

According to the text, “Why the Bear has a Short Tail,” how is the myth explained?

In this lesson you will learn how to  
answer questions about a story by  
rereading and identifying key details.

# Let's Review

## WHY THE BEAR HAS A SHORT TAIL

From *The Book of Nature Myths*

By Florence Holbrook

One cold winter morning when the fox was coming up the road with some fish, he met the bear.

"Good-morning, Mr. Fox," said the bear.

"Good-morning, Mr. Bear," said the fox. "The morning is better and brighter because I have met you."

"Those are very good fish, Mr. Fox," said the bear. "I have not eaten such fish for many, many days. Where do you find them?"

"I have been fishing, Mr. Bear," answered the fox with a grin.

"If I could catch fish like those, I would love to go fishing, I would do it all the time, but I do not know how to fish," said the bear sadly.

"Why, Mr. Bear, It would be so very easy for you to learn," said the fox. "You are so big and strong and smart that you can do anything."

"Will you teach me, Mr. Fox?" asked the bear brightly.

- Why things exist in nature
- Why bears have short tails

## Let's Review

### WHY THE BEAR HAS A SHORT TAIL

From *The Book of Nature Myths*

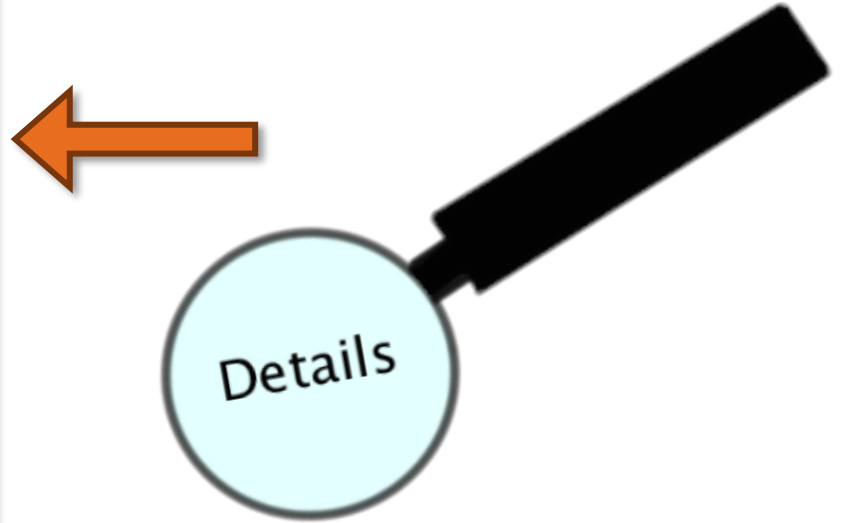
By Florence Holbrook

One cold winter morning when the fox was coming up the road with some fish, he met the bear.

"Good-morning, Mr. Fox," said the bear.

"Good-morning, Mr. Bear," said the fox. "The morning is better and brighter because I have met you."

- Details: words in a text that explain ideas and answer questions.



## Core Lesson

- 1 Reread the text looking for details that answer the question.
- 2 Ask, “What details in the text can help me answer the question?”
- 3 Restate the question and answer out loud, in your own words, using the details from the text.

## Core Lesson

According to the text, “Why the Bear has a Short Tail,” how is the myth explained?

So the fox and the bear went to the frozen pond. First, the fox showed the bear how to make a hole in the ice.

"That was easy for you," said the fox, "but many an animal could not have made a hole as large and round as you, Mr. Bear. Now comes the real secret. You must put your tail down into the water and keep it there. That is not easy, and not every animal could do it, for the water is very, very cold. But you are a smart animal, Mr. Bear, and so I know you will be able to do it. Now you know that the secret of catching fish is to keep your tail in the water for long time. Then when you pull it up, you will pull with it as many fish as I have."

The bear put his tail down into the icy blue water, and the fox went away chuckling.

**Chuckling** means  
to laugh quietly.

1. Reread the text looking for details that answer the question

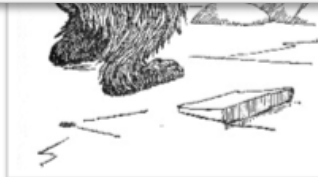
## Core Lesson

1. Reread the text looking for details that answer the question.

All day the bear waited. The sun rose high in the sky, and still the bear sat with his tail through the ice. Sunset came, but still the bear sat with his tail through the ice....

It began to get dark. At last, when he was sure that he had waited long enough, the bear said, "Now I will pull the

He pulled and pulled, but not a fish came out. Worse than that, not all of his tail came out! The end of the bear's tail was frozen solid to the ice beneath the water.



the bear's long tail was frozen solid to the ice beneath the water. The bear howled in pain so loudly that animals across the forest

## Core Lesson

### 2. Ask, "What details answer the question?"

"You must put your tail in the ice and keep it there."

The secret of catching fish is to keep your tail in the water for a long time. Then when you pull it up, you will pull with it as many fish as I have.

...the bear sat with his tail through the hole in the ice. Sunset came, but still the bear sat with his tail through the ice.

He pulled and pulled, but not a fish came out. Worse than that, not all of his tail came out! The end of the bear's long tail was frozen solid to the ice beneath the water.



## Core Lesson

### 3. Restate the question and answer, using the details.

Did I use details from the text?

According to the text, “Why the Bear has a Short Tail,” how is the myth explained?

The myth, “Why the bear has a Short Tail,” is explained because a fox tricked a bear to put his tail in the ice for a long time. Then, when he tried to pull his tail out, the end of it was frozen solid and stuck to the ice. This is why bears have short tails.

## Core Lesson

- 1 Reread the text looking for details that answer the question.
- 2 Ask, “What details in the text can help me answer the question?”
- 3 Restate the question and answer out loud, in your own words, using the details from the text.

In this lesson you have learned how to answer questions about a story by rereading and identifying key details.