

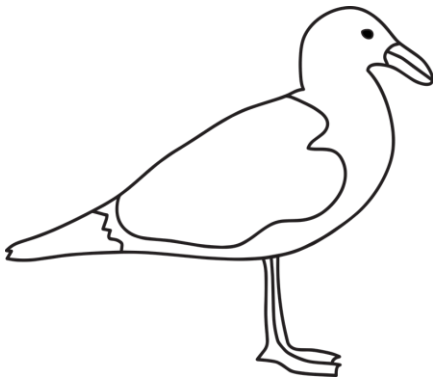
# The Straw Hat

Level 3

Grace watched a flock of seagulls land by the water. She loved spending mornings at the beach. Grace scooped up some more wet sand and packed it into her red bucket. Grace tipped it carefully in place. Then she found some shells and placed them around her large sandcastle.

"It's finished!" Grace called. "What do you think, Dad?"

Dad took his straw hat from his face. He placed it on the sand behind him and then rolled over. "I think that's your best one yet!" he said.



Just then, Grace saw a large seagull land next to Dad. It looked at Dad's straw hat on the sand. It moved closer and closer. All of a sudden, the seagull snatched Dad's hat in its beak and flew off.

"Come back!" Grace shouted as she and Dad ran after it. The seagull landed on the branch of a tree. Grace and Dad stood below, looking up. The seagull looked back down. It was still holding the hat tightly in its beak.

First, Dad tried jumping, but the bird was too high. Grace giggled. Next, Dad tried shouting, but the bird was too brave. She giggled again.

Then Grace had an idea. Grace ran back to their towels. She rummaged around in Dad's bag. Then she found what she was looking for and ran back to underneath the tree. She held out her hand and closed her eyes. A moment later, Grace felt a small peck on her hand and heard a flap of wings. Grace opened her eyes just in time to see the cheeky seagull flying off with the tasty treat.

"What a clever girl you are!" Dad said, bending down quickly to pick up his hat.



# Questions

The Straw Hat – Level 3

1. Why did Dad roll over? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Where did the large seagull land?

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3. What made Grace laugh?

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4. What does the word 'rummaged' mean in the last paragraph?

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5. What was the second thing Dad tried to get his hat back?

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6. In the last sentence, why did Dad pick his hat up 'quickly'?

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7. Why did Grace close her eyes when she held out her hand?

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8. What do you think Grace got from Dad's bag?

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9. Why do you think the seagull wanted Dad's hat?

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# Answers

The Straw Hat – Level 3

1. Why did Dad roll over? **Grace told him her sandcastle was finished.**

2. Where did the large seagull land?

**The large seagull landed next to Dad.**

3. What made Grace laugh?

**Grace laughed at Dad jumping and shouting at the seagull.**

4. What does the word 'rummaged' mean in the last paragraph?

**Rummaged means to search through looking for something.**

5. What was the second thing Dad tried to get his hat back?

**Dad tried shouting at the seagull.**

6. In the last sentence, why did Dad pick his hat up 'quickly'?

**Dad didn't want the seagull to get his hat again.**

7. Why did Grace close her eyes when she held out her hand?

**She may have been a little scared of the seagull pecking her.**

8. What do you think Grace got from Dad's bag?

**Grace got some food from Dad's bag.**

9. Why do you think the seagull wanted Dad's hat?

**Answers may vary. The seagull wanted to use it to build a nest.**