

Quackers, the Troublesome

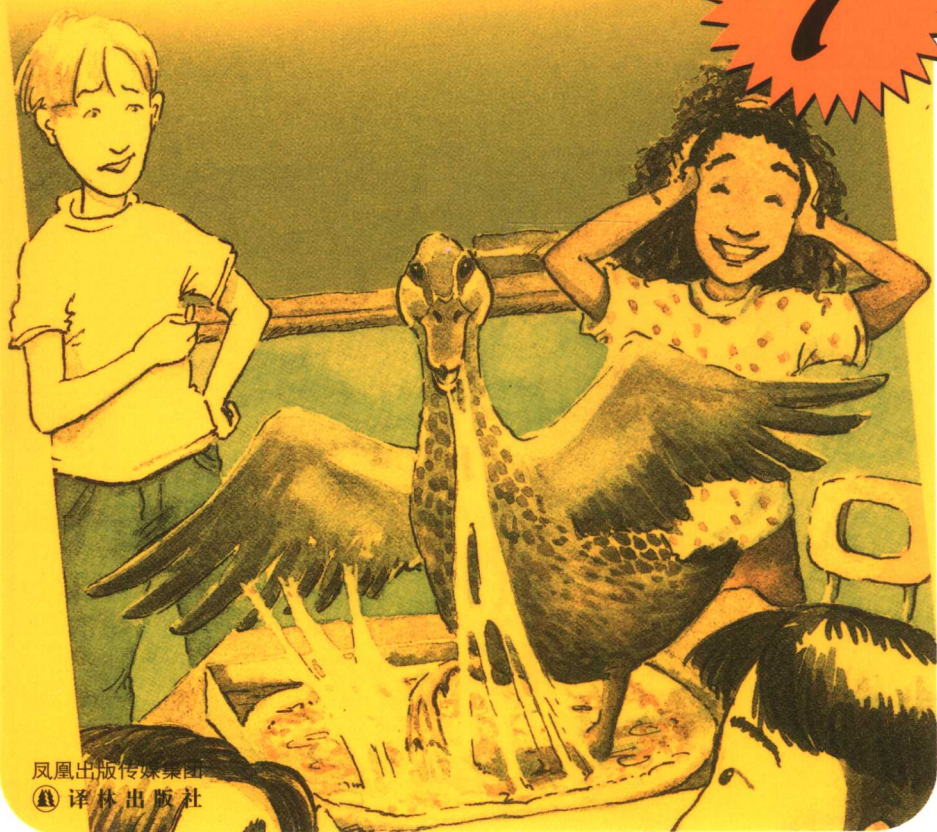
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英语阅读

麻烦的嘎嘎鸭

Quackers, the Troublesome Duck

◆ 莱斯利·埃伦 著

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To Toby and Dennis—"Quack!"

Chapter 1

A Duck Named Quackers

A gentle April **breeze** was blowing as Jody Martin and Ben Stubbs walked through Quincy Park on their way to school. They were walking near the pond as they usually did each weekday morning and afternoon.

Jody's long dark hair blew around her face as she said, "Look at the **buds** on the trees. I bet it won't be long before they **blossom** and the flowers bloom."

"Mmmmm, just smell the wonderful smells. I love spring!" said Ben.



Ben, whose sharp blue eyes missed nothing, saw a movement in some tall grass.

"Jody," he said, "wait a minute."

Ben walked over to where he thought he saw something moving.

"Jody," said Ben, "come quick!"

"Is this an April Fool's joke?" Jody asked. She knew how much Ben loved to make jokes.

"No!" shouted Ben. "Look at this!"

"Wow!" was all Jody could say when she saw what Ben found so interesting. "It's an egg, and it's **CRACKING!**"

"It looks too big to be a chicken egg," said Ben.

Jody, whose favorite subject was science, said, "I'll bet it's a duck egg. Lots of ducks live around the duck pond all spring and summer."





“Let’s stay and watch what happens,” said Ben.

Jody looked at her watch. “We’re going to be very late for school,” she replied.

“Oh, come on!” Ben **pleaded**.

Jody and Ben **kneeled** in the grass and watched. They couldn’t take their eyes off the light blue egg that was wiggling and jiggling in the grass.

After a while, a small duckling worked its way out of the shell. Ben and Jody were the first things the little duckling saw.





They laughed at the funny things the duckling did as its feathers dried in the April sunshine. They watched the duckling as it **tumbled** and peeped.

“You’re even trying to quack already,” said Ben, who loved animals—especially baby animals.

“I think we should call the duck Quackers,” said Ben with a **grin**.

The children didn't know that as they were watching the duckling, the duckling was watching them.

"Jody, Quackers is really cute. But now we're late for school. How will we explain this to Ms. Ramos?" Ben asked.

"That's what I told you," said Jody. "Now we really have to hurry."

Jody and Ben rushed out of the park. They **practically** ran the short distance to Parkside School.





When Jody and Ben got to their classroom, their teacher, Ms. Ramos, said, “Jody, Ben, you two are over one hour late. I think you’d better go downstairs and report to Mr. Clark in the **principal’s** office.”

“I guess we’re **in trouble** now,” said Ben.

“It was worth it!” Jody said.



Jody and Ben did as Ms. Ramos asked. Just as they were leaving the principal's office, they saw an **amazing** sight. In the doorway of the school was a little duckling.

"Quackers!" shouted Jody and Ben together.

"It looks like the duck followed us to school! What will we do now?" asked Ben.

Chapter 2

Duck+Pizza=Trouble

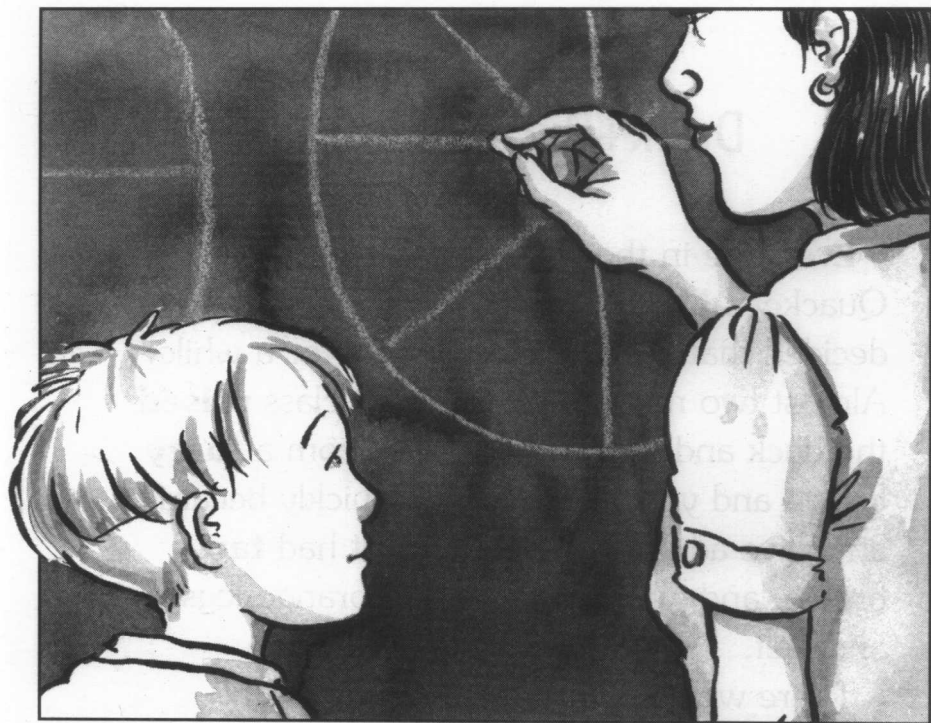
Everyone in the class wanted to keep Quackers. Ms. Ramos thought about it, then decided that Quackers could stay for a while. Almost two months passed. The class **raised** the duck and watched it grow. From a **fuzzy** brown and yellow duckling, it quickly became an active adult female mallard. It had **tan**, brown, and white feathers and orange legs and feet.

There were some people who thought Quackers was too active. Time after time, Quackers seemed to get into trouble.



- raised
A. lifted
B. reared
C. increased

Key: B



On a warm day in June, Ms. Ramos's class was doing a math lesson. Ben, who loved math, was trying hard to **pay attention to** Ms. Ramos. Ms. Ramos was drawing **circles** on the chalkboard. Each circle stood for a **pizza**. Each pizza circle was divided into a different number of pieces. One showed halves. One showed fourths. One showed eighths—the same number of pieces as a **REAL** pizza.

As a **treat**, Ms. Ramos got pizza for the class to have for lunch. Four pizza boxes were waiting on a table at the back of the room.

“Jody,” whispered her friend Tina Perez, “what is Quackers up to now?”



Jody turned around and saw Quackers standing with her two big orange feet right in the middle of one of the pizzas. She had gotten one of the pizza boxes open. Quackers was having a **wonderful** time. She was eating pizza.

“Oh no!” cried Jody. “Quackers is in trouble again!”

Ms. Ramos, who had been facing the chalkboard, quickly turned around. She was just in time to see Quackers jump out of the pizza box.

Quackers had a long **string** of cheese hanging from her bill. As she **waddled** across the table and onto the floor, she left a webbed-footed trail of tomato sauce footprints.

“The time has come for Quackers to GO!” said Ms. Ramos.

waddled

A. ran quickly

B. swam slowly

C. walked unsteadily

