

WHY TURTLES



LIVE IN WATER



by Deborah November
illustrated by Linda Bittner

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Visualize

Skill: Theme

Vocabulary

ashamed, boast, dash,
holler, plenty, similarities,
victory, wisdom

Phonics

r-controlled vowels /îr/:

eer, ere, ear

Vocabulary Strategy

Root Words

Word count: 390



Essential Question

How can we understand nature?



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Little Turtle

Hunter 1

Turtle Friend 1

Hunter 2

Turtle Friend 2

Chief

SCENE 1

LIFE OF THE TURTLE



Setting: A long time ago
in faraway Africa



Little Turtle: What a lovely day!

Turtle Friend 1: Yes, life is good.



Turtle Friend 2: We live a happy life playing in the tall grass.

Little Turtle: And we always have plenty to eat.



Turtle Friend 1: Some hunters are coming! Hurry and hide!

Turtle Friend 2: Little Turtle, run as fast as you can!



STOP AND CHECK

Where do the turtles like to play?

SCENE 2

CAPTURE!



Setting: A path in the jungle

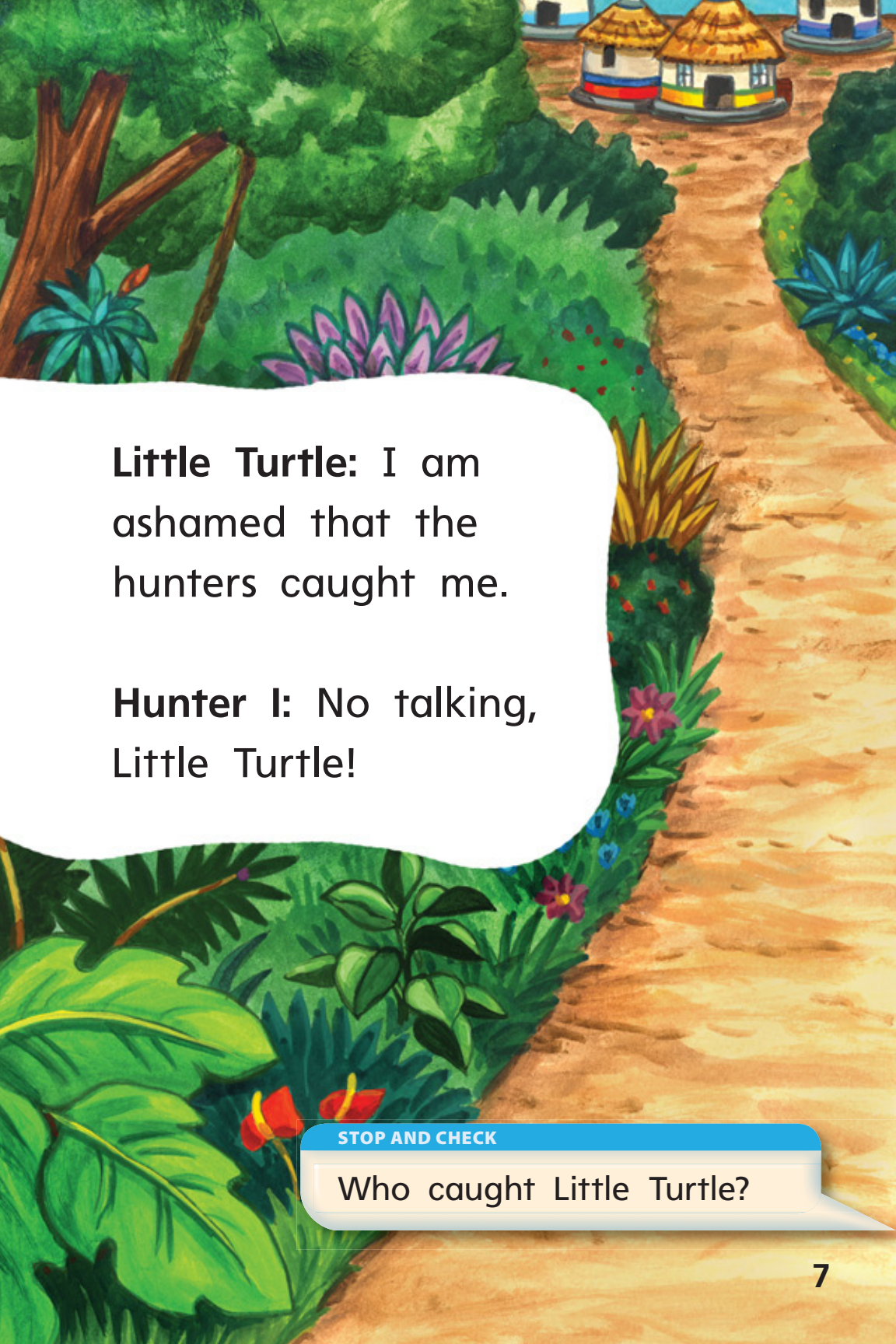


Hunter 1: We have you, Little Turtle!

Hunter 2: Don't try to dash away. It is too late.

Little Turtle: Oh my goodness!
The hunters were so fast I did
not even have a chance to
holler! I am filled with fear.





Little Turtle: I am ashamed that the hunters caught me.

Hunter I: No talking, Little Turtle!

STOP AND CHECK

Who caught Little Turtle?

SCENE 3

THE VILLAGE



Setting: The hunters' village



Hunter 2: Here we are in our village.

Little Turtle: I don't want to look!

Chief: I am the chief of this village. Welcome, Little Turtle!

Little Turtle:
Thank you, sir!



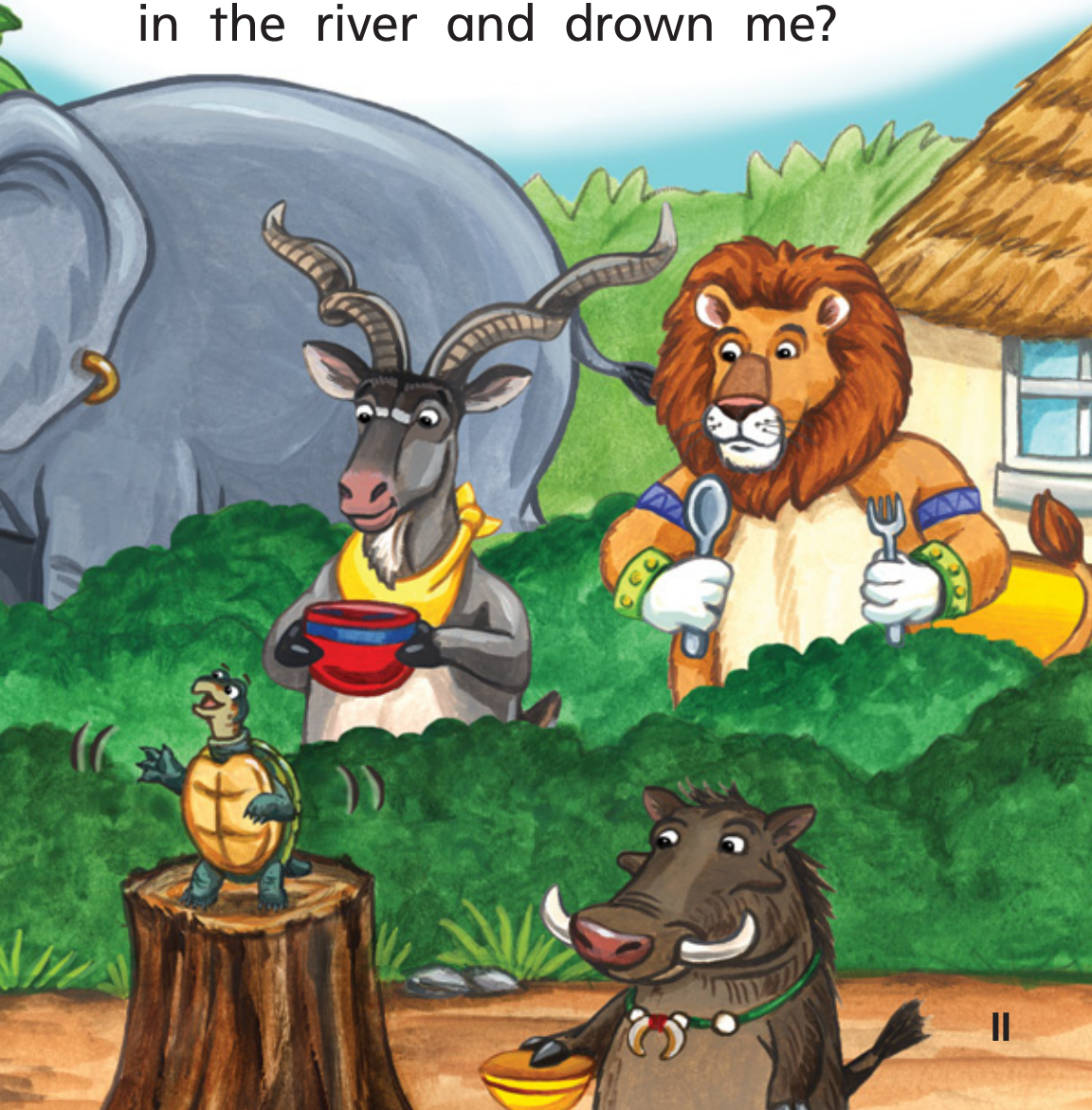
Chief: How shall we cook him?

Little Turtle: You will have to take me out of this shell.



Chief: We'll break your shell with sticks.

Little Turtle: You have great wisdom, Chief, but that won't work. Why don't you throw me in the river and drown me?



Chief: Good idea, Little Turtle.
Soon we will celebrate our
victory. We will drown the turtle!



STOP AND CHECK

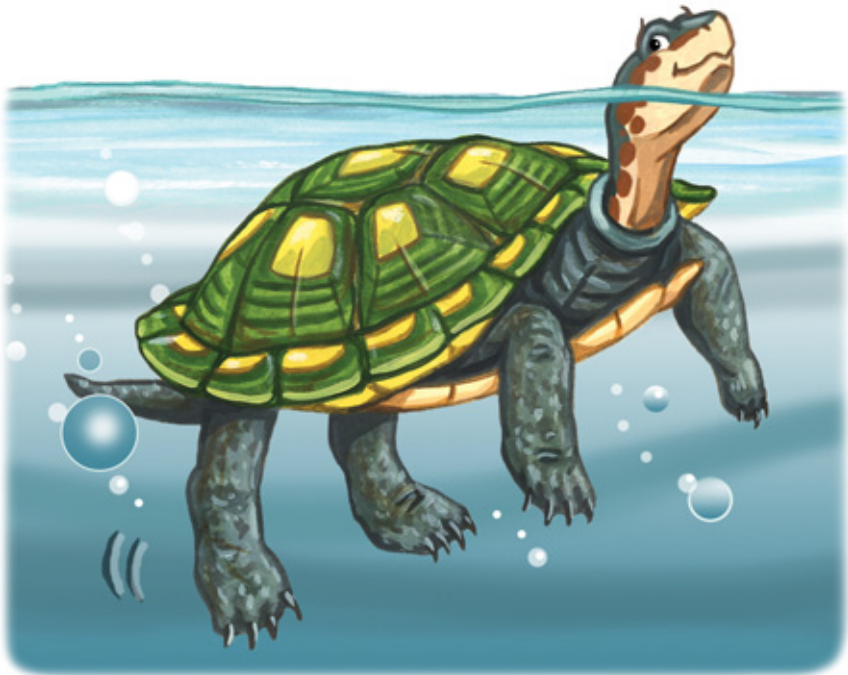
What did the animals of the village want to do to the turtle?

SCENE 4

ESCAPE!



Setting: The hunters' village



Little Turtle: I don't want to boast, but I would not get those cooking pots out too fast!

Hunter I: He tricked us!



Chief: The turtle is getting away!

Little Turtle: I think I'll spend most of my time safely in the water from now on.





Turtle Friend 1: Little Turtle is home and safe!

Turtle Friend 2: Let's have a party!

Turtle Friend 1: And that is why turtles live in water.

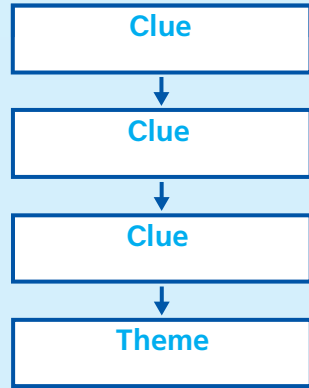
STOP AND CHECK

What did Little Turtle say after he landed in the river?

Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use the chart to summarize *Why Turtles Live in Water*.



Text Evidence

1. Is *Why Turtles Live in Water* a play? How do you know? **Genre**
2. What lesson did you learn from this folktale? **Theme**
3. What is the root word of *getting* on page 14? **Root Words**
4. Write how this folktale explains nature. **Write About Reading**

Compare Texts

Read to find out why corn has silk.

Why Corn Has Silk



Long ago, a man lived alone. He grew food to eat. The man was worried. He did not know if he had enough food for the winter. Then he saw a woman coming.

The woman wanted to help him. She told him to rub sticks together. He could make fire that way. She said that seeds grow better in ground that is burned. Then she said to carry her across the field.



He carried the woman. Her long yellow hair hit the ground. When the corn was ready, the woman's yellow hair was the silk in the corn. The man saw the similarities. That is why corn has silk.



Make Connections

What explains why corn has silk?

Essential Question

How do these two folktales explain nature? [Text to Text](#)

Focus on Literary Elements

Theme The theme is the lesson or message in a story or play.

What to Look for In the play, the author tells you why turtles live in water. Look for what Little Turtle did. How did he end up in the water? What is the lesson?

Your Turn

Plan a play about an animal. Make a list of details to include in your play. Include where the animal lives. Include how it got its home.

Thinkmark

Plot

What is *Why Turtles Live in Water* mostly about?

What happened to Little Turtle?

Setting

Where did *Why Turtles Live in Water* take place?

Characters

Who is your favorite character in *Why Turtles Live in Water*? Why?