A Fable
The Blackbird and the Cherry Tree
By: Sue Peterson

Once upon a time there was a blackbird that lived in a cherry tree outside my window. Every day, the blackbird would sing and sing.

When I ate my breakfast, the blackbird ate his breakfast. When I ate my lunch, the blackbird ate his lunch. When I ate my dinner, the blackbird ate his dinner. When I had a snack, the blackbird had a snack, too. The blackbird always ate the cherries off the cherry tree outside my window.
One day, mother was going to make a cherry pie. We picked all the cherries off the cherry tree outside my window. Mother made the pie.

Mother washed the cherries, and then she put them in the crust to bake. When it was baked, she put the pie by the window to cool off. She opened the window.

I was eating my breakfast. I saw the blackbird fly around the tree. There were no cherries on the tree. I saw the blackbird fly in through the window to sit by me. He flew over to the window by the pie.

I smiled. The blackbird looked at me. He smiled. The blackbird said, “I’ll have my pie without ice cream!”

And with that, the blackbird took the pie under his wing and flew out the window. He flew up to the cherry tree to hide. I saw him as he hid the cherry pie in a little hole in the tree.

“That blackbird stole the cherry pie!” I shouted. “That blackbird stole the pie!”
When I looked outside, I saw the blackbird eating the whole pie! He was eating the crust! He was eating the cherries! Soon, it was all gone.

Now, we both smiled.

What you can learn from this fable:

Think of others before you think of yourself.
Practice

1. Fill in the blank and spell.

  washed  w __ s h __ d  ___________________
  crust  c r __ s t   ___________________
  flew  f l __ __   ___________________
  hole  h __ l __   ___________________
  stole  s t __ l __   ___________________
  whole  w h __ l __   ___________________

2. Copy.

  cherry   ________________________
  cherries  ________________________
  hid   ________________________
  hide   ________________________

3. Answer. Use complete sentences.

  Who lived in the cherry tree?
  _______________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________.
What did mother bake?

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

______________________________________________.

What happened to the pie?

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

______________________________________________.

What could mother have done so the blackbird had something to eat?

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

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Matching present verbs to past verbs.

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<th>Present Verb</th>
<th>Past Verb</th>
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