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If ever you are tempted to tease or hurt a poor creature, remember Daniel Webster's first case. Think of his words of mercy, and "let the woodchuck go."

1. Where does the action in this story take place?
   A. in a courtroom
   B. on a farm
   C. in the woodchuck's cage
   D. in a prison

2. In this story, what problem does Daniel face?
   A. He wants a new pet.
   B. The woodchuck makes too much noise at night.
   C. The woodchuck is stealing from the Websters' garden.
   D. He wants to save the woodchuck's life.
3. What do you think Mr. Webster was feeling after he heard Ezekiel’s final words, “The prisoner must die. And, to pay for the harm he has done, let us sell his skin!”?

A. Ezekiel was very mean.
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"Why the Larks Flew Away"

A family of four young larks once lived with their mother in a nest in a wheat field. At first the nest was very safe, for it stood on the soft ground and was hidden by the wheat.

When the wheat began to ripen, the mother lark watched carefully for any sign of the coming of the reapers. She feared that the sharp knives would cut the nest and injure the young larks.

One morning she had to leave the nest to find some breakfast for her little ones. “Be good children and stay in the nest,” she said. “If the farmer and his son pass through the field, listen very carefully to what they say.”

“Yes, Mother,” cried the four baby larks.

The mother lark flew away. A few minutes later, the little larks heard the farmer and his son passing along the narrow path near the nest.

“This wheat is ripe enough to cut,” said the farmer. “John, go down the road to neighbor Smith’s farmhouse and ask him to come tomorrow to help us reap the grain.”

When the mother lark came home, she brought some fat worms for breakfast. She found her babies chirping excitedly.

“Mother, Mother!” they cried. “The men are coming to cut the wheat. We must move away tonight!”

“What did the farmer say?” asked the mother lark.

“The farmer told his son to go over to neighbor Smith’s house and ask him to help cut the grain.”

“My dear children,” laughed the mother lark, “as yet we have nothing to fear.”

When the baby larks had eaten their breakfast, the mother lark showed them how to exercise their wings.

The next morning before leaving, the mother lark said once more, “Stay in the nest, and if the farmer passes through the fields, be sure to listen to what he says.”

“Yes, Mother,” cried the little larks.

Away flew the mother, and again the farmer and his son passed through the fields.

“Did you ask neighbor Smith to help us cut the grain?” inquired the farmer.

“Yes, Father,” replied the son, “and I expected him here already.”

“The wheat is ripe and it should be cut without delay,” replied the farmer.

“Mount your horse and ride to your cousins’ house. Ask them if they will help us.”
This frightened the baby larks so much that when they saw their mother coming, they began to chirp more loudly than ever.

“What is the trouble?” called the mother as she hastened toward the nest.

“We must surely go away today!” cried the young larks. “The farmer's son has gone to bring his cousins to cut the wheat. We shall be killed if we stay here.”

Again the mother laughed. “If the farmer waits for his cousins to help him, the wheat will not be cut today.”

The third morning, the mother left the nest to search for food. At noon the farmer and his son came into the field.

“See how late it is,” said the farmer, “and still not a man has come to help us. I see we must do the work ourselves. Let us go home and get everything ready. Tomorrow, before the sun is up, we shall begin to reap.”

Soon after the farmer had gone, the mother lark came flying over the wheat field. The little larks told her all that they had heard.

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A. She leaves her babies alone in the nest when she goes to search for breakfast.
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16. What is the moral of this story?

A. You should listen to other people’s conversations to find out important things.
B. You should always be prepared for something surprising to happen.
C. If you want work to be done well, you should do it yourself.
D. If you want to be safe, don’t build your house in a wheat field.
# Words to Know Glossary

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