

Name: _____

Date: _____

Dinosaurs

from *The Diamond of Doom (A Woodland Mystery)*

by Irene Shultz

The dinosaur hall was the biggest room in the museum.
It had to be!
Right in the middle was the skeleton of a dinosaur, ninety feet long and two stories high.
Kathy said, "It's bigger than our house!"
She pointed to its back leg bone. It was taller than she was. She said, "Now THAT'S a femur!"
Dave said, "Sammy, did you remember to bring your chicken bone?"
Sammy said, "Sure I did."
He started looking in his front pockets.
He took out a pocket knife.
Then he found a small rubber ball.
He had a bag of marbles. He said, "This is a new bag! Fifty marbles!"
He handed them to Dave. "Hold these, will you?"
Then he took out a ball of string, three paper clips, and two safety pins.
He said, "Never know when you might have to rig up a fish line."
Bill looked at the thick nylon string. He said, "You could catch a whale with that."
Sammy said, "Well, it's better than what you've got, which is nothing!"
By then Dave had a pile of things on his lap.
Then Sammy felt the four candy wrappers in his pocket. He pushed them down fast!
Then he found a ball-point pen and a small flashlight.
Bill said, "Sammy, your pants must weigh twenty pounds. I'm surprised they don't fall down."
Sammy said, "Sometimes they almost do. Give me back my stuff, Dave. The chicken bone isn't in my front pockets."
He finally found it in his back pocket, under the piggy bank.
Dave said, "Look, this bone's smaller than the TOES of that dinosaur femur."
Kathy said, "That's what's so interesting. Even human bones are a lot like this."
Dave said, "That sign says some full-grown dinosaurs were as big as ten elephants put together. But some were as little as rabbits."
Kathy pointed to a dinosaur on a painting marked PLANT EATERS.
She said, "Look at those leaf-shaped plates sticking out of its back. It's called a Stegosaurus. Its brain was only the size of a walnut."
Sammy said, "Now I know what Bill is! A Stegosaurus. Hi, walnut brain!"

Bill said, "Very funny, very funny."

Sammy walked over to a pair of the biggest dinosaur skeletons. One was biting the neck of the other.

He said, "That's me, fighting with Bill. I'm the one that's winning."

Bill said, "Then you're a Tyrannosaurus rex."

Sammy said, "What's a Ty-ran-no-saur-us rex?"

Dave said, "It means Tyrant King of the Lizards."

Sammy said, "What's a tyrant?"

Bill said, "It's a big bully, that's what! Like the one that's winning! Like you!"

Sammy said, "I'm not a bully. I'll get you for that, Bill."

Bill said, "OK, OK, you're not. I think we've had enough of the dinosaurs. Let's just take a look at their eggs and go."

Used by permission of the Wright Group

1. Who wondered how Sammy's pants could stay up?

- A. Bill
 - B. Dave
 - C. Kathy
 - D. Rachel
-

2. In what way does the author show that humans and dinosaurs are different?

- A. Dinosaurs fought, unlike humans.
 - B. Dinosaurs ate vegetables, unlike humans.
 - C. Dinosaurs walked upright, unlike humans.
 - D. Dinosaurs had bones a lot larger than humans.
-

3. What is NOT among the items Sammy pulls from his front pocket?

- A. ball of string
 - B. a pocket knife
 - C. a chicken bone
 - D. a bag of marbles
-

4. From the clues in paragraph 5, what is the meaning of the word *femur*?

- A. a neck bone
 - B. a leg bone
 - C. a dinosaur toe
 - D. a chicken bone
-

5. A word that means the SAME thing as *tyrant* is

- A. bully.
 - B. hunter.
 - C. servant.
 - D. dinosaur.
-

6. The brain of a Stegosaurus is the size of

- A. a marble.
 - B. a walnut.
 - C. a human brain.
 - D. an elephant brain.
-

7. Which word means the OPPOSITE of *interesting*?

- A. tired
 - B. inside
 - C. boring
 - D. exciting
-

8. Which word has the SAME meaning as *middle*?

- A. end
 - B. edge
 - C. fiddle
 - D. center
-

_667_05_RD_RLC_T4 (_667_05_RD_RLC_T4)

The Magic Turtle

by Alvin Schwartz

Here is the story of a "magic" trick with a turtle. You will probably catch on quickly . . . read about someone who did not.

The candy store was owned by Madame Perrier and her husband, Louis. They lived in an apartment above the store with six goldfish and a small turtle no more than an inch across.

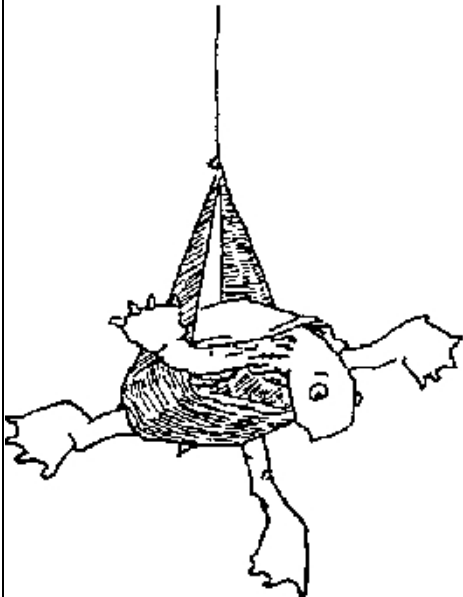
Madame kept the fish and the turtle in a fish tank on a sill outside the kitchen window. Several times a day, she fed them bread crumbs and talked to them about the weather, the store, the candy, whatever was on her mind.

A boy named Jack lived in the apartment just above the Perriers. On warm spring nights, he would lean out his open window and watch Madame feed her pets, and eavesdrop as she talked to them.

One evening, as he was watching and listening, he had an idea. It seemed so silly that he laughed. But then he thought, Madame would not mind. She would think it was funny.

The next day, Jack bought five turtles at a pet shop. They all looked just like Madame Perrier's turtle, except that they were larger. They ranged in size from about two inches across to about six inches across. He also bought some cheesecloth and wire and a bamboo fishing pole.

That night, Jack made a small scoop net with the cheesecloth and wire and attached it to the fishing pole. Early the next morning, before anyone else was awake, he reached out of his kitchen window with the scoop net and removed Madame's turtle from the tank. He put it in a bucket of water. Then he replaced it with a turtle that was two inches across or twice as large.



When Madame Perrier saw the turtle, she got very excited. "It's *twice* as big as it was yesterday!" she told Louis. The next morning, Jack removed the two-inch turtle and

replaced it with a four-inch turtle. It had doubled in size again! When Madame saw it, she ran to the telephone and called everybody she knew.

The following morning, while the Perriers slept, Jack removed the four-inch turtle and replaced it with a turtle that was five inches across. *That* caused a sensation. All day long, people in the neighborhood came to see the magic turtle, then went out and told others. The crowd got so large a policeman was sent to keep order. Soon a reporter arrived to interview Madame and take her picture with the turtle. Madame was going to be famous!

Jack decided not to replace the five-inch turtle with his six-inch turtle. The tank did not seem large enough. He also was afraid that Madame could not stand the shock. Instead, he decided to make the turtle smaller once more.

Early the next morning, Jack replaced the five-inch turtle with a three-inch turtle. Of course, when Madame discovered what had happened, the excitement continued. Still more people came to see the turtle, and the reporter came back to interview her again.

The next morning, Jack replaced the three-inch turtle with the one-inch turtle Madame owned at the beginning. That night, he put away the dip net and the bamboo pole. He took his five turtles to the park and let them loose in a stream. On the way home, he stopped in to see Madame's turtle. It was away for a while, at the zoo, she said. A scientist was studying its strange behavior.

Adapted from As I Remember Him by Hans Zinsser. Copyright 1940. Published by Little, Brown and Company.

9. In this story the turtle is said to be magic because it
- A. is impossible to understand.
 - B. has supernatural power.
 - C. disappears and reappears.
 - D. comes from another planet.
-
10. Why did Jack's trick with the turtle so easily fool Madame Perrier?
- A. Madame paid little attention to the turtle.
 - B. The turtle tank was outside the window.
 - C. Madame did not know much about turtles.
 - D. Jack used truly magic turtles.

Answer Key

1. A) Bill
2. D) Dinosaurs had bones a lot larger than humans.
3. C) a chicken bone
4. B) a leg bone
5. A) bully.
6. B) a walnut.
7. C) boring
8. D) center
9. A) is impossible to understand.
10. C) Madame did not know much about turtles.