

Nelson and the Egg

“Mum! Dad! Come quick!” called Nelson. “I’ve found something!” Nelson was crouching in the corner of the garden. He lifted a small nest from a pile of leaves. “It must have fallen from the tree in the storm last night. Look there’s an egg inside,” said Nelson. Nelson’s dad gently stroked the pale blue egg with the back of his finger. “It’s still warm,” he said.

Nelson carried the nest over to the bench under the tree.

“I’ll look after you until your mum gets back,” he whispered to the little egg before he placed it down gently. Nelson sat with the egg all morning. He kept looking up at the birds in the sky. Could that be its mother, he wondered. Many birds flew overhead but none of them stopped in the garden.

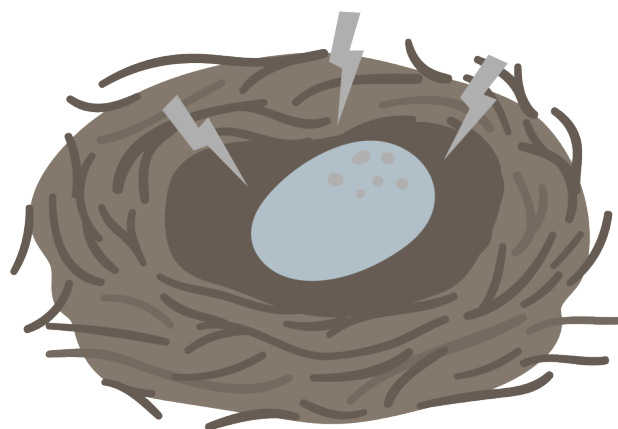
At 1 o’clock Nelson had to go inside for lunch. He wolfed it down so that he could return to the nest as soon as possible. On his way back to the bench, he was hoping to see that the mother had returned. The egg was still alone. He stroked the egg with the back of his little finger as his dad had done in the morning. The egg felt cold. Nelson picked it up and cupped it gently in his hands to keep it warm. He sat with the egg all afternoon. Suddenly, he felt the egg twitch in his hands. He then lifted it to his ear and heard a small “Tap. Tap! Tap!” coming from inside. The egg was hatching.

Nelson carefully placed the egg back in the nest and ran back inside.

“Mum! Dad! Come quick!” he called.

By the time they got outside, the egg was no longer alone. A proud mother bird had returned. Just in time, thought Nelson.

Nelson wanted to leave the new mum in peace but he was curious. He wanted to know what was happening under her feathers.



Just before bed, Nelson took a torch and tiptoed down the garden path. As he shone the light towards the bench, he saw a large yellow beak poking up from the nest. Just then, the mother swooped down and started to feed the newly hatched chick.

“I’m so glad you made it, little chick,” said Nelson. “Your mummy will take great care of you.”

Nelson felt a warm glow and he skipped back into the house to share the good news.



Questions

03

- 1 What did Nelson find in the corner of the garden? (tick)

- ☐ a bird
☐ a nest
☐ a pile of leaves
☐ a baby chick

- 2 What colour was the egg?
-

- 3 Where did Nelson put the nest? (tick)

- ☐ in the corner of the garden
☐ inside the house
☐ on the bench
☐ in the tree

- 4 Why did Nelson keep looking up at the birds in the sky? (tick)

- ☐ He was looking for the bird that laid the egg.
☐ He wondered what the egg would look like when it hatched.
☐ He wanted to take the egg when none of the birds were watching.
☐ He was afraid that a bird was going to come and take the egg.

- 5 What time did Nelson go in for his lunch?
-

6 How did Nelson eat his lunch? (tick)

- ☐ leisurely
- ☐ silently
- ☐ quickly
- ☐ reluctantly

7 What is the word 'tap' an example of? (tick)

- ☐ alliteration
- ☐ metaphor
- ☐ simile
- ☐ onomatopoeia

8 Why did Nelson think that the mother had arrived 'just in time'? (tick)

- ☐ Nelson was fed up with waiting.
- ☐ Nelson couldn't have waited another moment with the egg.
- ☐ The mother arrived just before her chick hatched.
- ☐ The mother had returned in time for Nelson to show his parents.

9 How did Nelson go down the garden path when he went to check on the egg before bed? (tick)

- ☐ merrily
- ☐ quietly
- ☐ quickly
- ☐ dramatically

10 'Nelson felt a warm glow and he skipped back into the house to share the good news.'

Which word best describes how Nelson felt at the end of the story? (tick)

- ☐ sad
- ☐ joyful
- ☐ fascinated
- ☐ unusual

Score:

Answers

A

1 What did Nelson find in the corner of the garden?

☒ a nest

2 What colour was the egg?

pale blue

3 Where did Nelson put the nest?

☒ on the bench

4 Why did Nelson keep looking up at the birds in the sky?

☒ He was looking for the bird that laid the egg.

5 What time did Nelson go in for his lunch?

1 o'clock

6 How did Nelson eat his lunch?

☒ quickly

7 What is the word 'tap' an example of?

☒ onomatopoeia

8 Why did Nelson think that the mother had arrived 'just in time'?

☒ The mother arrived just before her chick hatched.

9 How did Nelson go down the garden path when he went to check on the egg before bed?

☒ quietly

10 'Nelson felt a warm glow and he skipped back into the house to share the good news.'

☒ joyful

Which word best describes how Nelson felt at the end of the story?