

STUDENT NAME _____



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

GRADE 3
Reading Language Arts
STAAR Alternate 2

Administered April 2023

RELEASED

READING LANGUAGE ARTS

Lessons from the Garden

Chris was excited about planting a garden. His mother got him some small clay pots, a bag of dirt, and several packets of cucumber seeds.

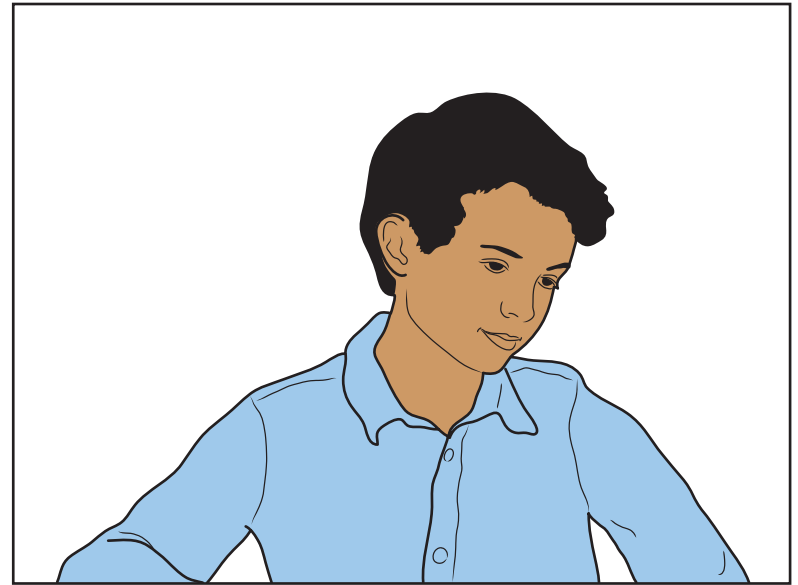


2a



Chris and his mother worked together filling each clay pot with dirt. Chris poked a hole in the dirt in each pot. He dropped a cucumber seed into each hole and covered it with dirt.

2b



Chris watered each pot.
Then he set the pots on a
tray on a shelf by the
window.



"How long will it take?"
Chris asked his mother.

"Many weeks," she
answered.



Chris was excited about growing cucumbers for his mother's salad, but he did not like waiting. Day after day, he checked the pots. He watered the pots. He waited for the cucumber plants to sprout. Nothing happened!

"This is taking too long," Chris complained.

"Good things take time. I know it can be hard to wait," his mother said.
"You've got to be patient."

where to plant cucumbers

the number of days in a week

how to be patient

Chris continued to water the pots and make sure they got enough sunlight. After several weeks, Chris ran to his mother's room.

"They sprouted! Let's plant them outside now!"



Chris and his mother carefully set each plant into the ground. "I can't wait until we get our first cucumber," he said.

For several weeks, Chris watered the plants and pulled the weeds from the garden.

Finally one day Chris rushed into the house with his hands hiding something behind his back.

"Guess what!" he shouted excitedly. Chris held up a large cucumber he had just picked from his garden.

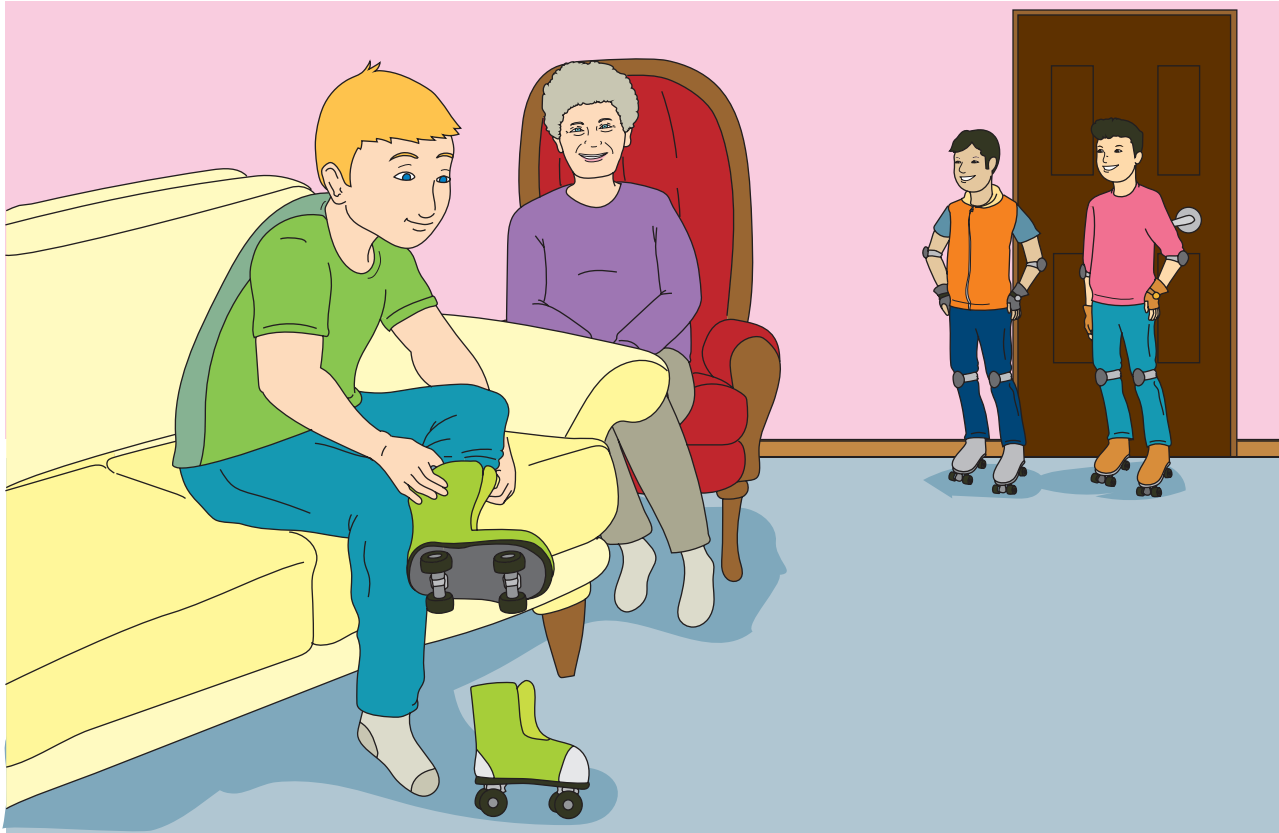
"Fantastic!" his mother said. "We'll eat it with our dinner tonight!"

Chris continued to water the pots and make sure they got enough sunlight.

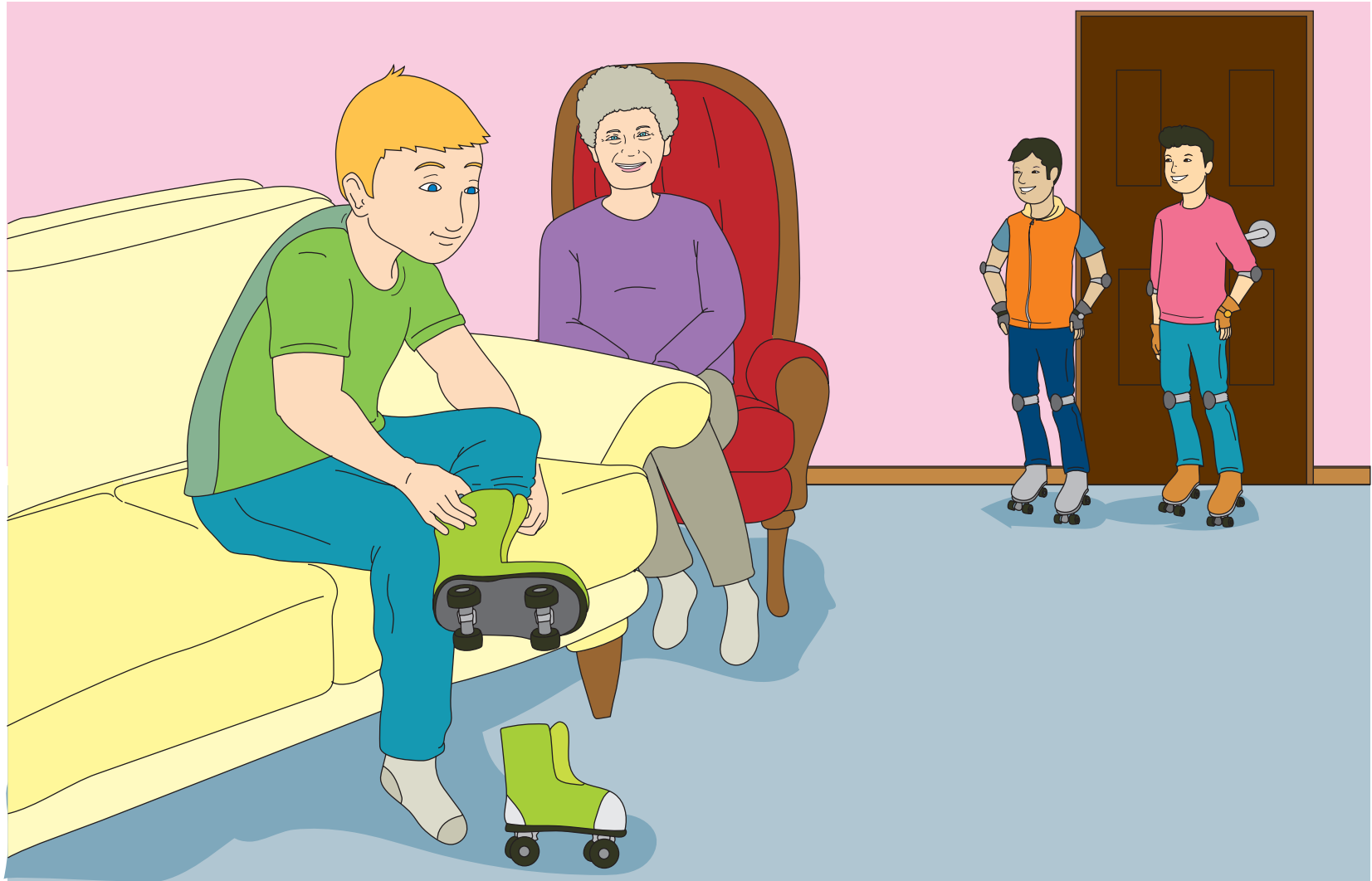
Chris and his mother carefully set each plant into the ground.

Chris held up a large cucumber he had just picked from his garden.

Key to My Heart



Jamie was getting ready to roller-skate at the park with his friends.



Jamie was putting on roller skates.

"I used to love to roller-skate," his grandma said. "But these days, skates have four wheels in a line, right?"

"Some do," Jamie told her. "But my skates have two wheels in front and two wheels in back."

6b



No matter how hard he pulled, Jamie couldn't get his foot in the boot of the skate. "It's too small! I can't believe I've outgrown them," he said sadly. "I guess I won't be able to skate with my friends today."

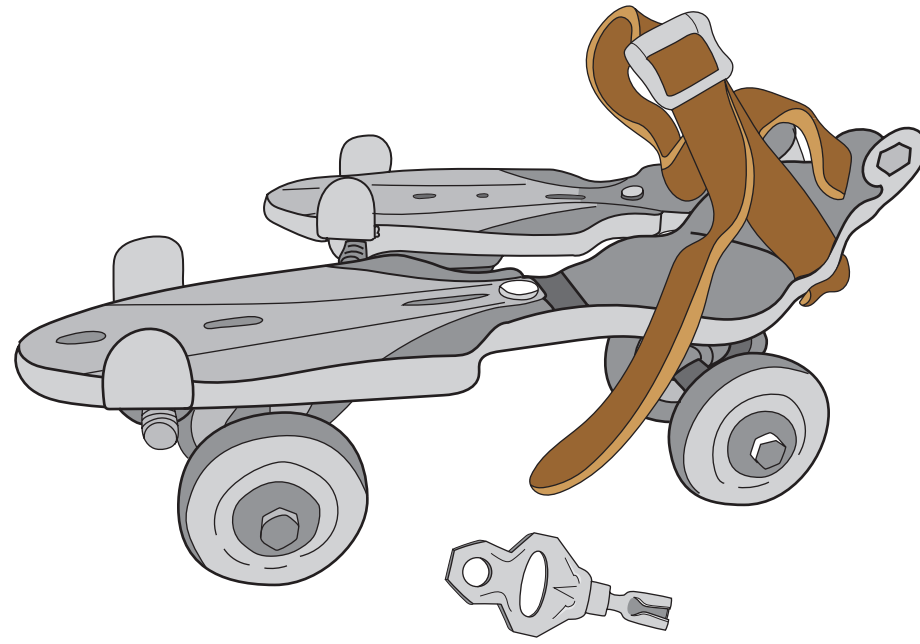
7a



"When I was your age, roller skates were all metal, and they fastened onto the bottom of your shoes. Leather straps held the skates around our ankles," Grandma said. "Clamps grabbed on to our toes. You could make the clamps hold better by making them tighter with a key. I used to wear the key around my neck all the time. So I always had it with me when I skated."

Grandma added, "I still have those skates in the attic. You can wear them if you want to go get them. And the wonderful thing about them is that they can be sized to fit anyone."

7a



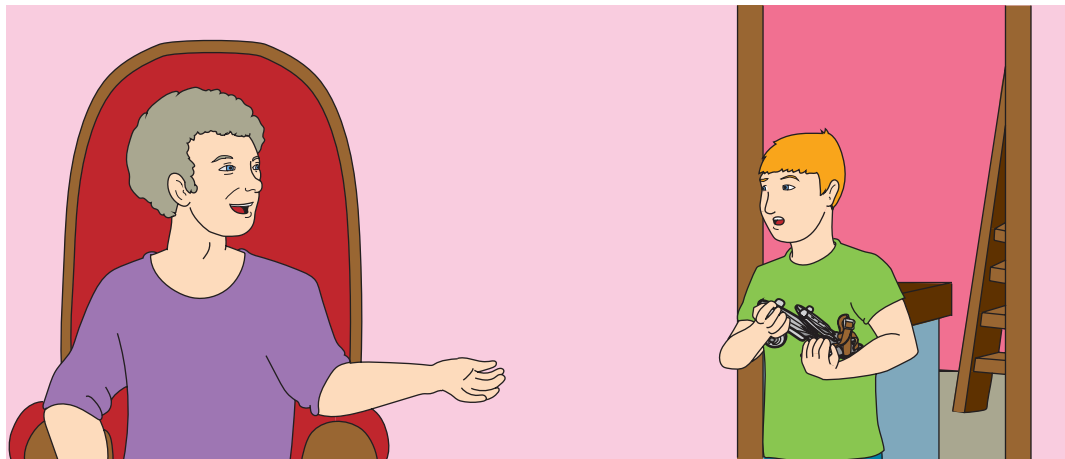
Grandma took Jamie's skates to her room.

Jamie has outgrown his roller skates.

Jamie does not have a roller skate key.

Jamie brought Grandma's old roller skates down from the attic. "I found them, but they probably won't fit me," Jamie said.

"I promise you they will," Grandma said. "Let's go outside and adjust the size."



Grandma sat down next to Jamie on the porch. "You can make the skates fit by loosening them on the back and then moving the front and the back of the skates closer together or farther apart." Grandma held the skates up to Jamie's shoe to get the right fit. Then she tightened the skates with the key.

8a



"Try this," she said.

Jamie put the skates onto the bottom of his shoes. He buckled the leather straps around his ankles. The key helped him tighten the clamps. Then he stood up and started to skate.

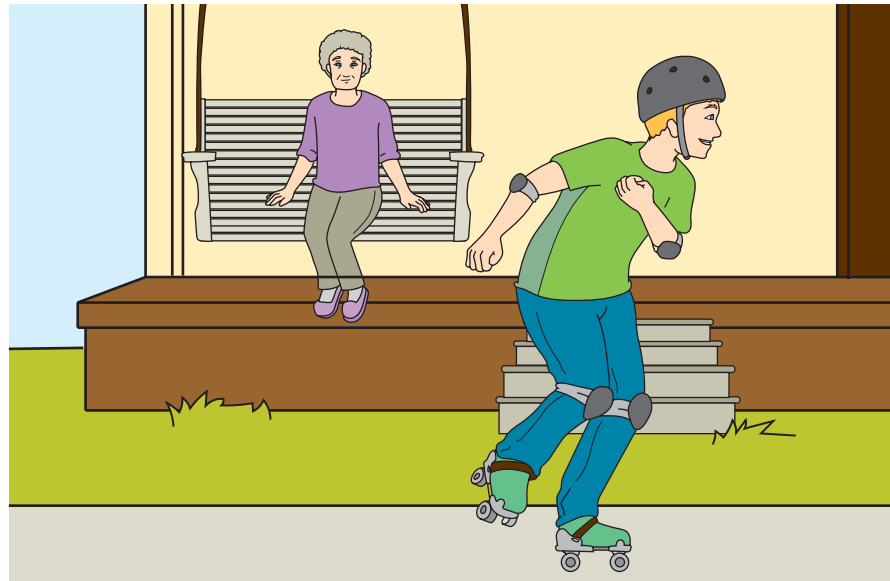
"They work! Thanks, Grandma!"
Jamie saw his friends down at the corner and started to skate away.

"Wait a minute!" his grandmother called after him. "You forgot the most important part." She held up the key on the string.



"Roller-skating was what I loved most," she said. "I called this the key to my heart."

She slipped the string over his head. "Now it's yours. Because you are what I love most!"



Grandma shows Jamie how to use the skate key to make her old roller skates fit.

Grandma gives Jamie a key to the pair of roller skates from the attic.

Grandma tells Jamie about how roller-skating was her favorite sport.



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The White House in Washington, D.C., is the home and the office for the president of the United States.

10a



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The White House in
Washington, D.C.

George Washington never lived in the White House.

George Washington and the White House



Historical Art Collection (HAC)/Alamy Stock Photo

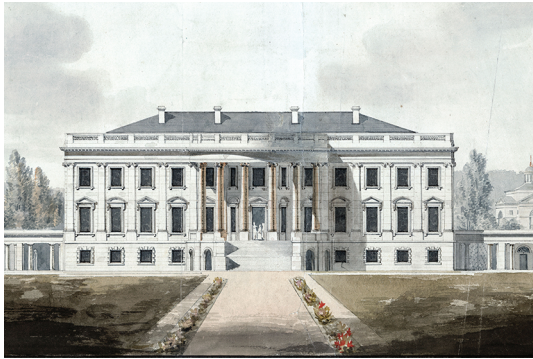
This is the White House when it was first built. It was not finished while George Washington was president.



John Adams, the second president, was the first president to live in the White House.

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Historical Art Collection (HAC)/Alamy
Stock Photo



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When President Adams moved into the White House, it was unfinished.
Today, the White House has rooms.

Today, the White House is much bigger.

Today, the White House has 132 rooms.

Today, the White House is roomy.



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Kermit the Frog is a puppet on
Sesame Street.



Kermit the Frog is a kind character.

Kermit is a frog.

Kermit the Frog is the kindest
and most honest character on
Sesame Street.

15a



AF archive/Alamy Stock Photo

Kermit the Frog performs on television and in movies with other puppets.



One of Kermit the Frog's good friends is named Miss piggy.

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One of Kermit the Frog's good friends is named miss piggy.

16a

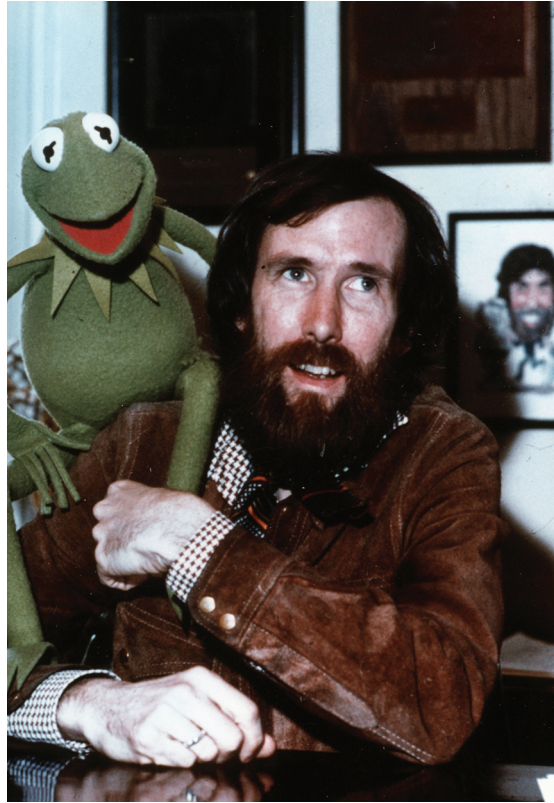


Photo 12/Alamy Stock Photo

Jim Henson created the puppet he named Kermit the Frog from an old green coat that his mother threw in the garbage He used an old Ping-Pong ball for the frog's eyes Henson performed with this famous puppet on the television show *Sesame Street*

Jim Henson created the puppet he named Kermit the Frog from an old green coat that his mother threw in the garbage?

He used an old Ping-Pong ball for the frog's eyes!

Henson performed with this famous
puppet on the television show
Sesame Street.

Fiona, the Baby Hippo



Courtesy of Kathy Newton/Cincinnati Zoo

Fiona, a hippopotamus, was born in January 2017 at the Cincinnati Zoo.



Courtesy of Kathy Newton/Cincinnati Zoo

When Fiona was born, she was very tiny. The zookeepers were surprised because she was born six weeks early! Baby Fiona weighed only 29 pounds—about half of what most hippos weigh when they are born.

18b



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© Gubin Yury/Shutterstock.com

19a



Courtesy of Michelle Curley/Cincinnati Zoo

The zookeepers at the Cincinnati Zoo were worried. Fiona was very weak. She could not walk very well. She could not even stand long enough to drink her mother's milk. So the zookeepers wrapped Fiona in warm blankets. They fed her from a bottle. More than 20 workers from the zoo were caring for Fiona. They were known as Team Fiona.

19a



Courtesy of Michelle Currey/Cincinnati Zoo

Fiona was wrapped in blankets to keep her warm.

Fiona was too weak to stand up long enough to get milk from her mother.

The zookeepers each wanted a turn to feed Fiona.



AP Photo/John Minchillo, File

People fell in love with the tiny hippo. Thousands of people watched online to see the funny things Fiona was doing. One video showed the baby hippo falling asleep in the shower. People sent questions to the zoo and get-well wishes for Fiona.

20a

Every day Fiona grows bigger and stronger. Now she weighs more than 300 pounds. She has moved to the Hippo Pool with her mother. People can see her there when they visit the zoo.



WENN Ltd./Alamy Stock Photo

Many people have grown to love the baby hippo and have enjoyed watching her get healthy and strong.

Many people loved watching the baby hippo online falling asleep in the shower.

Many people visit the Cincinnati Zoo to see Fiona with her mother in the Hippo Pool.



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