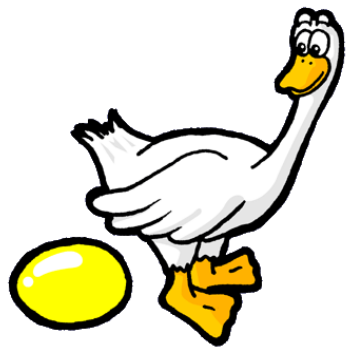


Aesop's Fables

Reading Comprehension

Activities



Name.....

The Goose that Laid Golden Eggs

There once was a very poor farmer. So poor in fact, that he lived in an old, tumble-down cow shed in the middle of nowhere, with only a bale of straw for his bed. He lived on a diet of turnips and the odd goose egg if he was lucky. His name was Walter Drupe.

Now Walter Drupe hadn't always been so poor. Some years ago, he'd inherited a large and prosperous farm from his father and he'd owned land as far as the eye could see. But Walter Drupe was a very lazy man and he certainly didn't like work.

"I'm far too good to be milking cows," he said. "I should be Lord of the Manor with servants and footmen...and heaps of silver and gold."

So over the years, instead of working for a living he'd simply sold off his possessions.

He'd sold almost everything his father had given him - his house, his land, his horses, his pigs, his cattle and all he was left with was one single goose, who lived with him.

"Oh what is to become of me?" wailed Walter late one night. "I have no house, no food, no money and nothing left to sell...I shall surely starve!" And then he looked at his goose.

"It's no good quacking at me goosey, it's off with you to the market tomorrow - you haven't laid an egg in weeks and your feathers will fetch me a fair few guineas." And off he went to sleep.

The next morning Walter Drupe awoke to a glittering dawn. It was so light and bright he had to shield his eyes. But it wasn't the sunlight shining! When he dared to take a peek, Walter could hardly believe what he saw, it was a gigantic, glorious... golden egg!

"You clever girl!" said Walter Drupe, "We'll be rich! Rich beyond our wildest dreams!"

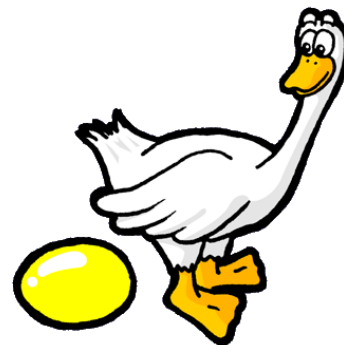
So off he went to market pushing the egg in an old wheelbarrow...and back he came with a barrowful of meat to cook, chicken feed for his goose and a huge bag of coins.

"Oh how I wish I had money to buy a horse drawn carriage!" he said patting his full tummy that night. "That's what I need to be happy."

Well, the very next morning the same thing happened...there was another shiny golden egg lying beside the goose. So off to market went Walter and with the money he got he bought a smart black carriage and six sleek horses to pull it.

And every day the same thing happened and every day Walter Drupe counted his money and wished for more and more.

But as fast as the little goose could lay a golden egg, Walter Drupe wanted more. "Why can't you lay more eggs each day? We need more, we need more I say!"



Soon, Walter Drupe became a very rich man indeed - but as he grew rich, he grew greedy - and still he wanted more.

And then he had an idea.

"How I wish I could have all the golden eggs at once," he thought, "instead of just one a day. Then I would surely be happy."

So the next morning he ordered his cook to cut the goose open so he could take out all the eggs at once - but, of course, to his horror there was nothing inside the goose. Miraculously, the poor goose survived but the shock of this terrible ordeal made it incapable of ever laying another golden egg.

And Walter Drupe ended up back in his tumble-down cow shed - just where he belonged!

Those who have plenty but still want more could so lose all they have.

The End

Reading Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice Section

In this section you will be asked to choose the correct answer from a choice of four.

Circle the answers that you think are correct.

Answer these questions about The Goose that Laid Golden Eggs

The first one has been done for you.

1. This story is about a man called

Walter
Snoop

Walter
Drupe

William
Drupe

Walter
Doop

2. What did Walter Drupe eat? Circle two

carrots

turnips

straw

goose eggs

3. What had Walter Drupe inherited from his father?

a farm

a cow shed

a caravan

an
aeroplane

4. Which of these words describes someone who does not like to work?

clever

grumpy

lazy

lively

Written Answers (*The Goose that Laid Golden Eggs*)

In this section you will need to write one or more sentences to answer the questions.

5. Why did Walter Drupe think that he shouldn't have to milk cows?

6. What did Walter Drupe do instead of working for a living?

7. Who lived with Walter Drupe after he had sold the things his father had given him?

8. Why did Walter tell his goose that she was clever?

9. How many horses did Walter buy to pull his sleek black carriage?

10. Why did Walter have his goose cut open?

11. What lesson can we learn from this story?

The Dog and his Reflection

When Chester was young, he was a good dog. He was warm, soft and he had the sweetest breath. If you let him, he would gently lick the tip of your chin and he always greeted you with a cheery wag of his little stumpy tail.

Because he was so good he was allowed to stay in the farm kitchen when the other farm dogs lived outside in a kennel.



However just because a dog is good when he's a puppy, and licks the tip of your chin if you let him, it doesn't mean he will grow up like that.

Now, even though his owners always fed him well, Chester grew up to be a very greedy dog and would do anything for one more tasty morsel. Once, he pulled the cloth off the table and all the family's dinner crashed to the floor. As quick as a flick, Chester gobbled it all up before the farmer's wife could stop him.

"Bad dog!" scolded the farmer's wife.

As well as being greedy, Chester was also very grumpy. One afternoon, he barked at the children and bit their legs when they were riding their bikes.

"Bad dog!" cried the children.

Another time, he pulled up all the flowers outside the kitchen door and dug five holes in the lawn.

"Bad dog!" yelled the farmer.

So Chester was sent outside with the other dogs. And because people only said "Bad dog!" to him, everyone forgot he'd once been called Chester. Now he was simply called, "Bad Dog".

At feeding time every dog had their own bowl of biscuits and scraps from the table, but Bad Dog would get to them first.

He would growl and snarl and turn up his lips to show how sharp his teeth were.

The other dogs had to wait, licking their mouths until Bad Dog had finished eating. When he had eaten all the meat, gravy, and all the dog biscuits from the bowls, all that was left was dry bread, carrots, broccoli and lots of other things that farmers eat but dogs don't.

But then one day he went too far. The smell of roast meat was wafting out from the kitchen. Bad Dog ran in, snatched the huge bone with the meat still on and ran off with it.

"Bad Dog," screamed the farmer, running after him. "Come back with that meat now, or you'll never come back again!"

Bad Dog took no notice. This was a whole big bone with the meat still on, not scraps, and he wanted it more than anything.

So Bad Dog ran away with it.

He ran for a long time until at last he came to a little bridge. This would be a good place to stop and eat his stolen dinner.

He looked over the side of the bridge. And had such a shock!

Below him in the still water was another dog. A big, fierce, ugly dog - and this dog had a bone with all the meat on too!

Bad Dog had to have it. Two joints of meat! His lips turned back in a snarl, and so did the lips of the other dog. He opened his mouth to growl...and so did the other dog!

And the bone fell from Bad Dog's jaws into the water and was taken away by the stream.

It had been his own reflection in the still water he had seen, and now instead of two bones he had nothing.

Bad Dog felt sad. He had lost everything that was important.

"From now on," he said to himself, "I shall try and be better. I shall be good instead of bad and nice instead of nasty. Then one day everyone will love me again."

And that is just what happened.

If you are too greedy, he realised, it's easy to end up with nothing.

The End

Reading Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice Section

In this section you will be asked to choose the correct answer from a choice of four.

Circle the answers that you think are correct.

Answer these questions about The Dog and his Reflection

1. This story is about a dog called

Bouncer

Shep

Chester

Scamp

2. Which two adjectives are used to describe Chester's tail?

long
stumpy

short
stumpy

stumpy
wide

little
stumpy

3. Where did the other farm dogs live?

in a kennel

in the
kitchen

in a barn

in a shed

4. What kind of a dog did Chester grow up to be?

a sneaky
dog

a greedy
dog

a cheeky
dog

a lazy dog

Written Answers (*The Dog and his Reflection*)

In this section you will need to write one or more sentences to answer the questions.

5. What were the children doing when Chester bit their legs?

6. How many holes did Chester dig in the garden?

7. Why did people forget to call Chester by his name?

8. What did Chester do to show how sharp his teeth were?

9. What did Chester snatch from the kitchen?

10. Where did Chester decide to eat his stolen dinner?

11. What lesson can we learn from this story?

The North Wind and the Sun

It was a fine but very cold winter's day as the Sun shone down on the snow-covered earth below.

"What a beautiful sight," it thought. "And look at the little yellow sails of the ships on the blue sea. I want to take my time travelling across the sky today. After all, what's the rush?"

Suddenly, a freezing cold blast of air screeched past - and nearly blew the Sun along with it.

"Out of my way, Sun," roared the Wind. "See those ships? I'm going to blow them right off course. They won't know what's hit them..."



The Wind blew and blew - it blew so hard that the ship's sails ripped apart. All the Sun could do was watch as the sailors shivered in the icy blast, shook their fists and cried out in anger at the wind.

"Not again, Wind," sighed the Sun. "Why do you have to cause misery and chaos all the time?"

"Because I like showing just how strong I am," replied the Wind. "You sit in the sky and do nothing except shine, but I am full of force and energy."

"Hmmm..." said the Sun, looking thoughtful. "I have an idea. Let's have a contest to see which of us is the stronger."

"I know who will win," said the Wind.

"We shall see," replied the Sun. "Do you see that man down there?"

The Wind looked where the Sun was pointing. A young man was walking along a windy road through the mountains. It was so cold, he was wearing a heavy winter coat to keep warm.

"Let's see which one of us is strong enough to take his coat off him," suggested the Sun.

"Easy, I can do that in no time," boasted the Wind. "Go on then," said the Sun, "I'll watch you from behind a cloud."

The Wind blew and blew. It blew so hard that the birds had to cling to the trees to stop being swept away.

The man shivered and fastened the top button of his coat as the snow swirled in the air. The Wind kept on blowing - but the more it did so, the tighter the man pulled his coat around him to keep warm.

"I give up," gasped the Wind at last. "I've got no more puff left."

"Now it's my turn," said the Sun, as it emerged from the cloud.

The Sun gently breathed in the cold air. The stronger it breathed in, the larger and rounder it became.

On the white earth below, the air was becoming warmer. The Wind watched in awe as the snow began to melt. Icicles were dripping and even the thick ice on the lakes was starting to thaw and crack. The man looked round in wonder at the melting landscape. It had been such a long, cold winter that it was a joy to feel the warmth of the Sun on his face. He undid his top button, then another...

"What a lovely day it's turning out to be," the man thought. "It's too warm for this heavy winter coat. Everything is so bright and beautiful, I just want to enjoy the Sun and rest a while - I might even have a little nap."

The Wind became more and more annoyed as he watched the man sit under the shade of a large rock and take off his coat. It was so annoyed it kept making little angry puffs.

"Your icy blasts hardened his heart and made him determined to keep his coat on," the Sun said to the Wind. "But my glowing rays opened his heart - and his coat buttons. Look, I've cheered up those poor sailors too."

"You see Wind, gentleness and kind persuasion win where force and bluster fail," advised the Sun wisely.

The sailors on the broken ships were cheering and waving up at the Sun. "Now they can mend their sails - and I shall carry on shining until their ships can sail again," said the Sun.

Down below on the Earth, the young man looked up at the Sun as if he had heard him speak.

"That Wind - it was strong. But the Sun is stronger still." he murmured to himself, before nodding off for a restful sleep.

The End

Reading Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice Section

In this section you will be asked to choose the correct answer from a choice of four.

Circle the answers that you think are correct.

Answer these questions about The North Wind and the Sun

1. What colour were the sails on the ships?

blue

red

green

yellow

2. What screeched past the Sun?

an eagle

the Wind

an
aeroplane

a seagull

3. What did the Wind say he was going to blow "off course"?

the sun

the sailors

the ships

the sharks

4. What did the sailors shake at the wind?

their fists

their
knees

their
heads

their hats

Written Answers (*The North Wind and the Sun*)

In this section you will need to write one or more sentences to answer the questions.

5. Why did the Wind like to cause misery and chaos all the time?

6. What was the idea that the Sun had?

7. Where was the Sun when the Wind was trying to blow the young man's coat off?

8. What did the birds have to do when the Wind was trying to blow the young man's coat off?

9. What did the Sun do to make itself larger and rounder?

10. Why did the young man take off his coat?

11. What lesson can we learn from this story?

Aesop's Fables
Reading Comprehension
Activities

Answers

Answers for The Goose that Laid Golden Eggs

1. This story is about a man called

Walter
Snoop

Walter
Drupe

William
Drupe

Walter
Doop

2. What did Walter Drupe eat? Circle two

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a caravan

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aeroplane

4. Which of these words describes someone who does not like to work?

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grumpy

lazy

lively

Answers for The Goose that Laid Golden Eggs

Written answers

5. Why did Walter Drupe think that he shouldn't have to milk cows?

He thought he was too good to be milking cows.

6. What did Walter Drupe do instead of working for a living?

He sold off his possessions.

7. Who lived with Walter Drupe after he had sold the things his father had given him?

A goose

8. Why did Walter tell his goose that she was clever?

She had laid a golden egg

9. How many horses did Walter buy to pull his sleek black carriage?

Six

10. Why did Walter have his goose cut open?

He wanted to have all the golden eggs at once.

11. What lesson can we learn from this story?

Those who have plenty but still want more could lose all they have.

Answers for The Dog and his Reflection

1. This story is about a dog called

Bouncer

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dog

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dog

a cheeky
dog

a lazy dog

Answers for The Dog and his Reflection

Written answers

5. What were the children doing when Chester bit their legs?

They were riding their bikes.

6. How many holes did Chester dig in the garden?

Five

7. Why did people forget to call Chester by his name?

Because people only ever said "bad dog" to him.

8. What did Chester do to show how sharp his teeth were?

Growl, snarl and turn up his lips.

9. What did Chester snatch from the kitchen?

A bone

10. Where did Chester decide to eat his stolen dinner?

On a little bridge

11. What lesson can we learn from this story?

If you are too greedy, it's easy to end up with nothing.

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1. What colour were the sails on the ships?

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red

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their hats

Answers for The North Wind and the Sun

Written answers

5. Why did the Wind like to cause misery and chaos all the time?

It liked showing just how strong it was.

6. What was the idea that the Sun had?

To have a contest to see who was stronger.

7. Where was the Sun when the Wind was trying to blow the young man's coat off?

Behind a cloud.

8. What did the birds have to do when the Wind was trying to blow the young man's coat off?

Cling to the trees.

9. What did the Sun do to make itself larger and rounder?

It breathed in cold air.

10. Why did the young man take off his coat?

Because the heat from the Sun had warmed him up.

11. What lesson can we learn from this story?

Gentleness and kind persuasion win where force and bluster fail.
