

Read the selection about a city of fools. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Big Bad Fish

Once upon a time, there was a city of fools. Every person who lived in this city was very foolish, but they didn't know it. All the foolish people thought that they were very wise. They thought that the mayor of the city was the wisest person of all.

In the city of fools, there was a big lake. Two fishermen went fishing in the lake every day. One day, they caught a very large fish. It was the biggest fish they had ever seen.

"This fish is as big as a whale!" said one fisherman.

"This fish is as big as a house!" said the other fisherman.

They decided to give the fish to the mayor. The two fishermen put the fish in a big tub of water. They carried it to the mayor's house. The mayor was very pleased. He called his wife to come and see the fish. They both thought about the big fish dinner they would have that night.

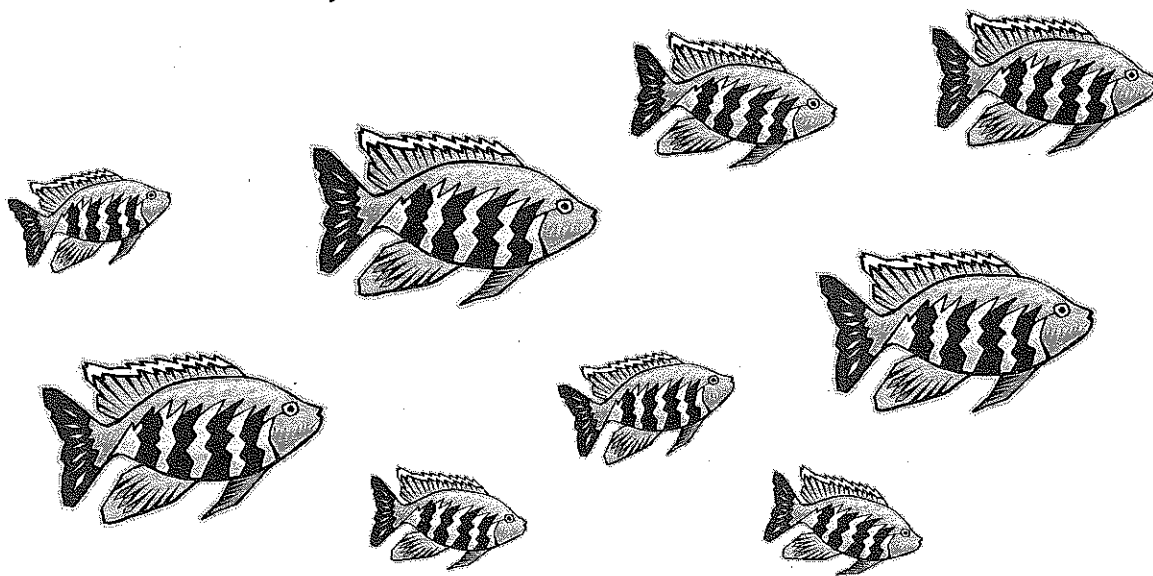
"Let me get a closer look at this wonderful fish," the mayor said.

The mayor couldn't see very well, and of course, he couldn't find his glasses. The mayor had to bend down to look at the fish. Then a terrible thing happened. The fish jumped right out of the tub. It slapped the mayor in the face with its tail!

"Bad fish!" said the two fishermen.

"Bad fish!" said the mayor's wife.

"Bad fish!" said the mayor.



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Soon all the people in the city of fools heard what happened. They all agreed that the bad fish should be punished, but they couldn't decide how to punish the fish.

"Let's put the fish in jail," said a man.

"There's no water in the jail," said the mayor. "The fish will die."

"Let's hang the fish by the neck," said a woman.

"You can't hang a fish by the neck," said the mayor. "A fish has no neck."

The mayor said he would keep the fish in his bathtub. He would think about what to do. He gave the fish fresh water every day. He fed the fish every day.

After many days, the mayor decided what to do with the fish. "The fish must be drowned!" he announced.

Everyone liked the mayor's wonderful idea. "We are lucky to have such a wise mayor," they all said.

The next day, everyone came to watch the mayor throw the fish into the lake. No one ever saw the fish again. The people were sure that the fish had drowned. Everyone was happy. The big bad fish was gone at last.

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