

Name:

Fiction: Central Message – Q3:2

Date:

As you answer this week's questions, highlight your evidence in the text.

Who Will Bell the Cat?

a fable from India

Once upon a time, a group of mice lived in a grocer's shop. The shop had lots of delicious food for them to fill their bellies with. They ate the grocer's wheat and rice, dried beans and peas, and fresh bread and biscuits. They grew fat day by day.

The grocer did not like that the mice were getting into his food. One day, he decided to do something about it. He brought a big fat cat to his shop. The big fat cat began to catch and kill the fat mice.

The mice became worried. They called a meeting to discuss the problem.

"That cat has eaten too many of us already," the leader of the mice said. "He has to be stopped."

"But how?" the other mice asked.

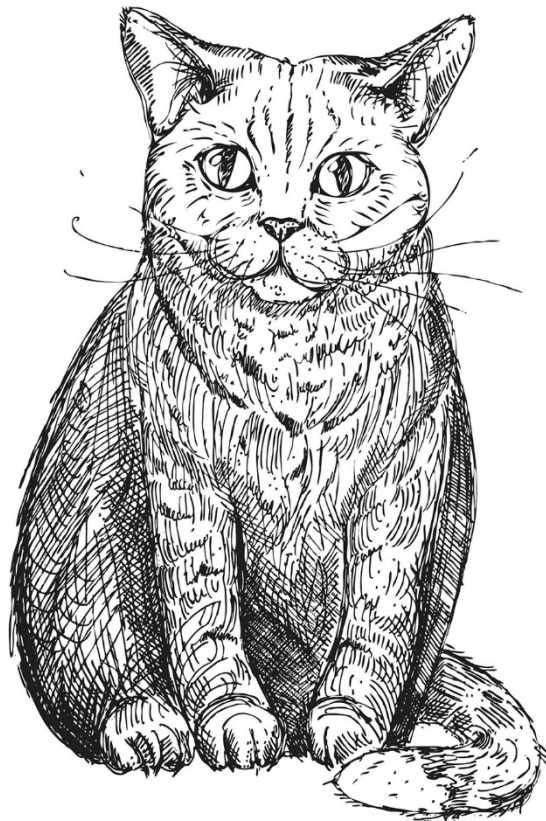
All of them began to think. Then one young mouse said, "We should tie a bell around the cat's neck. So, whenever he moves towards us, the bell will ring. When we hear it ring, we will know to run into our holes immediately."

The mice cheered at this suggestion. They began dancing with joy.

An old and experienced mouse interrupted their celebration, "One question, who among you will volunteer to put the bell on the cat?"

The mice all looked at each other. None was willing to risk his life to take that task on.

Moral: Some things are easier said than done.



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Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom

a fable from Africa

Long ago, the sky god Nyame gave Anansi the spider a pot filled with all the wisdom in the world.

"Share this wisdom with the world," Nyanme instructed Anansi.

But Anansi did not want to share. He wanted to keep all the wisdom for himself. He decided to hide the pot of wisdom at the top of a tall tree so no one else could get it. However, despite having eight legs, Anansi struggled to climb the tree and carry the pot at the same time.

Anansi's daughter saw the difficulty her father was having. "Father, if you tie the pot to your back with a vine, it will be easier for you to climb."

Anansi did as his young daughter suggested and climbed the tree with ease. When he reached the top of the tree, he became angry. "I have all the wisdom in the world, and yet a child knows something I don't!"

Anansi threw down the pot. It shattered on the ground. All the wisdom was released and spread out throughout the world.

Moral: No matter how much wisdom you have, you can still learn from someone else.

The Crow and the Pitcher

an Aesop fable from Greece

A very thirsty crow came upon a pitcher with a little bit of water in it. Unfortunately, the pitcher had a high and narrow opening. The crow put his beak into the pitcher, but he could not reach the water no matter how hard he tried. The poor bird felt as if he might die of thirst.

Then, an idea came to him. He noticed there were small pebbles on the ground. One by one, he picked up a pebble and dropped it into the pitcher. With each pebble, the water rose a little higher until at last it was near enough so he could drink.

Moral: Little by little, with patience and effort, you can achieve what you want. In other words, where there's a will there's a way.



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Monday	Tuesday
<p>Before you read, look at the title of each text. How are these fables different?</p> <hr/>	<p>In "Who Will Bell the Cat", why didn't the mice's plan work?</p> <hr/>
<p>In "Who Will Bell the Cat", where did the mice live?</p> <hr/>	<p>What is the central message or moral of "Who Will Bell the Cat"?</p> <hr/>
<p>What did the grocer do to try and get rid of the mice?</p> <hr/>	<p>In "Who Will Bell the Cat", what detail from the story best supports the moral?</p> <hr/>
<p>What plan did the mice come up with to solve their problem?</p> <hr/>	<p>In "Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom", what was Anansi told to do by the sky god?</p> <hr/>
Wednesday	Thursday
<p>What is Anansi's problem?</p> <hr/>	<p>In "The Crow and the Pitcher", what problem did the crow have?</p> <hr/>
<p>Who helps Anansi solve his problem? How?</p> <hr/>	<p>How did the crow solve its problem?</p> <hr/>
<p>What lesson did Anansi learn in the story?</p> <hr/>	<p>What detail from "The Crow and the Pitcher" best supports the moral?</p> <hr/>
<p>What detail from "Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom" best supports the moral?</p> <hr/>	<p>Even though each fable is from a different culture, what do they all have in common?</p> <hr/>

More of My Thinking

Monday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Thursday

My Progress

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
____ out of 4 correct I need more help with...	____ out of 4 correct I need more help with...	____ out of 4 correct I need more help with...	____ out of 4 correct I need more help with...

Answer Key - Fiction: Central Message - Q3:2

Monday	Tuesday
<p>Before you read, look at the title of each text. How are these fables different?</p> <p>They are all from different cultures/countries.</p>	<p>In "Who Will Bell the Cat", why didn't the mice's plan work?</p> <p>None of the mice wanted to volunteer to put the bell on the cat.</p>
<p>In "Who Will Bell the Cat", where did the mice live?</p> <p>in a grocer's shop</p>	<p>What is the central message or moral of "Who Will Bell the Cat"?</p> <p>Some things are easier said than done.</p>
<p>What did the grocer do to try and get rid of the mice?</p> <p>He brought a big fat cat to his shop to catch and kill the mice.</p>	<p>In "Who Will Bell the Cat", what detail from the story best supports the moral?</p> <p>Accept all reasonable answers: They came up with a plan but no one wanted to do it.</p>
<p>What plan did the mice come up with to solve their problem?</p> <p>to tie a bell around the neck of the cat so they could hear it moving closer</p>	<p>In "Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom", what was Anansi told to do by the sky god?</p> <p>He was told to share the wisdom with the world.</p>
Wednesday	Thursday
<p>What is Anansi's problem?</p> <p>Anansi cannot climb the tree and carry the pot at the same time.</p>	<p>In "The Crow and the Pitcher", what problem did the crow have?</p> <p>The crow couldn't reach the water in the pitcher.</p>
<p>Who helps Anansi solve his problem? How?</p> <p>Anansi's daughter; she suggests he tie the pot to his back with a vine.</p>	<p>How did the crow solve its problem?</p> <p>He dropped pebbles into the pitcher until the water rose high enough for him to drink.</p>
<p>What lesson did Anansi learn in the story?</p> <p>No matter how much wisdom you have, you can still learn from someone else.</p>	<p>What detail from "The Crow and the Pitcher" best supports the moral?</p> <p>The crow came up with a plan and didn't give up.</p>
<p>What detail from "Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom" best supports the moral?</p> <p>Anansi had the pot of wisdom but didn't know how to climb the tree.</p>	<p>Even though each fable is from a different culture, what do they all have in common?</p> <p>They all have morals, or lessons learned. Many of the characters are animals.</p>