

## The Talkative Turtle

### An Indian Folktale

**Part 1** Long ago in India, there lived a turtle who was always talking. He was unstoppable. He talked more than anyone else at the pond. He made more noise than the boom of a spring thunderstorm. His lips were always moving. His endless chatter annoyed the creatures who shared the pond, and they avoided him.

**Part 2** One day, two visiting geese landed along the shore. Their sleek feathers shone like the sun, and the turtle spent many hours praising their beauty. One minute he told them, “You are the most magnificent beings on earth!” The next minute he said, “You truly are very beautiful.” At last, to avoid the turtle’s chatter, the geese prepared to fly off to another pond. “Take me with you!” cried the turtle.

“How can we do such a thing?” asked the geese. “You weigh a ton. And you have no wings. You cannot possibly fly.”

“Nothing is impossible,” said the turtle. “I will think of a plan.”

**Part 3** It did not take him long. To the amusement of the geese, the turtle said, “It is quite simple. First, let us find a long, strong stick. Each of you can hold one end of it in your beak. I will then bite hard in the middle. When you fly up together, I will cling to the center of the stick with my strong mouth. That way you can carry me over the trees.”

The geese replied, “What a ridiculous idea! You could fall!”

The turtle protested. “I will not fall. I am as strong as an ox. My mouth is very strong. I will hold on tightly.”

“Your mouth is strong from endless talking,” squawked the geese. “You chatter like a forest full of monkeys. You will be safe only if you keep your mouth shut.”

*(Continued on next page)*

Use with page 319.

#### Resource Links

 RDI Book 1: p. 376

**SAM** Keyword: Predictions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Talkative Turtle** *(Continued)*

Part 4

Indignantly, the turtle replied, “You think that I cannot keep quiet, but I can. I know when to be silent and when to speak. I can be as silent as a rock. Listen, I will be silent for a moment,” and he fell completely silent for the briefest of moments. “See, I did it. I was silent. So admit it. My idea is excellent. Let me try my invention and fly with you.”

“Very well,” said the geese. “But we cannot guarantee your safety on this journey.”

“Then go and get the stick,” ordered the turtle. “You’ll see how quiet I can be when silence is important.”

Part 5

The geese flew off and returned with a long, strong stick. They both took an end in their beaks. The turtle clamped his mouth onto the middle. As the geese beat their wings and flew into the air, the dangling turtle went up too. His mouth was strong. Maybe all that chatter had paid off.

Soaring high above the trees, they were like a miraculous vision. Some children at play looked up and noticed the strange trio. “Look! Look!” cried one child. “Two geese are carrying a turtle on a stick!”

Another child chimed in, “What clever birds! They thought of a way to carry turtles!”

Another waved his hands above his head and cheered, “Good thinking, geese!” All the children clapped their hands.

Part 6

The turtle heard the children’s voices. The words angered him. He fumed to himself, “They should be complimenting me for this fine plan, not the geese! It was my idea, after all!” Outraged, the turtle exploded with sound.

“It was my idea!” he sputtered aloud, and he tumbled to the ground.

*Use with page 319.*

**Resource Links**

**1** RDI Book 1: p. 377

**SAM** Keyword: Predictions



# Make Predictions

To **make predictions** you make a logical guess about what will happen next in a story. You can base your prediction on events and clues in the story and your own experiences. Then keep reading to see if your prediction is right.

Use this chart to make predictions as you read.

Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

| Story Clues | What I Know | Prediction | Right? |
|-------------|-------------|------------|--------|
|             |             |            |        |
|             |             |            |        |
|             |             |            |        |

Copyright © Scholastic Inc. All rights reserved.

**Resource Links**

 RDI Book 1: p. 413

**SAM** Keyword: Predictions

Use with page 319.

