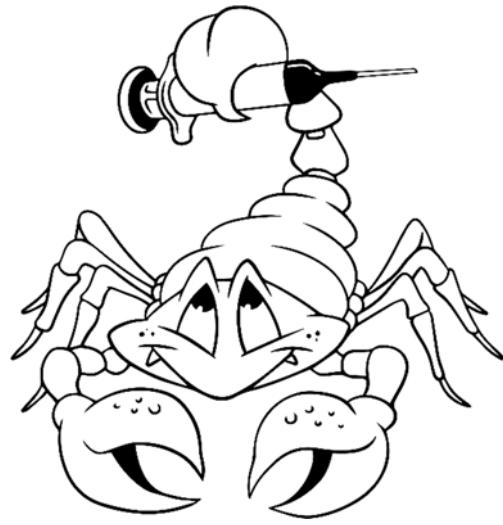


Name _____

The Frog and the Scorpion

Once upon a time, in a lush and tranquil forest, there lived a wise old frog named Freddie. Freddie had seen many creatures come and go and had learned to be cautious of strangers. One day, as he sat by a sparkling pond, a scorpion approached him.



The scorpion was desperate to cross the pond but couldn't swim. It begged Freddie, "Dear Frog, I need to reach the other side of the pond, but I fear I'll drown. Please, carry me on your back. I promise I won't harm you."

Freddie hesitated, knowing that scorpions were notorious for their venomous sting. But he was a kind-hearted frog and believed in helping others in need. "How can I trust you not to sting me?" he asked the scorpion.

"Because," replied the scorpion, "if I sting you while you're carrying me, we'll both drown, and I don't want that to happen."

Convinced by the scorpion's reasoning, Freddie agreed to carry the scorpion across the pond on his back. As they began their journey, the scorpion climbed onto Freddie's back, and they swam across the pond together.

Halfway across, the scorpion broke its promise and stung Freddie. Feeling the venom spreading through his body, Freddie cried out, "Why did you sting me? Now we'll both die!"

The scorpion replied with a wicked grin, "It's in my nature. I cannot change who I am."

And so, with the venom taking its toll, Freddie and the scorpion sank beneath the water, their journey ending tragically.

Questions

1. Who are the main characters in the fable "The Frog and the Scorpion"?
2. Why did the scorpion ask the frog for help to cross the pond?
3. What made Freddie hesitant to carry the scorpion on his back?
4. What did the scorpion promise the frog before they started crossing the pond?
5. Why did the scorpion ultimately sting the frog, even though it knew they would both die?