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Shelly-Pop stretches at sunrise before carrying berry cakes to the hilltop picnic. Grey clouds tell her she cannot waste the morning.



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The other walkers hurry down the wide path, but Shelly stays calm enough to notice ants marching through a crack in the old wall.



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Beside the ants, a line of white pebbles marks a safe shortcut through the clover. Shelly follows it without tipping one cake.



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Shelly arrives first and covers the picnic just as rain begins. Slow did not mean late; careful helped her see what rushing feet had missed.

Questions for Shelly-Pop's Slow and Steady

Read the story together first. Use one question at each page, then the question at the end. Answers are below the dotted line: fold them under or cover them while reading.

Page 1

Talk together: Why does Shelly-Pop begin early?

Page 2

Talk together: What does Shelly notice because she stays calm?

Page 3

Talk together: How do the pebbles help Shelly?

Page 4

Talk together: Why does Shelly reach the picnic first?

After reading

What helped Shelly-Pop find the shortcut?

Answers (fold under before reading)

After reading: A line of white pebbles.