

Crocodile Tale

“Where are we?” Ella asked, as her mum steered the car into a parking space.

“You’ll find out soon enough,” her mum said. “Keep your eyes closed. No peeking.” Her mum guided her out of the car and she felt concrete beneath her feet. She could hear the chatter of groups of people growing louder as they walked, but she had no idea where they could be. A moment later, her mum stopped her. “Ready? Open your eyes.”


“The zoo!” Ella said, staring up at the archway of the zoo entrance. A huge banner hung from it. It read:

“REPTILE ZONE NOW OPEN”



Ella squealed when she realised why her mum had brought her there. Ella loved reptiles, especially crocodiles — they were her favourite animal. As soon as her mum had bought the tickets, Ella grabbed her hand and ran towards the Reptile Zone.

When they entered the dim room, Ella was amazed by the number of weird and wonderful creatures. They spent a long time wandering around reading facts about turtles, snakes and chameleons. Ella watched patiently as the animals steadily slithered around, moving cautiously through the leaves.

The story continues over the page. 



At the very end of the room, a window stretched from wall to wall. It looked out onto a giant enclosure*.

Half of the enclosure was covered with long grass that sloped downhill into a big pond. Ella moved closer, searching for any signs of life. She jumped a little when she saw a single, yellow eye staring back at her from the water. A Nile* crocodile lay in shallow water at the edge of the pond, only a few metres from her. It was enormous — at least three times as long as Ella was tall.

She pressed her hands against the cool glass, studying the creature closely. She wished she could know what it felt like to be a crocodile, so strong and fierce. It must be amazing.

Then the reptile keeper called out. “Sorry folks, we’re closing for feeding time. We’ll reopen in an hour.”

Ella sighed and reluctantly left the room, following her mum through the exit and into the gift shop.

“Mum, can I get a toy?” she asked.

“Go on then,” her mum said, smiling. Ella immediately headed for a pile of fluffy toy crocodiles. She was about to pick one up when something else caught her eye. A beautiful, golden statue of a crocodile sat on a shelf above her head. Its eyes seemed to glitter playfully at her. She wasn’t sure why, but she had a sudden urge to touch it. She slowly reached out her fingers. When she touched the statue, everything went black.

Glossary

enclosure — an area in a zoo where animals are kept
Nile — a river in north-eastern Africa



Keep turning...

Ella blinked several times and a scene of sand, palm trees and a river came into view. She was lying on the bank of the River Nile.

She tried to speak, but no words came out. On either side of her, where her arms should have been, she saw huge, dark green legs and feet with sharp claws. She hurried to the edge of the bank and looked down at her reflection below. Two twinkling yellow eyes stared back at her.

“This is incredible,” she thought. “I’m a crocodile!”

She slipped into the water and felt her powerful tail swishing behind her, driving her forwards. She shot up and down the river, rolling and diving under the cool water and enjoying the feeling of the warm sun on her back.

It seemed like she had been swimming for hours when she felt a hand on her shoulder. She looked round, but instead of seeing the river stretching out behind her, she saw her mum. She was back in the gift shop. Ella stared at the sparkling eyes of the crocodile statue in wonder.

“Have you picked something?” her mum asked.

“I’d like this, please,” she said, lifting the statue carefully from the shelf.

“Are you sure you don’t want a stuffed toy?” asked her mum, raising her eyebrows.

Ella grinned. “I’m really sure.”



Open the flap for the start of the story.

Unfold these pages
before you start

2b

Fact Retrieval Questions



For these **FACT RETRIEVAL** questions, you'll need to look back through 'Crocodile Tale' to find the right information. See how you get on.

- 1) Who took Ella to the zoo?

.....

1 mark

- 2) Where was Ella when her mum told her to open her eyes? Circle your answer.

in the shop

at the zoo
entrance

in the
Reptile Zone

in the car

1 mark

- 3) Write down **two** animals that Ella saw in the Reptile Zone.

.....

.....

2 marks

- 4) Read the paragraph beginning '**Half of the enclosure was covered...**'
What colour was the crocodile's eye?

.....

1 mark

- 5) Why did Ella leave the Reptile Zone? Tick **one** box.

She was bored of looking at reptiles.

Her mum wanted to get some lunch.

It was closing for feeding time.

There were too many people in the room.

Think about what
happened right before
Ella and her mum left
the Reptile Zone.

1 mark

2b

Fact Retrieval Questions



- 6) Put a tick in the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

| | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| The crocodile at the zoo was in the water. | | |
| Ella saw two crocodiles in the enclosure. | | |
| The crocodile at the zoo was smaller than Ella. | | |

1 mark

- 7) Read the paragraph beginning **“Go on then,” her mum said, smiling...**
Give **one** word in this paragraph that is used to describe the statue.

.....

1 mark

- 8) Where did Ella go after she touched the statue?

 a pond

 the River Nile

 a beach

 a zoo

Circle your answer.

1 mark

- 9) Read the paragraph beginning **‘She tried to speak...’**
Find and copy a phrase that tells you what Ella did at the edge of the bank.

.....

1 mark

Tellastauriuses are pretty different from golden retrievers, but they're great at retrieving facts. How did you do?



Inference Questions



Have a go at these **INFERENCE** questions. You'll need to think hard about what's really happening in the story. Read through 'Crocodile Tale' again before you start.

- 1) Why did Ella's mum want Ella to keep her eyes closed at the start of the story?

.....

1 mark

- 2) When Ella realised she was at the zoo, she felt

nervous

annoyed

delighted

disappointed

Circle your answer.

1 mark

- 3) Read the paragraph beginning '**When they entered the dim room...**'
What does this paragraph suggest about how the reptiles were moving?

Tick **one** box.

They were moving quickly.

They were making a lot of noise as they moved.

They were moving slowly and carefully.

They were leaping.

Think carefully
about the words
the writer has used.

1 mark

- 4) Ella was surprised when she first saw the crocodile at the zoo.
Find and copy the phrase that shows this.

Think about what
Ella did when she
saw the crocodile.

.....

1 mark



2d

Inference Questions

5) Read from 'She pressed her hands...' to '...into the gift shop.'
How can you tell that Ella was disappointed that she had to leave the Reptile Zone? Give **one** way.

.....

1 mark

6) 'She tried to speak, but no words came out.'
Why couldn't Ella speak?

Think about what had just happened to Ella at this point in the story.

.....

1 mark

7) Read from 'She tried to speak...' to '...the warm sun on her back.'
How do you think Ella felt about being a crocodile?
Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

.....
.....

2 marks

8) a) How did Ella's mum feel about Ella buying the crocodile statue?

surprised

happy

angry

upset

Circle your answer.

Think about what Ella's mum did when Ella said she wanted the statue.

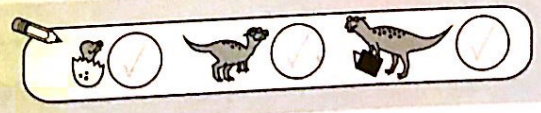
1 mark

b) How can you tell? Give **one** way.

.....

1 mark

*Tellastauriuses can't get enough of inference questions.
How did you find the questions on these pages?*



Word Meaning Questions



WORD MEANING questions check that you understand certain words and phrases. If you don't know what something means, look at the rest of the sentence to help you work it out.

- 1) 'When they entered the dim room, Ella was amazed...'
Circle the word which means the same as 'dim' in this sentence.

small

cold

quiet

dark

1 mark

- 2) 'Ella immediately headed for a pile of fluffy toy crocodiles.'
Circle the word that means the same as 'immediately' in this sentence.

slowly

uncertainly

instantly

excitedly

1 mark

- 3) Read the paragraph beginning 'She tried to speak...'
Find and copy a word that means 'rushed'.

1 mark

- 4) 'Ella stared at the sparkling eyes of the crocodile statue in wonder.'
Which of the words below is closest in meaning to the word 'sparkling'?
Tick one box.

cold

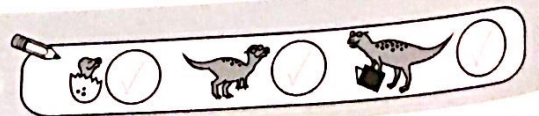
beautiful

shining

dull

1 mark

Tellastauriuses can pull meanings out of words like magicians can pull rabbits out of hats. How did you do?



The last few questions on Crocodile Tale are under here.

2c

Summary Questions



SUMMARY questions ask you to think about bigger chunks of the text and describe what happens in just a few words. Read the story again, then try these summary questions.

- 1) Read from 'When they entered the dim room...' to 'It must be amazing.'
Which of these sentences best summarises this section?

Ella entered the gift shop.

Ella explored the Reptile Zone.

Ella read about turtles.

Ella and her mum left the zoo.

Circle your answer.

1 mark

- 2) The title of this text is 'Crocodile Tale'.
Suggest a different title you could use for this text.

Think about the main events in the text.

.....

1 mark

2e

Prediction Question



PREDICTION questions are all about working out what might happen next in the story. Have a go at this question about 'Crocodile Tale' to practise your prediction skills.

- 1) Which of the following is most likely to have happened when Ella took the crocodile statue home?

Tick one box.

She destroyed the statue.

She used the statue to become a crocodile again.

She gave the statue to her mum as a present.

1 mark

Summary and prediction questions are no problem for a Tellastaurius. How did you find them?

