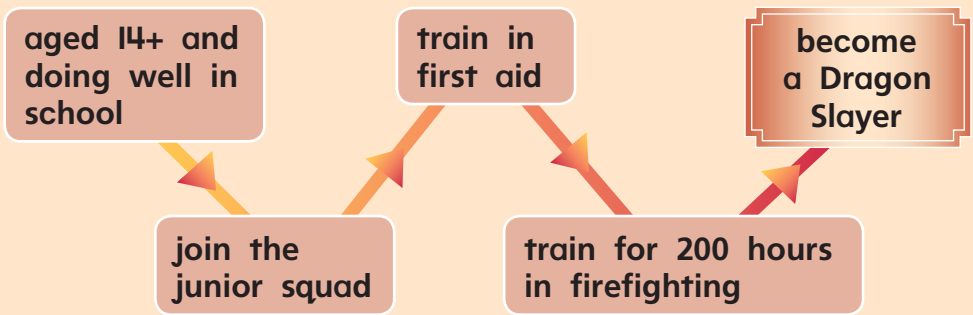


Anchorage is the nearest big city, 350 miles away from Aniak.

The girls formed a group called the Dragon Slayers. Members train as firefighters and learn first aid. Then they are on call. They can be called to any emergency. It could be putting out a fire. It could be a search and rescue operation.

Members learn a lot by being involved in Dragon Slayers. Many members have gone on to careers in medicine. Others have returned to Aniak to keep helping the community.

Becoming a Dragon Slayer



Make Connections

How do the Dragon Slayers work together to solve problems?

Essential Question

Why is working together a good way to solve a problem? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Text to Text

Focus on Genre

Folktales Folktales are stories passed down from person to person by word of mouth. Often, folktales teach a lesson. Sometimes, folktales also give details about people and their culture.

Read and Find *The Quarreling Quails* is an Indian folktale. The author has retold the story in her own words. The story teaches that in unity there is strength, and that fighting weakens a group.

Your Turn

Choose a folktale. Make a flow chart showing the main events of the story. Use this chart to rewrite the folktale in your own words.

Fiction

Thinkmark

Characters

Who are the main characters?

How did the quails change from the beginning to the end of the story?

Sequence of Events

What happens in *The Quarreling Quails*?

What happens *first, then, next,* and *finally*?

Plot

What was the problem in the story?

How did the quails solve this problem?

Then what happened?

Connections

Can you think of any other stories that have the same message as *The Quarreling Quails*?