Name: _____ Date: _____

Baby Hermes

Reading level 6 · 195 words

Hermes was a baby. But he was not a baby like other babies.

On his first day, he got out of his cradle. He walked out into the sun.

He found an old shell, dry and empty. "I can make music with you!" he said.

Hermes tied strings across the shell. He plucked them, and they sang. It was a lyre!

Then he had a silly idea. He took his brother Apollo's cows for a walk.

The cows had to walk backward. Their foot marks pointed the wrong way! Then he hid them in a cave.

Hermes ran home. He got back in his cradle. He tried to look sleepy.

Apollo came and said, "Where are my cows?" Hermes did not hide. "I took them," said Hermes.

"I am sorry," said Hermes. "I will show you where they are." He took Apollo to the cave.

All the cows were safe. Hermes picked up his lyre and played a tune.

Apollo laughed and laughed. He had never heard such a happy sound.

"May I have that lyre?" he asked. Hermes gave it to him.

Apollo gave him a gift, too. They were friends from then on.

Questions

1. What did Hermes make from an empty shell?

A. A lyre
B. A boat
C. A cup

2. How did Hermes make the cows walk?

A. Very fast
B. Backward
C. In a circle

3. What did Hermes say when Apollo asked about the cows?

A. "I do not know."
B. "Ask the king."
C. "I took them."

4. Why did Apollo laugh at the end?

A. He liked the happy music
B. He lost his cows
C. He fell down

5. In this story, what does "sorry" mean?

A. Feeling bad about what you did
B. Feeling sleepy
C. Feeling very proud

Words to know

lyre: a small harp
cradle: a baby's bed
cows: farm animals
sorry: feeling bad

Answer key: Baby Hermes

1. A. A lyre
2. B. Backward
3. C. "I took them."
4. A. He liked the happy music
5. A. Feeling bad about what you did