



RICHMOND READERS

The Richmond Readers series offers a selection of high quality original and simplified stories in a variety of formats and genres.

The books are graded in seven levels from young starter to advanced. All the books include helpful exercises and activities to make reading more fun.

STARTER LEVEL

## THE HAPPY PRINCE

**Oscar Wilde (1854–1900)** was born in Dublin, Ireland. His story is about a little swallow who stops to rest on a statue. It is known as the statue of the Happy Prince. But the statue isn't really happy! It is sad because it can see the poor people of the town. The little bird helps the prince to make the people happy.

Headword Count

YOUNG STARTER	up to 200
STARTER	300–500
LEVEL 1	500–600
LEVEL 2	600–800
LEVEL 3	1200
LEVEL 4	1800+
ADVANCED	2000+

**Richmond**  
PUBLISHING  
[www.richmondelt.com](http://www.richmondelt.com)

ISBN 84-668-0446-3



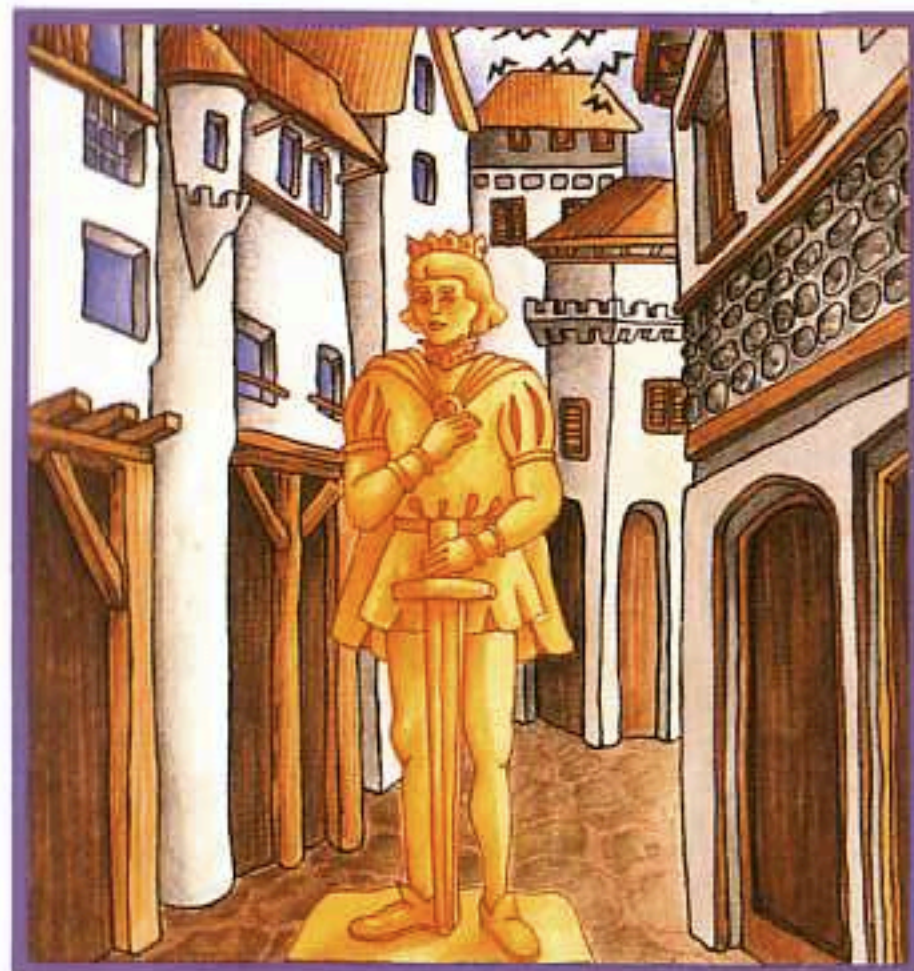
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RICHMOND READERS

STARTER LEVEL

Oscar Wilde



## THE HAPPY PRINCE



# THE HAPPY PRINCE

In the autumn the swallows<sup>1</sup> go to a hot country. It is a long journey.

One swallow is very tired<sup>2</sup>. It stops to rest between<sup>3</sup> the feet<sup>4</sup> of a statue<sup>5</sup>. It is the statue of the Happy Prince.

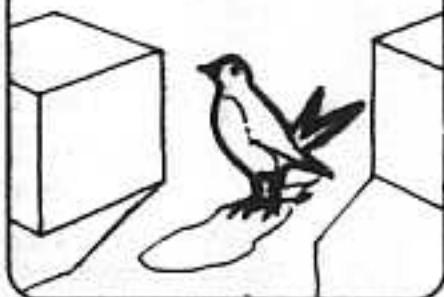
1. swallow



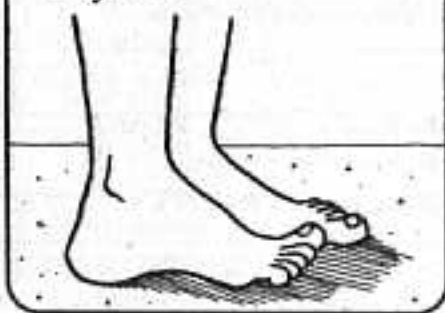
2. tired



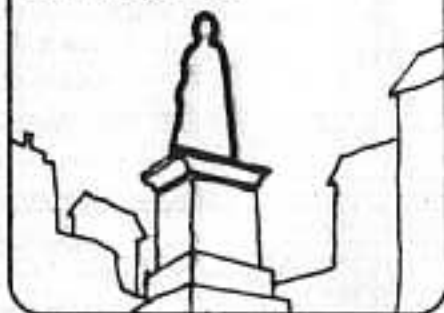
3. between



4. feet



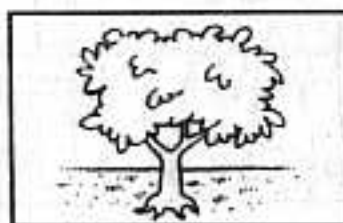
5. statue



## ACTIVITY

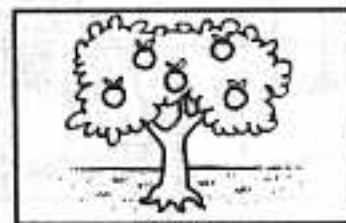


Write the months under the correct season. Colour the pictures.



spring

.....  
.....  
.....



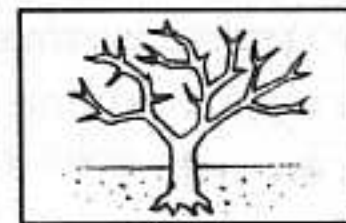
summer

.....  
.....  
.....



autumn

.....  
.....  
.....



winter

.....  
.....  
.....

March November August May

December February October January

June September April July

Now it is .....

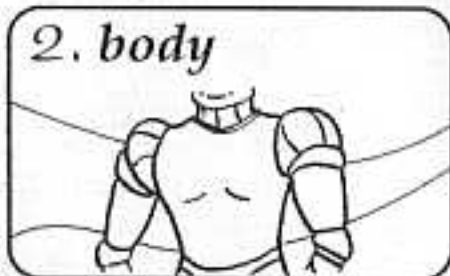


The statue is in the middle of a small town. "What a beautiful statue," say the people. "It has gold leaves<sup>1</sup> on its body<sup>2</sup>, two precious stones<sup>3</sup> for eyes<sup>4</sup> and one in its sword<sup>5</sup>."

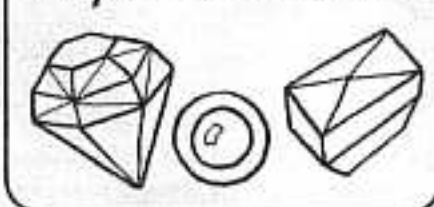
1. *gold leaves*



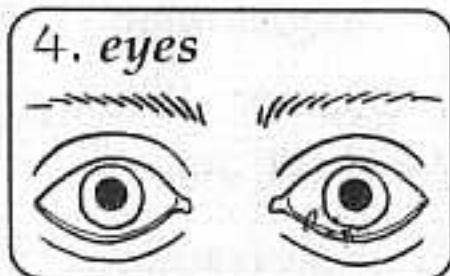
2. *body*



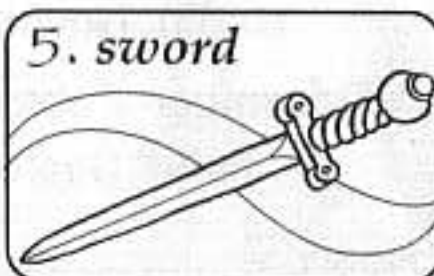
3. *precious stones*



4. *eyes*



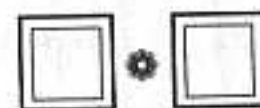
5. *sword*



## ACTIVITY



in the middle



between



on



in



**Answer the questions.**

Where is the statue? .....

.....  
.....

Where are the gold leaves?

.....  
.....

Where are the precious stones?

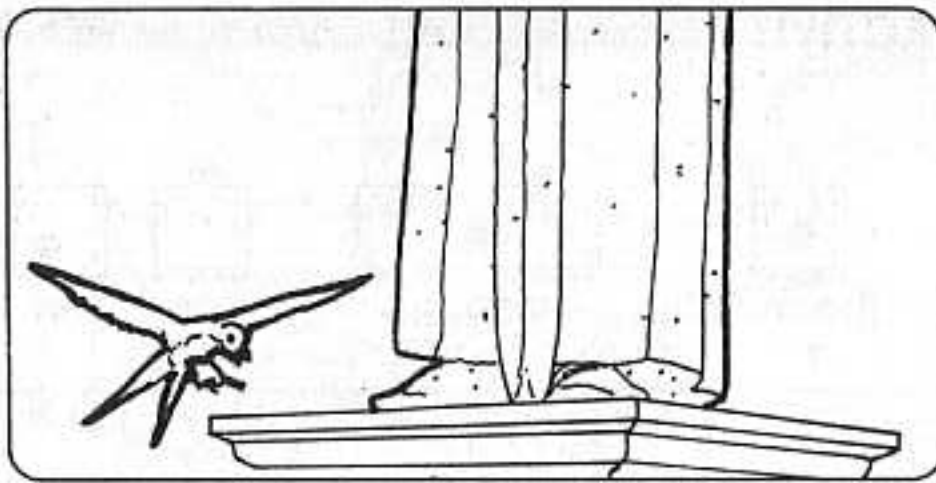
.....  
.....

Where is the swallow?

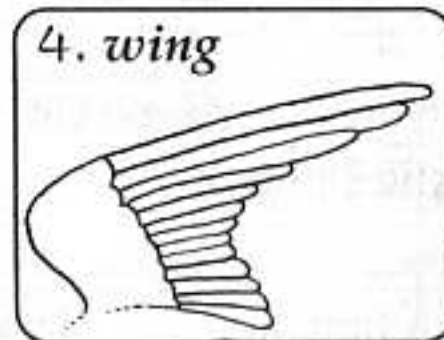
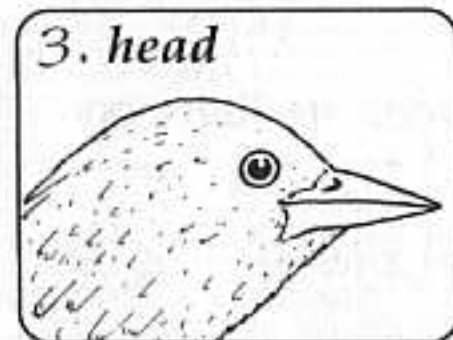
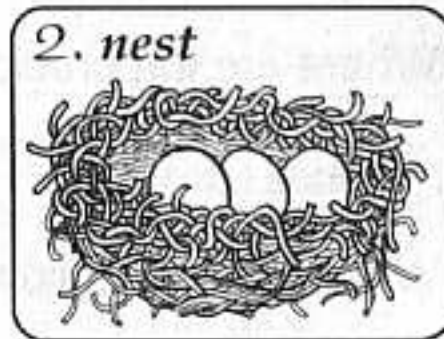
.....  
.....

How many precious stones are there on the Prince?

.....  
.....



"Oh dear," says the swallow,  
 "I'm very tired. I can sleep<sup>1</sup> here.  
 A nest<sup>2</sup> of gold!"  
 "I am King of the Swallows today!"  
 The swallow puts its head<sup>3</sup> under its  
 wing<sup>4</sup>. It closes its eyes and sleeps.



## ACTIVITY



Draw a picture of the Prince and the swallow. Draw a line between the words and the picture.

body

eyes

feet

sword

head

wing





SPLASH..SPLASH! "What's this?",  
says the swallow.  
"It's raining<sup>1</sup>. It's  
very strange.  
It isn't cloudy<sup>2</sup>, the  
sun is shining<sup>3</sup> but  
it's raining!"

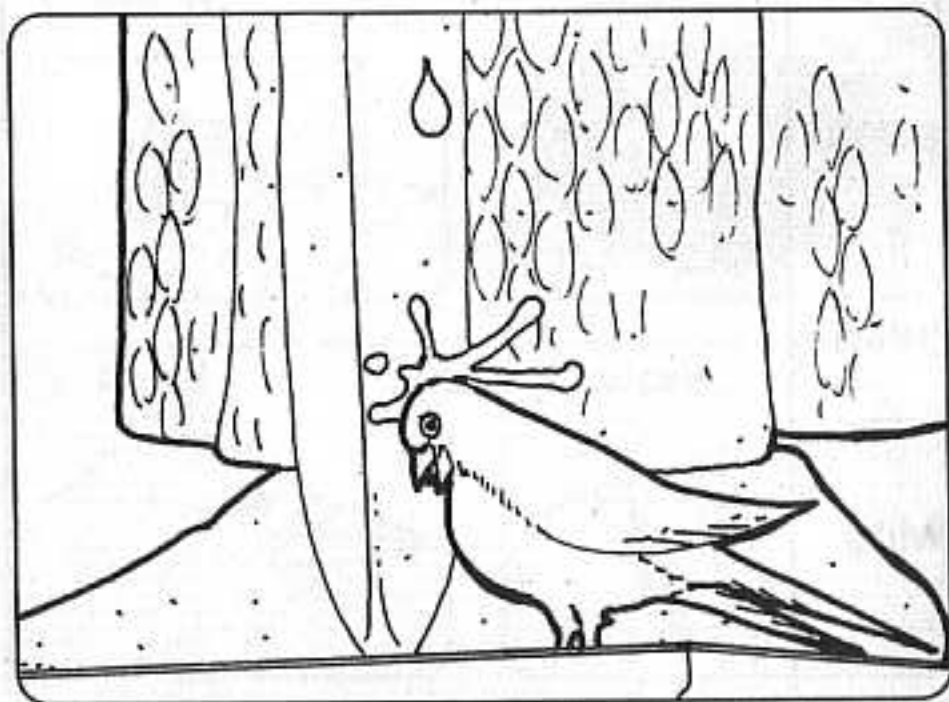
1. *raining*



2. *cloudy*



3. *the sun is shining*



## ACTIVITY



**What's the weather like?**

It's raining.

.....

.....



**Now write the negative.**

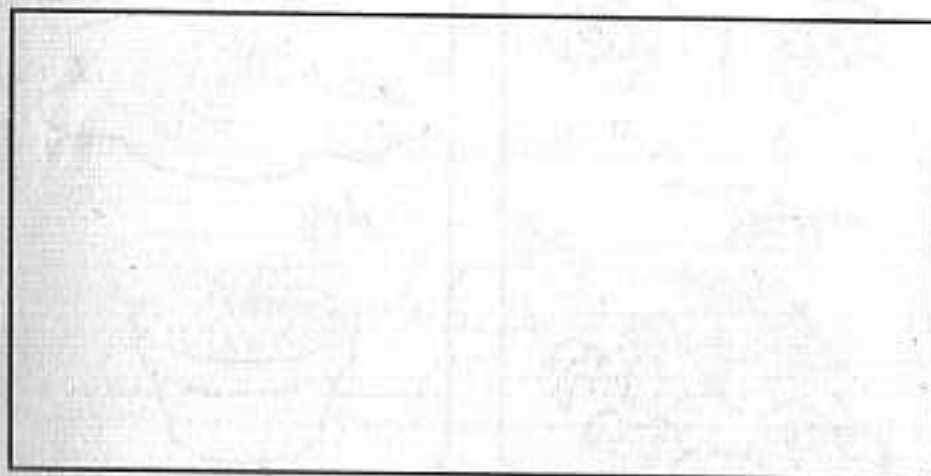
.....

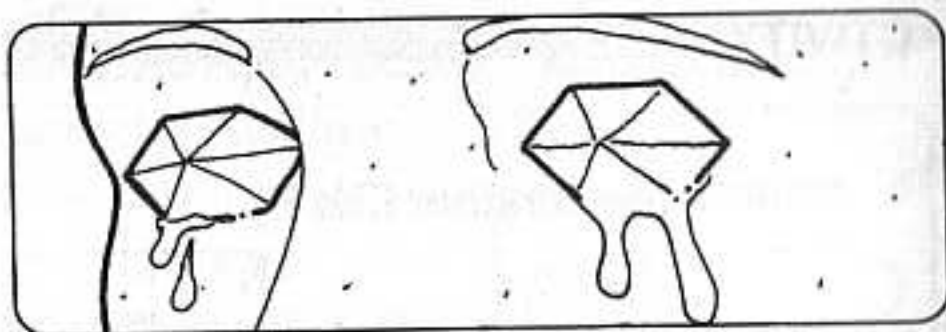
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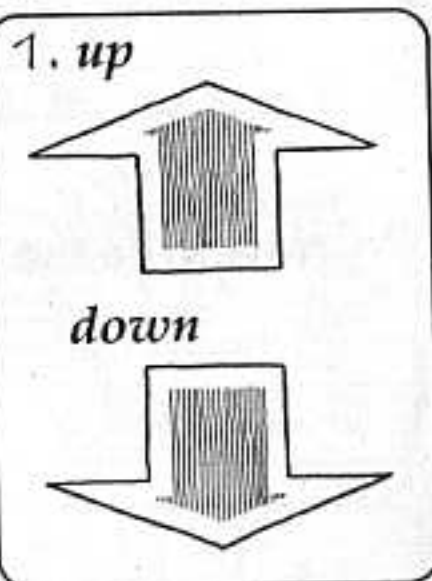


**Draw a picture of today's weather.**





The little bird looks up<sup>1</sup>. In the eyes of the Happy Prince are tears<sup>2</sup>. They go SPLASH, SPLASH on the swallow's head! "Hello up there. Can you see me down here? Why are you crying? I'm all wet<sup>3</sup>!"



## ACTIVITY

Write sentences similar to this.

Why are you **crying**? Because I'm **sad**.



.....

.....



.....

.....



.....

.....

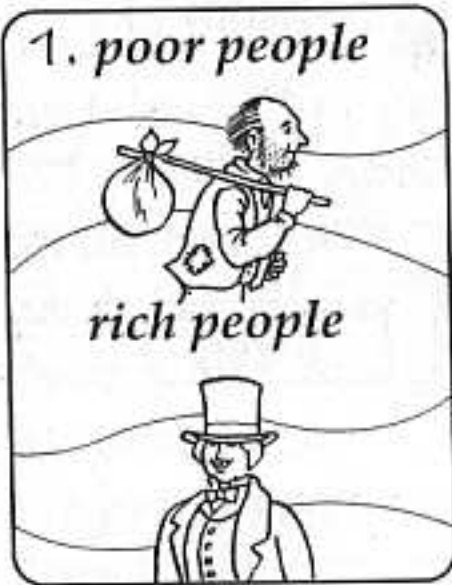


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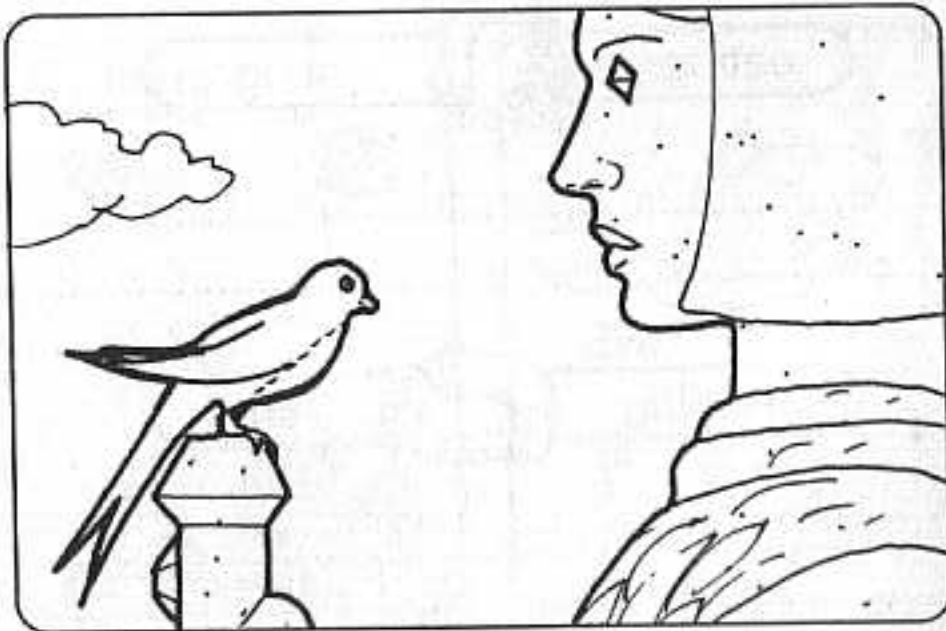
.....

"Who are you?" asks the swallow.  
 "I'm the Happy Prince."  
 "I don't think you are very happy,"  
 says the swallow.  
 "I'm crying because I can see the poor  
 people<sup>1</sup>. They are very sad<sup>2</sup>."

1. *poor people*



2. *sad*



## ACTIVITY



Find the words.

M	D	A	S	K	D	S
X	P	H	W	U	A	E
B	E	C	A	U	S	E
R	O	A	L	P	A	C
I	P	N	L	D	D	R
C	L	P	O	O	R	Y
H	E	R	W	H	O	X



Now list the words.

Cry

.....

.....

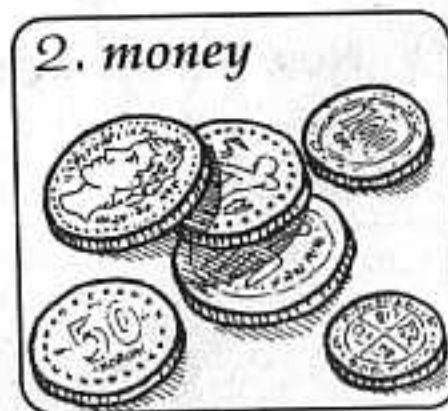
.....

.....





"I can see a small boy," says the Happy Prince, "He is ill<sup>1</sup> in bed. His mother hasn't any money<sup>2</sup> for a doctor. Please, little swallow, take the precious stone from my sword and take it to the mother."



## ACTIVITY



Look at this example.

He's ill.

He's got **stomachache**.



Now write sentences.  
Colour the pictures.

.....  
.....



mumps

.....  
.....

39°



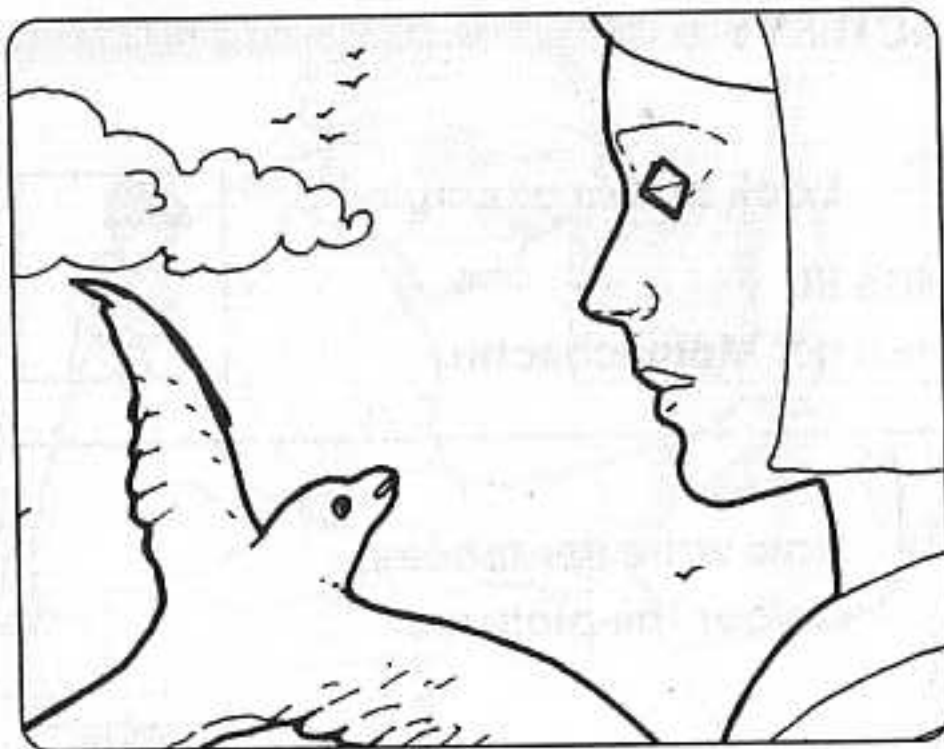
a temperature

.....  
.....



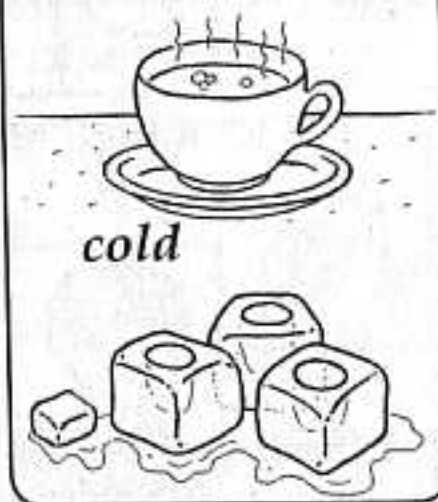
measles



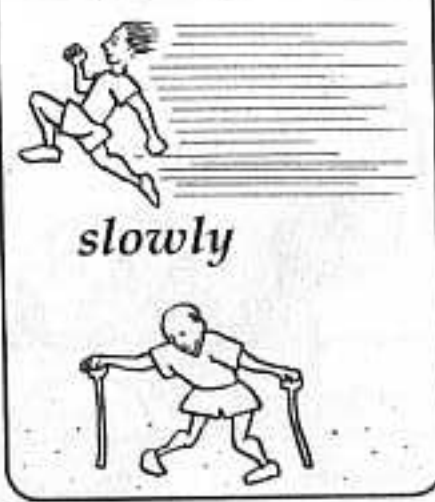


"I'm very sorry," says the swallow, "I can't. All the swallows go to Egypt in winter. It's hot <sup>1</sup> in Egypt, it's cold here. I must fly quickly <sup>2</sup>. I can't stay."

1. hot



2. quickly



## ACTIVITY

- Write: *hot, cold, slow or quick* under the correct picture.
- Now write sentences like this:  
*The sun is hot.*

the sun



Hot

ice-cream



a snail



a horse

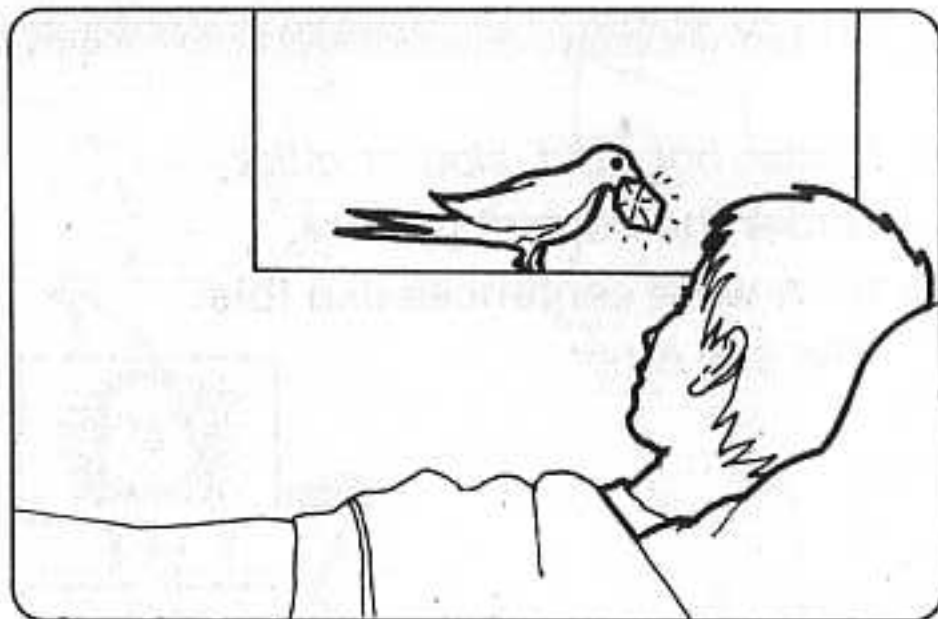


a volcano



ice





But the swallow stays. It takes the precious stone from the Prince's sword. It flies to the boy's house with the stone in its beak<sup>1</sup>. It goes through the window<sup>2</sup> and puts it on the bed<sup>3</sup>.

1. *beak*



2. *through the window*



3. *bed*



## ACTIVITY



Answer the questions about the text.

Does the swallow go to Egypt?

.....

Where does it go?

.....

What does it take?

.....

Does it go through the door?

.....

Where does it put the stone?

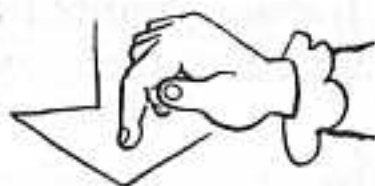
.....



"Goodbye, Prince," says the little swallow, "Now I must go".

"No, stay <sup>1</sup>," says the prince. "I can see a writer who is too cold to write; he has no money for wood <sup>2</sup> for a fire <sup>3</sup>. Take a precious stone from one of my eyes to him."

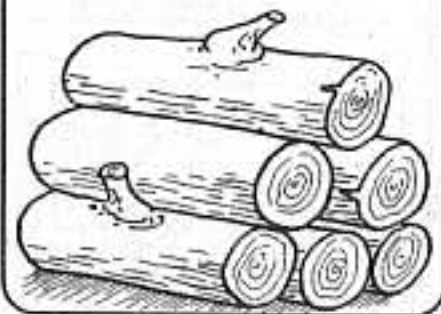
1. stay



go



2. wood



3. fire



## ACTIVITY



Draw a line between the appropriate words and the pictures.

sing

dance

teach

swim

teacher

swimmer

dancer

singer



Write sentences like this.

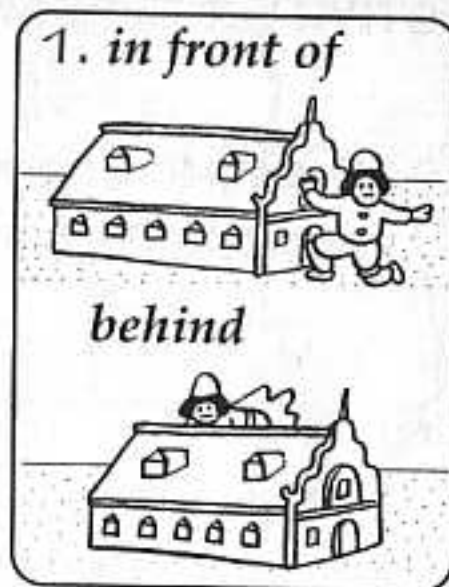


Alice can sing, she's a singer.





The little swallow is cold but it takes the stone and puts it in front of <sup>1</sup> the writer. "Thank you, thank you," says the writer. "Now I can have a fire and finish my book."



## ACTIVITY

**IN FRONT OF** or **BEHIND**



**Draw pictures of your own.**  
**Write sentences like the example.**



Where is the swallow?  
It's in front of the nest.



.....  
.....



.....  
.....



.....  
.....



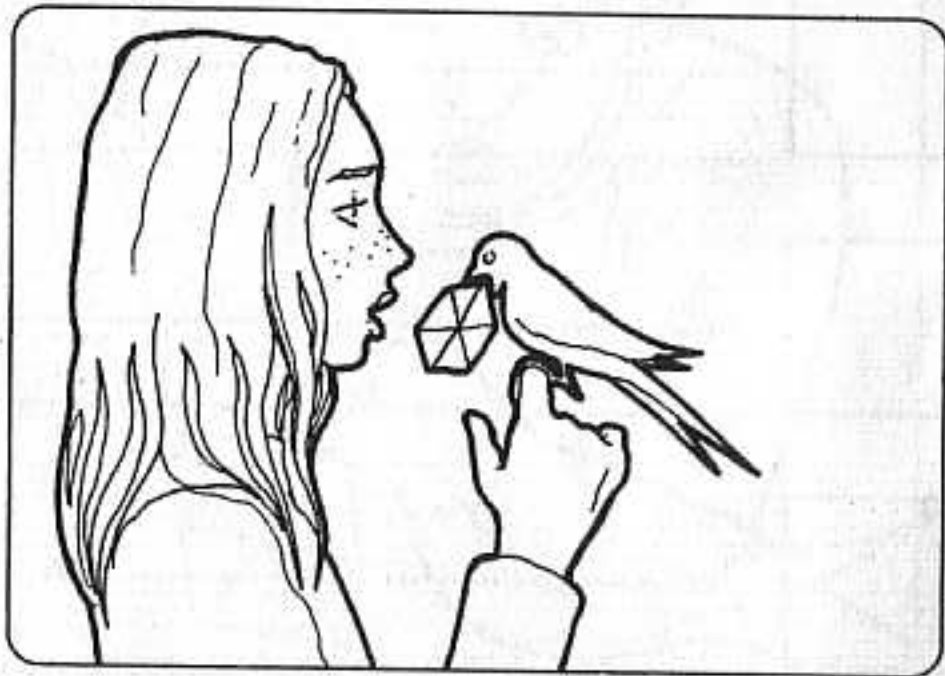
.....  
.....

"Goodbye," says the swallow.  
 "I'm cold. I must go."  
 "Stay one more day," asks the Prince.  
 "I can see a small girl crying<sup>1</sup>.  
 She has no mother or father. Take the  
 stone from my other eye to her."  
 The swallow puts the stone in the small  
 girl's hand<sup>2</sup>.

1. to cry



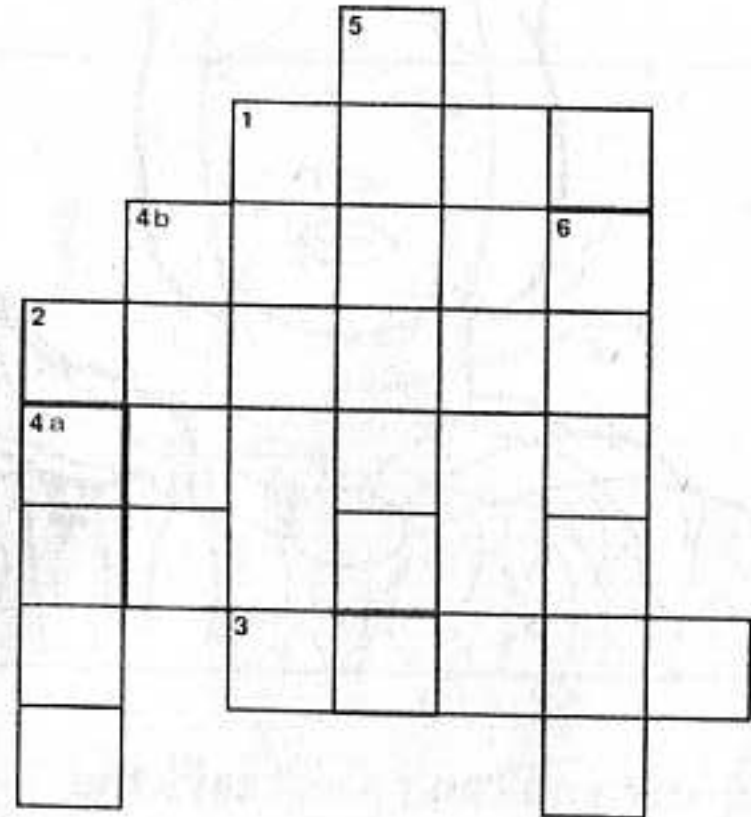
2. hand



## ACTIVITY



### Crossword.



1. The swallow is .....
2. The girl has no .....
3. "Take a ..... from my eye"



4. The swallow <sup>a</sup>..... the stone in the girl's <sup>b</sup>.....
5. The girl has no .....
6. The small girl is .....



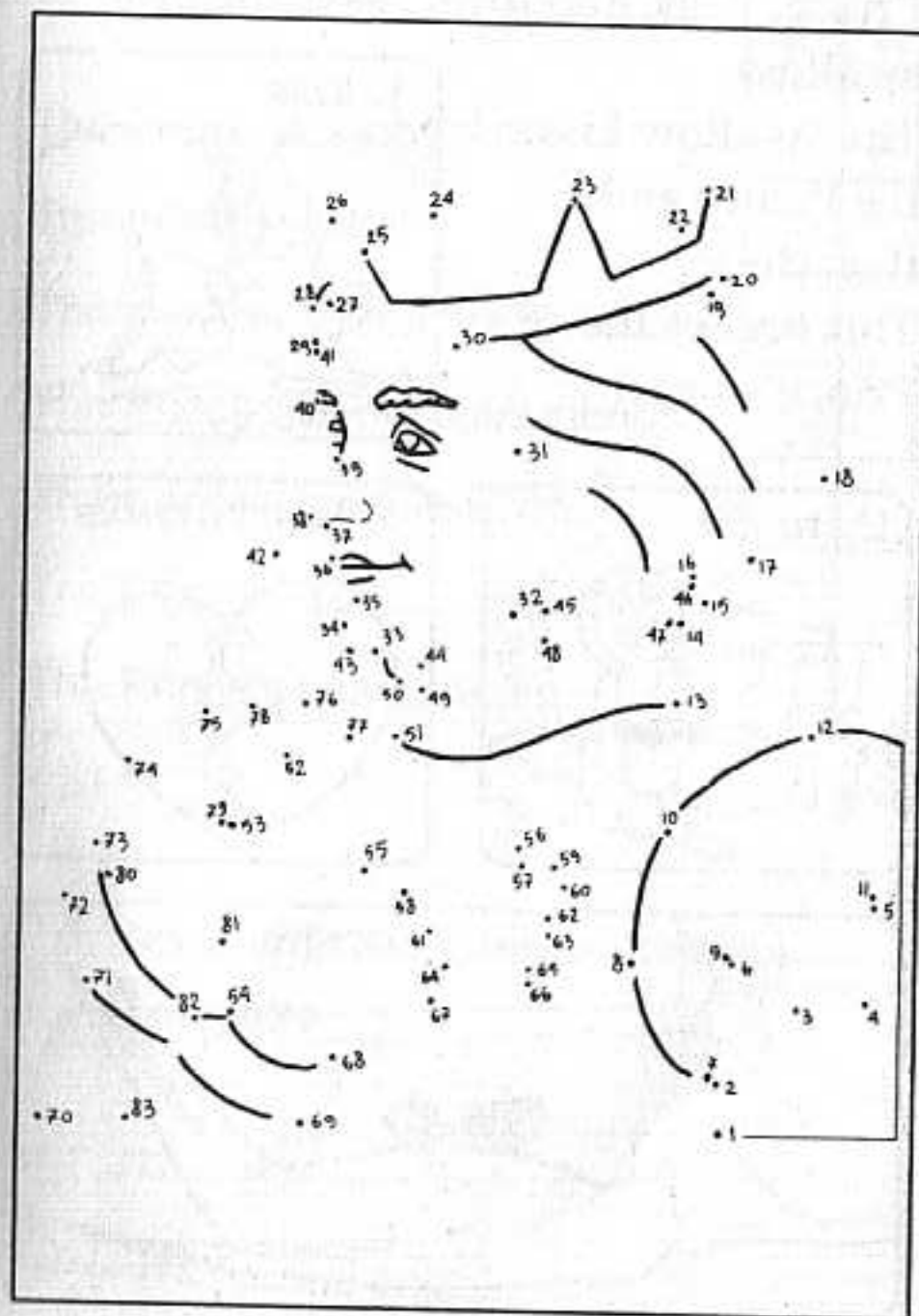
"Now you can't see," says the swallow to the Prince. "I can't leave you." "Thank you," says the Prince. "Please take the golden leaves from my body to the poor people of the town."



## ACTIVITY



Join the numbers and finish the picture.

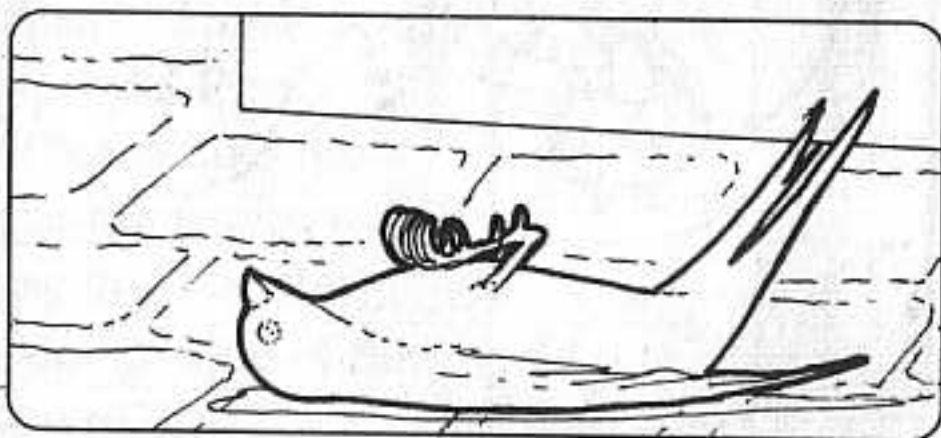
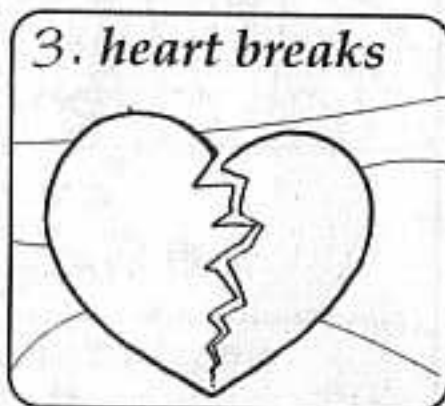
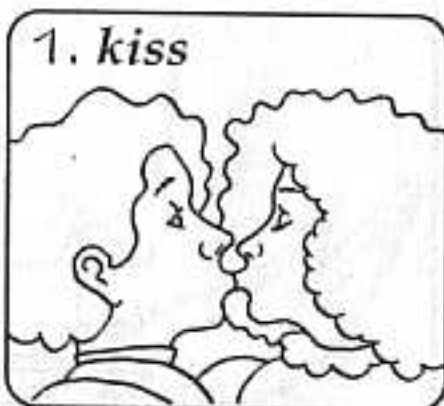




Now the Happy Prince has no precious stones and no golden leaves. The little swallow is now very, very cold. "You must go to Eygpt," says the Prince. "Yes, goodbye," says the little swallow.

The swallow kisses<sup>1</sup> the Prince and then dies<sup>2</sup>.

This breaks the Prince's heart<sup>3</sup>.



## ACTIVITY



**True or False.**

**Put a tick in the correct box.**

T.	F.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Prince is happy.

The swallow is hot.

The swallow kisses the Prince.

The Prince has precious stones.

The swallow goes to Eygpt.

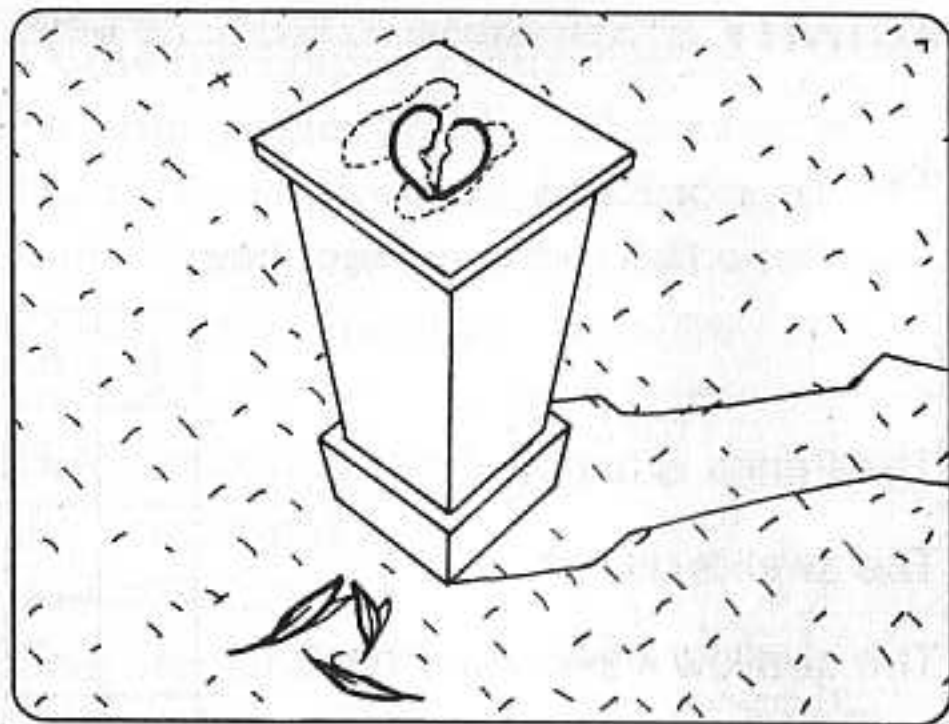
The swallow dies.

The Prince's heart breaks.



**Now write the false sentences correctly.**

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

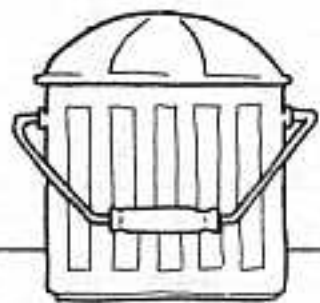


"The Happy Prince isn't beautiful now," say the people.

"Tomorrow, we will pull him down and put him in the dustbin<sup>1</sup>."

But the next day in the square, there was no statue and no swallow. Only a broken heart of stone and some feathers<sup>2</sup>.

1. *dustbin*



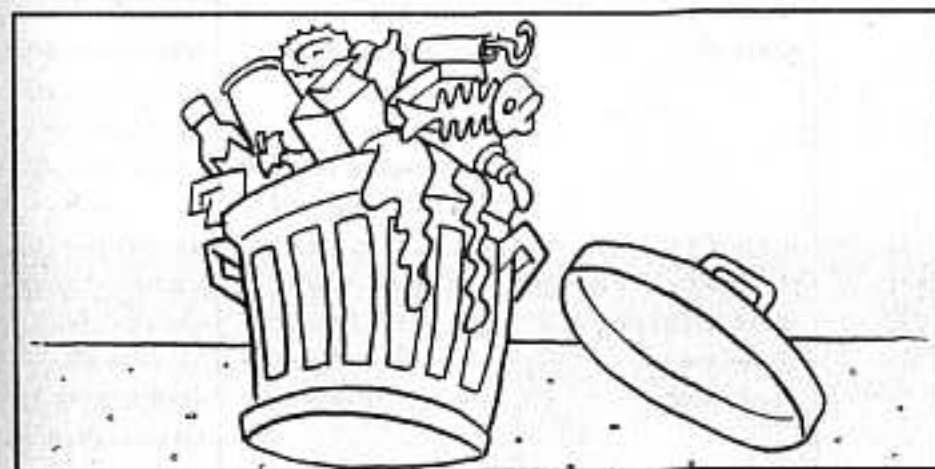
2. *feathers*



## ACTIVITY



What's in the dustbin?



ttoleb

xbo

itn

noeb

paerp

buet

There is a *bottle*.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....