

Name _____ Day 1

Read the passage. Then read about the features of fables.

Aesop's Fables

Almost everyone has heard the fables of ancient Greek storyteller Aesop (620 B.C.–564 B.C.). There is always a moral that Aesop wants everyone to remember. Aesop never features people; the characters are animals that think, talk, and act like humans. Here are some of his fables.

The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

A Country Mouse invited his cousin, a City Mouse, to come and visit him in the country. The City Mouse was very disappointed with the light meal of a few beans, some roots, and a couple of dried berries his cousin offered him and said, "You hardly have anything to eat! Come to the city with me. I will show you a rich feast of cake, cheeses, breads, fruits, cereals, and more!" And so the Country Mouse left for the city with his rich cousin.

Soon they arrived at the fine townhouse where the plump City Mouse lived, and they snuck into the kitchen. The Country Mouse looked in awe at the leftover food on the table. But before he could sink his teeth into a chunk of cheese, a cat approached the dining area. The two mice quickly ran to the safety of a very small, uncomfortable hole and waited. Finally, the cat left, and the cousins ventured out to continue their feast. But it was not long before a dog entered the kitchen and the two mice had to return to the narrow little hole. This was too much for the Country Mouse. He turned to his cousin and said, "You certainly live in luxury. But you are surrounded by dangers. Good-bye! I prefer my humble home. I can eat my simple meal in peace."

MORAL: *Better to eat beans and berries in peace than cake and other delicacies in fear!*

Name _____ Day 3

A **fable** is a traditional story that

- usually has animals or other non-human beings as characters
- has a moral or lesson
- is usually short and amusing

Use text evidence to answer the questions. Think about what you learned about the features of fables.

1. How does the Country Mouse change during his visit to the City Mouse?

In the beginning of the visit, _____

2. Reread the "The Mice in Council." Why does the author say, "It's one thing to suggest a plan. It's another thing to perform it"?

In the story, the mice _____

3. Do you think "Misery loves company" is a good moral for "The Fox Who Lost His Tail"? Explain your answer.

I think "Misery loves company" _____

Name _____ Day 4

As you read the passage, notice the features of a drama.

A Penny Saved

14 *SETTING: A living room. MOM and DAD sit on a couch while their children*
 29 *HUGO and MIA sit on the floor in front of them. Their other child, JORGE,*
 45 *faces them. He has charts on an easel behind him. A bright pink piggy bank sits*
 on a table in the center of the stage.

54 JORGE: You're probably perplexed about the reason for this family
 64 meeting. It is because of this! (*points to the piggy bank*) It seems that
 78 someone has been raiding our vacation fund!

85 MOM: (*smiling*): And what evidence leads you to be so suspicious?

96 JORGE: Well, we all know that a penny saved is a penny earned. We
 110 have stashed away lots of spare change to use for our summer adventure.
 123 But lately our piggy bank has been losing weight.

132 HUGO: It doesn't look thinner to me.

139 JORGE: Well, look at this chart and spreadsheet. (*points to the easel*
 151 *behind him*) Notice the steady decline in the bank's weight.

161 MOM: (*to Dad*) Did you help him make those on your computer?

173 DAD: (*to Mom*) He likes numbers and charts as much as I do. The
 187 apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

194 MIA: So you think that one of us has been stealing money?

206 JORGE: That is a precise summary of my investigation.

215 MOM: Well, you're a great detective. I'm sure you left no stone
 227 unturned. What other evidence do you have?

Name _____ Day 5

A. Use text evidence to answer the questions.

1. How did the author help you visualize, or picture, the setting? Give examples from the text.

The author tells that the setting is _____

2. Reread the second paragraph on page A1. What is the italicized text? What is the purpose of this text?

The italicized text is _____

3. Reread the first paragraph page A2. How does the author build suspense? What does the reader want to find out?

Jorge explains that _____

- B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to phrasing. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	—	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		—		=	
Second Read		—		=	