

Sal and the Gals

Yes sir, Sal Fink had unusual talents, but what she wanted most was to be like other 17
 gals. One day she heard a group of girls talking about a barbecue the judge was 32
 holding at his mansion across the river. “I love a barbecue!” said Sal. The girls 47
 looked at Sal’s muddy feet and messy hair. One girl said, “The steamboat is taking us 63
 at 8 o’clock. We’ll see you then.” So Sal got ready. She dusted off her coon-skin 79
 cape and thought she looked mighty fine. Then she walked back to town, but she was 95
 too late--the steamboat had left. They lied to her! Now a gal like Sal doesn’t 112
 need a boat to cross a river, but swimming would ruin her party clothes. She clenched 128
 her fists and let loose an angry holler. “Yeeeeee high!” Just then there was a rustle 144
 in the weeds. It was Two-Toed Tom! That gator took a look at Sal, a look at the 163
 river and sized up the situation. With a wink he turned back toward the water. 178
 Lickety-split Sal hopped on his back and rode him into the river. Was she scared? 194
 Not our Sal! After a few minutes she began to sing. “Yankee Doodle went to 209
 town...” The louder she sang the faster Tom swam. Soon they passed the riverboat. 224
 “Little Sal Fink left from town riding on a gator...” The crowd turned to stare. “She’ll 240
 enjoy the barbecue but you won’t come till later!” Sal and her gator sailed past the 256
 boat and soon were clear across the river. The judge and his rich guests came down 272
 to the water to meet this gator girl. The judge made Sa the guest of honor and by 290
 the time the riverboat arrived, she was the hit of the party. 302

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

Parent Tips

Although some readers may recognize words automatically on a list, they may not be able to read the same words in sentences. So, instant word recognition isn't enough to guarantee adequate reading fluency. It is important for students to practice fluency as they read a longer text.

1. Which is an example of cause and effect?

- o Sal didn't look nice, so the other girls didn't want to be with her.
- o Sal wanted to be just like one of the other girls.
- o Sal could ride an alligator across the river.

2. How does Sal handle being tricked?

- o She whines that the girls were mean.
- o She finds a way to get herself to the party.
- o She plans to get even with the other girls.

3. What happened *after* Sal got to the party?

- o She was the guest of honor.
- o She wore her best clothes.
- o She rode Tom across the river.

4. Why do you think Two-Toed Tom gave Sal a ride?

