Name: _____ Date: _____

Chatterer Laughs Last

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 232 words

For three days, Sammy Jay stayed away. Chatterer the Red Squirrel began to wonder why.

Had Sammy grown tired of corn? Chatterer hoped so. He had not liked fetching it one bit.

Chatterer had learned his lesson. He had hidden corn in many places. Some was in a hollow apple tree.

On the fourth morning, Sammy came flapping down. "Good morning, Chatterer!" he said sweetly. "I am a little hungry."

"What a surprise," said Chatterer, and he bowed low. "I have the very best corn for you. Wait right here."

Sammy gave a polite nod. But he kept grinning. His eyes kept going to the stone wall.

Chatterer saw it. He looked where Sammy looked. In the grass was a patch of red.

It was Reddy Fox, lying flat and still. "Aha," thought Chatterer. "So that is the game."

Chatterer did not go near the wall. He ran up the apple tree. He raced along a branch to the hollow trunk.

He stuffed his cheeks with corn. Then he came back through the branches. He dropped it at Sammy's feet.

Sammy gobbled it fast, and did not enjoy it. He kept looking at the fox. The fox did not move.

Sammy flew off. Then Chatterer saw Reddy Fox creep away. His tail was low.

Chatterer laughed and laughed. He had known all along. "Next time," he thought, "it will be Sammy's turn."

Questions

1. Where had Chatterer hidden corn?

A. In the wall and a hollow tree
B. In a boat
C. Under his bed

2. What did Chatterer see in the grass?

A. A white rock
B. A bird's nest
C. A patch of red

3. Where did Chatterer get the corn?

A. From the wall
B. From the hollow tree
C. From the field

4. What does "polite" mean in this story?

A. Well mannered
B. Very loud
C. Out of breath

5. Why did Chatterer laugh?

A. He had seen through the plan
B. He found more corn
C. He lost his hat

Words to know

fetching: going to get
hollow: empty inside
polite: well mannered
grinning: smiling wide

Answer key: Chatterer Laughs Last

1. A. In the wall and a hollow tree
2. C. A patch of red
3. B. From the hollow tree
4. A. Well mannered
5. A. He had seen through the plan