Critical Thinking & Classic Tales

FABLES

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...

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A fable is a special kind of folktale. Folktales are stories handed down by word of mouth. Many are eventually written down. Like folktales, fables are found in cultures all over the world, from India to Africa to Eurasia. Aesop’s Fables, credited to a Greek slave, are some of the earliest and most famous.

Each fable has a number of interesting characteristics. It always teaches a lesson, or moral. Usually the characters are animals that are given human traits, which is an example of personification. A fable is fiction. It is also fantasy—always in the realm of the impossible or improbable. Finally, a fable is a form of allegory—a fictional story whose symbolic meaning is more important than its literal meaning.

The twelve fables in this book are each followed by a crossword puzzle that tests literal comprehension, as well as a set of comprehension questions based on the six levels of Bloom's Taxonomy: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Since the exercises range from simple to complex, they are ideal for the differentiated classroom.

The following is a more detailed explanation of the types of thinking skills involved at each level of Bloom’s Taxonomy. It will help you understand why the comprehension and critical thinking questions are labeled and worded as they are. Keep in mind that these categories will overlap and intertwine. You will also find that many skills apply to more than one level of Bloom’s Taxonomy.

- **Knowledge**: reading for details, finding facts, recalling information
- **Comprehension**: identifying the main idea, summarizing, determining sequence. Higher level comprehension skills include classifying, identifying cause and effect, making inferences, drawing conclusions, and predicting consequences of behavior.
- **Application**: applying story content to real life or to personal experience, converting abstract content to concrete situations, making use of knowledge learned
- **Analysis**: completing analogies, using logic, identifying the unstated moral of a story, recognizing patterns of behavior, breaking a whole into its component parts, seeing how parts relate to the whole, classifying
- **Synthesis**: predicting outcomes, drawing conclusions, comparing/contrasting, relating knowledge from several different areas, generalizing from given facts, combining parts of a whole in a new and different way
- **Evaluation**: making judgments, forming/expressing personal values, expressing/justifying an opinion, discerning fact from opinion, evaluating facts for accuracy
In addition to fables, crossword puzzles, and questions based on Bloom’s Taxonomy, this book features several literature response activities: The Venn Diagram Compare/Contrast Chart, the Story Map, Story Sequence, and a challenge activity called About This Story.

- **Venn Diagram Compare/Contrast Chart:** to help students increase their comprehension of a story by showing similarities and differences between characters (either in the same story or in two different stories) or between stories (for example, comparing or contrasting story plots, morals, or recurring themes).

- **Story Map:** to help the teacher assess the student’s ability to recall the main events in the plot that move the story toward its resolution.

- **Story Sequence:** to help students understand the most important events in a story and that those events happen in a certain sequence. The “time-order” words will help students organize their thoughts.

- **About This Story:** to help those students who are capable of exploring the elements of a story, such as, characters, plot, setting, theme, recurring themes, personification, author’s purpose, etc.

The high-quality **audio CD**, which may be found inside the back cover of this book, follows each story word for word.

You will find the **Chart of Skills** (inside the front cover) to be a valuable teaching tool. It shows precisely which skills are targeted in every story. The chart will enable you to choose a selection according to the skills it covers, or to simply be informed about the skills you will be teaching with each story.

**Suggestions For Using This Book:**

- Use the stories and follow-up activities with individual students or with small groups of students who are reading at the same level. They make an excellent at-home practice or partner reading activity. Oral discussion of work as it is completed will increase the level of student understanding.

- The audio CD is ideal for use with students who are experiencing reading difficulties. By listening to the story or following along as it is being read, those students will have a greater chance at comprehension success.
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Story Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE MAN, THE BOY, AND THE DONKEY</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CROW AND THE PITCHER</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE FOX WITH NO TAIL</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CITY MOUSE AND THE COUNTRY MOUSE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELLING THE CAT</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE LION AND THE MOUSE</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANDROCLES AND THE LION</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE FOX AND THE CAT</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE BAT, THE BIRDS, AND THE BEASTS</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE FOX AND THE GRAPES</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE BOY WHO CRIED “WOLF!”</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSSWORD PUZZLE</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENN DIAGRAM COMPARE/CONTRAST CHART</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORY MAP</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORY SEQUENCE</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABOUT THIS STORY</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSWER KEY</td>
<td>43-44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE MAN, THE BOY, AND THE DONKEY

A farmer and his son were going into town with their donkey. As they walked along, some young girls pointed at them and began to laugh. The girls thought that it was strange that they didn't ride the donkey. The farmer told his son to get on the donkey and ride. He did not want them to look silly.

A little farther down the road, they passed some old men who began to talk about them. The old men said that it was wrong for the son to ride and the father to walk. The farmer had his son get off the donkey so that he could ride it himself. He did not want the old men to think the boy was lazy.

Soon they passed some women in the fields. The women were shocked that the father would ride and make the little boy walk. The father decided to bring the boy up on the donkey with him.

Near the town, some people thought that the farmer and his son were being mean to the donkey. They said the load was too heavy. The father did not know what to do then. Finally, he decided that they would carry the donkey. They tied the donkey's feet to a long pole. By putting the pole on their shoulders they could carry the donkey upside down between them.

The donkey did not like to ride this way and began to kick his feet. The boy dropped his end of the pole. The donkey fell into the river and drowned.

The farmer and his son learned the lesson that if you try to please everybody, no one will be happy.

1. Number these events in the order they happened:
   _____ They passed some women in a field.
   _____ Young girls laughed at them.
   _____ They tried to carry the donkey.
   _____ Old men talked badly about them.
THE MAN, THE BOY, AND THE DONKEY

1. Why were girls laughing at the farmer and his son? __________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

2. Why did the old men think it was wrong for the boy to ride alone? _____________
_____________________________________________________________________

3. What were the women in the fields shocked about? __________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

4. Why did the townspeople think the father and his son were mean to the donkey?
_____________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story? __________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

CAUSE AND EFFECT–COMPREHENSION

6. What caused the donkey to drown? ______________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

ANALYSIS

7. What was the pattern of behavior of the father and son (what did they do over and 
over)? __________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

8. What did the people they met do over and over? __________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

APPLICATION

9. Describe a time when you or someone you know got into trouble trying to please 
too many people. (You may use another sheet of paper.)
ACROSS
1. The boy ___ his end of the pole.
4. The girls thought it was ___ that they didn’t ride the donkey.
5. The girls began to ___ at the three of them.
10. The farmer and his son carried the donkey ___ down on a pole.
11. The man was a ___.
12. The farmer did not want the old men to think his son was ___.
14. The farmer, his son, and the ___ were going into town.
16. They were going ___ town.
17. The donkey ___ in the river.

DOWN
2. The donkey fell into the ___.
3. They tied the donkey to a long ___.
4. They carried the pole on their ___.
6. The farmer did not want to look ___ to the girls.
7. Some ___ thought that the farmer and his son were being mean to the donkey.
8. If you try to please everybody, no one will be ___.
9. The farmer and his son tried to ___ the donkey on a pole.
11. The women were in the ___.
13. They were going into ___.
15. The farmer told his son to ___ the donkey.
A crow had been flying for a long time and was very thirsty. He looked below him and saw a water pitcher on the side of the road. The crow flew down to get a drink of water from the pitcher.

When he looked down into the pitcher, he could see the water near the bottom. It was too far down for him to reach it with his beak. He thought and thought about the problem of getting the water. He thought that he might tip over the pitcher, but the water would spill. It would soak into the ground, and he would not be able to drink it. What could he do?

Finally, the thirsty crow solved his problem. He picked up a little stone with his beak and dropped it into the pitcher. Then he picked up another pebble and dropped it in. Over and over again, the crow put pebbles into the water pitcher.

Each time he dropped a pebble into the pitcher, the water would rise a little higher. The crow worked all afternoon dropping the pebbles one at a time into the water.

At last, the water was high enough for him to reach it with his beak. The half-dead crow was able to drink the water and save his life.

The crow had learned the lesson that little by little does the trick. It had taken him a very long time, but his hard work had paid off!

1. What groups do these belong to?

   crows, robins, eagles: ________________________________

   water, milk, juice: ________________________________
THE CROW AND THE PITCHER

1. Why was the crow so thirsty?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

2. Where did the crow see water?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

3. What problem did the crow have to solve to get a drink?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. How did the crow solve his problem?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

6. What was one of the crow’s good qualities?
___________________________________________________________________

7. Milk is to carton AS ____________ is to pitcher.

   Insect is to crawl AS bird is to ______________.

8. Describe a problem you have had and the steps you took to solve it. (You may use another sheet of paper.)
THE CROW AND THE PITCHER

ACROSS
3. Each time the crow dropped a pebble into the pitcher the water would ___ a little higher.
6. The crow worked all ___.
8. His hard word had paid ___!
9. He picked up the pebbles with his ___.
10. The crow solved his ___.
15. The crow was so ___ he was half-dead.
18. The water would rise a little bit ___ each time he dropped a pebble in the pitcher.
19. The pitcher was on the ___ of the road.
20. There was ___ near the bottom of the pitcher.

DOWN
1. The crow wanted to get a ___ of water from the pitcher.
2. The crow learned a ___.
4. A small stone is called a ___.
5. The pitcher was on the side of the ___.
7. The crow ___ a lesson.
11. The lesson was that ___ by ___ does the trick.
12. The water was in the bottom of the ___.
13. The crow could not ___ the water in the bottom of the pitcher.
14. The ___ was very thirsty.
16. He had to ___ very hard.
17. It took a long ___ to solve the problem.
THE FOX WITH NO TAIL

Fred, the fox, was proud of his big, bushy tail. He used to strut around and show it off to the other foxes. They thought he was very handsome, indeed.

One day, Fred was walking in the woods when he was caught in a trap. The trap had clamped around his tail. In order to escape, Fred pulled as hard as he could. He pulled so hard that his tail came off in the trap. All he had left was a little stump where his wonderful tail had been.

Fred was ashamed for the other foxes to see him without his tail, so he hid from them. Then he thought of a plan which he thought might work.

He called a meeting of all the other foxes. When they had gathered, Fred began to tell them how nice it was not to have a tail to worry about. He pointed out the way the tail got in the way when one tried to run from enemies. He said it was not easy to sit down with a big, bushy tail. He tried to convince the other foxes to get rid of their tails too.

Finally, one of the wise old foxes spoke up. He said that he did not think Fred would ask them to get rid of their tails if he still had his. They all agreed and kept their beautiful tails.

The foxes had learned the lesson that when someone gives advice, he usually wants something for himself. Fred had wanted the other foxes to look like him.

1. Why did Fred want the other foxes to get rid of their tails?
THE FOX WITH NO TAIL

1. What happened one day when Fred was walking in the woods?
   ________________________________________________________________

2. What did Fred have to do to free himself?
   ________________________________________________________________

3. What did Fred do at the meeting with the other foxes?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. What did the wise old fox say at the meeting?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of the story?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

6. What caused the other foxes to keep their tails?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

7. Give a real-life example of someone trying to get someone else to do something bad or stupid just to make himself feel better.
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

8. Do you think the other foxes liked Fred? Why or why not? (You may use another sheet of paper.)
ACROSS
3. The foxes ___ for the meeting.
7. Fred thought of a ___ which he hoped would work.
8. When someone gives advice, he usually wants something for ___.
9. Fred's tail was big and ___.
10. The old fox was very ___.
12. The foxes ___ to keep their beautiful tails.
13. The fox who lost his tail was named ___.
15. Fred was ___ for the other foxes to see him without his tail.
17. All that was left was a little ___ where Fred's tail had been.
19. Fred ___ of a plan.

DOWN
1. Fred lost his ___.
2. Fred tried to give the other foxes ___.
4. The other foxes thought that Fred was very ___, indeed.
5. Fred called a ___ of all the foxes.
6. Fred ___ so hard to get out of the trap that his tail came off.
11. Fred said a tail got in the way when one tried to run away from ___.
13. Fred was a ___.
14. The trap ___ around Fred's tail.
16. The trap had been set by a ___.
18. Fred was caught in a ___.
THE CITY MOUSE AND THE COUNTRY MOUSE

One day a mouse who lived in the big city went to visit his cousin who lived out in the country. The country mouse was very happy that his favorite cousin was on his way. He had not seen him for a long time.

The country mouse worked very hard to clean his den and find lots of good food. There were bits of cheese, bacon, bread, and beans.

The city mouse ate the food which his country cousin had for him. Soon the mouse from the city began to brag about his way of life. He told his cousin that the food in the city was much better. He said there were many different fancy kinds of foods where he came from. He invited the country mouse to come to the city to taste the wonderful food.

The two mice went to a big house in the city. The people who lived there had finished a huge feast. The mice began to taste all the food that was left on the table. They were eating cakes, pies, jam, roast beef, and other fine food.

Suddenly, the two big dogs that lived in the house came barking into the room and chased the mice away. The country mouse was very afraid and decided to go back to his own home right away.

The country mouse had learned the lesson that it is better to live a simple life where it is safe than to live a fancy life in a dangerous place.

MAIN IDEA—COMPREHENSION

1. Write what this story was mainly about in one or two sentences.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
1. What did the country mouse do to prepare for the city mouse’s visit?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
2. What did the city mouse brag about to his cousin the country mouse?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
3. Why did the city mouse invite the country mouse to come home with him?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
4. What happened as the two mice were eating the fancy city food?
___________________________________________________________________
5. What is the moral of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
6. Number these events in the order they happened:
   _____ The country mouse decided to return to the country.
   _____ The country mouse went to visit the city mouse.
   _____ The city mouse visited the country mouse.
7. What are the two main settings, or scenes, of this story (where it takes place)?
___________________________________________________________________
8. Do you think the city mouse should have bragged about how much better city food
   was than country food? Why or why not? (You may use another sheet of paper.)
THE CITY MOUSE AND
THE COUNTRY MOUSE

ACROSS
2. The people in the city had just finished a huge ___.
4. One of the things the mice ate in the city was ___.
5. This story is about two ___.
8. The mice went to a big ___ in the city.
10. One thing the mice ate in the country was ___.
11. Two of these chased the mice away from the table: ___.
13. The country mouse learned a ___.

DOWN
1. The dogs did this to scare the mice: ___.
3. The country mouse felt this way in his den: ___.
6. The country mouse made sure his den was ___ for his visitor.
7. The country mouse said that the city mouse was his favorite ___.
9. The country mouse decided it was better to live a ___ life where it was safe.
10. The country mouse went back to the big ___ with the city mouse.
12. The country mouse lived in a ___.

Critical Thinking & Classic Tales: Fables
THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

On a bright summer day, a grasshopper was playing in a field. He was hopping and jumping all over. He was so happy that he wanted everyone to play with him.

An ant came along carrying a big piece of corn to her nest. She always worked very hard to keep food stored in her home. The grasshopper asked her to stop and play a game with him. She shook her head and kept on going down the path with the corn.

Later the ant came by with a huge hunk of bread she had found. The grasshopper could not understand why she worked so hard on such a nice summer day. He told her to stop working and have a chat with him.

The ant told him that she was working now to be sure that she had plenty of food for the winter. The grasshopper laughed at her and asked why she worried about winter in the middle of the summer. He told her that she was foolish to waste the beautiful summertime by working so hard.

The ant did not listen to him. Nothing could stop her from doing her chores.

When winter came, the grasshopper had no food. He was dying of hunger. The ants were very happy because they had all the food they needed to last them through the winter.

As he watched the ants, the hungry grasshopper knew that he had learned a lesson from them. He knew that it is best to be sure you are prepared for the time when you know you will need something.

CAUSE AND EFFECT – COMPREHENSION

1. What caused the grasshopper to be hungry in the winter?
THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

1. What did the grasshopper want the ant to do?
___________________________________________________________________

2. Why wouldn’t the ant stop to play with him?
___________________________________________________________________

3. Why did the grasshopper think the ant was foolish?
___________________________________________________________________

4. What happened to the grasshopper in the winter?
___________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

6. Name one of the ant’s good qualities.
___________________________________________________________________

7. How can you put into practice the lesson (moral) of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

8. What can you conclude (determine, decide) from this story about:
How important it is to be prepared: ________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
How important it is to work hard: ________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
ACROSS
4. Nothing could stop the ant from doing her ___.
5. The grasshopper ___ that he had learned a lesson from the ants.
6. The grasshopper was dying of ___.
7. The grasshopper wanted to play all ___.
10. The grasshopper was ___ in a field.
12. The ant would not ___ working.
14. It was a ___ summer day.
15. The grasshopper told the ant she was foolish not to stop ___.
16. The ant stored the food in her ___.

DOWN
1. The ant wanted to be sure that she had ___ of food for the winter.
2. The ___ laughed at the ant.
3. The ants had plenty of food during the ___.
4. The ant was carrying a big piece of ___.
6. The ants were very ___.
8. The ant would not ___ to the grasshopper when he wanted her to play.
9. The ___ worked very hard.
11. The grasshopper ___ a lesson from the ants.
13. The food was ___ in the ant’s nest.
BELLING THE CAT

The mice who lived in the big house held a meeting. They were trying to decide what to do about the new cat who had moved into their house. It was not safe for any of them to come out with the cat around. Each time one of the mice would try to come out into the house, the cat would sneak up on him. No longer could the mice get all the food that they needed. They couldn’t play anymore either.

The meeting lasted a long time. The mice had many different plans for taking care of the cat. They could not decide which of the ideas was best.

A small mouse had been sitting in the back row during the whole meeting. Finally, he stood up and raised his paw. He said that he had a plan. It was his idea that they should put a bell around the cat’s neck. If they did that, they would always know where the cat was because they would hear the bell.

The other mice became very excited. They thought that the young mouse had come up with the best idea ever. They were so happy that they began to dance and sing. They were cheering very loudly.

Suddenly, the oldest and wisest mouse said something that made them all stop and listen. The old mouse spoke in a very soft voice. He said that the idea was good, but then he asked which one of the mice was going to put the bell around the cat’s neck. No one was brave enough to do it.

The mice had learned the lesson that it is easy to think up good ideas, but not always possible to do them.

1. Tell what happened in the story in one or two sentences.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
Name ________________________________

BELLING THE CAT

READING FOR DETAILS – KNOWLEDGE AND COMPREHENSION

1. Why did the mice have a meeting? 
___________________________________________________________________

2. What couldn’t the mice do anymore because of the cat? 
___________________________________________________________________

3. What was the good idea the small mouse had? 
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. Why didn’t the good idea work? 
___________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story? 
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

CONTRASTING AND MAKING INFERENCES – COMPREHENSION

6. How was the old mouse different from the other mice? 
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

APPLICATION

7. Describe a time when you or someone you know had a good idea that was too hard to carry out. ____________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

PREDICTING CONSEQUENCES/OUTCOMES – COMPREHENSION AND SYNTHESIS

8. What do you think would happen if a mouse in the story did try to put a bell on the cat? (You may use another sheet of paper.)
**ACROSS**
1. All the mice had a ___ to decide what to do about the cat.
3. It was not safe for the mice to ___ out into the house.
4. A new ___ was living in the house.
6. The mice wanted to put a ___ around the cat’s neck.
11. The mouse who asked the question was ___ and wise.
12. The oldest mouse said something that made them stop and ___.
13. The mice learned a ___.
14. The cat would ___ up on the mice and chase them.
16. The meeting ___ a long time.
18. The small mouse ___ up and said he had a plan.

**DOWN**
2. The small mouse had an idea that was very ___ to the other mice.
3. The mice were ___ very loudly.
5. The mice began to ___ and sing.
7. They cheered very ___.
8. The lesson was that it is easy to think up good ___, but not always possible to do them.
9. No one was ___ enough to put the bell on the cat.
10. The small mouse ___ his paw.
15. It was not safe in the house with the cat ___.
17. The oldest and wisest mouse spoke in a very ___ voice.
THE LION AND THE MOUSE

One summer day, a lion was sleeping in the shade of a tree. While he slept, a little mouse began to run up his leg and then all over him. This tickled the lion, and he woke up. He grabbed the tiny mouse with his big paw and opened his mouth to eat him.

The little mouse thought fast. He looked at the lion and begged not to be eaten. He asked the lion to forgive him for playing on him. The mouse said that if the lion would let him go, he would never forget how kind the lion had been. The little mouse promised to pay the lion back some day for letting him go.

The lion began to laugh at the idea that a mouse could ever help him. He laughed so hard that he opened his paw. He let the little mouse get away.

Some weeks later, the lion was caught in a hunter’s trap. The trap was a big net which had fallen over the lion. He tried and tried but couldn’t get out of the net.

He had given up hope when he saw something very small in the grass near him.

It was the tiny mouse who just happened to be going by. When he saw the trouble the lion was having, the mouse decided to help. He had promised to pay back the lion and this was his chance. The mouse began to chew through the ropes of the net, and soon the lion was free.

The lion had learned the lesson that little friends may turn out to be your best friends.

1. Number these events in the order they happened:
   _____ The lion got trapped in a hunter’s net.
   _____ The mouse set the lion free.
   _____ The lion let the mouse go free.
THE LION AND THE MOUSE

1. How did the lion and the mouse meet the first time?
___________________________________________________________________

2. What did the mouse promise to do if the lion let him go?
___________________________________________________________________

3. When did the lion and the mouse meet again?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. How was the little mouse able to be a good friend to the lion?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

CLASSIFYING – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

(You may use an answer more than once).

6. Who are the two hunters in this story? _________________________________
Who are the two that are the hunted (or trapped) in this story? ______________
___________________________________________________________________

ANALYSIS

7. What are the two main parts (or scenes) of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

EVALUATION

8. If you were the mouse, would you have set the lion free? Why or why not? (You may use another sheet of paper.)
THE LION AND THE MOUSE

ACROSS
2. One ___ day, the lion was sleeping.
4. The lion could not believe that such a ___ mouse could help him.
7. The mouse heard the lion ___.
9. The lion learned a ___ when the mouse saved his life.
11. The mouse told the lion that he would ___ him back if he let him go.
12. The lion had ___ up hope of getting out of the trap.
13. Little friends may turn out to be your ___ friends.
15. When the mouse ran all over the lion, it ___ him and he woke up.
16. The lion saw something small in the grass ___ him.
17. The lion grabbed the mouse in his big ___.

DOWN
1. After the mouse chewed the ropes, the lion was ___.
3. A little ___ saved the lion’s life.
5. The little mouse ___ fast.
6. The lion was ___ under a tree.
7. The mouse saved the life of the ___.
8. The mouse just ___ to be going by the trapped lion.
10. The lion slept in the ___ of a tree.
14. The lion was trapped in a ___ made of ropes.
15. The mouse freed the lion from the hunter’s ___ which was a net.
A long time ago, a slave named Androcles escaped from his master. He was hiding in the forest. One day, he found a lion lying under a tree. The lion was moaning and groaning. Androcles was afraid of the lion and started to run away. When he saw that the lion did not chase him, Androcles went back.

As he came near, the lion put out his paw. There was a big thorn in the lion’s paw. Androcles pulled out the thorn and put a bandage on the paw. The lion became a friend of Androcles. They went to the lion’s cave where Androcles could hide. The lion brought him food every day.

One day, both Androcles and the lion were captured by the king’s soldiers. The king decided that the slave should have to fight with a lion to pay for escaping. The king was sure that the lion would kill Androcles. No man had ever beaten a lion in a fight.

The king and all his people came to see the big fight between the lion and the slave. They watched as Androcles stood in the middle of the arena. The lion was let loose from its cage. It ran toward the slave to kill him. But this lion came up to the slave and licked his hand. He would not kill Androcles.

The king made Androcles tell him why he and the lion were friends. The story made the king so happy that he set Androcles free and let the lion go into the forest.

They learned the lesson that when you do something nice for someone, they will do something nice for you.

I. How is this story like The Lion and the Mouse?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

Comparing—Comprehension and Synthesis
Name  ________________________________________

ANDROCLES AND THE LION

1. What was wrong with the lion at the beginning of the story?

___________________________________________________________________

2. How did Androcles help the lion?

___________________________________________________________________

3. How did Androcles and the lion end up in the arena to fight?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. Why did the king let Androcles and the lion go free?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

CAUSE AND EFFECT – COMPREHENSION

6. What caused Androcles to run away from the lion at first?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

MAKING INFERENCES – COMPREHENSION

7. Why didn’t the lion kill Androcles in the big fight?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

EVALUATION

8. How do you think the king was cruel? How do you think the king was kind?

___________________________________________________________________

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ACROSS
1. Androcles was a ___ who escaped.
3. He was hiding in the ___.
5. Androcles put a ___ on the lion’s hurt paw.
7. The slave and lion were to fight in the ___.
8. The lion brought ___ to Androcles every day.
10. Androcles helped the ___.
12. The lion ___ the slave’s hand instead of fighting him.
15. The people learned a ___.
16. The hurt lion did not ___ Androcles when he ran away.
17. The lion hid Androcles in his ___ in the forest.
18. If you do something ___ for someone, they will do something ___ for you.

DOWN
1. The king’s ___ captured the lion and Androcles.
2. The lion became a ___ to Androcles.
4. The lion was ___ and groaning.
6. The slave’s name was ___.
8. The lion and the slave were to ___ in the middle of the arena.
9. The slave stood in the ___ of the arena.
11. All the ___ came to see the fight between the lion and the slave.
13. The ___ was so happy that he set Androcles free.
14. The lion had a ___ in its paw.
The Fox and the Cat

One day, a fox and cat were talking. The fox bragged that he knew 100 different ways to escape from his enemies. The cat said that she knew of only one way to get away from her enemies.

As they were sitting there, they heard a pack of wolves coming toward them. They knew that they had to get away from the wolves. The cat ran to the nearest tree and climbed to the highest branch. She called to the fox that this was the only way she knew how to get away from danger.

The fox sat under the tree and tried to decide how he would get away. He thought of one way and then another. The wolves were getting closer. Still the fox sat under the tree thinking and thinking.

The fox could not make up his mind which way he would escape. The cat called down to him to tell him to hurry. He looked up and said that he was thinking as fast as he could. The wolves were getting closer and closer.

Finally, the fox decided to run away. It was too late. The wolves had gotten too close for him to escape. They caught the fox and killed him. The wolves did not even know that the cat was up in the tree. The cat was very sad about her friend.

The cat had learned a good lesson. She knew that it was better for her to have one safe way to escape. The poor fox had so many ideas that he could not make up his mind in time to save his life.

Making Inferences—Comprehension

1. Why was it better for the cat to have just one plan for escape?
THE FOX AND THE CAT

1. What did the fox brag about to the cat?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

2. Why did the cat climb the tree?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

3. How did the cat try to help the fox?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. Why didn’t the fox get away?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

6. How did the cat act differently than the fox?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

7. Arm is to body AS branch is to ___________.
   Dog is to wolf AS ________ is to tiger.

8. Write a new ending to this story. (You may use another sheet of paper.)
Name ____________________________________________  

THE FOX AND THE CAT

ACROSS

3. The cat ___ a good lesson.
5. The fox and the cat ___ a pack of wolves coming toward them.
6. The fox decided to run away ___ late.
7. The fox ___ that he knew 100 ways to escape.
9. The cat knew only one way to get away from her ___.
11. A pack of ___ was coming.
13. The poor fox had so many ___ that he could not make up his mind.
14. The fox could not ___ what to do.
16. The cat ___ the tree.
17. As they were sitting ___, they heard a pack of wolves.

DOWN

1. The fox and the cat were ___ to each other.
2. The cat knew it was ___ for her to have one safe way to escape.
3. The fox could not make up his mind in time to save his ___.
4. The fox said he was thinking as ___ as he could.
5. The fox knew one ___ ways to escape.
8. The cat was talking to the ___.
9. The fox could not ___ from the wolves.
10. He could not make up his ___.
12. The cat knew only ___ way to escape.
15. The ___ escaped from the wolves by climbing a tree.
THE BAT, THE BIRDS, AND THE BEASTS

A great war was about to begin between the birds and the beasts. The birds all got together to make an army to fight the beasts. At the same time, the beasts were making their own army to fight against the birds.

A bat was watching the birds and beasts as they got ready for the big fight. The birds flew by the bat’s cave on the way to the battleground. They asked the bat to join their army. He said that he could not join them because he was a beast, even though he could fly.

The army of beasts marched by his cave on their way to the battleground. They asked the bat to join their army. He said that he could not join them because, since he could fly, he was a bird.

Just before the big battle started, the birds and beasts got together and decided not to fight after all. Peace was made between them. Each group planned to have a big party because they were all so happy.

The bat went to the birds and asked to come to their party. The birds would not let him join in their fun because he had not helped them. Then the bat went to the beasts and the same thing happened. They would not let him come to their party either. The bat was very unhappy and flew back to his cave alone.

The bat had learned the lesson that a person who will not help either one side or the other will have no friends.

SUMMARIZING – COMPREHENSION

1. Write what happened in the story in one or two sentences.
1. Why didn’t the bat join the army of birds?
___________________________________________________________________

2. Why didn’t the bat join the army of beasts?
___________________________________________________________________

3. Why didn’t the beasts and the birds go to war?
___________________________________________________________________

4. Why wouldn’t they let the bat come to either of their parties?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

6. What groups do these belong to?
Horses, buffaloes, bears: _____________________________________________
Sparrows, hawks, doves: _____________________________________________

7. The fox in *The Fox and the Cat* and the bat in this story made a similar mistake. What mistake did they make?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

8. What should the bat have done if he wanted to have some friends?
___________________________________________________________________
THE BAT, THE BIRDS, AND THE BEASTS

ACROSS
3. A great ___ was about to begin between the birds and the beasts.
4. A person who will not help either side will have no ___.
9. The war was going to be fought on a ___.
10. The bat lived in a ___.
13. The birds and beasts got ___ and decided not to fight.
14. A ___ who will not help either side will have no friends.
15. The bat flew back to his cave ___.
16. The birds and beasts each had a ___ because they were so happy not to fight.
17. The bat learned a ___.

DOWN
1. The ___ and beasts were going to have a war.
2. The bat was very ___ and flew back to his cave alone.
3. The bat was ___ the birds and beasts get their armies ready for the war.
5. The same thing ___ when the bat tried to go to the beast’s party.
6. The beasts were making an army to fight ___ the birds.
7. The bat would not ___ either army.
8. The army of beasts ___ by the bat’s cave on the way to the battleground.
11. The ___ learned a lesson.
12. The ___ were going to fight the birds.
14. ___ was made between the birds and beasts before the war began.
15. The birds and beasts both made an ___ to fight the war.
THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

It was the middle of the summer and the day was very, very hot. A fox was walking through the woods trying to keep cool and find a bite to eat. He tried to stay in the shade as he walked. All at once, he saw a bunch of grapes hanging over the limb of a tree.

The grapevine had grown up the tree and the grapes were too high for the hungry fox to reach. The fox knew that he could not climb the tree to reach the grapes. He sat down under the tree to decide what he could do to solve his problem.

The fox tried putting a pile of sticks and leaves under the branch. Then he climbed up on the pile to try to reach the grapes. Just as he got to the top of the pile, it fell apart and he was back on the ground again. He sat down and thought some more.

He decided to try to jump up to reach the bunch of grapes. The fox walked away and turned around to look at the grapes. Then he ran as fast as he could toward them and jumped up to try to grab them. He missed. By this time, he was not only hungry, he was thirsty too. He wanted the grapes more than ever.

The fox went even farther away. He ran as fast as he could and jumped as high as he could. The grapes were still out of his reach. He tried four times to reach them. At last he gave up.

As he walked away, the fox said to himself that the grapes were probably sour anyway. He had learned the lesson that it is easy to say you don’t like what you cannot get.

SYNTHESIS

1. How could the fox have talked and acted more positively?
THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

1. Why were the grapes too high for the fox to reach?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

2. Why didn’t the pile of sticks and leaves work for the fox?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

3. Why didn’t it work to jump up in the air to get the grapes?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. What two things did the fox finally do and say at the end of the story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

APPLICATION

6. The fox had a “sour grapes” attitude. Which of the following is an example of a real-life “sour grapes” attitude? (Circle your answer).

a. Heather tries out for cheerleading. She doesn’t make it, but her best friend does. Heather congratulates her friend, and will try again next year.

b. Jake has tried three times to get an A on a math test. After getting 2 C’s and one B, he says, “I give up – no more studying. A’s are for nerds anyway.”

EVALUATION

7. Which person would you rather be around – Heather or Jake? Why? (You may use another sheet of paper.)
THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

ACROSS
1. The fox tried to reach the ___.
4. He jumped ___ times to try to get them.
5. The grapes were growing over a ___ high up on the tree.
7. The fox tried to ___ his problem.
8. The fox said the grapes were ___ sour anyway.
11. The fox ___ a lesson.
12. The fox was walking through the ___.
14. The fox went even ___ away.
17. The grapes were ___ high for him to reach.
18. The fox was very ___ and wanted to eat the grapes.

DOWN
1. He jumped up and tried to ___ the grapes.
2. It was the middle of ___ and was very, very hot.
3. The fox was looking for a ___ to eat.
6. The fox jumped as high as he ___.
9. A ___ of grapes was high in the tree.
10. The fox was staying in the shade to keep ___ on the hot day.
13. The fox tried to ___ in the shade.
14. The ___ wanted the grapes.
15. The grapes had grown up a ___.
16. He wanted the grapes more than ___.
THE BOY WHO CRIED “WOLF!”

A young shepherd boy watched over his sheep on the hillside above the town where he lived. The town was at the bottom of a very high mountain near a dark forest. Every day, the boy took the sheep up the hillside and took care of them.

Nothing exciting ever happened to the boy and his sheep. He got very lonely on the side of the mountain with nothing but sheep to talk to. He wanted someone to spend time with while he watched the sheep. The boy made up a plan.

One day, the boy began to yell that a wolf was near the sheep. He called very loudly. The people in the town came running up the hill to help him. When they got there, he was very happy. He had someone to talk with. The people were not happy because there was no wolf there that could hurt the sheep.

Three days later, the boy did the same thing. The people who climbed the hill to help him were very angry. They told the boy never to call them again when he did not need them. The people were sure that the boy would never tell the truth.

The next day, a wolf came out of the dark forest and began to chase the sheep. When the boy yelled that a wolf was after the sheep, the people of the town did not believe him. No one came to help him. They were sure he was fooling them again.

The wolf killed many of the boy’s sheep. He learned the lesson that people do not believe a liar, even when he is telling the truth.

ANALYSIS

1. What was the shepherd boy’s pattern of behavior (what did he do again and again)?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
1. Why did the boy pretend that a wolf was near his sheep?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. Why did the townspeople come to the hillside the first two times?
   ________________________________________________________________

3. What warning did the townspeople give the boy the second time?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. Why didn’t the people come the last time the boy cried for help?
   ________________________________________________________________

5. What is the moral of this story?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

6. What caused the townspeople to stop believing the boy?
   ________________________________________________________________

7. Give a real-life example of someone “crying wolf” (calling for help when they really didn’t need it). What happened when they did this?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

8. Why is it important to tell the truth? (Remember the moral of the story.) (You may use another sheet of paper.)
THE BOY WHO CRIED “WOLF!”

ACROSS
2. The town was near a dark ___.
4. The boy lived in the ___.
5. People do not believe a ___.
7. The boy took the ___ up the hillside and took care of them.
9. The boy watched over the sheep on the ___ above the town.
11. Nothing ___ ever happened to the boy.
14. Three days ___ the boy did the same thing.
16. The ___ were angry at the boy.
17. The boy got ___ on the side of the mountain with nothing but sheep to talk to.
18. The people ___ up the hill to help.

DOWN
1. The people did not ___ the boy when he yelled.
3. The people of the town got very ___ at the boy.
4. They did not believe the boy was telling the ___.
5. The boy learned a ___.
6. The ___ really did come out of the forest and kill the sheep.
8. The wolf began to ___ the sheep.
10. The boy was a ___ who cared for the sheep.
12. A ___ forest was near the town.
13. The boy began to ___ very loudly.
15. The boy had no one to ___ to except the sheep.
COMPARE/CONTRAST CHART

TITLE or CHARACTER

___________________________________  ___________________________________

___________________________________  ___________________________________

Different                  Alike                  Different
COMPARE/CONTRAST CHART

SAMPLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE or CHARACTER</th>
<th>TITLE or CHARACTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Lion and the Mouse</td>
<td>Androcles and the Lion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Different**

- A mouse is one of the main characters
- A mouse helps a lion
- The hunter tried to hurt the lion

**Alike**

- Both have a lion for one of the main characters
- Both teach about the rewards of kindness
- The lion becomes a prisoner in both stories
- The lion is helped by someone weaker in both stories
- In both stories, the main characters are freed in the end

**Different**

- A man (Androcles) is one of the main characters
- A man helped a lion
- The king tried to hurt Androcles and the lion
STORY MAP

TITLE _________________________________________________________

The setting & main characters

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Statement of the problem

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Events

1. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

Statement of the solution or what finally happened

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Moral or lesson of the story

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________
The Fox and the Grapes

The setting & main characters
summer afternoon somewhere in the country; the fox

Statement of the problem
The hungry, thirsty fox is unable to get to the grapes he wants.

Events
1. A fox is walking through the woods, looking for something to eat.
2. He sees some grapes high up in a tree.
3. He tries to make a pile of sticks and leaves to climb up on, but it isn’t high enough.
4. He tries to jump in order to get the grapes, but he can’t jump high enough.
5. Finally, he walks away, saying the grapes were probably sour any way.

Statement of the solution or what finally happened
The fox did not solve his problem. None of the solutions worked.

Moral or lesson of the story
It is easy to say you don’t like what you cannot have.
STORY SEQUENCE

TITLE _________________________________________________________

First...

Next...

Then...

Finally...
ABOUT THIS STORY

Title ____________________________________________

1. Who are the main characters in the story? ____________________________________________

2. What is the setting (time and place) of the story? (Give your best answer.)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What is the story’s plot (what happens)? (You may use another sheet of paper.)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the author’s purpose (to entertain, to inform, to persuade, to teach a lesson, etc.)? (There
may be more than one answer.) ____________________________________________

5. What are the important values or lessons taught in the story? (For example: honesty, kindness, fairness, hard work, you reap what you sow) ________________________________

6. Is there a theme (underlying idea) in this story that is repeated in other folktales? (For example: the triumph of good over evil, the consequences of good and bad actions, the underdog wins in the end, rags to riches, failure turns into success, someone stronger rescues someone weaker.) If so, write what that theme is. (There may be more than one answer.) ____________

7. Is there an example of personification (an animal or object having human characteristics, such as, the ability to talk) in this story? If so, write what the example is. ________________________________
1) Sentences will vary.

1) He got caught in a trap.    2) He had to pull until his
8
7
1) He wanted to feel better about himself; he wanted
Across:
3) gathered    7) plan    8) himself    9) bushy
6
5
4) handsome    5) meeting    6) pulled    11) enemies
13) fox    14) clamped    16) hunter    18) trap
10) wise

11) They thought it was strange that they were not
riding.  2) They thought he was lazy.  3) They were
shocked that the man was riding and letting his son
walk.  4) They thought the father and son were too
heavy for the donkey.  5) If you try to please everybody,
no one will be happy.  6) The donkey's kicking caused
the boy to drop the pole.  The donkey then fell into the
water and drowned.  OR The father and son trying to
please everyone is what caused the donkey to drown.
7) 3, 1, 2  8) They kept trying to please people.
9) They kept telling the father and son what to do, and
they kept criticizing whatever they did.

12 Across:  2) feast  4) jam  5) mice  8) house
10) cheese  11) dogs  13) lesson Down:  1) barked
3) safe  6) clean  7) cousin  9) simple  10) city
12) den

13 1) not preparing, not storing food in the summer

14 1) to play with him; to chat with him  2) She was
storing food for the winter.  3) He thought she was
wasting the summer working so hard.  4) He had no
food; he was starving.  5) It is best to prepare ahead
of time so you have what you need later.  6) hard-
working; prepared; focused  7) Answers will vary.
8) Accept any reasonable answers.

15 Across:  4) chores  5) knew  6) hunger  7) summer
10) playing  12) stop  14) bright  15) working
16) nest Down:  1) plenty  2) grasshopper
3) winter  4) corn  6) happy  8) listen  9) ant
11) learned  13) stored

16 1) Summaries will vary.

17 1) to decide what to do about the cat  2) They
couldn't play or get all the food they wanted.  3) to
tie a bell around the cat's neck, so they could hear
him coming 4) No one was brave enough to put the
bell on the cat.  5) It is easy to think up good ideas,
but not always possible to do them.  6) He was
older and wiser; he thought things through more than
they did.  7) Answers will vary.  8) Accept any
reasonable answer.

18 Across:  1) meeting  3) come  4) cat  6) bell  11) old
12) listen  13) lesson  14) sneak  16) lasted
18) stood Down:  2) exciting  3) cheering  5) dance
7) loudly  8) ideas  9) brave  10) raised  15) around
17) soft

19 1) 2, 3, 1

20 1) The mouse accidentally woke the sleeping lion.
2) to pay the lion back someday  3) when the lion
was trapped in a hunter's net  4) He chewed through
the ropes and freed the lion.  5) Little friends may
turn out to be your best friends. OR It pays to be kind.
6) the hunter and the lion; the mouse and the
donkey getting caught and the lion letting
him go free; the lion getting trapped and the mouse
setting him free  8) Answers will vary.

21 Across:  2) summer  4) little  7) laugh  9) lesson
11) pay  12) given  13) best  15) tickled  16) near
17) paw Down:  1) free  3) mouse  5) thought
6) sleeping  7) lion  8) happened  10) shade  14) net
15) trap

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**Answer Key**

**PG#**

22  1) **Examples:** Both stories are about lions. Both stories teach about kindness and mercy. Both stories have characters that return favors to each other. Both stories have a “bad guy” (the hunter, the king).

23  1) He had a painful thorn in his paw.  2) He took the thorn out and bandaged his paw.  3) They were captured by the king’s soldiers. The king decided that Androcles had to fight the lion to pay for escaping.  4) He liked the story about how they became friends.  5) When you do something nice for someone, they will do something nice for you.  6) his natural fear of a wild animal  7) He had become Androcles’s friend because Androcles had helped him.  8) **Examples:** He had Androcles and the lion fight, and he believed in slavery (cruel); but he let them both go free (kind).

24  **Across:** 1) slave  3) forest  5) bandage  7) arena  8) food  10) lion  12) licked  15) lesson  16) chase  17) cave  18) nice  **Down:** 1) soldiers  2) friend

25  1) She didn’t have to waste time deciding what to do.

26  1) He said he knew a hundred ways to escape from his enemies.  2) It was the one way she knew to escape from the wolves.  3) She called to him twice to climb the tree and get out of danger.  4) He took too long deciding on the best way to escape.  5) It is better to have one way to solve a problem than a hundred ways you can’t decide on. OR He who hesitates is lost.  6) She escaped right away while he didn’t; she acted wisely while he acted foolishly; she didn’t brag, but she acted; he bragged, but he didn’t act.  7) tree or trunk; cat

27  **Across:** 3) learned  5) heard  6) too  7) bragged  9) enemies  11) wolves  13) ideas  14) decide  16) climbed  17) there  **Down:** 1) talking  2) better  3) life  4) fast  5) hundred  8) fox  9) escape  10) mind  12) one  15) cat

28  1) **Summaries will vary.**

29  1) He told the birds that he was a beast.  2) He told the beasts that he was a bird.  3) They decided not to fight; they decided to make peace instead.  4) He hadn’t helped either group.  5) A person who will not help one side or the other will have no friends.  6) animals or beasts or mammals; birds  7) not deciding, not choosing  8) He should have joined one side or the other.

30  **Across:** 3) war  4) friends  9) battleground  10) cave  13) together  14) person  15) alone  16) party  17) lesson  **Down:** 1) birds  2) unhappy  3) watching

31  1) **Answers will vary.**

32  1) The grapevine had grown up high into the tree.  2) When he tried to climb it, it collapsed.  3) He couldn’t jump high enough.  4) He gave up and walked away. He said the grapes were probably sour anyway.  5) It is easy to say you don’t like what you cannot get.  6) b  7) **Answers will vary.**

33  **Across:** 1) grapes  4) four  5) limb  7) solve  8) probably  11) learned  12) woods  14) farther  17) too  18) hungry  **Down:** 1) grab  2) summer  3) bite  6) could  9) bunch  10) cool  13) stay  14) fox  15) tree  16) ever

34  1) He kept calling for help when he didn’t need it.

35  1) He was lonely and wanted someone to talk to.  2) because he called for help  3) never to call them again when he didn’t need them  4) They didn’t believe him; he had fooled them twice before.  5) People do not believe a liar, even when he is telling the truth. OR Don’t say you have an emergency when you really don’t.  6) his lies; his false alarms  7) **Answers will vary.**  **Example:** a prank call to 911  9) **Answers will vary.**

36  **Across:** 2) forest  4) town  5) liar  7) sheep  9) hillside  11) exciting  14) later  16) people  17) lonely  18) climbed  **Down:** 1) believe  3) angry  4) truth  5) lesson  6) wolf  8) chase  10) shepherd  12) dark  13) yell  15) talk