



CEC READING LIBRARY • GRADE 3 • R3 CHALLENGE

Thumbelina

9 Chapters

Day 1-9

Q3 W22-W24

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: A Flower Opens

VOCABULARY tiny, thumb, bloomed, appeared

A kind woman had always wished for a little child, but she lived alone in a cottage. One day, she planted a magic seed in a flower pot and waited. After a few days, a beautiful flower bloomed. Inside it, a tiny girl appeared among the petals and smiled! ★ **She was very small.** She was even smaller than a thumb, so the woman named her Thumbelina. She slept in a walnut shell, and the woman loved her dearly. The woman clapped her hands and laughed with joy, and the little girl giggled back in a voice like a silver bell.

THINK Why did the woman plant a magic seed?

Chapter 2: A Walnut Bed

VOCABULARY tiny, walnut, petal, sang

Thumbelina lived in a tiny world made just for her. Her bed was a walnut shell, and her blanket was a soft flower petal. Every morning, she brushed her hair with a tiny comb. She loved to sing, and when she sang, the birds sat on the fence to listen. ★ **She was as small as a thumb.** Her mother cared for her and kept her warm and safe. But at night, Thumbelina looked out of the window and dreamed of seeing the big world outside. The crickets and frogs sometimes joined in, and the whole garden felt like a tiny concert hall.

THINK Why did the birds sit to listen?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: Dew Drops and Butterflies

VOCABULARY butterflies, dew, adventure, wondered

Thumbelina spent happy days playing with butterflies. Sometimes she rode on a butterfly's back like a tiny pilot! Every morning, she washed her face with cool dew drops, and every night she looked at the stars and wondered if there were others like her. ★ **She was tiny — no bigger than a thumb.** She dreamed of exploring the wide, beautiful world, because her heart wanted an adventure. Soon, an unexpected adventure would find the tiny girl. She tried to count the stars from her window, but there were always too many, and that made her smile.

THINK Why did she wonder about others like her?

Chapter 4: Stolen by a Toad

VOCABULARY toad, took, scared, floated

One night, while Thumbelina was sleeping in her walnut bed, a big, ugly toad hopped through the window. "Ribbit! You will marry my son!" she croaked. The toad took her away to a pond. When Thumbelina woke up, she was sitting on a lily pad in the middle of the water, and she was scared. Poor Thumbelina cried and cried for help. Then tiny fish felt sorry for her and nibbled the stem. ★ **She floated away.** The lily pad broke free and carried her down the stream. The toad's pond smelled of mud, and the frogs on the bank laughed, "Croak, croak!" which made Thumbelina feel even smaller.

THINK Why did the toad want Thumbelina?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: Alone on a Leaf

VOCABULARY alone, missed, butterfly, stream

The lily pad carried Thumbelina down the winding stream. ★ **She floated on a leaf alone.** She missed her mother, her walnut bed, and her soft petal blanket. A kind butterfly flew beside her to keep her company. Thumbelina sang a little song, and the butterfly danced in the air. But the water moved slowly, the world seemed so big, and she felt small and lonely. She did not know where the stream would take her. The sun sparkled on the ripples, and a dragonfly zoomed past, but Thumbelina could not stop thinking of home.

THINK Why did she miss her walnut bed and petal blanket?

Chapter 6: Down the River

VOCABULARY river, cold, tight, courage

The stream carried Thumbelina further and further from home. ★ **She floated down the river on a lily leaf.** She floated all day long, and beautiful flowers and tall trees passed by on both sides. As the sun set, the air became cold and dark. Fireflies lit up like tiny lamps, but Thumbelina shivered. She held on tight to the leaf and refused to give up. Her body was tiny, but her courage was bigger than her size. The river grew wider, and the moon came out, round and silver, like a lamp watching over her.

THINK Why does the author say her "courage was bigger than her size"?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: A Warm Mouse Home

VOCABULARY winter, mouse, warm, soup

Thumbelina wandered alone until winter was near. She was cold, hungry, and very tired, and the first snowflakes began to fall. Then she saw a small door in the ground. A kind field mouse opened it and invited her into her warm home. ★ **She found a home.** Thumbelina ate warm soup for the first time in days, and the mouse gave her a tiny bed by the fire. The mouse took care of her through the cold days. Thumbelina was grateful to finally have a safe place. The mouse hummed a soft tune while she stirred the pot, and the little house smelled like herbs and bread.

THINK What did she see in the ground?

Chapter 8: The Swallow

VOCABULARY swallow, hurt, flew, sunny

Thumbelina spent the winter in the field mouse's warm home. In spring, she heard a sad little cry. She found a hurt swallow lying in the grass, and she nursed him with kind words and soft leaves. Soon he was strong again. The swallow promised to take her somewhere beautiful. Thumbelina climbed onto his back, and he carried her over mountains and rivers. They flew high above the clouds, and the wind sang in her ears. At last, they arrived in a sunny land full of sunshine and flowers. ★ **She found a warm and safe home.** The swallow chirped happily, and Thumbelina laughed as the clouds tickled her cheeks.

THINK Why did the swallow help Thumbelina?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Happily Ever After

VOCABULARY finally, prince, wings, friends

In the warm land, Thumbelina met a tiny flower prince. He bowed and said, "Welcome, Thumbelina!" He was exactly her size, and he gave her a pair of beautiful, shining wings. Now she could fly from flower to flower! ★ **At last, she found a safe and happy home.** She was no longer alone or cold or afraid. Finally, Thumbelina felt at home. Her long adventure taught her about courage and kindness. Thumbelina lived happily ever after with her new friends. The prince took her hand, the flowers nodded in the breeze, and everyone cheered, "Welcome home, Thumbelina!"

THINK Why were the wings important?