



Have you ever had an extraordinary day— Witnessed a magical event that changed you in some way? Did this experience alter your life forever Or start you on a new endeavor? This is the tale of Hazel Hoot, a tiny green screech owl, Who happened on a special pond, while she was on the prowl. Every day, she followed a similar routine: She flew out to the pond for her lunchtime cuisine. Yet, something was different this morning. The waves on the pond gave her a forewarning.







Hazel swooped down for a fish, She thought to herself, "This sure looks delish!" As Hazel grabbed onto her scrumptious snack, She heard a voice say, "Put me back!" Puzzled, Hazel thought, "What in the world could that be? There's no way I'm letting this delicious fish free."



"Little owl, you **can't** eat me today. Without me, this pond will be left in disarray. I am Upton the Understanding Fish of Problem-Solving Pond. I take care of all mathematical creatures—here, there, and beyond."

Hazel dropped the fish in disbelief! "Aww, thank goodness. That's a relief! Little owl, I know you don't understand, So I will let you witness my magic firsthand!"



"I will introduce you to new animal teachers, Who will teach you about specific mathematical features. Within weeks, your strategies will grow and expand, And your math skills will become ever so grand!"





"Greetings, I'm
Max the Modeling Mouse.
I solve problems by using things from my house.
Beans, cubes, and counters are useful math gear;
Use them to model so that the problem is clear."



Max the Modeling MOUSE



"Hi, I'm **Daphne the Drawing Dragonfly.** 

Draw a mathematical picture to give my strategy a try. Read the problem,

and draw what is going on; Then write a number sentence for what you have drawn."



"Hello, I'm Todd the Tallying Toad.
I get you started on the problem-solving road.
A tally mark is a straight line to show one;
Grouping tallies into fives is how it is done.
First make four tallies, nice and straight;
Then make a diagonal fifth tally; you're doing great!"





37 + 3

"I'm **Clark the Counting Crocodile.** Use me to help you count. Start with the largest number,

and draw lines for the remaining amount. Count on for addition, count back for subtraction; Then circle the answer as your final action."



## "I'm Hailey the Hopping Hare.

I'm the skip-counting master. This is a skill that helps to count things faster; Learn to count up or down

by a number other than one. Quick like a bunny, you soon will be done. Keep in mind that skip counting

is repeated addition. Moving swiftly through problems is my main mission."



"Howdy, I'm **Tom the Tabling Turtle**, and I make tables— These are columns and rows with numbers and labels. Always organize your information is what I say, So you can discover patterns and relationships in a logical way."

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Hailey

the Hopping

HARE



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## "I'm Brian the Breaking Badger,

and I love to break numbers apart. Separating place value is considered my art! I break numbers into ones and tens with my teeth. Then I work with the place value underneath. I'll add or subtract the tens —then the ones. Before you know it, the problem's all done!"





"Emmy the Equating Earthworm here.
I can help you to write equations without any fear.
Horizontally or vertically, it doesn't matter the direction.
I will help you to solve each to numerical perfection.
Write the equation whichever way works the best for you.
Double-check your answer when you are through." "Do you want to be as clever as I, **Fiona the Fact-Fluency Fox**? I'm here to show you that fluency rocks! No fingers or pauses—you'll answer questions with ease. When you know your facts, all math is a breeze."





"Little owl, this was indeed an extraordinary day! My problem-solving friends have shown you the way. You can use new strategies to help you to understand. May your math skills forever grow and expand!"





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