

The Creative Axolotl



From a thick tuft of pondweed, the sound of happy humming floated out across the lake. Nestled inside was Alba the axolotl, who was sewing a jacket she had designed.

Alba was at her happiest when she was crafting new clothes. Jumpers and tops, shorts and trousers – Alba loved to create them all!

Later that day as Alba left home, she saw her friend Azul.

“I love your jacket,” said Azul.

“Thanks!” said Alba. “I made it myself. I really like your bag.”

Azul blushed. “Thanks,” he said. He wanted to tell Alba that it was also something he’d made himself... but he wasn’t sure it was good enough.



The next day, Alba bumped into Tonia, who complimented her dress.



“Thank you!” said Alba. “I could make one for you if you’d like.”

“Yes, please!” said Tonia. “That’s so kind. You should open a shop!”

For days, Alba thought about what Tonia had said. ‘My own shop would be a dream come true!’ she thought as she wrote down some ideas.



With a plan in place, Alba found the perfect spot for her shop and got to work making clothes to fill it. Hours turned into days, which turned into weeks until eventually, everything was finally ready!



The next morning, Alba couldn't believe that there were already customers waiting to come inside her shop.

"Welcome!" she announced. "To celebrate the grand opening, I'll be throwing a fashion show. Tickets are available now!"

That afternoon, Alba was delighted to see her friend Azul.

"I love your headband," smiled Alba.

"Oh, thanks!" said Azul. Again, he wanted to tell Alba that it was something he'd made himself... but he wasn't sure it was good enough.



For the next few days, Alba worked hard choosing her favourite designs and creating a very special outfit for the finale of the fashion show. She wanted it to be a show-stopper!

She cut and sewed and threaded until finally, it was ready. It was the best thing Alba had ever made and she was thrilled with it.

Soon, the lake was buzzing with excitement about the fashion show. Everyone was talking about it. The Daily Bubble came out to interview Alba and she even appeared on the front page of Toad Times.



The day of the fashion show quickly came around. Everything was ready: all the outfits were finished, the models were eager to go and there was a huge crowd of creatures waiting for the show to start.



“Welcome to my first-ever fashion show!” said Alba.

The crowd cheered as the show began and the models started to parade down the runway. At the front, Azul gazed in awe at all the gorgeous designs.

Alba nipped backstage to prepare the outfit for the grand finale. But she got a huge shock when she saw a duck pecking at it.

“Shoo!” she cried, making the startled duck rip the dress as it swam away. Alba began to cry as she looked at her ruined masterpiece.



Meanwhile, the audience waited but nothing was happening on stage.

Azul decided to go and check on his friend.

“Are you OK?” asked Azul.

Alba told him what had happened. Azul thought for a moment then reached inside his bag.



“I have something you could use to cover the rip,” he said nervously. “I wanted to tell you that I also make things myself... but I wasn’t sure they were good enough.”

“Why wouldn’t they be?” asked Alba kindly.

“Because your designs are much better than mine,” said Azul.

Azul handed Alba a shiny brooch he had made.

“This is more than good enough!” exclaimed Alba. “It’s perfect for the finale.”



Azul couldn’t stop grinning as the model pranced down the runway wearing Alba’s dress, which now featured his beautiful design.

Afterwards, Alba walked onstage and took a bow. “I’m so excited to introduce a talented new designer,” she announced as she gestured for Azul to join her.

Azul stepped onto the stage and beamed as the audience went wild.

It was the fashion show of Alba’s dreams. Her own hard work was being showcased, alongside her friend’s marvellous creation. They made the perfect team.



From then on, Alba’s shop didn’t only sell her own designs; Azul’s fabulous accessories also filled the shelves.



They were proud to share what they had made with everyone in the lake. And together, they couldn’t have been happier to be doing what they loved.

Questions

1. Who is the main character in this story? **Tick one.**
 - ☐ Alba
 - ☐ Azul
 - ☐ Alfredo

2. What does Alba design and make? **Tick one.**
 - ☐ pottery
 - ☐ clothes
 - ☐ paintings

3. What does Alba do to celebrate the grand opening of her shop? **Tick one.**
 - ☐ She throws a party.
 - ☐ She dances in the kitchen.
 - ☐ She hosts a fashion show.

4. What happens to Alba's show-stopper dress? **Tick one.**
 - ☐ It gets lost.
 - ☐ A duck rips it.
 - ☐ Someone spills juice on it.

5. What does Azul give to Alba to cover the rip? **Tick one.**
 - ☐ a brooch
 - ☐ a headband
 - ☐ a scarf

Answers

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- ☐ Azul
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Questions

1. What is Alba sewing at the beginning of the story? **Tick one.**

- ☐ a dress
- ☐ a top
- ☐ a jacket

2. Fill in the missing word.

**“To celebrate the grand opening, I’ll be throwing
a _____ show.”**

3. Which newspaper is Alba on the front page of? **Tick one.**

- ☐ Toad Times
- ☐ The Daily Bubble
- ☐ The Reed

4. What does the duck do to Alba’s dress?

5. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

	A duck rips the dress Alba made for her fashion show.
1	Alba opens her own shop.
	Azul gives Alba a brooch he made to cover the rip.
	Alba has the fashion show of her dreams.

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☐ The Daily Bubble
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It rips it. / It pecks at it.

5. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

2	A duck rips the dress Alba made for her fashion show.
1	Alba opens her own shop.
3	Azul gives Alba a brooch he made to cover the rip.
4	Alba has the fashion show of her dreams.

Questions

1. What does Alba compliment when she **first** sees Azul?

2. What is Alba writing down some ideas for? **Tick one.**

- ☐ a new recipe
☐ her own shop
☐ a dance routine

3. Draw **three** lines to match each word with its meaning.

brooch	the last part of a show
finale	an artist's best work
masterpiece	a decoration attached to clothing with a pin

4. How does Azul help Alba fix the ripped dress?

5. Fill in the missing word.

They were _____ to share what they had made with everyone in the lake.

6. Have you ever been proud of something you've made? Write about what you made and why you were proud of it.

Answers

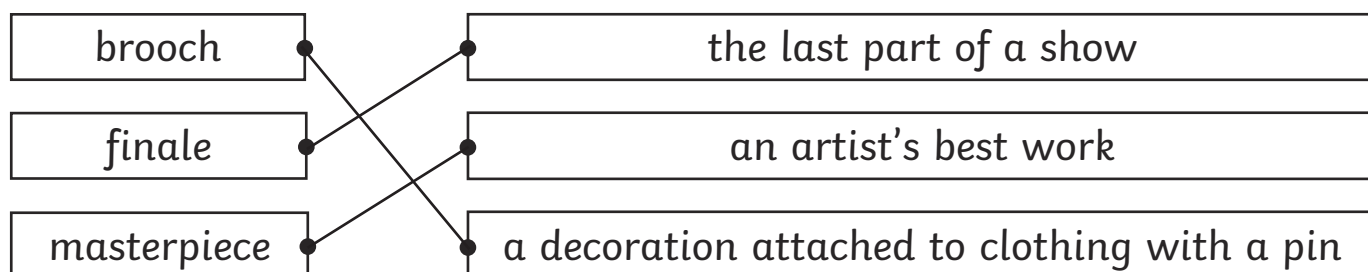
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Children's own responses.