

Today, you will read the story of “Tacky the Penguin.” As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the stories. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.

Read the story titled “Tacky the Penguin” by Helen Lester. Then answer Questions 1 through 3.

Tacky the Penguin By Helen Lester

- ① There once lived a penguin.
His home was a nice icy land he shared with his companions.
- ② His companions were named Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect.
- ③ His name was Tacky.
Tacky was an odd bird.
- ④ Every day Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect greeted each other quietly and politely.
- ⑤ Tacky greeted them with a hearty slap on the back and a loud "What's happening?"
- ⑥ Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect always marched
1-2-3-4,
1-2-3-4,
Tacky always marched 1-2-3,
4-2,
3-6-0,
2 ½,
0.
- ⑦ His companions were gracefully divers.
Tacky liked to do splashy cannonballs.
- ⑧ Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect always sang pretty songs like "Sunrise on the Iceberg."
- ⑨ Tacky always sang songs like "How Many Toes Does a Fish Have?"
Tacky was an odd bird.

One day the penguins heard the *thump...thump...thump* of feet in the distance.

10 This could mean only one thing.
Hunters had come.

They came with maps and traps and rocks and locks,
and they were rough and tough.

11 As the *thump...thump...thump*
drew closer, the penguins could hear
the growly voices chanting,

12 "We're gonna catch some pretty penguins,
And we'll march'em with a switch,
And we'll sell'em for a dollar,
And get rich, rich, RICH!"

13 Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect
ran away in fright.
They hid behind a block of ice.

Tacky stood alone.
The hunters marched right up to him, chanting,
14 "We're gonna catch some pretty penguins,
And we'll march'em with a switch,
And we'll sell'em for a dollar,
And get rich, rich, RICH!"

15 "What's happening?" blared Tacky, giving one hunter
an especially hearty slap on the back.
They growled, "We're hunting for penguins.
That's what's happening."

16 "PENNNNGUJINS?" said Tacky. "Do you mean those
birds that march neatly in a row?"
And he marched,
1-2-3,
4-2,
3-6-0,

17 2 ½,
0.
The hunters looked puzzled.

18 “Do you mean those birds that dive so gracefully?”
Tacky asked.
And he did a splashy cannonball.
The hunters looked wet.

19 “Do you mean those birds that sing such pretty songs?”
Tacky began to sing, and from behind the block of ice
came the voices of his companions,
all singing as loudly and dreadfully as they could.

20 “HOW MANY TOES DOES A FISH HAVE?
AND HOW MANY WINGS ON A COW?
I WONDER. YUP,
I WONDER.”

21 The hunters could not stand the horrible singing.
This could not be the land of the pretty penguins.
They ran away with their hands clasped tightly over their ears,
leaving behind their maps and traps and rocks and locks,
and not looking at all rough and tough.

22 Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect hugged Tacky.
Tacky was an odd bird but a very nice bird to have around.

1. Part A

Read this sentence from Paragraph 15 of the story.

“What’s happening?” blared Tacky, giving one hunter an especially hearty slap on the back.

This sentence describes the way Tacky slapped the hunter on the back. Why did he give such a strong slap to the hunter?

- a. He is fearful of the hunters and wants them to leave.
- b. He is trying to defend himself from their attack.
- c. He is trying to trick the hunters into thinking he is not a penguin.
- d. He is trying to join the hunters in finding penguins.

Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “They hid behind a block of ice.”
- b. “Tacky was an odd bird.”
- c. “‘PENNNNGUINS?’ said Tacky. ‘Do you mean those birds that march neatly in a row?’”
- d. “His companions were graceful divers.”

2. Part A

What is the central message of the story?

- a. Doing things differently can end up helping others.
- b. Always follow the rules.
- c. It’s important to try your best.
- d. It’s fun to do splashy cannonballs.

Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "Every day Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect greeted each other quietly and politely."
- b. "Tacky was an odd bird but a very nice bird to have around."
- c. "His companions were graceful divers."
- d. "One day the penguins heard the *thump...thump...thump* of feet in the distance."

3. Part A

Fill in the table with words that best describe Tacky the Penguin.

- a. Brave
- b. Strange
- c. Awkward
- d. Friendly

Line from Story	Character Trait
"Tacky greeted them with a hearty slap on the back and a loud, "What's happening?"	
"They hid behind a block of ice. Tacky stood alone. The hungers marched right up to him."	
"Tacky was an odd bird."	
"His companions were graceful divers. Tacky liked to do splashy cannonballs."	

