Name: _____ Date: _____

# Biscuit the Parrot at the Spelling Bee

Circle group

Maya had a parrot named Biscuit. Biscuit copied each word he heard. On Pet Day, Maya took him to the class spelling bee.

When it was her turn, the teacher said, "Spell banana." Maya froze. Her mind went blank.

Then Biscuit, on her shoulder, squawked, "B-A-N-A-N-A!" He sounded just like Maya.

"He heard me practice," said Maya. The class giggled.

"Biscuit can wait for his turn," said the teacher with a smile.

Maya laughed, and she felt less nervous. She spelled the word herself. "B-A-N-A-N-A."

"Right!" said the teacher. Biscuit flapped his wings and squawked, "Hooray!" Maya gave him a slice of banana.

## Questions

**1. What did Biscuit do with each word he heard?**

_____

_____

**2. What happened when Maya had to spell banana?**

_____

_____

**3. Where did Biscuit sit?**

_____

_____

**4. How did Biscuit know the letters?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the teacher say Biscuit could wait?**

_____

_____

**6. How did Maya feel after the class laughed?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

parrot: a bright bird that can copy the sounds of words
squawked: made a loud, harsh bird sound
practice: to do something again and again to get better
nervous: a little scared or worried
froze: stopped moving, as if stuck in place

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Biscuit the Parrot at the Spelling Bee

Triangle group

Maya had a parrot named Biscuit. Biscuit copied every word he heard. On Pet Day, Maya brought him to the class spelling bee.

When her turn came, the teacher said, "Spell banana." Maya froze. Her mind went as blank as a clean page.

Then Biscuit, who sat on her shoulder, squawked, "B-A-N-A-N-A!" He sounded just like Maya.

"He heard me practice all week," Maya explained. The whole class giggled.

"I think Biscuit should wait for his own turn," said the teacher with a smile.

Maya laughed, and her nervous feeling melted away. She spelled the word herself, one letter at a time. "B-A-N-A-N-A."

"Correct!" said the teacher. Biscuit flapped his wings and squawked, "Hooray!" Maya gave him a slice of real banana as a treat.

## Questions

**1. What did Biscuit do with every word he heard?**

_____

_____

**2. What happened when the teacher asked Maya to spell banana?**

_____

_____

**3. Where did Biscuit sit?**

_____

_____

**4. How did Biscuit know the letters?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the teacher say Biscuit should wait for his own turn?**

_____

_____

**6. How did Maya feel after the class laughed with her?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

parrot: a bright bird that can copy the sounds of words
squawked: made a loud, harsh bird sound
practice: to do something again and again to get better
nervous: a little scared or worried
froze: stopped moving, as if stuck in place

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Biscuit the Parrot at the Spelling Bee

Square group

Maya owned a clever parrot named Biscuit, who copied every word he heard. On Pet Day, Maya brought him along to the class spelling bee.

When her turn arrived, the teacher announced, "Spell banana." Maya froze. Her mind went as blank as a clean sheet of paper.

Then Biscuit, who was perched on her shoulder, squawked, "B-A-N-A-N-A!" He sounded exactly like Maya.

"He heard me practice all week long," Maya explained. The whole class burst into giggles.

"I believe Biscuit should wait for his own turn," said the teacher with a smile.

Maya laughed, and her nervous feeling melted away. She spelled the word herself, one letter at a time. "B-A-N-A-N-A."

"Correct!" said the teacher. Biscuit flapped his wings and squawked, "Hooray!" As a treat, Maya gave him a slice of real banana.

## Questions

**1. What did clever Biscuit do with every word he heard?**

_____

_____

**2. What happened when the teacher asked Maya to spell banana?**

_____

_____

**3. Where was Biscuit perched?**

_____

_____

**4. How did Biscuit know the letters of the word?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the teacher believe Biscuit should wait for his own turn?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did Maya's nervous feeling melt away?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

parrot: a bright bird that can copy the sounds of words
squawked: made a loud, harsh bird sound
practice: to do something again and again to get better
nervous: a little scared or worried
froze: stopped moving, as if stuck in place

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: Biscuit the Parrot at the Spelling Bee

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: Biscuit the Parrot at the Spelling Bee

Easier · 113 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. He copied it.
2. She froze and her mind went blank.
3. On Maya's shoulder.
4. He heard Maya practice.
5. She wanted Maya to spell the word herself.
6. Less nervous, because she laughed too.

### Triangle: Biscuit the Parrot at the Spelling Bee

This passage · 135 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. He copied it.
2. She froze and her mind went blank.
3. On Maya's shoulder.
4. He heard Maya practice all week.
5. She wanted Maya to spell the word herself.
6. Less nervous, because her nervous feeling melted away.

### Square: Biscuit the Parrot at the Spelling Bee

Harder · 143 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. He copied it.
2. She froze and her mind went blank.
3. On Maya's shoulder.
4. He heard Maya practice all week long.
5. She wanted Maya to spell the word herself.
6. Everyone laughed in a friendly way, and she laughed too.