

Name _____

Sal Fink Meets Two-Toed Tom

Around these parts she was known as the “Mississippi Yeller.” That gal, Sal Fink, had 15
a holler that could scare rain right out of the clouds. As Sal was strolling one day, 32
she heard a strange grunting and growling coming from the riverbank. She looked 45
closer and found herself face-to-face with an alligator. This wasn’t just any gator. 60
It was 25 feet long with a mouth full of shiny, sharp teeth. A glance at his right foot 79
told her all she needed to know. This alligator was none other than Two-Toed Tom— 95
—the meanest, sneakiest gator in the whole Mississippi! Many brave men would have 108
run in terror, but not our Sal! She took one look at that creature and imagined the 125
brand new alligator skin boots she could make from his leathery hide. Sal got ready 141
to let out a yelp that would surely scare that lizard right out of his skin. But then she 159
noticed that Tom was crying. Well, Sal might be brave, but she wasn’t cruel. The 174
look of misery on that poor beast’s face near broke her heart. Two-Toed Tom gave 190
another great groan. Why, that gator had gone and eaten something disagreeable! 204
Sal had a solution. She leaned over and walloped him three times on the back. 219
Sure enough her trick worked! The gator tensed and wriggled for a moment. Then 233
up came four pine trees, fifteen pounds of sausage, a barrel of pickles, and the 248
back half of a rowboat. “Yeee high!” Sal hollered. “No wonder you were feeling 262
poorly.” Tom answered with a wink of his eye and slid into the river. That wasn’t the 279
last time Sal Fink crossed paths with old Tom, but that’s a story for another day! 295

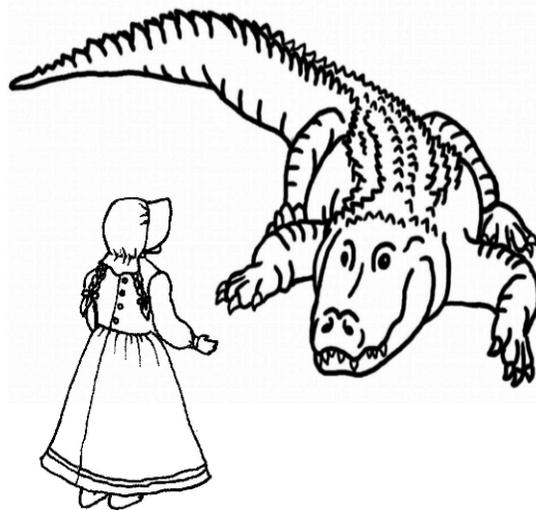
	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Parent Tips

The key to fluency is NOT just speed! The key is being able to chunk groups of words together conveniently, use punctuation as a guide, and to use a 'reader's voice.' (Being able to also include character attitude and personality is a wonderful sign of comprehension too!) When a student does all of these things well, then his speed automatically increases!

1. Tall tales are stories that are exaggerated and couldn't really happen. Which statement about Sal Fink is an exaggeration?

- She had a kind heart for animals.
- She could scare rain from clouds.
- She liked to walk by the river.



2. What does *holler* mean?

- scream
- hollow
- bounce

3. What caused Two-Toed Tom's stomach pain?

- Sal pounded his back.
- He caught the flu.
- He ate too much junk.

4. What do you think happened the next time Sal and Tom met?