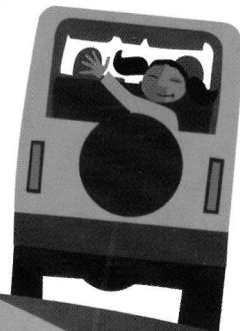


# A Surprise for Scooter

by Gary Abelard



- 1 Scooter was hatched three summers ago from a clutch of five eggs. She has two sisters and two brothers. Her sisters still live in the same woods as Scooter, but her brothers have moved to other woods.
- 2 Scooter loves to bury herself in the soft soil under a big, old tree and wait for food to go by. When she sees a big, juicy snail, Scooter snaps it up. She crunches and crunches, enjoying her feast. When necessary, she also eats other bugs. Sometimes she searches for berries.
- 3 A couple of frightening things have happened to Scooter during her short life. The first thing occurred in her second summer. She was out looking for her usual lunch when a very hungry crow spotted her. It swooped down from a large oak tree. Scooter tried to get inside her shell, but she was not fast enough. The crow grabbed her toes and tried to fly away. Scooter fell back to the ground. Now Scooter is missing the toes on her right back foot, but at least she is still alive.
- 4 Another scary thing happened to Scooter a month ago. Scooter had gone across the road to look for lunch. As she was walking back to her home, a car rolled past her. Luckily, she was between the wheels so she was safe, but the car stopped. A man got out of the car and picked her up. He said his children would adore a box turtle as a pet. He put Scooter in the car and drove a long way.
- 5 When the car stopped, the man took Scooter into his house. There were two children there, a little girl about eight years old and an older boy. The boy examined Scooter and yawned, but the girl was very excited. She wanted Scooter to sleep in her room. Her dad found a box, and they put Scooter inside. They put in some leaves and some carrots. The girl was the one who gave Scooter her name. Scooter was very sad. Every day the girl talked to Scooter and fed her, but Scooter missed her home.
- 6 One day the girl said to Scooter, "I wonder if you miss your home. I know I would. I will miss you, but I'm going to ask my dad if we can take you back to the woods."
- 7 That evening the dad, the girl, and Scooter got into the car and traveled for a long time. When the car stopped, the man said, "Well, here we are." The girl and the man carried Scooter into the woods and put her down. Scooter was so happy she started walking as fast as her short little legs could move. She found a lovely pile of moist leaves and dug in. She was hoping a fat, juicy snail would come by soon.

## COMPREHENSION

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

- 1 This story is about a
  - a** box turtle named Scooter.
  - b** girl who wanted to keep Scooter.
  - c** man who drove over Scooter.
- 2 The man put Scooter in the car because he
  - a** was going to take her to a zoo.
  - b** thought his children would like a pet.
  - c** thought his children would take it to school.

- 3 If Scooter had not been crossing the road,
  - a** she would have met the crow.
  - b** she would have gotten lost.
  - c** the man would not have seen her.
- 4 The man found Scooter
  - a** near his home.
  - b** far from his home.
  - c** at his home.
- 5 Now that Scooter is back in the woods, she will
  - a** go visit the crow.
  - b** dig in the dirt and wait for snails.
  - c** walk back to the girl's house.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 a group of eggs laid at one time (1)
- 2 a forest (1)
- 3 a large, enjoyable meal (2)
- 4 scary (3)
- 5 happened (3)
- 6 love (4)
- 7 looked closely at (5)
- 8 damp; slightly wet (7)

**C** **too** = also

**two** = the number after one

Words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings are called homophones. *Too* and *two* are homophones.

Look at each word in **bold type**. Note the paragraph number. Look at the paragraph and find the homophone for the word in bold type. Which of the homophones fits in the blank in the sentence? Write the word.

- 9 **rode** (4)

The \_\_\_\_\_ was very slippery after the rain.

- 10 **hear** (7)

Scooter did not \_\_\_\_\_ the crow as it came after her.

## THINK ABOUT IT

**D** A fact is something that is true. An opinion is what someone thinks.

**Fact:** Mrs. Lopez is a teacher.

**Opinion:** I think she is good.

Read each sentence. Is it a fact or an opinion? Write *Fact* if it is a fact. Write *Opinion* if it is an opinion.

- 1 A box turtle makes a wonderful pet.
- 2 A hungry crow wanted to eat the box turtle.
- 3 The boy was not interested in Scooter.
- 4 A box turtle's natural home is in the woods.
- 5 Scooter likes to eat snails.

**E** Most verbs add *-ed* to show that something happened in the past.

ask + **ed** = asked

When a word ends in *e*, you drop that *e* before adding *-ed*.

lik~~e~~ + **ed** = liked

When a word ends in *y*, you usually change the *y* to *i* before adding *-ed*.

carry + **ed** = carried

Each sentence below has a verb that is in the past tense. Rewrite the underlined verb in the present tense by dropping the *-ed* ending. If you read *shared*, you would write *share*.

- 6 Scooter hatched out of an egg.
- 7 Scooter tried to get inside her shell.
- 8 The man carried Scooter to his car.
- 9 The little girl adored Scooter.
- 10 The little girl hoped Scooter would be happy in the woods.