The Missing Board

Read a fable and find the lesson in its characters' choices.

3.LF.22.c "Identify the central message, theme, or moral in a story, including myths, fables, and folktales, and explain the meaning conveyed in the passage."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the sentence where Fox hides his mistake, and underline the sentence where he admits it. Use these choices to help you find the story's lesson.

Fox and the Bridge

1 At the edge of the woods, the animals crossed a small bridge to reach the berry bushes. One chilly morning, Fox found a loose board on the bridge. He carried it home to patch a hole in his roof. "No one will miss one board," he told himself. But by noon, Rabbit had to turn back. The gap was too wide for her kits to cross.

2 Fox watched Rabbit lead her hungry kits home. He wanted to tell her what he had done, but his ears grew hot. Instead, he piled leaves over the gap. When Deer stepped on the leaves, her hoof slipped between the boards. Fox rushed out and pulled the leaves away. "I took the board," he said. "I thought my roof mattered more than our bridge."

3 Deer did not smile, but she helped Fox carry the board back from his den. Together they fastened it across the gap. Fox gathered dry grass to patch his roof instead. That evening, Rabbit and her kits crossed the bridge safely. Fox warned the others to check the boards before stepping on them. His face still felt warm, but his feet felt light.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What lesson does Fox's story teach? Use one of his actions to explain your answer.

2. Fox covers the gap with leaves. What does Deer's slip show about hiding a mistake?

3. Why is Fox saying "I took the board" important to the story's lesson?

4. At the end, Fox's face still feels warm, but his feet feel light. What does this tell you about admitting a mistake?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence animal story about a choice and its result. In your last sentence, name the lesson your story teaches and explain which event shows it.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.LF.22.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the sentence where Fox hides his mistake, and underline the sentence where he admits it. Use these choices to help you find the story's lesson. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What lesson does Fox's story teach? Use one of his actions to explain your answer.	**Admit your mistakes and help fix them. Fox tells Deer he took the board, then puts it back.**
2	Fox covers the gap with leaves. What does Deer's slip show about hiding a mistake?	**Hiding a mistake can make the problem worse. The leaves hide the gap, and Deer's hoof slips into it.**
3	Why is Fox saying "I took the board" important to the story's lesson?	**Fox admits what he did instead of hiding it, which lets him and Deer begin to fix the bridge.**
4	At the end, Fox's face still feels warm, but his feet feel light. What does this tell you about admitting a mistake?	**Fox still feels embarrassed, but he also feels relieved after telling the truth and fixing the bridge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mole saved every seed he found, even when his friend Wren had none. When winter came, Mole had more seeds than he could eat. He shared a pile with Wren, and they both had food until spring. The lesson is to share what you have, as Mole's extra seeds helped Wren without leaving Mole hungry.

Accept a clearly stated lesson supported by Fox's choices and their results. For the open task, accept any four-sentence animal story whose final sentence names a lesson and connects it to an event in the story.