



Comprehension & Vocabulary Activity

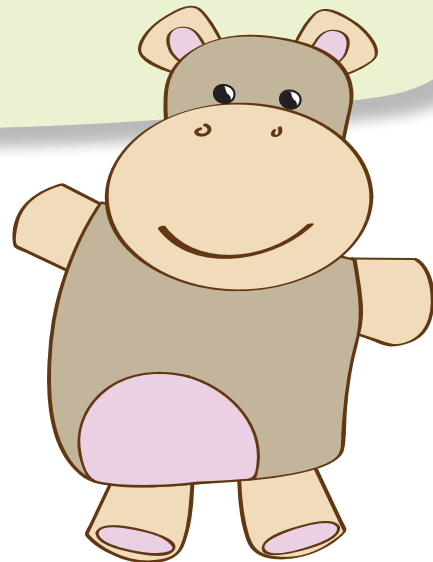
Activity directions:

Tell your child they will practice two things that will help them become better readers: stopping to think about what was read and finding words that confuse them. (These are skills that help monitor understanding/ summarizing and build vocabulary). Read the story below aloud to your child. Stop at each star (*) to ask your child to draw what happened and/or tell you with words. Then ask them to think about any new words they might not know that they heard you read. They should ask “What does ___ mean?” every time they hear a word they don’t know. Encourage them to do this while you are reading, before you come to a star, so that you explain each new word in context. At the end, they will pick three words to illustrate (see worksheet below).



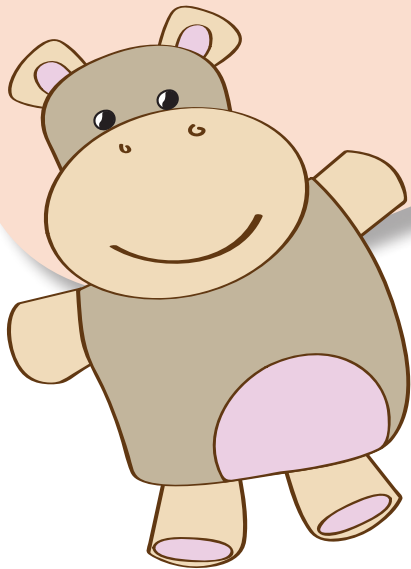


Harry the Hippo was the smallest hippo in the whole lake. Every day, he got out of his comfortable bed made from giant leaves and took a big stretch. Today was a new day! Maybe he had grown into the massive animal he should be.



* (Stop here to have your child draw and tell what happened in their own words, and check to see if there are any words they do not know. If they have trouble, reread as many times as needed. If they have trouble with finding words that confuse them, check to see if they can tell you what the following words mean: hippo, comfortable, giant, massive)

Then, he would run over to the same tree to measure himself. Had he gotten any bigger? He looked at the line he had drawn into the trunk. Every day, he was disappointed. He was never taller than the line. Every day, poor Harry the Hippo would begin to blubber before he even ate breakfast. *



* (Have your child again draw and tell, and check to make sure they know the following words: measure, trunk, disappointed, blubber)

One day, Charlie the Cheetah saw him blubbering. “Why are you crying?” asked Charlie. “I am the smallest hippo of all and I am an animal that should be enormous!” replied Harry. Charlie smiled. “But Harry, that is what makes you unique! There is no other hippo just like you!” Harry looked surprised. “I never thought about it that way!” he said. “Maybe being small isn’t such a bad thing after all!”

* (Have your child stop and draw/tell what happened. Check to make sure they identify any unknown words, including: enormous, replied, unique). Finally, have your child pick three words to “draw and tell”, to explain what they mean in their own way.

Kindergarten Comprehension and Vocabulary Student Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Draw what
happened
in part 1.

Draw what
happened
in part 2.

Draw what
happened
in part 3.

Parent: Write the new vocabulary word your child chose in the first box. Then have him or her draw and tell what it means next to it.

Word #1:	
Word #2:	
Word #3:	

