COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Zara Finds the Mixed-Up Shadows

Zara Finds the Mixed-Up Shadows | Suggested ages 5-6



Zara uses shape, position, and light direction to match mixed-up shadow cards at the library.

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

The library displayed four paper animals beside four shadow cards. During cleanup, the cards fell down and landed in the wrong order.

Part 2

Zara offered to match them again. The rabbit, turtle, fox, and owl looked simple, but two shadow shapes seemed almost the same.

Part 3

She first matched by size, placing the biggest shadow behind the fox. Its ears were round, however, while the fox had pointed ears.

Part 4

Zara turned each animal toward the desk lamp. She noticed the shadow always stretched away from the light, not toward it.

Part 5

The shadow with long upright ears belonged to the rabbit. The wide low shadow matched the turtle's shell and short legs.

Part 6

A pointed muzzle identified the fox, while two small head tufts identified the owl. Zara checked every edge before taping the cards down.

Part 7

The librarian switched the lamp to the other side. All four shadows changed direction, but their special outlines still matched their animals.

Part 8

Zara learned to compare more than size. Shape details and the direction of light can turn a confusing picture into a clear match.

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. What became mixed up at the library?

A. The book pages	B. The reading chairs	C. Four shadow cards

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

2. Why was Zara's first fox match wrong?

A. The shadow had round ears	B. The shadow was too small	C. The fox was asleep

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

3. Which way did each shadow stretch?

A. Toward the lamp	B. Away from the light	C. Toward the light

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

Questions 4 to 5

4. Which clue matched the rabbit?

A. A wide shell	B. A pointed muzzle	C. Long upright ears

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

5. What stayed useful when the lamp moved?

A. The special outlines	B. The shadow color	C. The card order

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. C - Four shadow cards

Four shadow cards

2. A - The shadow had round ears

The shadow had round ears

3. B - Away from the light

Away from the light

4. C - Long upright ears

Long upright ears

5. A - The special outlines

The special outlines

Keep exploring

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