Name:_____

The Heron and the Pond

Early one morning, a heron stood in the shallow water of a pond. Minnows darted past his legs. "Too small," he sniffed. A plump perch swam by. "Still not big enough." The heron waited, certain that a giant fish would soon come along.



Morning turned to noon. His stomach growled. The minnows had scattered, and the perch had slipped into deep water. At last the heron snapped up one tiny snail near the bank. "I should have eaten sooner," he groaned, "when there was plenty to eat."

1. This question has two parts.

Part A: What is the central message of this passage?

A. Slow and steady wins the race.

B. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

C. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

D. Look before you leap.

Part B: Which detail from the passage best supports your answer in Part A?

A. Minnows darted past his legs.

B. The heron waited all morning without moving.

C. The heron turned down the minnows and the perch, then ended up with only a tiny snail.

D. The heron stood in shallow water early in the morning.

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S SOMEBODY (Character)
I IN (Setting)
W WANTED (Motivation)
B BUT (Problem)
S SO (Resolution)
T THEN (End)

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