

The Crocodile

by Oliver Herford

A Crocodile once dropped a line
To a Fox to invite him to dine;
But the Fox wrote to say
He was *dining, that day,*
With a Bird friend, and begged to decline.

She sent off at once to a Goat.
“Pray don’t disappoint me,” she wrote;
But he answered too late,
He’d forgotten the date,
Having thoughtlessly eaten her note.

The Crocodile thought him ill-bred,
And invited two Rabbits instead;
But the Rabbits replied,
They were hopelessly tied
By a previous engagement, and fled.

Then she wrote in despair to some Eels,
And begged them to “drop in” to meals;
But the Eels left their cards
With their coldest regards,
And took to what went for their heels.

Cried the Crocodile then, in disgust,
“My motives they seem to mistrust.
Their suspicions are base!
Since they don’t know their place,--
I suppose if I *must* starve, I *must*.”

Name _____



Date _____

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Key 1 - Answer ID # 0245585

Multiple Choice

<p>1. Why does no one want to dine with the crocodile?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A They are rude.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B They don't want to be eaten.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C They don't like her cooking.</p>	<p>2. Why was the goat not able to come to dinner?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A He didn't like the crocodile.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B He ate the invitation.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C He was dining with a bird.</p>
<p>3. What does the crocodile mean by "Their suspicions are base"?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Her friends should not suspect her of mean things.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B It is mean of them to think she would harm them.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C both a and b</p>	<p>4. What did the crocodile think of the goat?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A He wasn't hungry.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B He had bad manners.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C He was probably sick.</p>

Short Answer Questions

<p>5. Why was the crocodile inviting people to dine with her?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>6. Why does the author say "and took to what went for their heels" about the eels?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Poetic Techniques Short Answer Questions

<p>7. What is the rhyme scheme of this poem?</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>8. Underline the rhyming words and then label the rhyme pattern using letters.</p>

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