Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Tapir and the Borrowed River Voice

Circle group

A tapir named Bruno lived in a rainforest by a wide river. Tapirs are shy animals with short, bendy noses. They are very quiet. Bruno wished he were loud like the howler monkeys. They shouted from the treetops, and everyone liked them.

One evening Bruno heard the river rumble past the rocks. It was a deep, low sound. He put his nose in the water and made the same sound. It was a grand roar! Bruno felt wonderful.

After that, whenever the animals met, Bruno stood by the river and rumbled. "I am the loudest animal in the forest," he said. The monkeys were amazed.

But in the dry season the river sank low and went quiet. When the animals asked Bruno to roar, only a squeak came out.

Bruno took a deep breath. "That voice was not mine," he said. "It was the river's. I am sorry I pretended."

The parrots laughed kindly. "We like quiet Bruno," one said. "He is the one who listens."

## Questions

**1. What kind of animal is Bruno?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did Bruno wish he were like the howler monkeys?**

_____

_____

**3. Where did Bruno get his grand roar?**

_____

_____

**4. What happened in the dry season?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Bruno say he was sorry?**

_____

**6. Why did the parrots like quiet Bruno?**

## Words to know

tapir: a shy animal with a short, bendy nose and a round body
rumble: a deep, rolling sound
pretended: acted as if something false were true

## 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: _____

# The Tapir and the Borrowed River Voice

Triangle group

In a rainforest by a wide brown river lived a tapir named Bruno. Tapirs are shy animals with short, bendy noses, and they are very quiet. Bruno often wished he were bold and loud like the howler monkeys, who shouted from the treetops and always seemed to be admired.

One evening Bruno noticed that the river made a deep, low rumble as it passed the rocks. He pushed his nose into the water and made a sound that matched it. It was a grand roar. Bruno felt wonderful.

From then on, whenever the animals gathered, Bruno stood at the edge of the river and made the great rumble. "I am the loudest animal in the forest," he said. The monkeys were impressed, and the parrots clapped their wings.

But in the dry season, the water sank low, and the river went quiet. When the animals asked Bruno to roar, only a small squeak came out. The monkeys tilted their heads.

Bruno took a long breath. "That voice was never mine," he said. "It belonged to the river. I am sorry I pretended."

To his surprise, the parrots laughed kindly. "We like quiet Bruno," one said. "He is the one who listens."

## Questions

**1. What kind of animal is Bruno?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did Bruno wish he were like the howler monkeys?**

_____

_____

**3. Where did Bruno get his grand roar?**

_____

_____

**4. What happened in the dry season?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Bruno say he was sorry?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did the parrots say they liked quiet Bruno?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

tapir: a shy animal with a short, bendy nose and a round body
admired: thought well of and looked up to
rumble: a deep, rolling sound
pretended: acted as if something false were true

## 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: _____

# The Tapir and the Borrowed River Voice

Square group

In a lush rainforest beside a wide brown river lived a tapir named Bruno. Tapirs are shy animals with short, bendy noses, and they are famously quiet. Bruno often longed to be bold and loud like the howler monkeys, who bellowed from the treetops and were always admired by everyone who heard them.

One evening Bruno noticed that the river made a deep, low rumble as it tumbled past the rocks. He pushed his nose into the water and produced a sound that matched it exactly. It was a magnificent roar, and Bruno felt wonderful.

From then on, whenever the animals gathered, Bruno stood at the edge of the river and made the great rumble. "I am the loudest animal in the entire forest," he boasted. The monkeys were impressed, and the parrots applauded with their wings.

During the dry season, however, the water sank low and the river fell silent. When the animals asked Bruno to roar, only a tiny squeak escaped. The monkeys tilted their heads in confusion.

Bruno drew a long breath. "That voice was never mine," he confessed. "It belonged to the river, and I am sorry that I pretended."

To his surprise, the parrots laughed kindly. "We like quiet Bruno," one of them said. "He is the one who listens."

## Questions

**1. What kind of animal is Bruno, and what is he like?**

_____

_____

**2. Why did Bruno long to be like the howler monkeys?**

_____

_____

**3. Where did Bruno's magnificent roar come from?**

_____

_____

**4. What happened to Bruno's roar in the dry season?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Bruno confess that he was sorry?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did the parrots say they liked quiet Bruno?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

tapir: a shy animal with a short, bendy nose and a round body
admired: thought well of and looked up to
rumble: a deep, rolling sound
pretended: acted as if something false were true

## 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: The Tapir and the Borrowed River Voice

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

### Circle: The Tapir and the Borrowed River Voice

Easier · 166 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. A tapir, a shy animal with a short, bendy nose.
2. They were loud and everyone liked them.
3. He copied the deep sound of the river with his nose in the water.
4. The river sank low and went quiet, so Bruno could only squeak.
5. He had pretended the river's voice was his own.
6. He is a good listener, and they liked him as he really was.

### Triangle: The Tapir and the Borrowed River Voice

This passage · 201 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. A tapir, a shy animal with a short, bendy nose.
2. They were bold and loud and always admired.
3. He matched the deep rumble of the river by pushing his nose in the water.
4. The river sank low and went quiet, so Bruno could only squeak.
5. He had pretended the borrowed voice was his own.
6. He is a good listener, and they liked him as he really was.

### Square: The Tapir and the Borrowed River Voice

Harder · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. A tapir, which is a shy and quiet animal with a short, bendy nose.
2. They were bold and loud and everyone admired them.
3. He matched the deep rumble of the river by pushing his nose into the water.
4. The river fell silent, so only a tiny squeak escaped.
5. He had pretended that the borrowed voice belonged to him.
6. He is a good listener, and they valued him just as he really was.