COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Nico and the Mystery of the Empty Bird Feeder

Nico and the Mystery of the Empty Bird Feeder | Suggested ages 5-6



Nico uses seed shells, time, and distance clues to learn why a feeder empties before he sees any birds.

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

Nico filled the window feeder after breakfast. By lunchtime it was empty, although he had not seen a single bird visit.

Part 2

He checked the ground for spilled seed. Only neat sunflower shells lay on the railing, with no pile beneath the feeder.

Part 3

Nico first blamed the wind, but a paper streamer beside the feeder barely moved. Wind would also have scattered seeds onto the ground.

Part 4

He placed three seed types in separate sections and moved his chair farther from the window. Then he waited quietly behind the curtain.

Part 5

A flock of small chickadees arrived within minutes. They carried sunflower seeds to the railing, opened them quickly, and returned for more.

Part 6

The birds ignored most millet but emptied the sunflower section. Nico recorded the time and counted six short visits before lunch.

Part 7

He refilled a smaller amount and watched from a distance. The same pattern repeated, proving the feeder was busy when he stood too close.

Part 8

Nico learned that not seeing an event does not mean it never happened. Traces, timing, and quiet observation revealed the hungry visitors.

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. When was Nico's full feeder already empty?

A. After one week	B. Before breakfast	C. By lunchtime

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

2. What clue lay on the railing?

A. Sunflower shells	B. Blue feathers	C. Wet footprints

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

3. Why did Nico reject the wind idea?

A. The feeder was indoors	B. The streamer barely moved and no seeds were scattered	C. It had stopped snowing

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

Questions 4 to 5

4. Which birds emptied the sunflower section?

A. Small chickadees	B. Large geese	C. A woodpecker

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

5. Why had Nico missed the birds before?

A. They visited only during storms	B. They lived inside the feeder	C. They waited while he stood too close

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 - By lunchtime

By lunchtime

2. A - Sunflower shells

Sunflower shells

3. B - The streamer barely moved and no seeds were scattered

The streamer barely moved and no seeds were scattered

4. A - Small chickadees

Small chickadees

5. C - They waited while he stood too close

They waited while he stood too close

Keep exploring

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