

1

True Friends



New Words :

against

enemy

lay

suddenly

peck

picked

torn

escaped

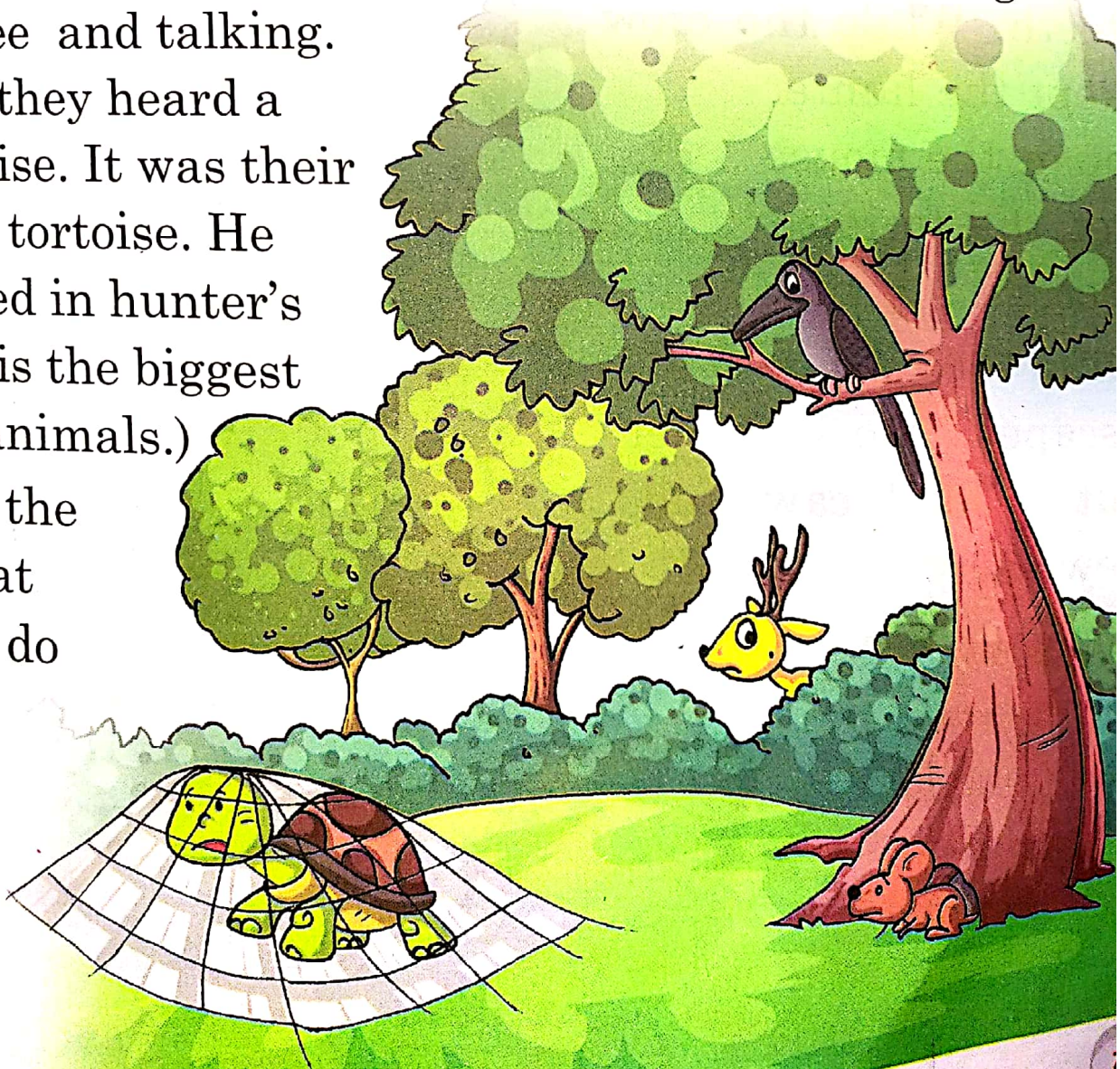
Once upon a time, in a forest, there lived four friends—a mouse, a crow, a deer and a tortoise.

One day, the mouse, the crow and the deer were sitting under a tree and talking.

Suddenly, they heard a strange noise. It was their friend, the tortoise. He was trapped in hunter's net! (Man is the biggest enemy of animals.)

"Oh!" said the deer, "What should we do now?"

"I have a plan," said the mouse.



He told the deer and the crow about his plan. The three friends were ready to help their friend, the tortoise.

The deer went near the tortoise. He lay down on the ground and pretended to be dead. The crow flew towards the deer and pretended to peck at him.

The hunter picked up his net with the tortoise inside it. As he started walking home, he saw a deer.

'This is a dead deer. Let me take it home', he thought. He put down the net and walked towards the deer. The crow flew round and round over the deer. He flapped his wings and did not let the hunter go near him.

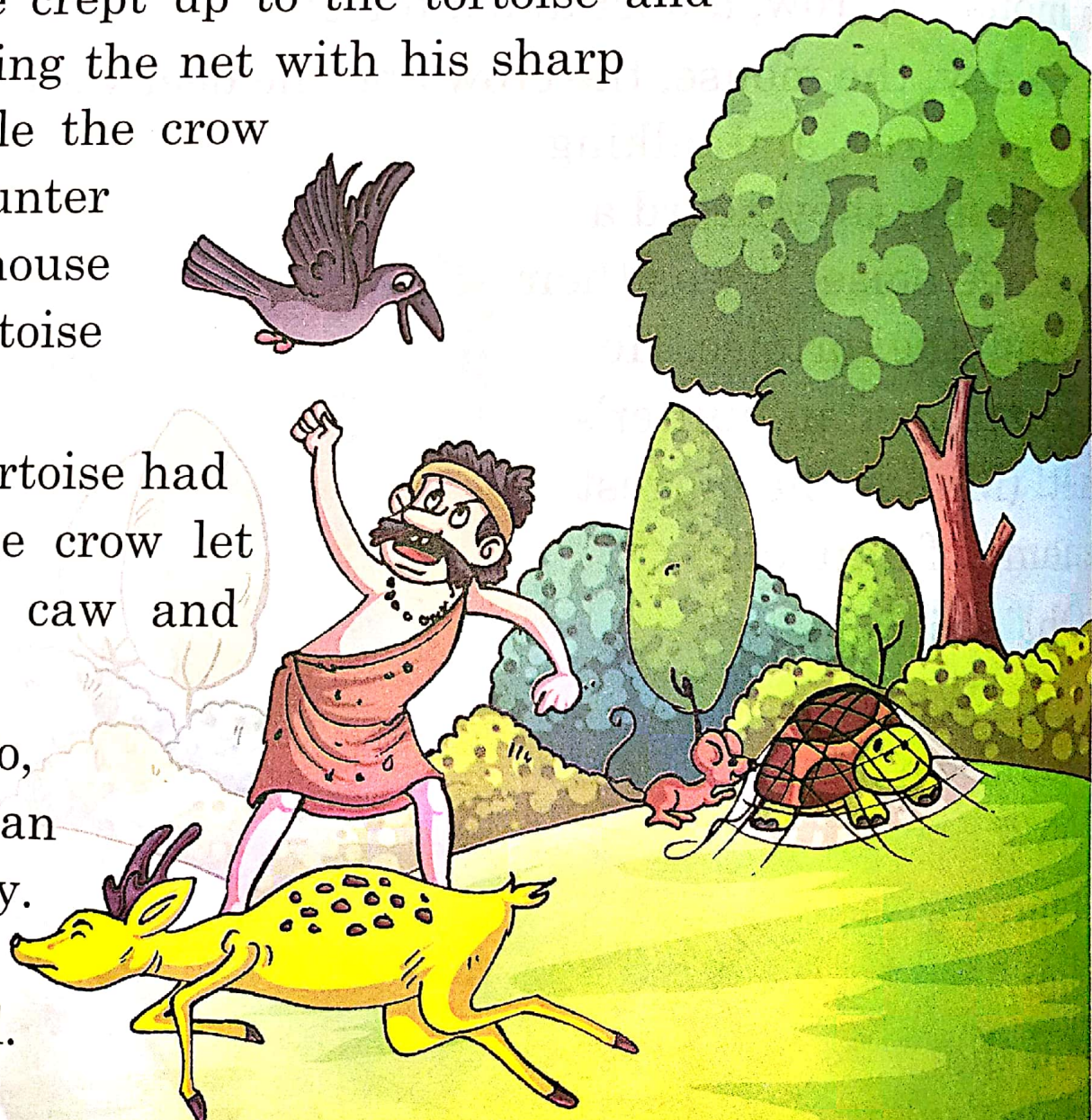
The mouse crept up to the tortoise and started biting the net with his sharp teeth. While the crow

kept the hunter busy, the mouse set the tortoise free.

Once the tortoise had escaped, the crow let out a loud caw and flew away.

The deer, too, got up and ran away quickly.

The hunter was stunned.



He went back to the tortoise. But he found that the net was torn and the tortoise had gone. "Those animals were clever. If only I had not been so greedy", he thought.

The four friends met again under the tree. They were happy that they had tricked the hunter.

They were true friends, who always helped each other!

—A story from the Hitopadesha

What they mean?



<i>trapped</i>	–	<i>caught;</i>
<i>pretended</i>	–	<i>acted;</i>
<i>peck</i>	–	<i>hit with a beak;</i>
<i>flapped</i>	–	<i>moved the wings very fast;</i>
<i>crept up</i>	–	<i>crawled slowly and quietly;</i>
<i>stunned</i>	–	<i>shocked;</i>
<i>greedy</i>	–	<i>never satisfied;</i>
<i>tricked</i>	–	<i>made a fool of someone.</i>



Exercises

Read and Answer

A. Tick (✓) the correct answer :

1. In a _____, there lived four friends.

a. park / / b. forest / / c. house / /

2. The _____ was trapped in a hunter's net.

a. deer / / b. crow / / c. tortoise / /

3. The hunter thought the deer is _____.

a. friendly / / b. alive / / c. dead / /