

Name _____

Adverbs

Adverbs tell more about verbs. They explain *how*, *when*, or *where* actions happen. Many adverbs that tell *how* end in *-ly*. Adverbs can appear before or after the verbs they describe.

How Cowboys rode expertly. They worked hard.

When They seldom slept past daybreak. They always took care of their horses.

Where A cowtown existed here. Cowboys visited there for entertainment.

Some adverbs tell more about an adjective or another adverb:

A ghost town seems rather spooky to me. I very rarely go to such places.

Comparative adverbs compare two actions. Add *-er* to form a comparative adverb. **Superlative adverbs** compare three or more actions. Add *-est* to form a superlative adverb. If an adverb ends in *-ly*, use *more* or *most* instead of *-er* or *-est*.

Comparative Adverb The stagecoach rolled more slowly going up the mountain than going down.

Superlative Adverb When they were fresh, the horses pulled most quickly of all.

- The adverbs *well* and *badly* use special forms to show comparison.

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
well	better	best
badly	worse	worst

Directions Underline the adverb or adverbs in each sentence. Circle the word that each adverb tells more about.

1. Pioneer women bravely risked their lives.
2. They worked tirelessly to feed and clothe their families.
3. They seldom shopped at a store.
4. They were often lonely in their isolated homes.
5. They toiled outdoors in gardens and indoors at wood stoves.

Directions Underline the correct adverb in () to complete each sentence.

6. We can point (proudly, more proudly) at the staying power of pioneers.
7. They lived with hardship (better, more better) than I would have.
8. If crops failed, they faced a (terrible, terribly) hard winter.
9. Towns needed railroads (more desperately, most desperately) than they needed settlers.
10. Railroads connected settlers (direct, directly) to supplies and goods.



Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 5.

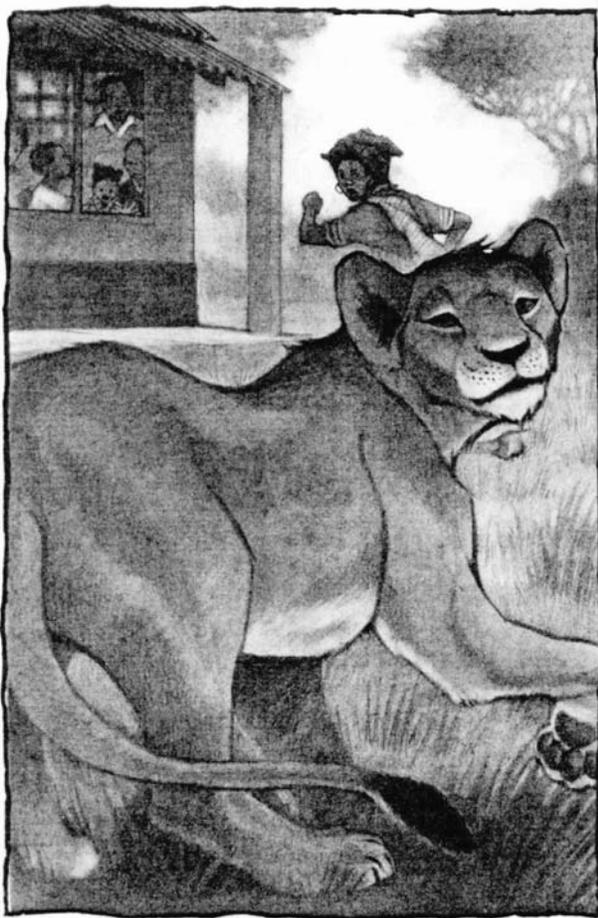
Lion at School

by Alexander McCall Smith

Akimbo is a boy who lives in a part of Africa where wild animals still roam free. One day a lion cub is accidentally caught in his father's trap. Akimbo names it Simba. Akimbo is allowed to care for Simba until the lion is older. They soon become friends.

A few months after Simba's arrival, Akimbo had gone to school one day later than usual, and he had been scolded by the teacher, who believed in strict punctuality. The day got off to a bad start.

It was shortly after the children had had their break that it happened. Akimbo was



sitting on his bench when he heard shouting outside.

“A lion!” somebody yelled. “There’s a lion coming!”

The whole class rose to its feet and looked out of the window. There, coming along the path toward the school, trotting along with his head held high in the air, was Simba. For a moment or two, Akimbo did not recognize him—this lion looked much bigger than Simba—but when he saw the patch of dark fur under his chin, he knew immediately who it was.

The teacher did not know what to do. He raised his hand and then he dropped it. Meanwhile, Simba had reached the edge of the clearing in which the school stood and was looking about him, sniffing at the air inquisitively.

inquisitively = curiously

Everything might have been all right had the teachers' cook not come around the corner of the school building at the wrong time. She had not seen Simba, and she walked unsuspectingly into the middle of the school yard.

unsuspectingly = without concern or without suspicion

Then she stopped. For a moment, the two of them stood absolutely still. The woman

Go On

seemed to have frozen to the spot, and as for Simba, he wondered why she had stopped walking. Did she want to play? Did she want him to chase her?

As if suddenly pricked by a great pin, the woman screamed at the top of her voice and gave a leap backward. For Simba, this was a signal. So she did want to play after all! Bounding forward, he chased her, soon caught up with her, and leapt playfully onto her back.

Inside the classroom, the teacher shouted and began to dash for the door.

“No!” called out Akimbo. “Let me go.”

The teacher tried to stop him, but Akimbo pushed past and was soon out in the yard. Simba was now standing on top of the woman, who was lying on the ground, moaning and sobbing with fright.

“Simba!” called Akimbo. “Here! Here!”

When Simba saw and heard his master, he was overjoyed. Leaving the poor woman

where she was, he bounded across to Akimbo and began to lick joyfully at his knees and ankles. Akimbo bent down and ruffled the fur around the lion’s neck.

“You’re not to come here,” he whispered. “You’ll get us both into trouble.”

Akimbo was right. There was trouble, and an awful lot of it. The poor woman was unhurt but she was, of course, very angry, as was the teacher. Still keeping a good distance away from Simba, the teacher ordered Akimbo to take the lion back home and to wait there. He would come over later that day to speak to Akimbo’s father.

Akimbo walked back, sunk in unhappiness. Simba seemed perfectly cheerful, but then he didn’t know what trouble he had caused.

“I hope they don’t try to take you away from me,” Akimbo said as they made their way home. “I couldn’t bear to lose you, Simba, I really couldn’t!”

1 When Akimbo’s teacher first sees Simba outside, he **most likely** thinks Simba is

- A** dangerous
- B** friendly
- C** injured
- D** lost

2 Simba chases the cook because

- A** she moves too close
- B** she smells like food
- C** Simba is frightened by her
- D** Simba thinks she wants to play

3 Why does Simba leave the cook?

- A** The cook starts to cry.
- B** Akimbo calls Simba's name.
- C** The teacher yells at Simba.
- D** Akimbo wants to go home.

4 Akimbo would **most likely** describe Simba as

- A** angry
- B** fearful
- C** playful
- D** shy

5 Read this sentence from the story.

A few months after Simba's arrival, Akimbo had gone to school one day later than usual, and he had been scolded by the teacher, who believed in strict punctuality.

In this context, someone who believes in "punctuality" believes in

- A** being on time
- B** being forgiving
- C** protecting animals
- D** rewarding students

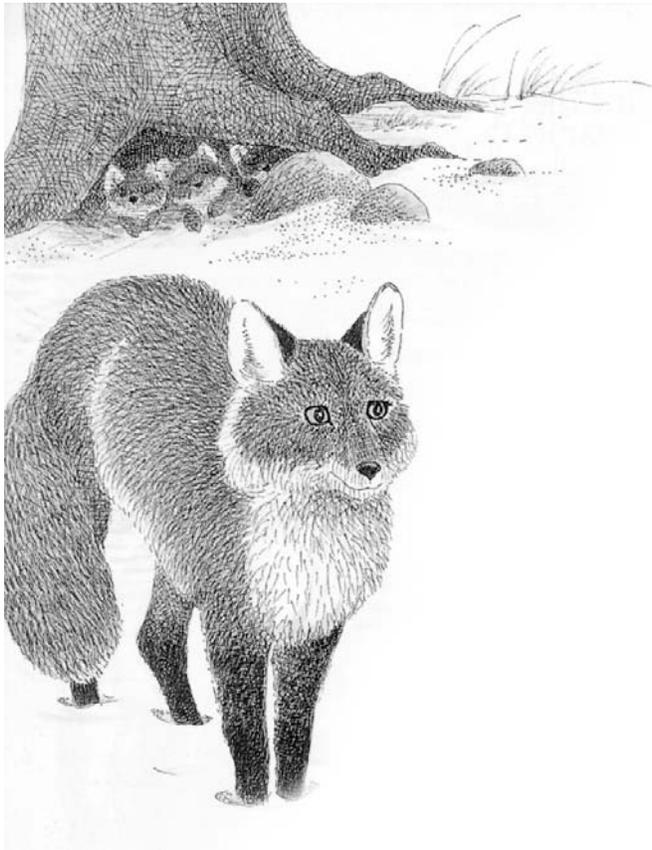
Go On

Directions

Read this story about a red fox. Then answer questions 16 through 21.

The Red Fox

by Donna Stringfellow



It was cold in the forest. A bitter March wind rattled bare trees like skeletons and whipped up the dark clouds in an iron gray sky. The approaching snowstorm probably would not be the last one of the winter.

The red fox couldn't have chosen a worse time to bring a litter of kits into the world. Nestled in a small hollow beneath a hickory tree, curled against their mother's plush fur, the three young kits were warm and comfortable. But when the freezing storms came, the shallow nest would surely let in the snow. And it would be too easy for predators to find the babies when their mother left them to search for

kits =
babies

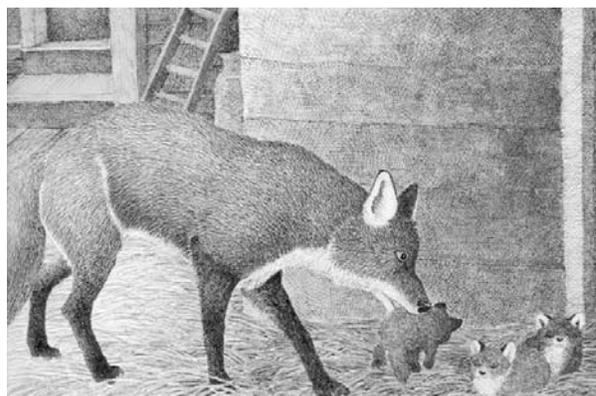
food. The fox knew she would have to seek a new home, and soon.

She nuzzled her kits, whose eyes were not yet open. She licked them, and they mewed about her like kittens. Then she left them. Outside her den, cold air stung her nose as she sniffed about for danger. Then she padded off into the gray, wintry forest.

She ducked beneath a wooden fence and followed a path across a familiar field, where during the summer she'd chased rabbits. She was near a farm, a place she'd always avoided because of the fearful smell of humans. But now, the warmth and protection of the barn drew her close.

Squeezing through the gap where a board was missing, she sneaked into the barn. The straw was deep and soft, a perfect bed for fox kits.

The red fox hurried back to her babies. One by one she carried them under the fence, across the field, and through the hole in the barn wall. And when all three kits were snuggled down in the blanket of straw, she licked them and felt safe. Even when the





farmer came to milk his cows, the silent fox knew her family would be unnoticed, hidden in the farthest and darkest corner of the barn.

One snowy evening, the farmer turned off his lantern and hung it on the wall as he left the barn, just as he did every night. But as he closed the door, the lantern slipped from its hook and shattered on the floor. A tiny spark danced across the pool of kerosene and nibbled at the scattered straw.

kerosene = a thin oil used for fuel

The fox watched with wide, yellow eyes as the straw curled and caught flame. Wisps of

smoke reached her nostrils, and she became fearful. Slipping through the hole in the wall, she ran outside and howled. Her voice carried across the barnyard, and the farmer turned around. He was surprised and angry to see a fox. He was even more angry to see it run into his barn.

Setting down his milk pail, the farmer headed back to his barn, determined to chase away the unwelcome visitor. But when he threw open the barn door, fire danced about his feet. Grabbing a shovel, he beat the flames until they were out. Once again, the barn was safe and dark.

Taking up a flashlight, the farmer shone its beam about the barn. It finally came to rest on the fox, her family nestled close, her eyes shining gold. The farmer smiled. He flicked off the light and walked away, quietly closing the barn door behind him.

Winter's harshness gave way to spring's gentle warmth. One day the farmer glanced into the darkest corner of the barn and found it empty. But for a time it had been a place to feel safe. It had been home to a red fox family.



16 What is the setting at the **beginning** of the story?

- A** a forest in winter
- B** a field near a farm
- C** a straw nest in a barn
- D** a farm on a snowy evening

17 In the story, why is the barn a better home for the fox family in the winter?

- A** It is easier to find food there.
- B** It keeps them close together.
- C** It protects them from the snow.
- D** It gives them more room to play.

18 How does the farmer in the story change from the time he first sees the fox to the end of the story?

- A** from confused to upset
- B** from friendly to unkind
- C** from concerned to selfish
- D** from angry to understanding

19 Why does the farmer smile when he sees the fox with her kits in the barn?

- A** He thinks the kits look silly.
- B** He realizes the kits will be good pets.
- C** He understands that the fox saved his barn.
- D** He knows he'll be able to chase them away easily.

20 "The Red Fox" is an example of

- A** a fable
- B** a folktale
- C** realistic fiction
- D** historical fiction