

Name _____



The Lost Hatchling

In a sunny meadow, there was a little nest with three hatchlings. One day, a tiny hatchling named Patch decided to go on an adventure.

He wanted to see what was beyond the meadow. Patch walked and walked until he reached a tall, green hedge.

Patch squeezed through the hedge and found himself in a big, colorful garden. He saw beautiful flowers and tall trees. But then, Patch heard a loud "Caw!" and saw a big crow flying above. Patch got scared and hid under a small patch of grass.

After a while, Patch met a kind butterfly named Stretch. Stretch had big, bright wings and smiled at Patch. "Are you lost, little hatchling?" asked Stretch. "Yes," said Patch. "I can't find my way back to the meadow."

"Don't worry," said Stretch. "I will help you." Stretch flew up high and looked around. She saw the meadow far away and came back to Patch. "Follow me," said Stretch.

Patch followed Stretch through the hedge, past the flowers, and over a little ditch. Soon, they were back in the sunny meadow. Patch saw his nest and ran to his brothers and sisters. He was so happy to be home!

Patch thanked Stretch and promised to always stay close to home. Stretch waved goodbye and flew away, happy to have helped her new friend.

