

Ch 1 Who Did Patrick's Homework

Answer the following questions. (Refer to that part of the text whose number is given against the question. This applies to the comprehension questions throughout the book.)

1. What did Patrick think his cat was playing with? What was it really? (2)

Answer

Patrick thought that his cat was playing with a little doll but it was really a man of the tiniest size.

2. Why did the little man grant Patrick a wish? (2)

Answer

The little man granted Patrick a wish because he wanted to get free from cat.

3. What was Patrick's wish? (3)

Answer

Patrick wanted the little man to do all his homework till the end of the semester, which was for 35 days.

4. In what subjects did the little man need help, to do Patrick's

homework? (5,6)

Answer

The little man needed Patrick's help in English, Maths and human history.

5. How did Patrick help him? (7)

Answer

Patrick helped him by consulting a dictionary, guiding the little man in doing sums in arithmetic and read out portions from history book.

6. Who do you think did Patrick's homework - the little man, or Patrick himself? Give reasons for your answer. (9,10)

Answer

It was not the little man but Patrick himself had did his homework as little man did not know anything, in English, maths and human history. Patrick had to consult dictionary, guide him with maths and help him to read too. He stayed up at nights and worked hard. Therefore, it was Patrick who did the homework.

Ch 2 How the dog found himself a master!

A. Discuss these questions in pairs before you write the answers.

1. Why did the dog feel the need for a master? (1, 2)

Answer

The dog felt the need for a master because he was sick and tired of wandering about alone, looking for food and afraid of those who were stronger than him.

2. Who did he first choose as his master? Why did he leave that master? (3)

Answer

The dog first chose a big, strong and fierce wolf as his master. Once, The dog saw that the wolf was afraid that the bear would eat them up. Since the dog wanted to serve only the strongest, he left the wolf and asked the bear who was stronger than the wolf to be his master.

3. Who did he choose next? (3)

Answer

He chose the bear to be his next master.

4. Why did he serve the Lion for a long time?

Answer

He serve the Lion for a long time because he found there was no more powerful and stronger than lion in the forest and so no one dared to touch the dog or offend him in any way. Therefore, the dog lived happily by serving the lion for a long time.

5. Who did he finally choose as his master and why?

Answer

He finally chose man as his master because one day he realised that lion was afraid of man. As he wanted to serve someone who was the most powerful and stronger than anyone on earth, he chose man as his master.

B. A summary of the story is given below. Fill in the blanks to complete it taking appropriate phrases from the box.

a dog	stronger than anyone else	
the strongest of all	a wolf	the bear
afraid of man	his own master	a lion

This is the story of _____, who used to be _____.
He decided to find a master _____. First he found _____,
but the wolf was afraid of _____. The
dog thought that the bear was _____. After some time the

dog met _____ , who seemed the strongest. He stayed with the lion for a long time. One day he realised that the lion was _____. To this day, the dog remains man's best friend.

Answer

This is the story of a dog, who used to be his own master . He decided to find a master stronger than anyone else. First he found a wolf , but the wolf was afraid of the bear . The dog thought that the bear was the strongest of all. After some time the dog met a lion , who seemed the strongest. He stayed with the lion for a long time. One day he realised that the lion was afraid of man. To this day, the dog remains man's best friend.

Ch 3 Taro's reward

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Taro run in the direction of the stream? (5)

Answer

Taro run in the direction of the stream because earlier he had never heard or seen a rushing stream in the forest also he was thirsty.

2. How did Taro's father show his happiness after drinking saké? (7)

Answer

After drinking saké, Taro's father show his happiness by doing a little dance in the middle of the floor.

3. Why did the waterfall give Taro saké and others water? (12)

Answer

The waterfall give Taro saké and others water because he was a thoughtful son who honoured and obeyed his parents always and worked very hard to give them everything they needed while others were greedy.

4. Why did the villagers want to drown Taro? (10,11)

Answer

The villagers want to drown Taro because they thought that he had tricked them by telling that stream gives saké.

5. Why did the Emperor reward Taro? (13)

Answer

The emperor rewarded Taro for as he honoured and obeyed his parents. This was done to encourage all the children to honor and obey their parents.

B. Mark the right item.

1. Taro earned very little money because

- (i) he didn't work hard enough.
- (ii) the villagers didn't need wood.
- (iii) the price of wood was very low.
- (iii) the price of wood was very low.

2. Taro decided to earn extra money

- (i) to live a more comfortable life.
- (ii) to buy his old father some saké.
- (iii) to repair the cracks in the hut.
- (ii) to buy his old father some saké.

3. The neighbour left Taro's hut in a hurry because

- (i) she was delighted with the drink.
- (ii) she was astonished to hear Taro's story.

(iii) she wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall.

► (iii) she wanted to tell the whole village about the waterfall.

Ch 4 An Indian-American Women in Space: Kalpana Chawla

1. Where was Kalpana Chawla born? Why is she called an Indian – American? (3)

Answer

Kalpana Chawla was born in Karnal, Haryana. She was called an Indian-American because she went to US and became its naturalised citizen.

2. When and why did she go to the U.S.? Who did she marry? (2, 3)

Answer

She went to US after completing a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering for pursuing master's degree. She married flight instructor Jean-Pierre Harrison.

3. How did she become an astronaut? What gave her the idea that she could be an astronaut? (3)

Answer

After qualifying as a pilot, Chawla applied to NASA space shuttle program. She was first hired as a research Scientist at NASA. In 1994 she was selected at NASA for training as an astronaut. It was her success as a pilot which gave her the idea that she could become an astronaut.

4. What abilities must an astronaut have, according to the journalist? (6)

Answer

According to the journalist, it takes enormous ability to be an astronaut. An astronaut must know a lot about everything, from biology to astrophysics to aeronautical engineering. In this age of super-specialisation, you must have encyclopedic knowledge to be an astronaut.

5. Describe Kalpana Chawla's first mission in space. (5)

Answer

Kalpana Chawla's first mission was in the space shuttle Columbia. It was a 15 days, 16 hours and 34 minutes. During this time, she went around the earth 252 times travelling 1.45 million km. The crew performed experiments such as pollinating plants to observe food growth in space. It also made test for making stronger metals and faster computer chips. It

was all done for a price tag of 56 million dollars.

6. What does Kalpana Chawla say about pursuing a dream? Do you agree with her that success is possible? (7)

Answer

Kalpana Chawla said that the path from dreams to success does exist. One needs to have the vision to find it, and the courage to get onto it. Yes, success is possible.

Ch 5 A Different kind of school

A. Put these sentences from the story in the right order and write them out in a paragraph. Don't refer to the text.

- I shall be so glad when today is over.
- Having a leg tied up and hopping about on a crutch is almost fun, I guess.
- I don't think I'll mind being deaf for a day — at least not much.
- But being blind is so frightening.
- Only you must tell me about things.
- Let's go for a little walk.
- The other bad days can't be half as bad as this.

Answer

Let's go for a little walk. Only you must tell me about things. I shall be so glad when today is over. The other bad days can't be half as bad as this. Having a leg tied up and hopping about on a crutch is almost fun, I guess. I don't think I'll mind being deaf for a day - at least not much. But being blind is so frightening.

B. Answer the following questions

1. Why do you think the writer visited Miss Beam's school? (1)

Answer

The writer visited Miss Beam's school because he had heard a great deal about the school.

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2. What was the 'game' that every child in the school had to play? (9)

Answer

The 'game' that every child in the school had to play was that each term every child had one blind day, one lame day, one deaf day, one injured day and one dumb day.

3. "Each term every child has one blind day, one lame day..." Complete the line. Which day was the hardest? Why was it the hardest? (9, 11, 15)

Answer

"Each term every child has one blind day, one lame day, one deaf day, one injured day and one dumb day." The dumb day was the hardest because the children's mouths could not be bandaged, so they really had to exercise their will power to remain silent.

4. What was the purpose of these special days? (5, 9)

Answer

The purpose of these special days was to teach the children thoughtfulness - kindness to others, and how to be responsible citizens. These days make the children appreciate and

understand misfortune by making them share in the misfortune of others.

Ch 6 Who I Am

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Peter's favourite day of the week is Sunday because ————
—————

► on this day his whole family always goes to the cinema hall to see a film.

2. Nasir wants to learn ————
———

► how to preserve seeds so that they can be used again without investing money on them.

3. Dolma believes that she can make a good Prime Minister because ————
—————

► she wants to make things better for everyone.

B. Write True or False against each of the following statements.

1. Peter is an only child. ————

► False

2. When Serbjit gets angry he shouts at people. —————
—————

► False

3. Nasir lives in the city. —————

► False

4. Radha's mother enjoys doing things with her. —————
—————

► True

Part II

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Working with Text

**Fill in the blanks to name the different kinds of intelligence.
One has been done for you.**

When I enjoy listening to people and solving their problems I
use my interpersonal intelligence.

(i) When I enjoy dancing or physical activity, I use my _____ intelligence.

► bodily

(ii) When I enjoy looking at maps and examining pictures, I use my _____ intelligence.

► visual

(iii) When I enjoy working with numbers and solving maths problems, I use my _____ intelligence.

► mathematical

(iv) When I enjoy telling a story or arguing, I use my _____ intelligence.

► verbal

Match the job on the left with its description on the right.

(i) Navigator - (a) Advises people what to do about jobs, personal problems, etc.

(ii) Architect - (b) Works in politics, usually by standing for election.

(iii) Politician - (c) Finds and monitors the route to get to a

place, or the direction of travel.

(iv) Engineer - (d) Reports on recent news for newspaper, radio, or TV.

(v) Computer programmer - (e) Plans the design of a building, town, or city.

(vi) Athlete - (f) Controls and puts together a programme of music.

(vii) Disc jockey - (g) Works in sports or activities such as running, jumping etc.

(viii) Composer - (h) Designs and builds things like roads, bridges, or engines.

(ix) Counsellor - (i) Makes up notes to create music.

(x) Journalist - (j) Designs the system by which a computer runs or gives information.

Answer

(i) Navigator - (c) Finds and monitors the route to get to a place, or the direction of travel.

(ii) Architect - (e) Plans the design of a building, town, or city.

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The Wonderful Words

- Mary O'Neil

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Working with Poem

1. With your partner, complete the following sentences in your own words using the ideas in the poem.

(i) Do not let a thought shrivel and die because —————
—————

► for want of a way to say it

(ii) English is a ————— with words that everyone can play.

► wonderful game

(iii) One has to match —————

► to the brightest thoughts in your head

(iv) Words are the ————— of thought.

► food and dress

2. In groups of four discuss the following lines and their meanings.

(i) All that you do is match the words

To the brightest thoughts in your head

► The poet says that you only have to select words to express your thoughts present in your head

(ii) For many of the loveliest things

Have never yet been said

► The poet encourage readers to convert their thoughts into words and speak them as these are loveliest things that never yet been said.

(iii) And everyone's longing today to hear
Some fresh and beautiful thing

► All the people are listening to the same thoughts. Everyone is excited to hear some new thing so speak your thoughts brilliantly.

(iv) But only words can free a thought
From its prison behind your eyes

► You have thoughts in your mind but its in prison behind your eyes. You need to free thoughts by giving them words.

Ch 7 Fair Play

A. Match the sentences under I with those under II.

I

1. Jumman and Algu were the best of friends.
2. Jumman's aunt transferred her property to him.
3. The aunt decided to appeal to the panchayat.
4. Algu was unwilling to support the aunt.
5. Jumman was very happy to hear Algu's name as head Panch.

II

1. He believed that his friend would never go against him.
2. She wanted justice.
3. In the absence of one, the other took care of his family.
4. The condition was that he would be responsible for her welfare.
5. The bond of friendship between him and Jumman was very strong.

Answer

Part I	Part II
1. Jumman and Algu were the best of friends.	3. In the absence of one, the other took care of his family.
2. Jumman's aunt transferred her property to him.	4. The condition was that he would be responsible for her welfare.
3. The aunt decided to appeal to the panchayat.	2. She wanted justice.
4. Algu was unwilling to support the aunt.	5. The bond of friendship between him

	and Jumman was very strong.
5. Jumman was very happy to hear Algu's name as head Panch.	1. He believed that his friend would never go against him.

B. Who says this to whom and why?

1. "My wife knows best how to run the house."

► Jumman said this to his aunt because he was shameless and had grown tired of her. She had asked him for a monthly allowance to set up a separate kitchen, but he didn't want to give her money.

2. "But is it right, my son, to keep mum and not say what you consider just and fair?"

► Jumman's aunt said this to Algu because she had gone to Algu for help, but Algu had politely refused her plea as he could not go against his friend, Jumman.

3. "What have you to say in your defence?"

► Algu said this to Jumman because he was made the head Panch by the aunt so he asked Jumman to say in his defence regarding his mistreatment of the aunt.

4. "I can't pay you a penny for the wretched beast you sold me."

► Samjhu Sahu said this to Algu because Algu demanded payment for the bullock he had sold to Samjhu.

5. "Victory to the panchayat. This is justice."

► Algu said this over and over again in front of the village because he was happy that Jumman had not deviated from the

path of justice in spite of the enmity between them.

C. Answer the following questions.

1. “Then the situation changed.” What is being referred to? (2)

Answer

The situation being referred to is Jumman and his family's behaviour towards his aunt. Jumman's aunt had transferred her property to him on the understanding that he would look after her. The arrangement worked well for a couple of years but after a couple of years, Jumman and his family grew tired of her. He became as indifferent to her and his wife too grudged even the little food that the old lady wanted everyday.

2. When Jumman's aunt realised that she was not welcome in his house, what arrangement did she suggest? (3)

Answer

When Jumman's aunt realised that she was not welcome in his house she suggested that Jumman should give her a monthly allowance so that she could set up a separate kitchen.

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3. What was the villagers' reaction when the aunt explained her case to them? (4)

Answer

When the aunt explained her case to the villagers, some sympathised with her, others laughed at her and a few others advised her to make it up with her nephew and his wife.

4. Why was Jumman happy over Algu's nomination as head Panch? (6)

Answer

Jumman was happy over Algu's nomination as head Panch because Algu was his best friend so he would never go against him.

5. "God lives in the heart of the Panch." the aunt said. What did she mean? (6)

Answer

She meant that a Panch was always unbiased and would not kill his conscience for the sake of friendship. Everybody is equal before him. The justice delivered was the justice delivered by God.

6. What was Algu's verdict as head Panch? How did Jumman take it? (7, 8)

Answer

Algu's verdict as head Panch was that Jumman had to pay his

aunt a monthly allowance, or else the property would go back to her. Jumman felt betrayed and became Algu's enemy.

7. Algu found himself in a tight spot. What was his problem? (9)

Answer

One of Algu's fine pair of bullocks died, and he sold the other to Samjhu Sahu on the understanding that Sahu would pay the price of the bullock in a month's time. The bullock died within a month and Sahu refused to pay Algu.

8. Why was Algu upset over Jumman's nomination as head Panch? (12, 13)

Answer

Algu was upset because he was his friend no more after Algu had given a verdict in favour of Jumman's aunt. Jumman was Algu's enemy and wanted revenge.

9. What was Jumman's verdict as head Panch? How did Algu take it? (14, 15)

Answer

Jumman's verdict as head Panch was that since the bullock did not suffer from any disability or disease when Sahu bought it, although the death was unfortunate Algu could not be blamed for it. Therefore, Sahu would have to pay Algu the price of the bullock. Algu could not contain his feelings on the verdict. He

stood up and said loudly over and over again, "Victory to the panchayat. This is justice. God lives in the heart of the Panch."

10. Which of the following sums up the story best?

(i) "I also know that you will not kill your conscience for the sake of friendship."

(ii) "Let no one deviate from the path of justice and truth for friendship or enmity."

(iii) "The voice of the Panch is the voice of God."

Give a reason for your choice.

Answer

(ii) "Let no one deviate from the path of justice and truth for friendship or enmity."

This sentence sums up the story best because boht Algu and Jumman gave verdict without keeping any friendship nor enmity.

Ch 8 A Game of Chance

A. Complete the following sentences from memory choosing a phrase from those given in brackets.

1. _____ was held at the time of the Eid festival. (A big show, A big fair, A big competition)

► A big fair

2. Tradesmen came to the village with all kinds of goods _____ . (to display, to buy, to sell)

► to sell

3. Uncle told me _____ while he was away. (not to buy anything, not to go anywhere, not to talk to anyone)

► not to buy anything

4. The owner of the Lucky Shop wanted everybody present _____ . (to play the game, to win a prize, to try their luck)

► to try their luck

5. The first time I took a chance I got _____ . (a bottle of ink, two pencils, a trifle)

► two pencils

6. Uncle told me that the shopkeeper had made _____ . (a fool of me, a good profit, friends with many people)

► a fool of me

B. Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think Rasheed's uncle asked him not to buy anything in his absence? (3)

Answer

Rasheed's uncle asked him not to buy anything in his absence because he knew that the shopkeepers would cheat him.

2. Why was the shop called 'Lucky Shop'? (4)

Answer

The shop was called Lucky Shop because everybody can try their luck.

3. An old man won a clock and sold it back to the shopkeeper. How much money did he make? (5)

Answer

The old man made 15 rupees by selling the clock back to the shopkeeper.

4. How many prizes did the boy win? What were they? (6)

Answer

The boy won four prizes. They were a comb, a fountain pen, a wristwatch and a table lamp.

5. Why was Rasheed upset? (7, 8, 9)

Answer

Rasheed was upset because he had hopes of winning a big prize and he continued trying his luck again and again. But every time he got a trifle. People were looking at him and laughing at his bad luck, but no one showed any sympathy. He played till he finished all his money.

6. In what way did the shopkeeper make a fool of Rasheed? (11)

Answer

The shopkeeper played tricks to tempt to try his luck by making him believe that it was luck that got the old man and the boy their prizes but in reality they were friends of the shopkeeper. Therefore, Rasheed tried his luck again and again but only got some cheap things which he sold back to the shopkeeper and lost all his money.

Ch 9 Desert Animals

A. 1. Talk to your partner and say whether the following statements are true or false.

(i) No animal can survive without water.

► True

(ii) Deserts are endless sand dunes.

► False

(iii) Most snakes are harmless.

► True

(iv) Snakes cannot hear, but they can feel vibrations through the ground.

► True

(v) Camels store water in their humps.

► False

2. Answer the following questions.

(i) How do desert animals survive without water? (1)

Answer

Desert animals cannot survive without water. They find different ways of coping with the harsh desert conditions. For example, gerbils spend the hottest part of the day in cool underground burrows. And darkling beetles catch moisture on their legs and

then lift them into the air till the drops trickle down into their mouths.

(ii) How do mongooses kill snakes? (6)

Answer

Mongooses kill snakes without getting hurt themselves. Their reactions are so fast that they dodge each time the snake strikes. They continually make a nuisance of themselves, and after a while, when the snake gets tired, they quickly dive in for the kill.

(iii) How does the hump of the camels help them to survive when there is no water? (9)

Answer

The humps of the camels help the animal to survive in the desert, by acting as storage containers. The hump is full of fat that nourishes the camel when food is scarce. If they have nothing to eat for several days, their humps shrink as the fat is used up.

B. Read the words/phrases in the box. With your partner find their meaning in the dictionary.

Harsh conditions harmless survive intruder threatened predators prey continually

Fill in the blanks in the following passage with the above words/phrases.

All animals in forests and deserts struggle to _____ in _____. Though most of the animals are _____, some are dangerous when _____. If an _____ is noticed, they attack or bite to save themselves. They struggle _____ for food and water. Some animals are called _____ because they _____ on other animals.

Answer

All animals in forests and deserts struggle to survive in harsh conditions. Though most of the animals are harmless, some are dangerous when threatened. If an intruder is noticed, they attack or bite to save themselves. They struggle continually for food and water. Some animals are called predators because they prey on other animals.

Ch 10 The Banyan Tree

A. Complete the following sentences.

1. The old banyan tree “did not belong” to grandfather, but only to the boy, because _____.

► the grandfather at sixty-five could no longer climb it.

2. The small gray squirrel became friendly when _____.

► he found that the boy did not arm himself with catapult or air-gun.

3. When the boy started to bring him pieces of cake and biscuit, the squirrel _____.

► quite bold and was soon taking morsels from the author's hand.

4. In the spring, the banyan tree _____, and _____ would come there.

► was full of small red figs, birds of all kinds

5. The banyan tree served the boy as a _____.

► library.

6. The young boy spent his afternoons in the tree _____.

► when it was not too hot

B. Answer the following questions.

1. “It was to be a battle of champions.” (8)

(i) What qualities did the two champions have? Pick out words and phrases from the paragraph above this line in the text and write them down.

Mongoose	Cobra
(a) _____	(a) _____
(b) _____	(b) _____
(c) _____	(c) _____

(ii) What did the cobra and the mongoose do, to show their readiness for the fight?

Answer

Mongoose	Cobra
(a) superb fighter	(a) skilful
(b) clever	(b) experienced
(c) aggressive	(c) swift

(ii) To show its readiness for the fight, the cobra hissed defiance, his forked tongue darting in and out. It raised three of its six feet off the ground, and spread its broad and spectacled hood. The mongoose bushed his tail. The long hair on his spine stood up.

2. Who were the other two spectators? What did they do? (Did they watch, or did they join in the fight?) (10)

Answer

The other two spectators were a jungle crow and a myna. They settled on a cactus to watch the outcome. But they did not just watch. They tried to join the fight by hurling themselves at the cobra.

3. Read the descriptions below of what the snake did and what the mongoose did. Arrange their actions in the proper order. (11, 16)

(i) ceased to struggle	• grabbed the snake by the snout
(ii) tried to mesmerise the mongoose	• dragged the snake into the bushes
(iii) coiled itself around the mongoose	• darted away and bit the cobra on the back
(iv) struck the crow	• pretended to attack the cobra on side
(v) struck again and missed	• refused to look into the snake's eyes
(vi) struck on the side that the mongoose pretended to attack	• sprang aside, jumped in and bit

Answer

Snake	Mongoose
(ii) tried to mesmerise the mongoose	• refused to look into the snake's eyes
(vi) struck on the side that the mongoose pretended to attack	• pretended to attack the cobra on side

(v) struck again and missed	• sprang aside, jumped in and bit
(iv) struck the crow	• darted away and bit the cobra on the back
(iii) coiled itself around the mongoose	• grabbed the snake by the snout
(i) ceased to struggle	• dragged the snake into the bushes

4. (i) What happened to the crow in the end? (16)

(ii) What did the myna do finally? (17)

Answer

(i) In the end the crow flung nearly twenty feet across the garden by a blow from the cobra's snout. It fluttered about for a while, then lay still.

(ii) Myna finally dropped cautiously to the ground, hopped about, peered into the bushes from a safe distance and then with a shrill cry of congratulations flew away.

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Working with Language

A. 1. The word 'round' usually means a kind of shape. What is its meaning in the story?

Answer

The word 'round' in the story means the different phases of the fight between the cobra and the mongoose.

2. Find five words in the following paragraph, which are generally associated with trees. But here, they have been used differently. Underline the words.

Hari leaves for work at nine every morning. He works in the local branch of the firm of which his uncle is the owner. Hari's success is really the fruit of his own labour. He is happy, but he has a small problem. The root cause of his problem is a stray dog near his office. The dog welcomes Hari with a loud bark every day.

Answer

Leaves, branch, fruit, root and bark.

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B. The words in the box are all words that describe movement. Use them to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

dived gliding sprang darting whipped... back delving

1. When he began to trust me, the squirrel began _____ into my pockets for morsels of cake.

► delving

2. I saw a cobra _____ out of a clump of cactus.

► gliding

3. The snake hissed, his forked tongue _____ in and out.

► darting

4. When the cobra tried to bite it, the mongoose _____
— aside.

► sprang

5. The snake _____ his head _____ to strike
at the crow.

► whipped, back

6. The birds _____ at the snake.

► dived

**C. Find words in the story, which show things striking
violently against each other.**

1. The cobra struck the crow, his snout th _____ ing against
its body. (15)

► thudding

2. The crow and the myna c _____ ll _____ in mid-air. (13)

► collided

3. The birds dived at the snake, but b _____ d into each
other instead. (14)

► bumped

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C. Choose would and could to replace the italicised words in the following sentences.

Grandfather says, in the old days,

1. elephants *were able to* fly in the sky, like clouds. They *were* also *able to* change their shapes. They *used to* fly behind clouds and frighten them. People *used to* look up at the sky in wonder.

► elephants could fly in the sky like clouds. They could change their shapes. They would fly behind clouds and frighten them. People would look up at the sky and wonder.

2. because there was no electricity, he *used to* get up with the sun, and he *used to* go to bed with the sun, like the birds.

► because there was no electricity, he would get up with the sun, and he would go to bed with the sun, like the birds.

3. like the owl, he *was able to* see quite well in the dark. He *was able to* tell who was coming by listening to their footsteps.

► like the owl, he could see quite well in the dark. He could tell who was coming by listening to their footsteps.