

Baby Blackbird

Read the nature story.

Then follow the instructions in the text-marking box.

I'm a baby blackbird, a little ball of brown feathers and fluff. I'd make a tasty snack for a cat, so I'm hiding under a hedge. I can hardly be seen here. But when food is on its way, I'm not so invisible. I open my beak wide to show the bright yellow inside of my mouth. It's a clear target for my parents to drop in whatever juicy grub they've found.

I'm always hungry. My parents work hard to find food for me. I get anxious when they're gone for too long. I make little peeping noises to call them back. They're usually close by.

I'm not very good at staying safe. Sometimes I hop about on noisy, crackly leaves, drawing attention to myself. Sometimes I forget to hide. I sit in the open where cats can easily spot me. When I'm thirsty, I sip from the pond. Falling in would be a disaster. My parents try to shoo me to safer places, because I don't have much sense yet. I won't be grown up until I'm 5 weeks old!



Text Marking

Find the problems and solutions in the nature story.



Box the signal words.



Circle the problems.



Underline the solutions.

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► Answer each question. Give evidence from the story.

- 1 Where does the baby bird hide itself?
► A in a nest ► B under a hedge ► C by the pond ► D in a tree

What helped you answer? _____

- 2 Why does the baby blackbird do dangerous things?

- A It likes taking risks.
► B It is too young to keep itself safe.
► C It wants to disobey its parents.
► D It enjoys problem-solving.

What helped you answer? _____

- 3 Why would falling into the pond be a disaster?

- 4 Explain which parts of this story are facts and which things are fictional.

