

## **The Turtle that fell off the Stick**

There lived a turtle called Kambugriva in a lake, who had two swans as her good friends. All three of them would meet on the banks of the lake every day, and exchanged stories, before returning at sunset. They enjoyed each other's company.

One year, there was no rain and lake started to dry. The swans got worried about the declining water level of the lake, and said to Kambugriva, "You will not be able to survive in this lake. All the water in the lake will soon dry up".

"It is indeed difficult to live here anymore. Dear friends, please look for an alternate lake which is full of water. Then, find a strong stick from somewhere." Kambugriva continued, "Once you find another lake, you can carry me to the lake with a stick. I can hold the stick tightly with my mouth, while both of you can hold the stick at either ends and fly".

As planned, the swans flew to distant places and after some time found a lake which had plenty of water in it. They returned to carry the turtle. As they prepared to hold the stick from both the ends, they reminded the turtle, "Kambugriva, make sure to keep your mouth tightly shut all the time. You must not speak, or you will fall off."

Finally, they started flying. After some time, they had flown some distance when Kambugriva saw a town below.

The people of the town were staring at the sight of two swans carrying a turtle in the sky. "Look at that! This is a rare sight that two birds are carrying a turtle with the help of a stick", they shouted in admiration.

On hearing all the commotion, Kambugriva opened her mouth, "What is all the commotion about?", she asked.

Needless to say, she plummeted down the moment she opened her mouth, and the swans could do nothing to stop her from falling down to the earth. As she fell down, the people of the town captured her to make a feast out of her.

*Adapted from [www.talesofpanchatantra.com](http://www.talesofpanchatantra.com)*

Read each statement and circle either “True” or “False”.

1. Kambugriva found a lake full of water.

True / False

2. The town people were amazed by the sight in the sky.

True / False

3. Which word in the last paragraph tells you that Kambugriva fell?

For questions 4 and 5, write 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the brackets.

4. The swans told Kambugriva to \_\_\_\_\_ before they took flight.

- (1) hold on to the stick with its mouth
- (2) give directions to the new lake
- (3) find a lake with plenty of water
- (4) wave at the people of the town

( )

5. The moral of the story is to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) be cautious of new changes
- (2) listen to the advice of good friends
- (3) show courage in times of danger
- (4) stay calm when facing crowds

( )

## Answers

1. Kambugriva found a lake full of water.

True / **False**

2. The town people were amazed by the sight in the sky.

**True** / False

3. Which word in the last paragraph tells you that Kambugriva fell?

**plummeted**

For questions 4 and 5, write 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the brackets.

4. The swans told Kambugriva to \_\_\_\_\_ before they took flight.

- (1) hold on to the stick with its mouth
- (2) give directions to the new lake
- (3) find a lake with plenty of water
- (4) wave at the people of the town

( **1** )

5. The moral of the story is to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) be cautious of new changes
- (2) listen to the advice of good friends
- (3) show courage in times of danger
- (4) stay calm when facing crowds

( **2** )