

Going Batty

Mrs. Koch's fourth-grade class walked down the hall to the library, just as they did every afternoon. At the door, their mouths dropped open. Hanging everywhere were bats—upside-down, little black bats. It took a few seconds before they realized the bats were paper. "What's with all the bats?" they asked Mr. Egan, the librarian. ●

Mr. Egan laughed. "We had some excitement this morning." He went on to explain. ●

"The day started quietly enough. I checked in some books and shelved new ones. Then a kindergarten class arrived for Story Hour. They sat in a circle while I began reading *Stellaluna*. You remember that story, don't you? It's about a little fruit bat. Well, suddenly the children yelled, 'Stellaluna! It's Stellaluna!' I love it when kids get excited about a story, but this was ridiculous! Then I saw they were pointing up. Somehow a little bat had gotten into the library! It was darting all over. Luckily, I was able to trap it in a box and take it outside. The kids all made paper bats to take its place." ●

The fourth graders looked around the room hopefully. But there were no bats—no real ones, anyway. They all sighed. Sometimes little kids have all the luck. ●

Skill Which grade is mentioned first in the story? Why do you suppose it is not the first event on your graphic organizer?

Skill What time word clues tell you that Mr. Egan is going to tell about events that happened earlier in the day?

Strategy See if you can summarize what Mr. Egan told the fourth graders. Be sure to give the events in order.

Strategy Now summarize the day's events in the library, not in the order in which you read about them but in the order in which they actually happened.