

13

Escape from the farm



Level: 3



Let's think!

1. What is your biggest problem?
2. How do you escape from your problem?

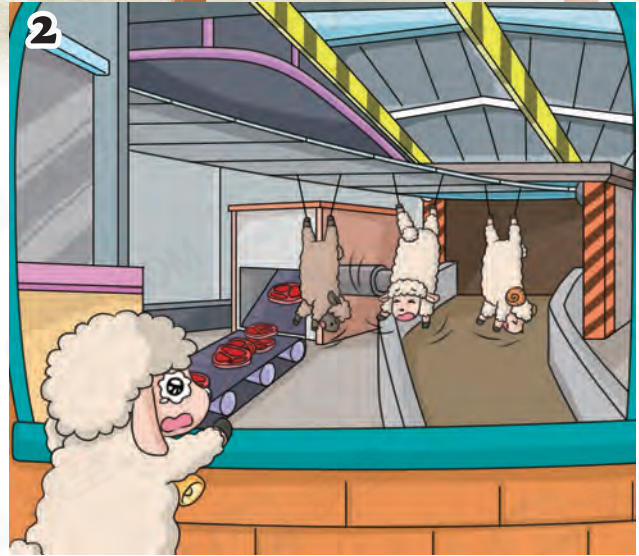
PLAYLIST



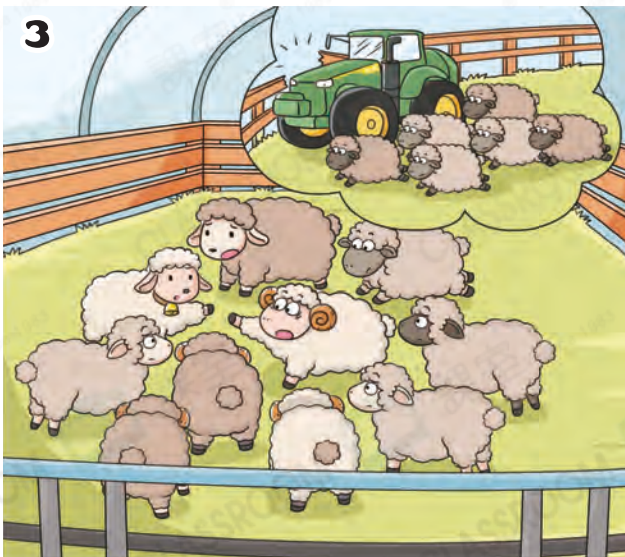
READ ALONG



One night, the sheep tried to escape from the farm by jumping over the fences. But it became another miserable failed attempt.



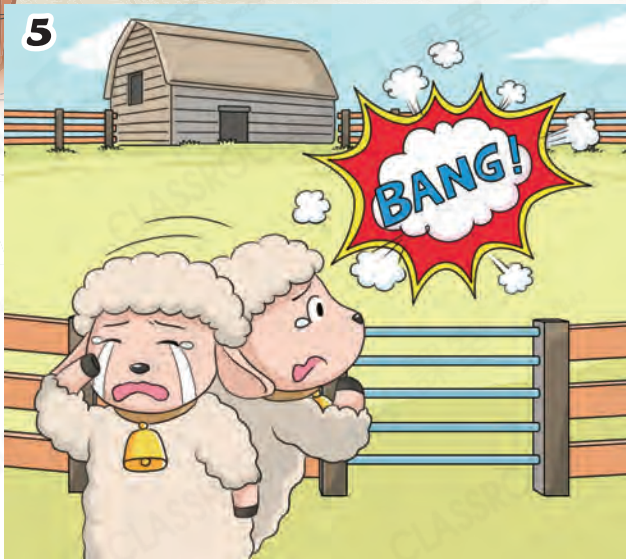
At Creedy's Farm, older sheep would wind up as dinner when their wool became thin and brittle.



The sheep huddled together in the pen to come up with a new escape plan.



Inside the farmhouse, Mr Creedy reckoned that the sheep were up to no good, so the couple cooked up a scheme.



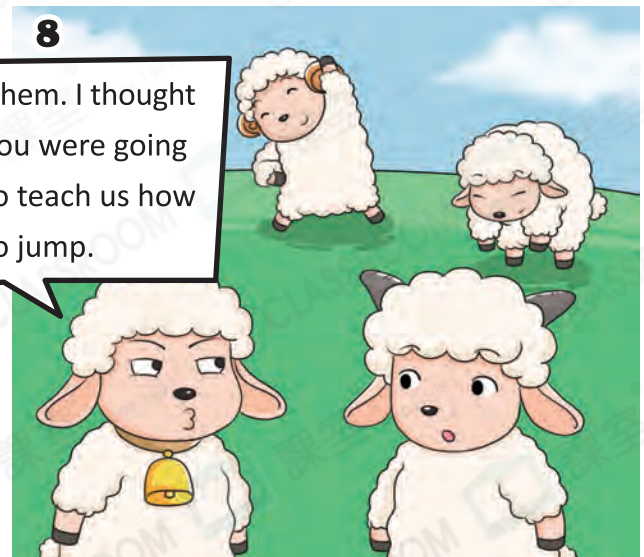
Shirley started to lose hope and broke down in tears. Suddenly, she heard a very loud noise.



A lorry dropped a wooden crate on the road when it abruptly turned around the corner. The crate shattered, and Billy the Ram was found sitting on the broken pieces of wood. He looked dazed.



The sheep took Billy in. He slowly came round from his fall. Shirley pointed to a half-ripped circus poster. She told Billy to teach them how to jump.



The next morning, Billy instructed the sheep to stretch and bend over. He mentioned nothing about how to actually jump. Shirley was getting impatient.

9

That's apples and oranges. I'm gifted. They're not. You can't compare the two, okay? These things take time.



On seeing the large parcel on the lorry, Shirley feared the worst. She asked Billy frustratingly how long it took him to learn how to jump.

10



While Mr Creedy was assembling the pie maker in the barn, Mrs Creedy went to fetch Shirley from the pen to test it.

11



Billy noticed that Shirley was missing. He found her at the barn and jammed a cog in the machine with a spanner. It then broke down.

12

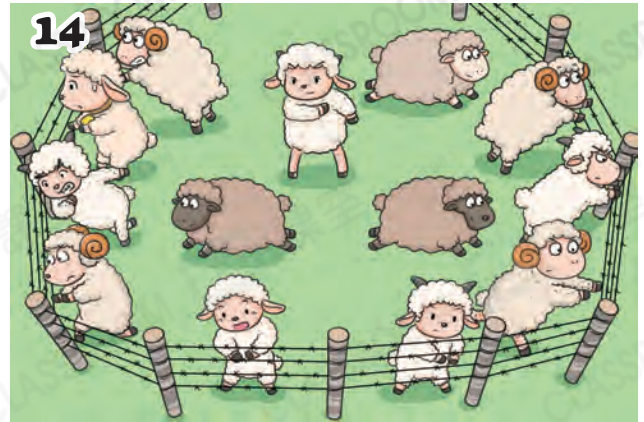
There is only one way out of this place: in pies!



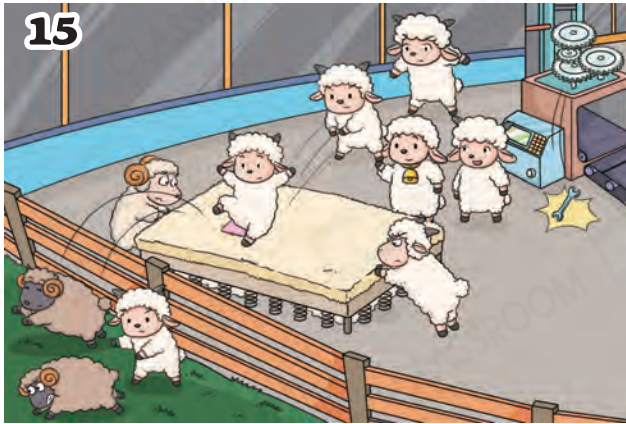
At dusk, Shirley discovered that Billy had vanished. However, he had left the other half of the ripped poster. It revealed that Billy jumped with a trampoline.



That night, the sheep collected wool to make a large mattress. Shirley told them that it might work like a 'trampoline' if they could fit enough springs inside the mattress.



The sheep contributed huge amounts of wool. They also twisted wire fences from the pen to make springs for the mattress.



The pie maker was back in operation. It's either now or never. One by one, the sheep ran towards the spring-loaded mattress, jumped, and there they were on the other side of the fence.



The Credys tried to stop the sheep, but the sheep cooperated and knocked them out. All the sheep got away and were free at last.

~440 words

Looking into Grammar

- **Reported statements:** e.g. *'I work in a bank,' Ben said.* → Ben said (that) he worked in a bank.
- **Reported orders:** e.g. *'Help me!'* Ben said to me. → Ben told me to help him.
- **Reported questions:** e.g. *'Where are you?'* Ben asked Meg. → Ben asked Meg where she was.
- ✓ Mr Creedy reckoned that the sheep were (× are) up to no good.
- ✓ She told Billy to teach (× taught) them how to jump.
- ✓ She asked Billy frustratingly how long it took (× takes) him to learn how to jump.

? Underline a sentence in reported speech in panels 13–16 of the graphic novel.

Read the text and answer questions 1–14. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (18 marks)

1. According to panel 1, why did the sheep fail to escape?

- A. because they felt miserable
- B. because they were beaten by the farmers
- C. because they failed to break through the fences
- D. because they could not jump over the fences

A B C D

2. Based on the information in panel 2, fill in each blank with ONE word to complete the following sentence. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

The sheep wanted to escape because the Creedys would (i) _____ them when they no longer produced high-quality (ii) _____.

3. What does 'pen' in panel 3 mean?
- A. a tool used for writing or drawing
 - B. a large open area where many people work
 - C. a place to keep farm animals
 - D. a deep puddle filled with water

A B C D

4. What did the sheep do after they failed to escape?

5. Find a phrase in panels 1–4 which means 'behaved in a bad way'.

6. According to panels 1–4, which of the following is NOT true?

- A. The sheep had tried to run away before.
- B. Mr and Mrs Creedy love their sheep.
- C. Some sheep were killed for their meat.
- D. The farmers were planning to make money.

A B C D

7. Read panels 5–8. Why did Shirley ask Billy to teach the sheep how to jump?

8. What was inside the 'parcel' in panel 9?

9. How did Billy disable the pie maker?



10. How did Shirley feel when she said the line in panel 12?

- A. amazed
- B. hopeless
- C. excited
- D. amused

A B C D

11. Why did Billy leave the farm?

- A. He could not teach the sheep how to jump.
- B. He did not want to be caught by the farmers.
- C. He was so seriously injured that he could not jump anymore.
- D. He missed his life in the circus.

A B C D

12. Find an idiom in panels 9–12 which means ‘two things are completely different and it is not good to liken one to the other’.

13. Match each of the following speech bubbles with one of the characters in the graphic novel. Write the appropriate name under each speech bubble.

Which one should we get to try the machine out?

(i) _____

Be quick! This can only buy us a little more time!

(ii) _____

Look at this leaflet. I think the machine is a great idea.

(iii) _____

He's gone! I knew he was a fake all along.

(iv) _____

14. Number the following events from the graphic novel in chronological order with ‘1’ as the earliest. Write 1–5 in the boxes provided.

Billy gave Shirley the hope of escaping death.

The sheep built an escape tool.

The pie maker was delivered to the farm.

The pie maker was broken.

The sheep ran over the Creedys.

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



A. Complete the story below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Adjective: brittle dazed gifted impatient miserable

Adverb: abruptly

Verb: cooperate huddle reckon vanish

Bone Shakers

Leo the lion plays the drum in his band, Bone Shakers. He is a / an (1) _____ musician. He loves to (2) _____ with the other musicians in his band to create new songs. Together, they are striving to win The Battle of Animal Bands contest.



Sadie the squirrel may often look (3) _____, but she is always cheerful and energetic once she gets on stage. She bangs nuts on a tree trunk to make drumming sounds. She chooses the hardest nuts instead of the (4) _____ ones, because they might crack during a song.

George the grasshopper is the lead singer and guitarist in the band. He can change his beautiful voice (5) _____ in the middle of a song. These unexpected changes often amaze his audience.

Before the contest, the judges (6) _____ that Bone Shakers have a good chance of winning. All the animals in the forest (7) _____ eagerly in front of the stage and growing more (8) _____ by the minute.



Finally, Leo, Sadie and George begin to perform their song. However, just as they are getting to the best part, George falls and (9) _____ from the stage. He has hit his head on the ground. He looks (10) _____. Luckily, he feels well enough to continue. At the end of the contest, the judges announce that Bone Shakers has won first prize!



- B. Complete the pamphlet below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Words related to animal conservation

endangered

extinct

habitat

hunt

illegal

poacher

species

threaten

THEME



Save the animals

✧ The alarming reality

Our planet is home to a diverse range of animal (1) _____, but many are currently (2) _____ and threatened with extinction.

✧ Threats to animals



(3) _____ pose a major threat to animals like rhinos and tigers. They (4) _____ these animals for their body parts and then sell them on the black market. This practice is not only cruel but also (5) _____.

Moreover, human activities such as farming continue to (6) _____ the ecosystem. The destruction of natural (7) _____ makes it difficult for animals to find food and shelter. If this is not stopped, they face an uncertain future.

✧ Take action now

If we continue down this path, we will see more species become (8) _____. We need to take immediate action to support wildlife conservation!



Writing

What should we do to protect the environment?

Write an article of about 150 words to explain the steps we should take.