



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BUYER BEWARE

Once there was young lad. He walked each day to the marketplace to sell his wares. It was a hard life, but the young lad had no complaints. He worked from sun up until sun down. He knew that one day his hard work would pay off.

One day, as the young lad made his way to the marketplace, he could see a large wagon filled with goods. The young lad set down his bundle of baskets. Greed began to fill his heart.

"I could buy these flowers and sell them for a higher price. The land is barren, and I know I could sell them quickly," he thought.

So with that, the young lad offered his bundle of goods in exchange for the flowers. The young lad and the seller made their deal.

The young lad made his way to the marketplace. He laid out his flowers and waited for the ladies to come purchase his flowers. But the heat of the sun took its toll on the flowers, and without any water nearby, they soon wilted. The young lad realized his mistake. He looked over at the man selling his goods.

The next day, the young lad saw the man with a wagon full of fruit. The man asked the young lad if he wanted to trade. The young lad saw money in the man's eyes and said simply, "It is better to work for my fortune than to wish it away."



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *wares* as used in the passage?
  - a. fruits and vegetables
  - b. merchandise
  - c. pots and pans
  - d. none of the above
2. What can you learn about the young lad in this story?
  - a. He took pity on his fellow sellers.
  - b. He is very good with animals.
  - c. He learned his lesson.
  - d. He wants to open a new store.
3. What is the moral of the story?
  - a. There is no such thing as quick and easy wealth.
  - b. It is better to give than receive.
  - c. One for all and all for one.
  - d. The early bird gets the worm.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MASKING THE ODOR

There once was a farmer who had over a hundred cows. He milked them each day and set them out into the pasture at night. His neighbor, a banker, had just moved in next door. The banker wanted to move to the country to enjoy the views.

On the first night, the banker sat outside to enjoy the sunset. He could scarcely breathe. The stench from the cows was so great. Disgusted, he went indoors. The next evening, he tried to enjoy the sunset again but was forced to go back inside because of the smell.

He finally decided that the farmer would have to go. The banker had a lot of money, so he offered to buy the farm.

“Yes, I will sell you the farm, but it will take me at least a week to sell the cows and take care of them. Would you be willing to wait a week?” asked the farmer.

The banker decided he could do that. At the end of the week, the banker approached the farmer again. The farmer wondered if they could wait until his visiting brother left. The banker consented. A month passed. The farmer approached the banker hesitantly to see if he still wanted the farm.

“Why, no,” replied the banker. “You keep it.”

The farmer smiled to himself. He knew that by making the banker wait, it would allow time for the banker to get used to the awful smell of the cows.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which paragraph states the conflict in this story?
  - second paragraph
  - first paragraph
  - third paragraph
  - fifth paragraph
- What is the conflict or problem of this story?
  - The farmer doesn't know how to keep away the smell.
  - The farmer is worried about offending the banker.
  - The farmer's cows are extra smelly.
  - The banker is unhappy with the smell of the cows.
- What is the meaning of the word *hesitantly* as used in the passage?
 

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dejectedly</li> <li>offensively</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>decidedly</li> <li>cautiously</li> </ol>
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## STATING THE OBVIOUS

There once was a shepherd who had a large flock of sheep. He had been a shepherd for a long time but was growing weary of the profession. One very hot day, the shepherd sat below the branches of a scraggly bush trying to get relief from the sun. He was pondering about what to do with his sheep. He loved his sheep, but he was tired of caring for them.

As he sat there thinking, a wolf sauntered by in front of the shepherd.

“What are you doing?” asked the wolf.

“I’m trying to plan my future,” replied the shepherd. “I’m tired of being a shepherd, but I don’t know what to do with my sheep.”

“I have an idea,” suggested the wolf.

“What’s that?” asked the weary shepherd.

“Why don’t I watch your sheep for a day and then you can take a break. Perhaps after a break, you won’t feel so strongly about getting rid of your sheep.”

“That’s a great idea. You are in charge while I run into town,” said the shepherd and he skipped down the hill. He was excited about his new freedom.

Upon the shepherd’s return, he expected to see his herd flourishing. Instead he saw dead sheep everywhere. Stunned he sat down on a rock. A few of the sheep walked to his knee.

“This is what I get for my stupidity. It was I who chose to leave my sheep in the care of a wolf,” said the shepherd sadly.

## STORY QUESTIONS

- What does the word *flourishing* mean in the story?
  - thriving
  - separating
  - studying
  - organizing
- Why did the shepherd trust his sheep to a wolf?
  - He was willing to give the wolf a chance.
  - He was more concerned about his own needs at the moment.
  - He wanted to see what the wolf would do.
  - He was an inexperienced shepherd.
- What is the moral to the story?
  - Do not cast your pearls before swine.
  - Wash your hands before dinner.
  - Too many cooks spoil the broth.
  - Crime doesn’t pay.





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BETTER TO GIVE

There once was a forest of trees. Each tree wanted the reputation of being the most beautiful tree. Each tree wanted to be admired by all the others. When the storms came, the trees were careful to make sure that their branches were protected. When the woodsmen came through the forest, each tree would camouflage itself to keep from being chopped down. The competition was stiff.

One day, a fox came running through the forest. The fox was being chased by a group of dogs and hunters. The fox was in need of a place to hide. All the trees denied entrance to its branches. That is except for one tree.

As the fox ran by, the tree whispered, "Climb in. Hide here!"

"But what about your branches?" asked the fox breathlessly, "Won't they be ruined?"

"How can they be ruined by helping another?" asked the tree as it closed the lower branches up around the fox.

The hunters and their dogs raced on by. After awhile, the fox came out. He thanked the tree and hurried on his way.

That night, as the tree watched the moon rise, it invited birds and squirrels to build homes in its branches. All the other trees were stunned, but soon noticed how happy the little tree was. It wasn't long before all the trees in the forest were covered with little animals. They too had learned the joy in serving others.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the meaning of the word *camouflage* as used in this passage?
  - curious
  - glare
  - mask
  - mantle
- What is the moral to the story?
  - Give in order to learn from others.
  - Raise up a standard for others to follow.
  - It is better to give than receive.
  - Setting a good example is usually painful.
- After reading this story, explain how the story shows that helping others is better than helping ourselves.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## REWARDING DINNER

Once upon a time there was a young lady waiting to be called for dinner. She had been instructed by a small bird to wait until the master of the cottage invited her. It had been a long day and the young lady was hungry.

Just then, a strong horse came by the cottage and invited her to go to dinner with him. He promised that he would find something delicious for dinner. The young lady was tempted but declined the offer.

Later in the evening, a camel came to the cottage and offered to be the young lady's dinner companion. The young lady was very hungry at this point and was tempted to go to dinner with the camel. The young lady was puzzled. Then the words of the bird rang through her mind, "Wait until the master of the cottage invites you." The lady declined the camel's invitation. She sat hungrily staring out the window. Was there really such a thing as "the master of the cottage"?

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door. The young lady's heart jumped as she opened the door to find a majestic lion standing in the doorway. He offered his hand to the young lady.

"I see you were able to wait for me," said the lion firmly. All of a sudden, the young lady had an epiphany. She realized that the lion was testing her to see if she would really wait for him. The camel and the strong horse were both tests.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the statements below happened in the story?
  - The camel was hoping the young lady could wait for him.
  - The horse was the last animal to invite the young lady to dinner.
  - The lion seemed satisfied that the lady was able to wait.
  - The lady was upset to find out who her dinner guest would be.
- What is the meaning of the word *epiphany* as used in the story?
 

a. recruitment	c. understanding
b. turn	d. arrangement
- What is the moral of the story?
  - Never count your eggs before they hatch.
  - Do as I say, not as I do.
  - Don't bite the hand that feeds you.
  - Good things come to those who wait.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE COVER

There once an ant that was gathering food to store up for the winter. The ant was trying to be prepared. This ant was carrying more than its own weight. She was always impressed with how amazing she was. The ant sat on the side of the trail to rest.

Just then, a caterpillar came crawling along. The ant thought about how ugly the caterpillar was. The ant began thinking about how gorgeous she looked in her red outer layering.

“Where are you going?” asked the ant feeling prideful and haughty.

“I’m heading home,” replied the caterpillar.

“Where’s home?” asked the ant.

“Right up here in a certain tree,” said the caterpillar as he wandered around trying to find his way.

“That doesn’t sound very smart!” muttered the ant to herself. “He’s about as smart as he looks.” The ant went on her way leaving the caterpillar behind.

Later that spring, the ant happened upon the home of the caterpillar. She looked around for the caterpillar but couldn’t find it anywhere. As the sun rose over the mountains, the ant looked toward the sky. She saw the most beautiful creature. It was a butterfly soaring in the clouds. The ant was amazed.

“Hi, ant!” called the butterfly.

“Huh?” asked the ant.

“I’m that ugly old caterpillar that you were trying to avoid. Not so bad now, eh?” chuckled the butterfly.

“Wow!” cried the ant as she sauntered along. That was about all she could say. “Wow!”

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the moral to the story?
  - Birds of a feather flock together.
  - One for all, and all for one.
  - United we stand, divided we fall.
  - Don’t judge a book by its cover.
- What is the meaning of the word *sauntered* as used in the passage?
 

a. poked	c. directed
b. strolled	d. ran
- What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
  - to explain the moral of the story
  - to explain the problem in the story
  - to describe the main character in the story
  - to explain the resolution in the story





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## WHO YOU ARE

There once was a donkey that was eating fallen apples from a tree. In his peripheral vision, the donkey saw a lion hiding in the trees. The feeling of fear spread over his body. He knew that he couldn't outrun the lion, and he knew the lion wanted to eat him for lunch.

Just then, the donkey got an idea.

"Hello!" the donkey called to the lion. Surprised, the lion looked up at the donkey. "I was wondering if you could help me?" asked the donkey.

The lion chuckled to himself. "This is going to be much easier than I thought," he thought to himself.

"I can most certainly help you," called the lion as he strode over to the donkey.

"Oh, great," said the donkey. "You see, as I was walking under this apple tree, I managed to get a stick caught in my hoof. It hurts to walk on it. I was hoping that you would remove the stick for me."

The lion smiled so big that all his teeth showed. The donkey gulped, swallowing quickly.

The lion slowly sauntered over to the donkey. The closer he got, the more the donkey began to sweat. When the lion was within reach, the donkey kicked him with all of his strength. The lion went sailing through the air. He landed with a thump!

"Oh," moaned the lion. "I can't believe I fell for that one!" He looked up to see the donkey far away in the distance.



### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the lesson learned in this story?
  - What goes around comes around.
  - If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all.
  - Never trust your enemy.
  - No use crying over spilt milk.
- What would be a good title for this reading passage?
  - "Lion Learns a Lesson"
  - "Donkey vs. the Lion"
  - "The King of the Jungle"
  - "Them Is Fightin' Words"
- Locate the statement below that did not happen in the story.
  - The donkey was afraid of the lion.
  - The donkey was able to trick the lion.
  - The lion was able to trick the donkey.
  - The donkey was learning to trust himself.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Frederic the penguin had had it! In fact, he was so tired that he no longer wanted to be a penguin. He wanted to run and sprint. He was tired of waddling. He hated his black and white feathers. And finally, he was tired of eating fish.

“How boring is that?” he asked.

Frederic decided it was time to go. He needed to explore the world and live a new life. He packed his bags and said his goodbyes.

“Adios, amigos,” he said, trying out his new language.

Frederic hopped onto the closest iceberg and began floating across the sea. He floated until his iceberg melted and he swam to shore.

The first thing he did on the island was dye his feathers purple. Then he fashioned a grass skirt made of leaves and practiced saying words in his new language.

“Hola!” said Frederic.

It wasn’t long before birds on the island began to notice Frederic. They offered him drinks and fruit to his heart’s content.

After a month on the island, Frederic woke up one morning with a stomachache. He had gained weight and was sunburned all over. He burst into tears.

“I can’t handle this anymore!” he sulked. “I’ve got to go back to my people. I want to go home.”

It wasn’t long before Frederic was on his way home to the iceberg. He had learned his lesson. He began eating fish again and never complained about his lifestyle.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the conflict or problem in this story?
  - Frederic was always getting in too much trouble.
  - Frederic was trying to convince the other penguins to be like him so that he wouldn’t feel so bad.
  - Frederic got angry and decided to leave.
  - Frederic was not happy with his life and wanted to explore a new one.
- What is the meaning of the word *sulked* as used in the story?
 

a. stated	c. disrupted
b. fantasized	d. moped
- What is the moral to this story?
  - A bird in hand is better than three in a bush.
  - A friend in need is a friend indeed.
  - Birds of a feather flock together.
  - Misery loves company.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## TO PLEASE OR NOT TO PLEASE

There once was an old woman who lived long ago. She had a dog, a cow, and a donkey. She loved her animals. The dog kept watch over her house. He barked at strange sounds. The dog helped the old woman feel secure and safe.

The cow was a big help too. The cow gave milk to the woman both day and night. The woman was able to make butter from the cream.

The donkey did much of the manual labor for the old woman. He pulled the wagon with all sorts of loads.

The old woman couldn't imagine life without any one of her animals. She did all she could to please each of them.

The animals did not appreciate her efforts. The dog complained that the cow stunk. The cow complained that the donkey's braying kept her awake at night. The donkey complained that the dog's barking and growling hurt his ears.

The complaints from the animals and the old woman's daily responsibilities left her exhausted. She was so exhausted that she fell sick with the flu. As she lay in bed trying to nurse herself back to good health, she noticed a bird on her windowsill singing a beautiful song.

"Tweet, tweet . . . you can't please them all," it seemed to say. From then on, the woman determined to treat them like animals instead of royal guests. It made all the difference. To this day, the animals are still treated like pets instead of humans.



### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the problem in the story?
  - The dog wants better dog food.
  - The animals aren't getting along.
  - The old woman is trying to do too much of the work herself.
  - The animals aren't happy no matter how hard the woman works to care for them.
- Which of the following words best describes the old woman?
 

a. unhappy	c. conniving
b. insecure	d. teachable
- What is the moral to the story?
 

a. You can never please everybody.	c. Work before play.
b. A friend in need is a friend indeed.	d. Misery loves company.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BEST POLICY

One sunny afternoon, a lion king made his way to the top of a mountain. He surveyed the land and took in its beauty. Not far away sat a mother lion with her babies. She was tired of watching her little ones and wanted some adventure. She decided that she would attract some attention. She saw the majestic lion standing at the top of the mountain and called up to him.

“Help! My babies are in danger. A wolf prowls nearby. I can see him!” cried the mother lion.

The lion king dashed to save the lions. As he raced down the mountainside, a pile of rocks went cascading down behind him. With lightning speed he made it to the lion and her young. He sniffed the air and prowled around but could not find the wolf.

“Oh thank you, brave king. The wolf must have left,” said the mother lion softly.

The lion king sauntered off to his place at the top of the mountain.

Before long, the mother lion again called for help.

“Oh, king, again! There is wolf prowling around. Please come save us,” she cried.

In record time, the lion king made it back to the lion and her young. But still he could not find any evidence of a wolf. He scoured the area looking for footprints but could find none. He gazed at the mother lion again and walked back up the mountain.

Before long, a wolf did appear. The mother lion called for help, but the lion king ignored her pleas.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the moral to the story?
  - Good things come in small packages.
  - Birds of a feather flock together.
  - There is no believing a liar, even when she speaks the truth.
  - A bird in hand is better than three in the bush.
- What is meant by the meaning of the word *sauntered*?
 

a. ambled	c. defended
b. slumped	d. swaggered
- Which sentence below is true?
  - The lion king was not really deceived by the mother lion.
  - The mother lion needed constant help with her baby lions.
  - The lion king grew tired of listening to the mother lion.
  - The lion king realized that the mother lion could not be trusted.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON OF HUMILITY

Snow was falling all over the village, and nighttime was coming. Four inches of snow had already accumulated on the ground, and it looked like it would continue to pile up through the night.

The old man that lived in the little cottage knew that it was going to be a cold night. He knew he should help his neighbor Joe with the firewood. But the old man had such a headache. He looked in his empty cupboards.

“Surely my neighbor, Joe, doesn’t have problems like I do,” the old man thought. The more he thought about it, the unhappier he became with his circumstance.

The old man decided that he wanted his neighbor to be as miserable as he was. So when the old man shoveled his walk, he dumped all of the snow onto his neighbor’s walk and went inside.

Next he gathered another load of firewood and neglected to gather any for his neighbor. “Let him do it himself!” thought the old man.

In the morning, the old man awoke to see that the snow was still coming down. He knew he would have to shovel his walk again. He went to the window and was surprised to see that his walk had already been shoveled. He also noticed a pile of firewood waiting on his doorstep along with a basket of fresh fruit and vegetables for breakfast.

The old man sat down and shook his head. How could he have been so selfish?



### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the meaning of the word *accumulated* as used in the passage?
  - gathered
  - arranged
  - floated
  - none of the above
- What is the lesson the old man learned?
  - A rolling stone gathers no moss.
  - Pride goes before the fall.
  - Treat others as you would like to be treated.
  - The early bird gets the worm.
- Which of the following statements can be inferred after reading the passage?
  - The old man was greedy.
  - The old man was scared.
  - The old man was not a good friend.
  - The old man was humbled and learned a lesson.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## I AM SERIOUS

There once was a farmer who planted fresh fields of wheat. He cared for the wheat and ensured that it received adequate amounts of water, sun, and nourishment. His livelihood depended on this crop of wheat.

One morning, the farmer awoke to the sound of birds in his field. He ran outside and saw his wheat field covered with birds. In a panic, he ran outside and began flapping his arms and made loud sounds. He hoped that this would scare the birds away. His plan worked. The birds flew away in a flurry, and the farmer went back about his work.

Early the next morning, the farmer was again awakened to the sound of birds. He followed the same procedure and scared the birds by making loud noises and flapping his arms. It worked again. The birds flew away and left his wheat alone.

The birds began to realize that they were never in any real danger. They realized the farmer walked around waving at them and making sounds. The birds got braver and braver.

On the third morning, the farmer heard the birds again and realized that he needed to be more severe. He grabbed his dog's collar and headed outside. The birds did not even move. They knew he would try to scare them and so they weren't too worried. The farmer let his dog loose and the dog chased the birds. This frightened the birds and they flew away, never to be seen again.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the moral of this story?
  - What goes around comes around.
  - Work before play.
  - If at first you don't succeed, try and try again.
  - The early bird gets the worm.
- What would be a good title for this reading passage?
  - "The Last Resort"
  - "The Two Sides"
  - "Planting Seeds"
  - "Anger Always Works First"
- Locate the statement below that did not happen in the story.
  - The farmer was trying to attract the birds.
  - The farmer wanted to delay hurting the birds.
  - The farmer knew that he had to show the birds he meant business.
  - The birds were not afraid of the farmer.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## GROUP THINK

Each morning the zebras gathered at the watering hole to discuss their day. Zane the zebra was the last to arrive one day. He had had a terrible morning. First, he woke up late and missed out on the good grasses for breakfast. Then he stubbed his hoof on a rock, and it now had a crack. He was very grumpy.

Because he was so late, Zane was the last to show up. There wasn't a lot of room. This made Zane feel even grouchier.

"Move over, you guys," said Zane. "It's my turn."

"Zane, we just got here, you're going to have to wait," replied Zane's friend, Ned.

"Oh, come on," pouted Zane as he sat back. "Isn't it annoying how Mr. Farrell always makes sure that his daughters get the best grass every day and the best position here at the water?"

Ned had to think about it for a minute. "Come to think of it," said Ned, "You are right. That is kind of annoying."

"And that Sally has such bad breath. Doesn't she?" asked Zane.

"You are right about that, and her mane is always tangled," added Chris, another friend of Zane's. Before long, all the zebras were talking poorly of others and were all as negative as Zane.

"Wait a minute, Zane," interrupted Felix. "We were all having a good morning until you came along. Don't drag us down to your level." The zebras all nodded in agreement and went back to their drinking.



## STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the problem in the story?
  - Zane doesn't have any friends.
  - Zane feels like he isn't treated with respect.
  - The other zebras make fun of Zane.
  - Zane is having a hard time being positive.
- Which of the following words best describes Zane's attitude?
 

a. dedicated	c. peppy
b. insecure	d. contagious
- What is the moral to the story?
  - People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
  - Misery loves company.
  - Big things come in small packages.
  - Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ME, MYSELF, AND I

There once was a tortoise walking through the desert. It had been a dry year, and the drought was taking its toll on the animals. The tortoise had searched in vain for food. Just then a buzzard flew by. "How are you?" asked the buzzard.

"Good, just a little hungry," admitted the tortoise. "This drought has been much harder than I ever thought it would be."

"I see," said the buzzard, "but this drought hasn't affected me at all. I am able to eat to my heart's content because the little animals are dying right and left."

"How can you say that? How can you do that?" questioned the tortoise. "Doesn't it break your heart to watch the little animals starve to death?"

"Who cares? It's not my problem," said the buzzard as he flew away.

A few days later the tortoise was walking along when he saw a buzzard caught in a tree branch. Its feathers were so caught that it seemed impossible to free the poor animal. The tortoise knew he must help. Just then, he noticed it was the same buzzard from the day before.

"Why, buzzard, we meet again. This time it looks like it is you that needs help," said the tortoise.

"Leave me alone! I don't need anyone's help. I'm smarter than the rest of you dumb animals. I will get it figured out!" yelled the buzzard.

The tortoise slowly walked away shaking his head at what he had just heard.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What was the lesson learned in this story?
  - Patience is a virtue.
  - Pride goes before destruction.
  - People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
  - A watched pot never boils.
- How will pride kill the buzzard?
  - He callously eats the dying animals without worrying about them.
  - He takes advantage of the old tortoise.
  - He refuses to accept help from the tortoise and remains stuck in the tree branch.
  - He refuses to share his good fortune with the tortoise.
- Using the context clues, what is the meaning of the word *affected* as used in the passage?
 

a. worried	c. changed
b. arranged	d. languished





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## LAUGHING LAST

A fox and a cat were having an argument about who had the biggest problem. They both were competitive and wanted to see who could muster the most sympathy from the animals in the forest.

The cat saw a group of animals gathering, so he scurried to the top of a big rock. "Hello down there. Would you like to hear my sad tale?" he asked.

Without waiting for a reply, the cat began to pour out all his troubles. The fox, not wanting to be outdone, called the animals' attention to him by screeching in pain.

"Oh me, oh my! My foot is stuck again," wailed the fox. This is the third time my foot has been wounded this week. Woe is me!" The animals all sighed.

Just then, a big rock came crashing down the hill and landed on top of a hyena. The animals gasped and worked together to save the hyena. Once rescued, the animals all asked if he was okay.

"Ha, ha, hee, hee," laughed the hyena. "Can you believe my luck to sitting directly below the falling rock? Silly me!" The hyena continued to laugh. All the animals laughed at his situation, as well.

"Wait! Look at me. I'm still in pain," called the cat.

"And what about me?" whined the fox.

Attention for the cat and the fox soon ceased. The animals all seemed to know that you make your situation what you want it to be.



### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the moral to the story?
  - Birds of a feather flock together.
  - He who laughs, laughs last.
  - Practice makes perfect.
  - Don't judge a book by its cover.
- What is the meaning of the word *scurried*?
 

a. astonished	c. ignored
b. confused	d. bustled
- Which of the following statements can be verified from the story?
  - The fox was afraid of the cat.
  - The fox and the cat had been in a fight before.
  - The fox had a hard time making decisions.
  - The hyena put life's problems in perspective.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE GREAT RESCUE

There once was an old donkey that was to be sold by the farmer the next day. The donkey had overheard the plans and tried desperately to think of a way to free himself.

“He’s just too old to be of use anymore,” said the farmer.

Early the next morning, the donkey decided to escape. He broke through the log fence and ran out of the field. It wasn’t long before he fell into a well. The hole was big and wide and the donkey had not seen it. The poor old donkey began to cry.

When the farmer arose, he thought about what he needed to do that day. He knew there was a big hole left behind by an old well on his property that would be dangerous for anyone that might accidentally fall in. He grabbed his shovel and went about his work.

“I will fill this hole in the ground and then I will take the donkey to the market to sell,” said the farmer.

The farmer began shoveling dirt into the well. The donkey realized that the farmer didn’t know he was in the well. Each time the farmer threw dirt in the hole, the donkey shook it off and stepped on it. The more dirt there was inside, the higher the donkey began to rise.

When the farmer realized what had happened, he laughed and patted the donkey on the back. How could he ever rid himself of such a smart donkey?

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the moral to the story?
  - Do not put all your eggs in one basket.
  - Good things come to those who think.
  - Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
  - Look before you leap.
- From reading the story, which of the following words could be used to describe the donkey?
 

a. poor	c. arrogant
b. clever	d. simple
- Which sentence shows the resolution to the farmer’s problem?
  - The farmer began shoveling dirt into the well.
  - “He’s just too old to be of use any more,” said the farmer.
  - When the farmer realized what had happened, he laughed and patted the donkey on the back.
  - none of the above