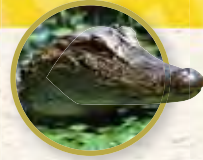


Friend or Foe?





Talk About It

Is this crocodile a friend or a foe of this frog? Why?

LOG ON

Find out more about friends and foes at www.macmillanmh.com

Vocabulary

interfere agile
awkward guardian
proclaimed tottered



Thesaurus

Synonyms are words that have the same, or nearly the same, meanings. You can use a thesaurus to find synonyms.

Use a thesaurus to find a synonym for *guardian*.

ROADRUNNERS: SURPRISING BIRDS

by Adam Savage

“Today we will hear from Pam,” said Mr. Sanders.

Pam stood in front of the class. “I’m going to talk about roadrunners,” she said, smiling.

Someone snickered, but Pam didn’t let a little noise **interfere** with her presentation. She knew that her topic was interesting.

Pam was prepared, so she didn’t feel **awkward**, or uncomfortable. Holding up her photo album, Pam began her report. “This is a roadrunner.” She looked around the room. No one seemed interested. Pam knew she had to do something to get everyone’s attention.

Holding up the next photo, Pam **proclaimed** with confidence, “This amazing bird is so fast and **agile** it can catch a rattlesnake!”



“Whoa, that’s cool!” called Peter from the back row.

“What else can it do?”

Now every eye was on Pam. “Roadrunners can run up to 15 miles per hour!” she continued.

“Do they fly?” someone asked.

“They can fly when they sense danger. But not very far.”

Pam held up the next photo. It showed the roadrunner’s black-and-white spotted feathers and the crest on its head.

“Where did you get the photos?” asked Mr. Sanders.

“I took these while I was visiting my grandmother in Arizona,” explained Pam.

“I see,” said Mr. Sanders. “Is there anything else you’d like to tell us?”

“I learned that a roadrunner is a very clever **guardian** of its young. Let’s say an enemy comes near a roadrunner’s nest. The roadrunner pretends to have a broken leg, and leads the enemy away. I watched a roadrunner as it **tottered** along. It was so brave!”

Someone asked another question, but Mr. Sanders said to save it for next time. When the class groaned, “Awww,” Pam knew her report was a winner.



Reread for Comprehension



Evaluate

Author’s Purpose When evaluating an author’s purpose, look for exaggeration, humor, or dialogue. These can help you decide if the purpose is to inform or entertain.

An Author’s Purpose Map can help you understand the author’s purpose. Reread the selection to confirm your conclusion about why the author wrote.

