

Why the koala has a stumpy tail – reading comprehension

Read the story of Why the koala has a stumpy tail and use the text to answer the following questions.

1) What did tree kangaroo remember?

..... when his mother dug a hole in a dry stream bed.....

2) What four things did koala use as excuses? Tick one.

a) Hungry, tired, thirsty & angry.

b) **Thirsty, tired, dizzy & had a thorn in his foot.**

c) Thirsty, hungry, dizzy & had a thorn in his foot.

d) Hungry, tired, dizzy and angry.

3) Which of these was not a reason why kangaroo got angry with koala. Tick one.

a) He kept making up excuses not to help him dig.

b) He drank all the water from the hole.

c) **He made him walk a long way to get to the dry stream bed.**

d) He was greedy.

4) Sequence the following events in the order they happened. Put a number in the box to show the order that they happened in.

2 Tree kangaroo and Koala walked until they came to a dry stream bed.

5 Koala quickly jumped down from the tree.

6 Tree Kangaroo pulled Koala's tail off.

3 Koala got a thorn in his foot.

4 Tree Kangaroo started to get very angry with Koala.

1 Tree Kangaroo had a plan.

5) What other words could the author have used instead of, 'He pulled ever so hard until Koala's tail broke off,' to still keep the meaning?

.....tugged yanked heaved jerked snatched wrenched....

6) How does Tree Kangaroo feel at the start of the story? How do you know?

happy - he is out with his friend

proud - he has come up with a plan to help

delighted - koala is excited to try kangaroo's plan

7) How does Tree Kangaroo feel at the end of the story? How do you know?

It says he is furious - koala has taken all the water that kangaroo dug up

Disappointed and let down by his friend who has been lazy

8) What do you think the moral of the story is? Explain why you think this, using the text to support your answer.

Tree kangaroo is resourceful because he solves a problem and shares his good fortune with Koala because they are friends and he is being fair.

Koala is lazy and selfish. His failure to help and his greed damages his relationship with his best friend.

The result is this greed and laziness not only loses him a close friend, he also lost his long, furry tail.

It illustrates how important it is to help each other.

9) How is this story similar to 'How the birds got their colours'?

They are both stories told by the aborigines to explain how the world is a certain way (creation story)

They both have characters that are selfish and end up losing out.

They are both about helping each other (or lack of it)

