



TABLE OF CONTENTS

121 Stories and Activities (✎)	Page No.
Introduction	7
At A Glance	10
#1 Wickenburg's Golden Burros	11
#2 The Professors And The Pack Rats	12
#3 Compassion For The Blind Creatures	13
#4 Horses Help Invent Doughnuts	14
#5 ✎ Famous Horses	15
#6 The Perfect Tree	16
#7 ✎ Tricky Tree Riddles	17
#8 The Peanut Butter Bandit	18
#9 Commandments For Compassion	19
#10 The Bird Lady And Her Brown Bags	20
#11 ✎ Steering Birds Clear Of Windows	21
#12 The Sad Call Of The Lone Goose	22
#13 Dog Wins Fishing Contest	23
#14 An Interview With A Skunk	24
#15 ✎ Interviewing An Animal	25
#16 A Very Wise Owl	26
#17 Napoleon's Downfall? He Didn't Check The Weather Report.....	27
#18 ✎ The Prediction Page	28
#19 The Sign Of The Fox: Good Or Bad?	29
#20 A Duck A Day	30
#21 ✎ A Mallard Marathon	31
#22 Crocs And Crime	32
#23 Tenacious Animals	33
#24 Snake Bites Man, Snake Dies	34
#25 ✎ World's Most Dangerous Animals	35
#26 Lizzie the Stowaway Snake.....	36
#27 Sacred Deer Hunting	37
#28 ✎ Silent Hunting	38
#29 The Ill Snow Leopard	39
#30 Picky Birds	40
#31 "Hellmut" On A Hound	41
#32 ✎ How's Your Hiker Jargon?	42
#33 Beaver Tears	43
#34 Brainy Birds	44
#35 ✎ A Bird Quiz From 1905	45
#36 Thomas Edison Sends Elephant To The Electric Chair	46
#37 Wolves And Rattlesnakes On The Westward Journey	47
#38 Owls: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly	48
#39 Animal Team Nicknames (A)	49

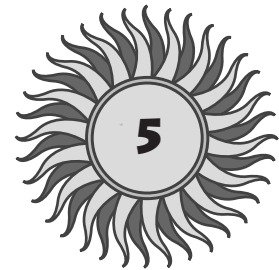


TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

#40 Crackers & Sardines Or Old Bob?	50
#41 The Tragedy Of A Retired Husky	51
#42 Animal Riddles.....	52
#43 Scrambled Eggs	53
#44 Burglars And Lizards.....	54
#45 Don't Eat The Tortoise!.....	55
#46 Animals On The Breakfast Table.....	56
#47 A Better Way To Treat Orphans	57
#48 We're Sorry Martha: The Tragic Plight Of The Passenger Pigeon.....	58
#49 Hidden Creatures #1	59
#50 Cruel Attempts To Eliminate Wolves	60
#51 The Ladybug And Her Silly Friends.....	61
#52 Hemingway Rescues "Littledog"	62
#53 African Proverbs.....	63
#54 Jealous Horses And Cranky Camels	64
#55 A Dog-Feast Is The Greatest Compliment	65
#56 Beware Of The Dog	66
#57 Wu Meng's Counting Cormorants	67
#58 The Compassionate Boat Captain	68
#59 Queen Of The Night	69
#60 The Language Of Flowers	70
#61 My Favorite Running Partner: The Mockingbird	71
#62 Clever Crows Solve Snake Problem.....	72
#63 Looking For Snipers In Central Park?	73
#64 What Creature Are We Talking About?	74
#65 Dangerous Birds	75
#66 Weasels Can Count To Six	76
#67 Litter Patrol	77
#68 Going Camping?.....	78
#69 Surviving A Cold Winter Night In The Wilderness	79
#70 The Turtle And The Monk Mystery	80
#71 Loyalty To An Old Horse	81
#72 A Special Friendship: Through The Window	82
#73 Animal Babies	83
#74 If Birds Could Talk, What Would They Tell Us?	84
#75 Mouse Trading.....	85
#76 Storks, Our Gentle Friends.....	86
#77 Native American Proverbs	87
#78 Do Birds Ever Get Hit By Lightning?	88
#79 The Innocent Goatsuckers.....	89
#80 Pigs Take Turns Watching For High Tides	90
#81 Moons With Meanings	91

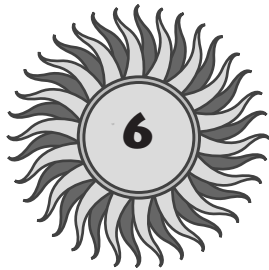


TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

#82 The Tale Of The Tailless Squirrel	92
#83 Overturned Turkey Trucks	93
#84 Animal Guardian Angels	94
#85 The Tale Of The One-Eyed Robin.....	95
#86 The Will To Live	96
#87 Scorpion Tales	97
#88 Hidden Creatures #2	98
#89 European Geese Nailed To The Floor	99
#90 The Case Of The Overly-Contented Cat	100
#91 Native American Names	101
#92 A Pig Named Bicycle And A Bird Named Poll.....	102
#93 Animal Expressions	103
#94 An Old Friend Comes To Visit	104
#95 How The Gulls Earned A Monument In Utah.....	105
#96 Chicken Feathers!	106
#97 The Last Dusky Seaside Sparrow	107
#98 A Gruesome Encounter Between The Monkeys And The Farmers	108
#99 Hotel Manager Needs Help With A Myna Problem.....	109
#100 Quail Hardships	110
#101 Why Did The Bears Weep?.....	111
#102 The Mystery Of Poetry	112
#103 The Emotional Intelligence Of Cows	113
#104 Dakota Three Toes	114
#105 Take A Closer Look	115
#106 Animals Seeking Human Help.....	116
#107 Animal Vocabulary	117
#108 Water, Hay, And 5K A Day	118
#109 Follow The Drinking Gourd	119
#110 Climbing Mount Everest.....	120
#111 Running In The Rain	121
#112 Changing The World One Seed At A Time	122
#113 Coordinate A Pet Food Drive	122
#114 Jelly Belly Taste Test	122
#115 Pet Epitaphs	122
#116 Fringe Benefits	122
#117 First Aid And The Pickerel Frog	123
#118 Patience Pays Off.....	124
#119 Animals And Pow Wows	125
#120 Summer Hunting Games	126
#121 The Greatest Snake Story Ever Told	127
References.....	129
Answers to Activities	133
About the Author	136



HEMINGWAY RESCUES "LITLEDOG"

Ernest Hemingway was not only a great writer, he was a great hunter. He traveled throughout the world in search of big game. He especially enjoyed the hunting safaris in Africa. Ernest was a great storyteller and one of my favorite Hemingway stories centers around an unusual sporting event that took place in Africa.

It seems that one day, while walking the streets in a poor village, he came across a man carrying a bag of live rats. Hemingway asked the man about the rats. He was told, "I earn 12 cents for each live rat I find in the sewers. Then I take them to the man who runs the rat pit." The man invited Hemingway to visit the rat pit that evening.

Hemingway entered a small, dark building where men were placing bets. He sat next to an older gentleman who had a terrier on his lap. The poor dog looked like it had been in numerous fights. Its ears were chewed up and it could barely see out of one of its eyes. The owner told Ernest that his dog would be in the pit that night battling rats. He was confident his dog would win and he would go home with much money from the bettors. Hemingway was still confused about what was to take place.

After all the bets were placed, the event began. A couple of men dropped exactly 100 live rats into the pit. Next, a terrier was thrown in with the rats and the judge started the timer. The small, aggressive dog began attacking the rats. The room was filled with the sound of the barking dog, and the pit was being bloodied from the wounded and dead rats. The crowd cheered as the dog continued to kill rats. Finally, after fourteen minutes, all the rats were dead. Now it was time for the other dog to enter the pit. Hemingway pleaded with the owner not to subject the little dog to the dangers of the pit. Hemingway said, "Your dog is already weak and injured. The rats could kill him or give him rabies." The man refused to listen as he tossed it into the pit with 100 live rats.

Hemingway cheered for the dog to win and survive. He started calling the terrier, Littledog. The dog fought bravely as it battled the rats. The clock ticked. Littledog had to kill the rats in less than fourteen minutes to win the purse. It was a horrific event. Hemingway was sickened by the sight. No animal should be abused like this, he thought. The crowd cheered Littledog on and with his last bit of energy, he killed the final rat. His time was a new record: twelve minutes flat! The bloodied dog was removed from the pit.

Hemingway begged the owner to let him buy the wounded and weak dog. After an hour a deal was struck, and Hemingway bought Littledog for two hundred dollars. He took the dog back to the hotel to wash its wounds. For several days its head and body were swollen. A few weeks later, Littledog recovered. Hemingway wanted to take him back to Florida so it could enjoy a peaceful life. No more would it have to fight in a pit full of rats. Customs said that Littledog would have to be quarantined for one year. Hemingway couldn't wait that long so he found a friend in Africa who promised to care for his little friend. The friend later wrote saying Littledog had fully recovered and was living a happy life on a small farm.

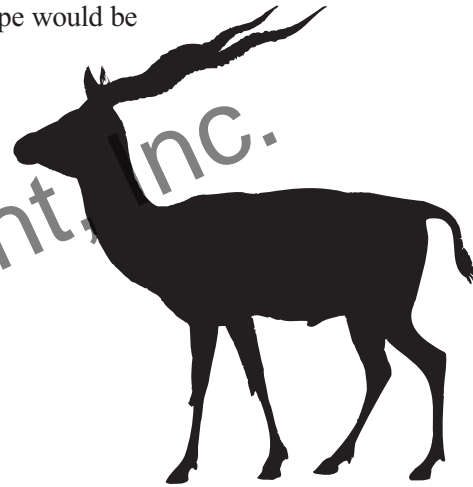




AFRICAN PROVERBS

Directions: Match these African Proverbs with their meanings below. Write your letter answers in the blanks.

- _____ 1. The same tree that yields edible fruit may also yield a puff adder.
- _____ 2. The chameleon’s ability to change colors affects only the clothes he is wearing, not those in his box.
- _____ 3. If the elephant were not in the forest, the roam antelope would be considered a very large animal.
- _____ 4. “Almost kill bird” don’t make soup.
- _____ 5. A seldom visitor makes a good friend.
- _____ 6. The best swimmer is often drowned.
- _____ 7. No one teaches the leopard cub how to spring.
- _____ 8. When the leopard is desperate it eats weeds.
- _____ 9. One string joined to another can find the leopard.
- _____ 10. When you follow an elephant, you do not get tangled up in a creeper.



-
- A) This proverb lets us know that there are some things a person cannot change, and must learn to accept.
 - B) This warns us of the dangers that can be found in unassuming circumstances.
 - C) This saying reminds one that children do indeed take after their parents.
 - D) This reminds one that it is important to be able to adapt to changing circumstances.
 - E) No one can eat “nearly or almost” in a stew.
 - F) If you visit your friend too often, it could become a problem, but if you make yourself scarce, he will actually look forward to your visit.
 - G) There is no absolute certainty of anything.
 - H) This is an expression that lets us know that the ruler cleans the way and makes a clear path for us to follow.
 - D) This is a reminder that strength comes from unity and persistence.
 - J) This adage compares the power of the highest chief to that of the lower chief. The lower chief is important when king is away, but when he returns, everyone knows he is the boss.



CLIMBING MOUNT EVEREST

Directions: Mountain climbers from around the world travel to the border between Nepal and Tibet to tackle Mount Everest, the world's highest peak at 29,029 feet. Reaching the top is one of the most difficult endeavors a human can accomplish. The first few thousand feet are covered quickly, but as the climber continues to ascend, it gets harder and progress slows to a snail's pace. Following are five challenging nature and math problems that start out easy and get more difficult, just as the climb on Everest does. If you get all five correct, you've conquered Everest!

1. **Get this one right and you've reached 5,000 ft.** Callie lives in upstate New York. At 11pm she remembers that she is to take flowers to school in the morning. In the dark she heads to the front yard with a flashlight to pick daffodils. She hears Canada geese flying above. She can't see the geese. Are the geese flying north or south? _____.
2. **Get this one right and you've reached 10,000 ft.** Farmer John is on one side of the river with a chicken, fox, and bag of corn. He wants to get all three to the other side. In his small boat he can fit only one of the three belongings at a time. How can he get the fox, chicken and corn to the other side without losing any one of them? Remember, he can only carry one of the three at a time which means he has to leave at least two behind when he travels to the other side. He doesn't want the fox to eat his chicken or have the chicken eat his corn. You may need to write your answer on a separate sheet.
3. **Get this one right and you've reached 15,000 ft.** Jake leaves his camp one morning and walks one mile north, then one mile west. He realizes that he has forgotten something and turns and walks due south for one mile and comes right back to his campsite. Exactly where was Jake camping? _____
4. **Get this one right and you've reached 20,000 ft.** King cobra eggs have a 70-day incubation period. If 5 king cobras lay their eggs 7 days apart, then 10 days after these eggs hatch, 7 more king cobras lay their eggs 6 days apart, how long until all the eggs have hatched?

5. **Get this one right and you've reached the top: 29,029 ft.!!** Pioneer bird expert, Alexander Wilson, noted that one day in the early 1800's he spotted a flock of Passenger Pigeons estimated at 2,230,270,000 birds. The flock was so huge that it covered a mile wide and extended for 240 miles! Assuming that each pigeon is 16 inches long and you lined up all 2,230,270,000 birds beak to tail in single file, how many miles long would the line be?
