

2 Outsmarting the Enemy

When a garden warbler sings from trees or bushes, no one can see it. The colors of this songbird match the colors of the leaves. When an animal blends in with its surroundings, its enemies can't see it either. This kind of protection is called *camouflage*.

Birds must protect themselves from their enemies. Sometimes this means having to fight. Sometimes it means fooling the enemy. Sometimes it means being able to escape. Birds must also protect their eggs and their young. Cats, rats, and foxes love eggs for breakfast. They prowl around looking for eggs and young chicks to eat. How can birds defend themselves against such enemies?

Each species has its own way of defending itself. Birds called common terns fight with their beaks and claws. In a swarm, they peck and scratch at anyone who comes too close to their nests. Ostriches protect themselves by escaping. They can't fly, but they can run very fast on their long, muscular legs. These birds can reach speeds of up to forty miles per hour. How fast is that? Well, if the wind blows this hard, it can rip huge branches from trees.

A bird called a killdeer has a lot of courage. It cares very much for its young. It would rather die than see its eggs eaten by a fox. If a fox wanders toward the nest, the killdeer pretends to be hurt. Dragging one wing, it hops away from the nest and draws the hungry fox after it.

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Subject Matter 2 This passage is concerned with

- a. songbirds.
- b. foxes.
- c. bird defense.
- d. hiding.

Supporting Details 3 The killdeer tricks the fox by

- a. feeding him eggs.
- b. pretending to be hurt.
- c. flying away.
- d. changing color.

Conclusion 4 We can conclude from this passage that the kill

- a. wants its babies to survive.
- b. gets hurt easily.
- c. hops on one leg.
- d. pretends to like foxes.

Clarifying Devices 5 "If the wind blows this hard, it can rip huge branches from the trees" refers to the ostrich's

- a. strength.
- b. temper.
- c. speed.
- d. power.

Vocabulary in Context 6 A swarm is a

- a. cluster.
- b. nest.
- c. tree.
- d. frenzy.

Main Idea 1 _____ Answer Score

Mark the *main idea* M 15

Mark the statement that is *too broad* B 5

Mark the statement that is *too narrow* N 5

- a. All birds try to avoid their enemies. _____
- b. Birds have many ways of defending themselves. _____
- c. The ostrich defends itself best by running fast. _____

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here _____ Total Score

and on the graph on page 215.