

The Fox and the Crow

A crow found a piece of cheese on the ground. She quickly swooped down to pick up the food and perched on a limb to enjoy the tasty treat. A fox wandered by and saw this.

1. This is one of Aesop's fables. What is a fable?
A. A funny story B. A true story C. A story that teaches a lesson
2. What does the title tell us about the characters? _____
3. Are the animals personified in the first paragraph? Explain. _____
4. What was the first thing the crow did after grabbing the cheese? _____

Day 1

"Good afternoon, Crow," the fox called out politely. "How lovely you look today! I bet your voice is just as beautiful and that you sing the sweetest of all of the birds in the forest."

1. What compliment did the fox pay the crow? _____
2. What does a crow sound like? _____
3. Why do you think the fox said nice things to the crow? _____
4. During what time of day does this fable take place? _____

Day 2

The crow began to feel proud as she listened to the fox. She puffed up her feathers, lifted her beak into the air, and opened her mouth to show the fox her musical voice. Just as she did this, the cheese fell out of her mouth and tumbled to the ground. The fox grabbed the cheese and hungrily devoured it.

1. Why did the crow drop the cheese? _____
2. Do you think the fox meant those compliments? Explain. _____
3. What was the first thing the fox did after grabbing the cheese? _____
4. What clues tell you that the fox was probably hungrier than the crow? _____

Day 3

The fox smiled slyly. As he walked away, he called back to the crow, "It is not wise to trust those who praise you with many compliments."

1. Restate the fox's message in your own words. _____
2. What was the fox's message?
A. Always share your cheese.
B. Always compliment others. C. Beware of false compliments.
3. Has anyone ever complimented you to get you to do something he wanted? If so, did it work? _____
4. Have you ever complimented someone to get what you wanted? If so, did it work? _____

Day 4

Name _____

The Oak Tree and the Reeds

A mighty oak tree grew along a riverbank. Its trunk was thick, and its branches reached upward into the sky. It towered proudly above a patch of reeds that grew below it along the edge of the water.

On most days, a breeze blew across the river. The leaves of the mighty oak danced, but its branches held firmly in place. The oak laughed at the reeds because the wind was not so kind to them. The reeds trembled and shook as they struggled to stand up straight. But, the reeds did not mind the laughter of the oak; after all, the tree was so much bigger and stronger.

One day, a terrible hurricane approached the river. Its violent winds pulled up the roots of the mighty oak and tossed it to the ground. When the storm was over, the great tree lay in the patch of reeds.

The oak spoke sadly, "The strong winds were able to pick me up and throw me to the ground like a stick. Yet you reeds were able to stay rooted even though you are much smaller. How could this be?"

One reed spoke. "We may be small, but we know how to bend, whether the wind blows gently or violently. You, mighty oak, were too proud and did not know how to bend."

1. By reading the title, do you think this is one of Aesop's fables? _____

2. What types of objects are the two characters in this fable? _____

3. How is the oak tree different from the reeds? _____

4. What is the lesson of this fable?
 - A. It can be better to be flexible than to be strong.
 - B. It is OK to laugh at those smaller than you.
 - C. Stay out of the way of a hurricane.

5. How might a nonfiction article describe the differences between an oak tree and reeds differently from this fable? _____

