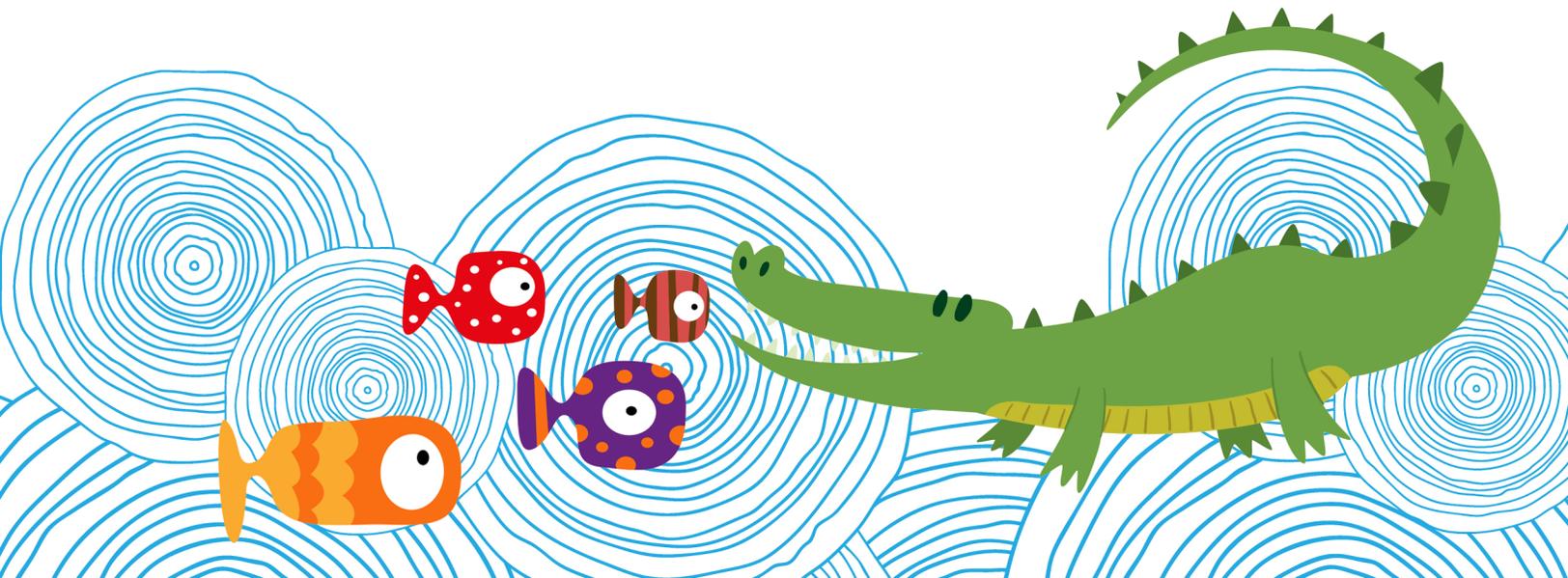

The Crocodile

by Lewis Carroll

How doth the little crocodile
Improve his shining tail,
And pour the waters of the Nile
On every golden scale!

How cheerfully he seems to grin!
How neatly spread his claws,
And welcomes little fishes in
With gently smiling jaws!



The Basics

Read the poem. Take note of the descriptions and try to imagine the scene taking place.

Summary of Fable

Written by Lewis Carroll, this poem is found in his novel, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, in chapter two. The poem is recited by the main character, Alice, describing a cunning crocodile who tricks fish into swimming into his mouth with a very welcoming smile

Words to Know

Nile River: longest river in the world and the primary water source for Egypt and the Sudan.

Nile Crocodile: largest freshwater predator in Africa

doth: according to Merriam Webster, archaic present tense third-person singular of do

Rhyme Scheme

Rhyme Scheme is the ordered pattern of rhymes at the ends of the lines of a poem or verse. There are many kinds of rhyme schemes and many poems or free style or follow an non-rhyming scheme.

“The Crocodile” is written in a ABAB rhyme scheme.

Look at, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, by Donald Barthelme, as an example.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,	A
How I wonder what you are.	A
Up above the world so high,	B
Like a diamond in the sky.	B

As you can see the letter denotes the pattern of the rhyming words. The words with the same letter are the words that rhyme.

See if you can follow the scheme and highlight or underline the rhyming words using a different color for A and B.

More on “The Crocodile”

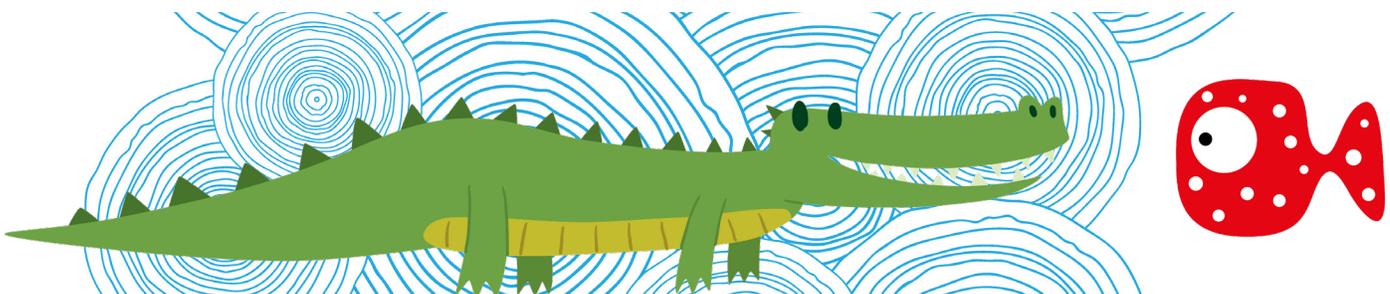
This children’s poem is simply about a cunning crocodile who tricks fish by pretending to offer a welcoming smile when in fact he wants to eat them. It is a parody of “Idleness and Mischief” by Isaac Watts. A parody is a spoof or work meant to imitate another work in a humorous way. Read the poem [HERE](#). It is a moralistic poem written for children about a hard working bee.

Digging Deeper...

Compare and contrast “Idleness and Mischief” with “The Crocodile”. For instance, compare the character of the bee and the crocodile. What do you think is the meaning of each poem and how do they differ.

Write the line that tells us how the crocodile shines his tail.

Why do you think the moral of “The Crocodile” is?



Digging Deeper...

Research the Nile River and name three facts about it.

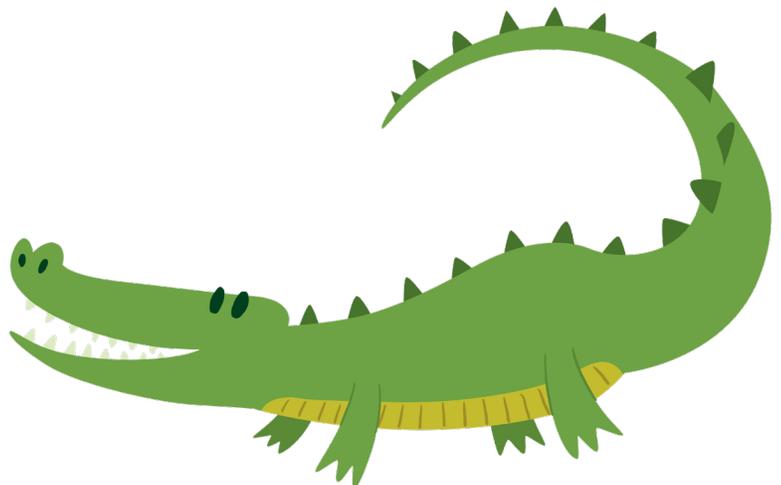
- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Research the Nile Crocodile and write three facts that interested you.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Name three countries that the Nile River flows through.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____



Grammar Check

Write 3 nouns from the poem.

① _____

② _____

③ _____

Write 3 adjectives from the poem.

① _____

② _____

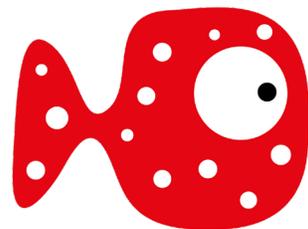
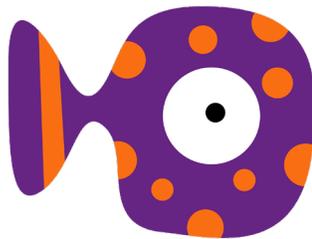
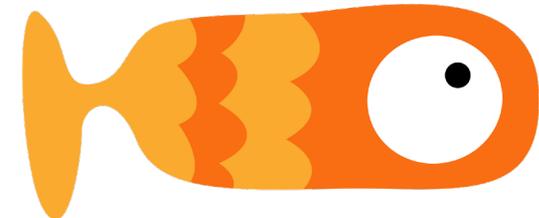
③ _____

Write 3 verbs from the poem.

① _____

② _____

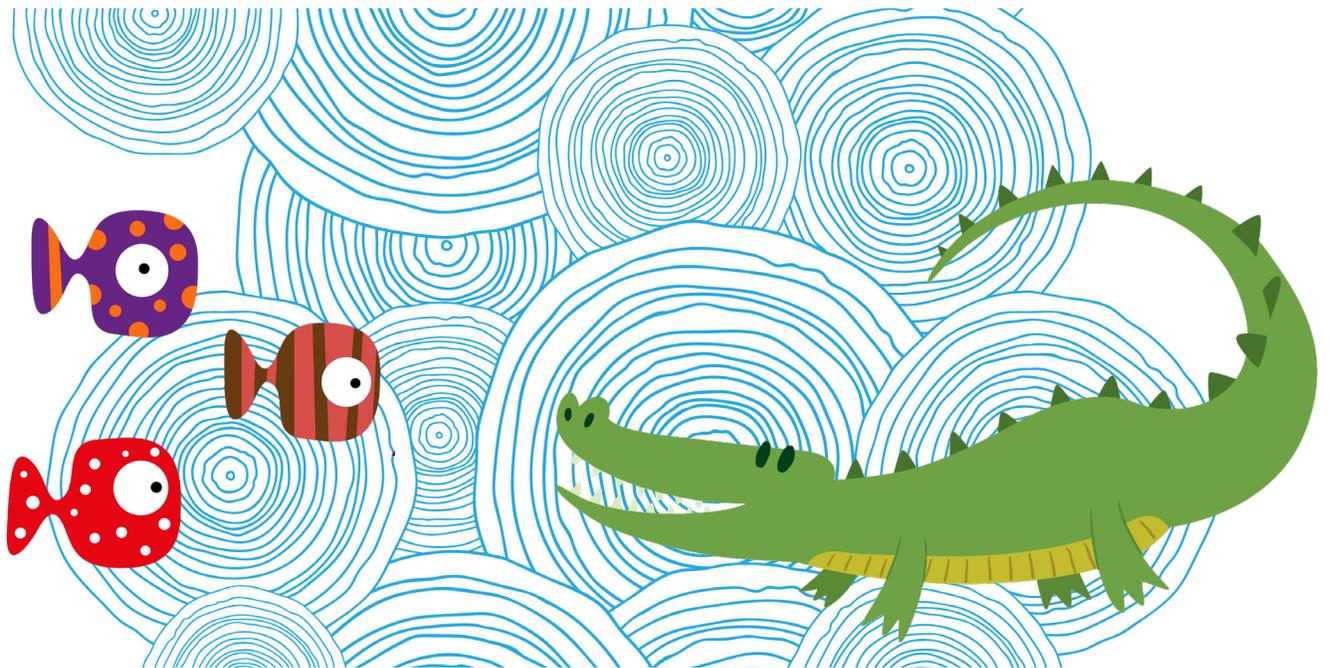
③ _____



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