

# “The Very Thirsty Crow”

Based on “The Crow and the Pitcher” by Aesop

Characters:

Narrator

Crow

NARRATOR: One **sweltering** summer afternoon, Crow went out flying in search of water. She was very, *very* thirsty, but no matter how hard she looked, she couldn't find a single drop of water.

CROW: Oh, it is so hot outside, and I am so thirsty. I'm afraid that I might die if I don't find water soon.

NARRATOR: At last, she spotted something!

CROW: Is that a pitcher down there? I think I'll land and take a better look.

NARRATOR: And so Crow flew lower. She landed on the front porch of a small, **shabby** house.

CROW: Oh, man. Look at this house! The windows are dirty, the roof is about to fall in, and the steps are crooked!

NARRATOR: But there really was a pitcher sitting on the porch. Crow peered inside.

CROW: Water! There's water in here! I'm saved!

NARRATOR: There was indeed water in the bottom of the pitcher, but there was so little water inside that Crow would never be able to reach it.

CROW: Let me think... If I tip the pitcher onto its side, I might be able to reach the water.

NARRATOR: So Crow started to tip the pitcher over. Luckily, she had another thought. If she wasn't careful, she might dump all of the water onto the ground!

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CROW: No, that won't work... That was a close one! I almost lost all of this delicious water.

NARRATOR: Crow looked around. On the ground just past the steps, she saw a little pile of pebbles.

CROW: Pebbles! That gives me an idea! If I pick up these pebbles one by one and drop them into the pitcher, the water level might rise enough for me to reach!

NARRATOR: So Crow got started. It was hard work, flying back and forth with pebbles in her mouth, but sure enough, the water level in the pitcher soon began to rise.

CROW: It worked! Yay! I'm saved! Now I can reach the water. Hey, this is really good water! Mmmm!

**The End**



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## Comprehension Challenge

Now that you’ve read the play, answer these questions to see how well you were paying attention.

1. Based on the context clues from the story, what does **sweltering** mean?
  - a. chilly
  - b. sunny
  - c. hot
  - d. rainy
2. Underline the parts of the story that helped you answer #1.
3. Based on the context clues from the story, what does **shabby** mean?
  - a. worn-out or old
  - b. fancy or expensive
  - c. colorful or cheerful
  - d. dull or boring
4. Underline the parts of the story that helped you answer #3.
5. Put the events from the story in the correct sequence. (The event that happened first is 1, second is 2, and so on.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Crow found a pitcher of water on a porch.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The water level rose high enough for Crow to drink.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crow dropped pebbles into the pitcher one by one.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crow was trying to find water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crow thought about tipping the pitcher over.

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6. Why was Crow so thirsty in the beginning of the story?

Crow was so thirsty in the beginning of the story because \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Crow’s first idea was to tip the pitcher over so she could reach the water.

Why didn’t she use that idea?

- a. She didn’t use that idea because the pitcher was too heavy.
- b. She didn’t use that idea because she had a better idea.
- c. She didn’t use that idea because someone was coming home.
- d. She didn’t use that idea because she didn’t want to spill the water.

8. What is the lesson that the author wanted the reader to learn?

- a. Sometimes you have to be creative to solve a problem.
- b. Most crows cannot tip over pitchers.
- c. Slow and steady wins the race.
- d. If you leave dishes on your front porch, birds may come to visit.

9. Circle the **three** adjectives that best describe Crow in this story.

angry

pretty

hardworking

clever

lazy

brave

sleepy

determined

wasteful

10. Use the most important details of the play to write a three-sentence summary of the story. Remember to use “First,” “Then,” and “Finally.”

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## **Comprehension Challenge**

### **Key**

1. C
2. “summer afternoon”, “Oh, it is so hot outside...”
3. A
4. “The windows are dirty, the roof is about to fall in, and the steps are crooked!”
5. 2, 5, 4, 1, 3
6. Answers may vary; something along the lines of “it’s summer” or “it’s hot outside.”
7. D
8. A
9. Clever, determined, hardworking
10. Answers may vary; students should summarize the story using only the most important details.