COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Wally Chooses the Short Garden Path

Wally Chooses the Short Garden Path | Suggested ages 3-5



Wally compares two safe paths with same-size leaf steps and chooses the shorter route.

Read, talk, and discover

The complete story is followed by questions and a separate answer guide. Read aloud together, pause to talk, and take your time.

Print on US Letter at actual size, or choose Fit for A4. Use single-sided printing for activity cards. Black-and-white printing is suitable.

Part 1

Wally Worm wanted to carry a message from the lettuce bed to the tomato plant. Two safe garden paths began beside him.

Part 2

Both paths had same-size leaf steps placed edge to edge. The pebble path used six steps, while the moss path used three.

Part 3

Wally first liked the shiny pebble path. Before leaving, he remembered that he wanted the shorter way, not the shinier way.

Part 4

Wally moved one same-size leaf step at a time along each path. He counted six on the pebble path and three on the moss path.

Part 5

Three same-size steps were fewer than six, so Wally chose the moss path. He wiggled beneath the wide leaf arch.

Part 6

Wally passed step one, step two, and step three. The red tomato plant stood directly beyond the last leaf step.

Part 7

He delivered the message and returned by the same moss path. This time, the three leaf steps felt familiar and easy to follow.

Part 8

The pebble path was shiny, but the moss path used fewer same-size steps. Counting the steps helped Wally choose the shorter path.

Draw, tell, or write

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.

My favorite part, and why I chose it

STORY QUIZ

Think about the story

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each question and all the choices. Circle one answer. A grown-up can read aloud; you can point or say your answer, too.

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1. Where was Wally taking the message?

A. To the tomato plant	B. To the flowerpot	C. To the pond

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

2. How many same-size leaf steps were on the pebble path?

A. Six	B. Three	C. Two

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

3. Why did Wally not choose only by appearance?

A. Both paths were dark	B. He disliked pebbles	C. He needed the shorter path, not the shinier one

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

Questions 4 to 5

4. Which path used three same-size leaf steps?

A. The pebble path	B. The moss path	C. The water path

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

5. What helped Wally choose the shorter path?

A. Smelling the leaves	B. Listening for bells	C. Counting the same-size leaf steps

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

ANSWER GUIDE

For the grown-up

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Keep this page separate from the child's activity. Read directions aloud when helpful, and invite the child to explain their ideas.

1. A - To the tomato plant

To the tomato plant

2. A - Six

Six

3. C - He needed the shorter path, not the shinier one

He needed the shorter path, not the shinier one

4. B - The moss path

The moss path

5. C - Counting the same-size leaf steps

Counting the same-size leaf steps

Keep exploring

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.