

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## Aesop's Fables



This is a collection of tales from the Greek story teller, Aesop. Aesop was a slave in ancient Greece. He was a keen observer of both animals and people.

Most of the characters in his stories are animals, some of which take on human characteristic and are personified in ways of speech and emotions. However, the majority of his characters retain their animalistic qualities; tortoises are slow, hares are quick, tigers eat birds, etc. Aesop uses these qualities and natural tendencies of animals to focus on human traits and wisdom. Each fable has an accompanying moral to be learned from the tale.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## The Boy Who Cried Wolf

There once was a boy who kept sheep not far from the village. He would often become bored and to amuse himself he would call out, "Wolf! Wolf," although there was no wolf about. The villagers would



stop what they were doing and run to save the sheep from the wolf's jaw. Once they arrived at the pasture, the boy just laughed. The naughty boy played this joke over and over until the villagers tired of him.

One day while the boy was watching the sheep, a wolf did come into the fold. The boy cried and cried, "Wolf! Wolf!" No one came. The wolf had a feast of sheep that day.

1. The main idea of paragraph one is
  - a. The sheep boy called the villagers out to amuse himself.
  - b. A wolf would always threaten the safety of the sheep.
  - c. The villagers got annoyed with the shepherd.
  
2. A detail that tells more about the main idea is
  - a. The villagers would come to help the boy.
  - b. The boy would laugh at the villagers.
  - c. The wolf feast on the sheep.
  
3. You can guess that the sheep boy
  - a. Never again cried wolf when there wasn't one.
  - b. Kept the sheep in their pens.
  - c. Wrote stories about his adventures as a shepherd.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

A country mouse invited his cousin who lived in the city to come visit him. The city mouse was so disappointed with the sparse meal which was nothing more than a few kernels of corn and a couple of dried berries.

"My poor cousin," said the city mouse, "you hardly have anything to eat! I do believe that an ant could eat better! Please do come to the city and visit me, and I will show you such rich feasts, readily available for the taking."

So the country mouse left with his city cousin who brought him to a splendid feast in the city's alley. The country mouse could not believe his eyes. He had never seen so much food in one place. There was bread, cheese, fruit, cereals, and grains of all sorts scattered about in a warm cozy portion of the alley.

The two mice settled down to eat their wonderful dinner, but before they barely took their first bites, a cat approached their dining area. The two mice scampered away and hid in a small uncomfortable hole until the cat left. Finally, it was quiet, and the unwelcome visitor went to prowl somewhere else. The two mice ventured out of the hole and resumed their abundant feast. Before they could get a proper taste in their mouth, another visitor intruded on their dinner, and the two little mice had to scuttle away quickly.

"Goodbye," said the country mouse, "You do, indeed, live in a plentiful city, but I am going home where I can enjoy my dinner in peace."



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

1. Which sentence is most likely true?
  - a. The city mouse was very wealthy.
  - b. The country mouse was very poor.
  - c. Both mice found it was easy to find food.
  
2. Write one way that the country mouse and city mouse are alike.  
-----  
-----  
-----
  
3. In paragraph one, the word *cozy* means:
  - a. uncomfortable
  - b. fitted
  - c. warm
  
4. You can guess that the
  - a. Country mouse never returned to the city.
  - b. City mouse moved to the country.
  - c. Both mice never spoke to each other again.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## The Tortoise and the Hare

One day a hare was bragging about how fast he could run. He bragged and bragged and even laughed at the tortoise, who was so slow. The tortoise stretched out his long neck and challenged the hare to a race, which, of course, made the hare laugh.

"My, my, what a joke!" thought the hare.

"A race, indeed, a race. Oh! what fun! My, my! a race, of course, Mr. Tortoise, we shall race!" said the hare.

The forest animals met and mapped out the course. The race begun, and the hare, being such a swift runner, soon left the tortoise far behind. About halfway through the course, it occurred to the hare that he had plenty of time to beat the slow trodden tortoise.

"Oh, my!" thought the hare, "I have plenty of time to play in the meadow here."

And so he did. After the hare finished playing, he decided that he had time to take a little nap.

"I have plenty of time to beat that tortoise," he thought. And he cuddle up against a tree and dozed. The tortoise, in the meantime, continued to plod on, albeit, it ever so slowly. He never stopped, but took one good step after another.



The hare finally woke from his nap. "Time to get going," he thought. And off he went faster than he had ever run before! He dashed as quickly as anyone ever could up to the finish line, where he met the tortoise, who was patiently awaiting his arrival.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.



1. Which sentence tells what most likely happened?
  - a. One day a hare was bragging about how fast he could run.
  - b. The forest animals met and mapped out the course.
  - c. He dashed as quickly as anyone ever could up to the finish line, where he met the tortoise, who was patiently awaiting his arrival.
  
2. You can guess that the hare was
  - a. tired
  - b. loving
  - c. overconfident
  
3. The main idea of the paragraph is
  - a. The tortoise can win races.
  - b. The hare was bragging about his speed.
  - c. The forest animals meet and mapped out the course.
  
4. Write an opinion from the story.

-----  
-----  
-----

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## The Lion and the Mouse

One day a lion was woken from his afternoon nap by a group of mice scurrying all about him. Swat! His huge paw went upon the little creature. The mouse pleaded for mercy from the stately beast. The lion took compassion upon the tiny mouse and released him.



A few days later, the lion became trapped in a hunter's net. His roars made the whole forest tremble. The little mouse whose life was spared approached the lion in the snare and used his sharp little teeth to gnaw the strong ropes until the lion was free.

1. In this passage, the word scurrying must mean.
  - a. hunting
  - b. scampering
  - c. calling
  
2. You can guess that
  - a. The lion ate the mouse.
  - b. The lion stopped hunting animals.
  - c. The lion and mouse became good friends.
  
3. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ A. The lion did not like being trapped in a net.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ B. A mouse has sharp teeth.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ C. A lion's roar is frightful.