

## **Ostrich's New Body**

A long time ago, Ostrich was a small bird. He was very proud, though. He looked at the animals around him. He saw hippos and giraffes. He saw huge elephants. Ostrich laughed. He thought he was much better than the other animals. "I can fly more quickly than a hawk," he would say. "I can move more quietly than a mouse."

Then one day, Ostrich went to the watering hole to drink. When he lowered his neck, he saw how small and weak he was. "Is that what I look like?" Ostrich asked himself. "I do not look powerful at all."

So Ostrich went to the great god of animals. He said, "Please help me. The hippos are large. The giraffes are large. The elephants are large. Why is it that I am so small?"

The great god of animals took pity on Ostrich. He saw how sad the bird was, so he granted Ostrich his wish. He made Ostrich's small and weak body disappear. In its place was a large and strong body. He now had big wings and long, heavy legs. Ostrich thanked the god for his helpful act. Now he knew he was the best animal in all of Africa.

Suddenly, Lion leaped from behind the tall grass. Ostrich tried to fly away, but he could not. His body was too heavy. He ran as fast as he could.

Ostrich called loudly to Hippo as he passed. "Look at my strong body! Are you not afraid of me?"

Hippo called back. "I can see how big you are. So can Lion."

Ostrich looked back to see that Lion was still chasing him. He ran as fast as he could. Then he saw Zebra under a tree.

"Do you see how powerful I look?" asked Ostrich.

"I see that you cannot fly away from Lion," replied Zebra. "You are now too big and heavy. All you can do is run."

But Ostrich did not hear him, for Lion was still chasing him. Ostrich was already running away as fast as his big legs could carry him. To this day he looks very big, but he must always run away.

1 What is the FIRST problem in the story?

- Ⓐ Ostrich cannot run very fast.
- Ⓑ Ostrich looks like a quiet mouse.
- Ⓒ Ostrich does not want to be small.
- Ⓓ Ostrich does not fly as fast as a hawk.

2 Read this sentence from the story.

**“Do you see how powerful I look?”  
asked Ostrich.**

A *powerful* thing

- Ⓐ loses power.
- Ⓑ gains power.
- Ⓒ has no power.
- Ⓓ has a lot of power.

3 Read this sentence from the story.

**Ostrich called loudly to Hippo as he  
passed.**

The word *loudly* means

- Ⓐ not loud.
- Ⓑ too loud.
- Ⓒ in a loud way.
- Ⓓ able to be loud.

- 4 How does Ostrich try to solve his problem?
- Ⓕ He chases after Lion.
  - Ⓖ He flies as fast as he can.
  - Ⓗ He calls to Hippo and Zebra.
  - Ⓘ He goes to the god of the animals.
- 5 What new problem do the other animals point out to Ostrich?
- Ⓐ He cannot run fast.
  - Ⓑ He can no longer fly.
  - Ⓒ He is bigger than Lion.
  - Ⓓ He is not weak anymore.
- 6 Read this sentence from the story.

**He made Ostrich's small and weak body disappear.**

The prefix *dis-* at the start of a word means "not."  
When Ostrich's body *disappears* it

- Ⓕ is seen again.
  - Ⓖ is able to be seen.
  - Ⓖ wants to be seen.
  - Ⓘ is no longer seen.
- 7 What problem does Ostrich's body cause at the END of the story?
- Ⓐ His big legs make it hard to run.
  - Ⓑ His large size makes him look weak.
  - Ⓒ His large size makes him easy to see.
  - Ⓓ His big wings make the animals laugh.

- 8 Read this sentence from the story.

**Ostrich thanked the god for his helpful act.**

What does the word *helpful* mean?

- Ⓕ full of help
- Ⓖ needing help
- Ⓗ not able to help
- Ⓘ never help

- 9 Read this sentence from the story.

**“I can fly more quickly than a hawk,” he would say.**

If *quick* means “fast,” what does *quickly* mean?

- Ⓐ not fast
- Ⓑ most fast
- Ⓒ in a fast way
- Ⓓ used to be fast

- 10 Why does Ostrich continue running in the story?

- Ⓕ He wants to show that he is strong.
- Ⓖ He cannot stop his legs from moving.
- Ⓗ He cannot get away from Lion any other way.
- Ⓘ He wants to try to catch up to Hippo and Zebra.