

Answer Key**Emily's Turtle**

Read the story. Next, circle the words and phrases that help you understand the central message of the story. Answer the questions below.

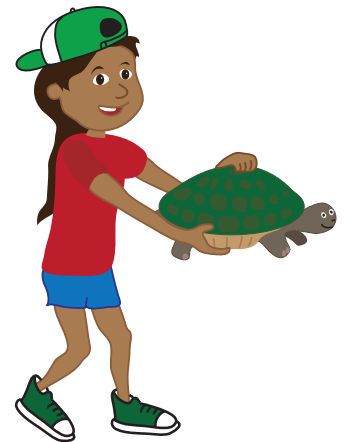
Emily and her turtle are best friends. When Emily is at school, her turtle enjoys swimming and exploring in its large terrarium. When she gets home, Emily takes her pet turtle out of its terrarium and feeds him dark leafy greens. Sometimes she even takes him outside to bask, or lie, in the sun!

Emily enjoys caring for her turtle!

One day, Emily's turtle didn't feel well. She could tell because its eyes were swollen and he wouldn't eat his food. Emily left her house quickly and rushed her turtle to the vet. The vet asked Emily if she was cleaning the water in her turtle's terrarium regularly, or at least every other day.

Emily told the vet that she had been busy and forgot to change the water. She promised to do it right away when she got home.

Now Emily never forgets to change her turtle's water. She knows that her pet is her responsibility and she has to take care of him! She even keeps a calendar in her room and puts a check mark on the days she cleans her turtle's terrarium. Turtles are a lot of fun, but it takes a lot of hard work to keep them healthy!



1. The author is trying to tell us to be responsible.

I know this because the text says that when Emily's turtle got sick, she was too busy to remember to change his water. Then she realizes that it's her responsibility to take care of him! She even uses a calendar to keep track of the days she changes his water.

(answers will vary)

2. The word _____ means _____.

I know this because the text says _____.