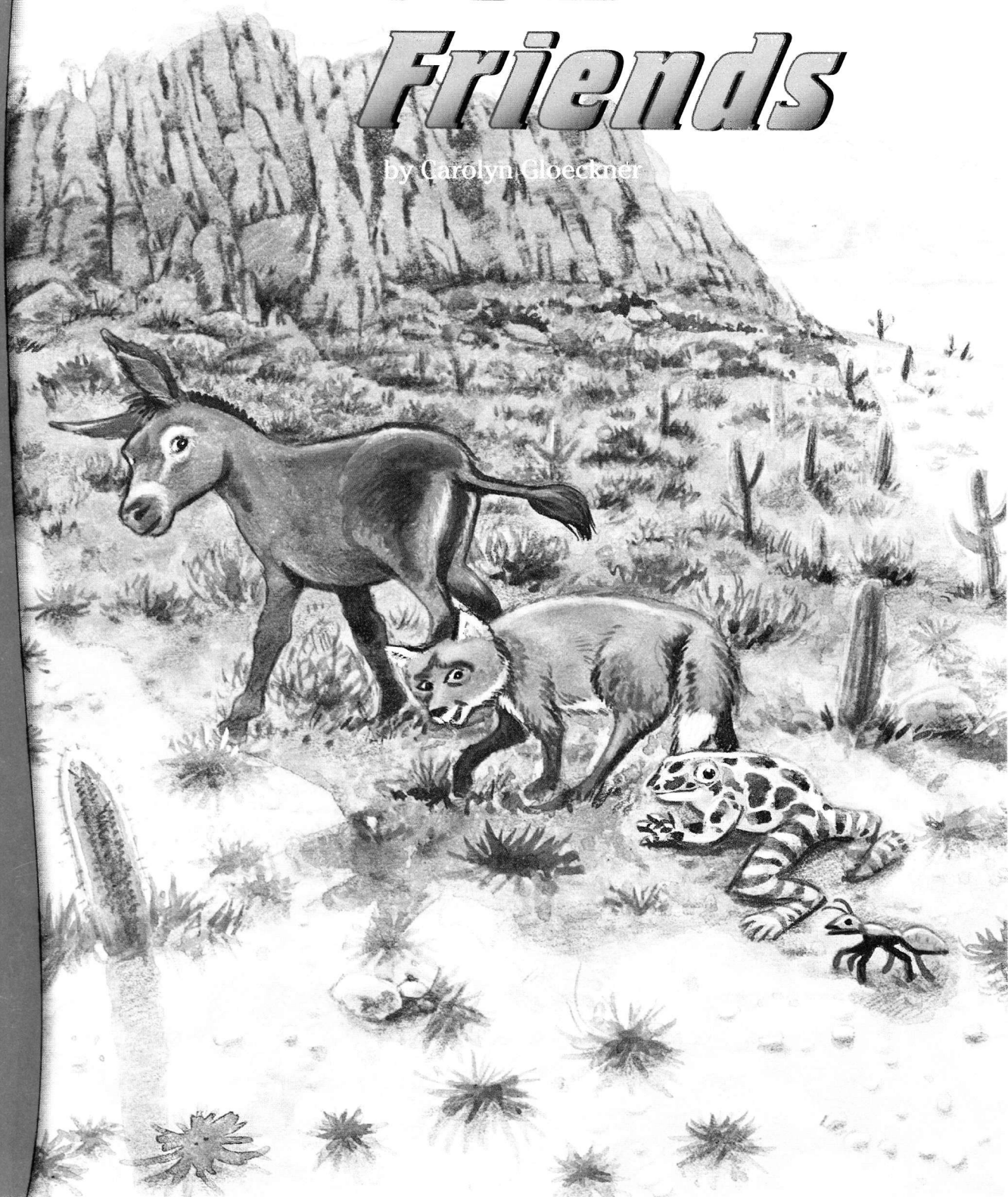


Shadow Friends

by Carolyn Gloeckner



The sun was like fire over the desert. No breeze blew. The cool mountains were far away. The ant needed shade.

It met a toad. "Come into my shadow," said the toad. "You will be cooler."

The ant did so. The toad hopped off across the sand. The ant followed in the toad's shadow. They headed for the mountains.

They met a fox. "Come, toad! Cool off in my shadow," said the fox.

The toad did so. The fox walked along. The toad and the ant followed in its shadow. The three headed for the mountains.

They met a donkey. "You all look hot," it said. "Come, walk in my shadow."

The fox did so. All four went toward the mountains.

It grew hotter. "I can go no farther," said the donkey. Just then a shadow fell over them—the mountains' shadow.

They soon found water. They drank and rested. And ever since, they have been the best of friends.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 This story shows that
 - a** it is good to help others.
 - b** walking in the desert is not safe.
- 2 The donkey asked the animals to walk with it because they
 - a** looked hot.
 - b** had helped it.
- 3 The ant was looking for a
 - a** shady place.
 - b** good friend.
- 4 The animals acted toward each other with
 - a** kindness.
 - b** meanness.
- 5 If a big camel met the animals, it might say,
 - a** "I am too hot. Let me walk in your shadow."
 - b** "Come into my shadow. You will be cooler."

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B the toad's shadow the animals' shadows

Add an 's to *toad* to show that it owns something. The mark (') is an apostrophe. Add only an ' to *animals* to show that more than one animal owns something.

Add an 's or an ' to each word to show that it owns something. Write the word.

- 1 mountains
- 2 fox
- 3 donkey
- 4 animals
- 5 ant



LEARN ABOUT WORDS *(continued)*

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 They wanted to reach the cool _____ shadow.
- 7 The _____ shadow cooled the toad.
- 8 All the other _____ shadows gave the ant shade.
- 9 Three animals could walk in the _____ shadow.
- 10 The _____ shadow was the smallest.

THINK ABOUT IT

D The **sun** was as **hot** as **fire**.

This sentence helps you understand how hot the sun was. The phrase "as hot as fire" is a figure of speech. It is a different way of saying that the sun was very, very hot.

Choose the word from the first two sentences that best fits in the blank.

- 1 A seed is tiny. A tree is large. The ant is as tiny as a _____.
- 2 Night is dark. Day is light. The toad's shadow was as _____ as night.
- 3 August is hot. April is cool. The breeze was as cool as an _____ day.
- 4 The ground is low. The sky is high. The mountains seemed to be as _____ as the sky.
- 5 An ocean is huge. A pond is small. The desert looked as huge as an _____.