

Tug-of-War

Today's read-aloud is a type of story known as a trickster tale. A trickster tale is a story about a character who outsmarts larger, stronger characters. Trickster tales are another type of fiction--or a story created from someone's imagination.

Tug-of-War

Have any of you ever played a game called tug-of-war? Who can explain how the game is played and won?

This video is 8 minutes long, but you can show a little bit of it to show how tug-of-war is played and then fast forward to how the game is won.



Tug-of-War

Listen carefully to the trickster tale to find out how a character in the story, Turtle, uses the game tug-of-war to make friends.

Tug-of-War



Turtle was small, but he talked big. He loved to **boast** or brag, that he was friends with the biggest animals in the jungle. This means Turtle said things in a proud and annoying way.

Tug-of-War



He would say things like,
“I’m just as strong as the
biggest animals around here,
including Elephant and
Hippopotamus. That’s right:
Elephant and Hippopotamus
and I are friends, because I’m
just as strong as they are.”

Tug-of-War



One day, Elephant and Hippopotamus happened to hear from some of the other animals what Turtle was going around saying. Elephant and Hippopotamus laughed. "So," they said, "Turtle thinks he is as strong as we are?"

Tug-of-War



That's the silliest thing we've ever heard. He's so tiny compared to us!"

And when the animals told Turtle what Elephant and Hippopotamus said, Turtle became very mad. "So, they do not think that I am as strong as they are?"

Tug-of-War



Once they see that I am
just as strong as they are, we
will definitely be friends.
Just wait and see! Then
Turtle set off to find
Elephant and Hippopotamus.

Tug-of-War



He found Elephant lying down in the jungle. Elephant was as big as a mountain; his trunk was as long as a river. But Turtle was bold, or brave. He walked right up and said in his loudest voice, "Hey, Elephant, my dear friend!"

Tug-of-War



Elephant looked all around to see where the voice could be coming from. Finally, he looked down--way down--and spotted Turtle. "Oh, it's you, is it?" said Elephant. "What is this **foolishness** I hear, that you claim to be as strong as I am?"

Tug-of-War



Foolishness means silly or ridiculous. People usually laugh at foolishness.

How silly! I am much larger than you, and thus much stronger than you! Big animals and little animals cannot be friends."

Tug-of-War



“Now, Elephant,” said Turtle, “just listen. You think that because you’re so much bigger than me, that makes you better. Well, let’s have a tug-of-war to find out.”

A tug-of-war?” said Elephant.

Tug-of-War



He laughed so hard the
earth shook for miles around.
“Why,” he said to Turtle, “you
haven’t got a chance.”

Tug-of-War



“Maybe so,” said Turtle. “But if you’re so sure, what have you got to lose?” Then Turtle cut a very long vine and gave one end to Elephant. “Here,” said Turtle. “Now, if I pull you down, I am stronger. If you pull me down, you are stronger.”

Tug-of-War



We won't stop tugging until one of us pulls the other over, or the vine breaks. And if the vine breaks, we are equal, and we will call each other friend."

Who do you think would win if Turtle and Elephant played tug-of-war?

Tug-of-War



“Now I’ll go pick up my end,” said Turtle, “and when you feel me start tugging, you tug back.”

And Turtle walked off with the other end of the long, long vine until, some time later, he found Hippopotamus bathing in the river.

“Oh, friend, I’m here!” shouted Turtle. “Come out of the water and say hi!”

Tug-of-War



Hippopotamus could hardly believe his ears. "How could we be friends? You are so much smaller than me," he said quizzically. "Now hold on, friend Hippo," said Turtle. "You think that because you're so much bigger than me, that makes you better. Well, let's have a tug-of-war to find out. Whoever pulls the other down is stronger."

Tug-of-War



We will keep pulling until one of us wins or the vine breaks. And if the vine breaks, we are equal, and we will finally be friends.”

Who do you think would win if Turtle and Hippopotamus played tug-of-war?

Tug-of-War



“But Turtle, how could you win? You are so much smaller than me, and everyone knows that big animals are stronger than little animals,” said Hippopotamus.

“Well, let us see,” said Turtle, and he gave Hippopotamus an end of the long, long vine. “Now I’ll go pick up my end,” said Turtle, “and when you feel me start tugging, you tug back.”

Tug-of-War



Turtle walked into the jungle and picked up the middle of the vine. He gave it a good hard shake. When Hippopotamus felt this, he started to tug. When Elephant felt the tug, he tugged back.

Tug-of-War



Elephant and Hippopotamus both tugged as mightily that the vine stretched tight.

Do Hippopotamus and Elephant know that they are playing tug-of-war against each other? Who do they think they are playing with?

Tug-of-War



Turtle settled into a comfortable spot and watched for a while as the vine moved just a little bit one way, then just a little the other way. He took out his lunch and munched on his food very slowly, enjoying every bite. Then he yawned and fell asleep.

Tug-of-War



He woke up a couple of hours later, feeling very refreshed from his nap. He looked up to see the vine still stretched tight, and he smiled. Yes, Elephant and Hippopotamus were still pulling with all their **might**.

Tug-of-War



This means they were pulling as hard as they could. Neither one could pull the other over.

“I suppose it’s about time,” said Turtle, and he cut the vine.

Tug-of-War



When the vine broke,
both Elephant and Hippopotamus
tumbled down, **WHUMP**
BUMPITY--BUMP BAM
BOOM!

Turtle went to see
Elephant and found him
sprawled on the ground, rubbing
his head.

Tug-of-War



“Turtle,” said Elephant, “you are very strong and quite powerful! You were right; we are equal. I guess that bigger doesn’t mean better after all, and that big animals and little animals can indeed be friends.”

Tug-of-War



Then Turtle went to see Hippopotamus, who was also sprawled on the ground, rubbing his head. “So, Turtle,” said Hippopotamus, “we are equal after all. You were right, my friend.”

Tug-of-War



From then on, whenever the animals held a meeting, there at the front sat Elephant, Hippopotamus, and Turtle. And they always called each other friends.

Tug-of-War

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

Who are the characters in this story?

Tug-of-War

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What is the setting of the story?

Tug-of-War

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Do Hippopotamus and Elephant think Turtle can be friends with them? Why not?

Tug-of-War

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

When does Turtle tell Hippopotamus and Elephant to start tugging on the vine?

Tug-of-War

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

Where is Turtle during the tug-of-war?

Tug-of-War

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Why do Hippopotamus and Elephant finally agree to be friends with Turtle?

Tug-of-War

Comprehension Questions:

Evaluative

Remember that "Tug-of-War" is a special kind of fiction story. Which part of the story tells you that "Tug-of-War" is fiction, or a made up story? What kind of fiction is this story? Which part of the story tells you that "Tug-of-War" is a trickster tale?

Think. Pair. Share.



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

Think. Pair. Share.



Evaluative:

What else could Turtle have done to become friends with Hippopotamus and Elephant?

Word Work

Tug-of-War

*In the read aloud you heard Elephant say to Turtle, "What is this **foolishness** I hear, that you claim to be as strong as I am?"*

*Say the word **foolishness** with me.*

Tug-of-War

Foolishness means the silly things that you do or say.

Ian took part in **foolishness** when he jumped on the bunk bed and hit his head on the ceiling.

Tug-of-War

Have you ever seen or heard someone taking part in **foolishness**? Try to use the word *foolishness* when you tell about it.

“_____ took part in **foolishness** when...”

Tug-of-War

What's the word we have been talking about?

Tug-of-War

*I am going to to read some sentences aloud.
Listen and respond by putting your thumb up if
what I say would be foolishness and thumbs
down if it would not be foolishness.*

Tug-of-War



Thumbs Up = Foolish

Thumbs Down = Not Foolish



*Billy ran across the street without looking
both ways.*



Tug-of-War



Thumbs Up = Foolish

Thumbs Down = Not Foolish



Anne listened to her teacher and raised her hand when she had a question.



Tug-of-War



Thumbs Up = Foolish

Thumbs Down = Not Foolish



*Jerome ate all of his dinner, including his
broccoli and carrots.*



Tug-of-War



Thumbs Up = Foolish

Thumbs Down = Not Foolish



*Cindy went out to play in the snow
without her coat.*



Tug-of-War



Thumbs Up = Foolish

Thumbs Down = Not Foolish



Tamika put on sunscreen before she went to the beach.

