Is There an Alligator in the Pond?

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Practice reading these sentences.

Jim, Jack, and Deena were at Alligator Pond.
They jumped in and swam to the raft.
Jack heard a big splash.
Jim said, “It’s an alligator.”
The twins, Jim and Jack, lived next door to Deena. One hot summer day in August, they invited her to go swimming with them at Alligator Pond.

Jim said, “Dad has a jeep. He can take us to the pond.” Jack said, “Deena, ask your mom if you can swim with us.”

Deena asked her mom. She clapped and said, “Mom said I can go.”
The trip to the pond was not long in the jeep. Dad left the jeep near a tree by the pond. Jack jumped onto the grass. Deena and Jim jumped. The kids helped Dad unpack the jeep.
Dad sat on the sand.
Jim said, “Let’s go! Jump in the pond!”
Jim jumped in.
Jack splashed in.
Jim and Jack screamed for fun.
Deena did not jump in.
Deena just stood on the bank of the pond. She was worried that the water might be too cold.

Jack splashed Deena.
Jim called, “Jump in! Jump in!”
Deena called back, “O.K.”
She splashed into the pond.
She grinned. It was fun.
Jim and Jack swam to the raft.
Jim and Jack yelled, “You can do it, Deena. You can get to the raft.” Deena kicked her legs and feet. Deena splashed her arms and hands. She did it! Deena swam to the raft!
Then Jack yelled, “Watch out for alligators!” Deena was glad she was on the raft!

Jack heard a big splash.
“Help!” he yelled.
Deena said, “It was just a fish.”
Jack said, “It was NOT a fish.”
Jim said, “It was just a bird.”
Jack said, “It was NOT a bird.”
Jim said, “I see it. It’s an alligator.”
Deena said, “It is NOT. It is not big.”
“An alligator can be big or small,” said Jim.
Jack screamed, “Help! I don’t like alligators!”
The children jumped up and huddled together in the middle of the raft. They yelled for Dad to save them from the alligator.

"Help! Dad, help us!" they yelled.
SPLASH!

A big, green frog hopped onto the raft.

“It was not an alligator!” said Jack. He was glad.

“It was just a frog!”

The kids grinned.
Dad said, “Come and eat.
One, two, three, … jump!”
The kids jumped off the raft. They swam fast.
The frog jumped back into the pond.

The children looked at each other sheepishly and began to laugh. It was just a frog!
Jack and Deena swam to the bank fast. Jim was last. They jogged to the picnic mat.
The kids sat on the bank. They were all tired from the race and their narrow escape from the “alligator.”

Dad said, “Let’s eat.”
He handed the kids jam sandwiches.
“Mmmmmmm! Jam sandwiches!” they said.
1. Where did the kids swim?
   a. They swam in the creek.
   b. They swam in the pond.

2. What did the kids do at the pond?
   a. They jumped in and swam to the raft.
   b. They dug in the sand.

3. What hopped onto the raft?
   a. An alligator hopped onto the raft.
   b. A frog hopped onto the raft.

4. How did the kids feel when they saw the frog?

5. What did the kids do at the end?
Reading Roots, Level 3

Is There an Alligator in the Pond?

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Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

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