

3rd Grade Spring Break



Vacation Packet

Name: _____

Due: Monday, April 9, 2018

Directions

Read this fable. Then answer questions 1 through 5.

The Fox and the Crow

*a fable by Aesop
retold by Hilary Dumitrescu*

1 “My goodness, but I am hungry!” said Crow, who was sitting on a fence near the market. Just then, she noticed a farmer drop some cheese out of his bag. Crow saw her chance. She swooped down and grabbed the large chunk of cheese in her beak. Taking her prize to a high tree branch, she settled down to have her snack.

2 Just at that moment, Fox strolled by. Suddenly, a delicious smell reached his nose. He sniffed high and low to find where the smell was coming from. Finally, he spied the crow on her perch. He spotted the huge chunk of cheese she had, and wished to have it for himself.

3 Now, like most foxes, Fox was not a good tree climber. But he was very clever. He quickly crafted a plan.

4 “Heavens, is there any bird lovelier than Crow?” said Fox, in a voice loud enough for Crow to hear. She paused her cheese nibbling and peered down at Fox. He pretended not to see her.

5 “I mean, those beautiful feathers—they are as black as the darkest night. The light sparkles off of them like stars. Her eyes are like two pieces of shining onyx. Truly, she is the Queen of the Birds.” Fox sighed loudly and leaned against the tree. He put his paw over his heart.

6 Now Fox had Crow’s full attention. She shifted herself on the branch, nearly dropping her cheese. She grabbed it again. Holding tightly to her snack, she continued to listen.

7 “I wonder,” said Fox, stealing a quick glance up at Crow, “if Crow’s voice is as beautiful as her feathers?” Crow’s eyes widened. Of course I can sing, she thought. Why, I have a lovely voice. She cleared her throat as best she could with the huge chunk of cheese in her beak.



GO ON

- 8 Fox yawned. He pretended he was going to take a nap. He curled up under the tree. He tucked his long bushy tail up around his front paws. "Surely not. It wouldn't be fair to have such beautiful feathers, beautiful eyes, and a beautiful voice, would it?" Fox tempted. He settled his head onto his tail. "I doubt she can sing at all."
- 9 Hearing this, Crow sat up straight, ruffled her feathers, spat out the piece of cheese, and began to squawk loudly. The cheese sailed down out of the tree and dropped right in front of Fox. Chuckling to himself, Fox picked up the piece of cheese and gobbled it up.
- 10 "Ah, poor Crow, I see I was right," laughed Fox with a full mouth. Crow stopped her singing and stared sadly down, thinking of her lost cheese. "Your voice is not quite as lovely as your feathers!"
- 11 Fox got up and had a good long stretch. He started to walk away. Before leaving, he stopped and looked up once more at Crow. "But you are better at singing, Crow, than you are at being clever!"
- 12 And with that, he scampered off into the forest, flashing his bright red tail behind him.
- 13 [Moral: Only fools fall for fake compliments.]
-

1 What is the **main** problem in the beginning scenes of the fable?

- A** Fox is not good at climbing trees.
- B** A farmer drops food from his bag.
- C** Fox wants the cheese that Crow has.
- D** Crow wants to show off for Fox.

2 Read this sentence from the fable.

Just at that moment, Fox strolled by.

The author uses the word "strolled" to show that

- A** Fox was hiding, trying not to be seen
- B** Fox tried to take something away
- C** Fox ran quickly, as if being chased
- D** Fox walked in an unhurried way

3

Based on the fable, which two words describe Crow?

- A** dishonest and angry
- B** kind and generous
- C** simple and proud
- D** rich and famous

4

Why is Fox looking away from Crow while he talks to her in the picture?

- A** He cannot see that Crow is sitting in the tree with the cheese.
- B** He wants Crow to think that he does not know she is in the tree.
- C** He knows Crow is about to drop the cheese and wants to be ready.
- D** He wants Crow to fly down to the ground to talk to him.

5

Which of these **best** retells what happens in the fable?

- A** A farmer drops a chunk of cheese, and Crow picks it up. Fox wants the cheese. He tricks Crow into dropping the cheese and then eats it.
- B** Fox sees Crow with a big piece of cheese. He tells Crow that she has beautiful eyes and feathers. Then he wonders if her voice is also beautiful.
- C** Crow is hungry. She sees a farmer drop a piece of cheese. She takes the cheese high into a tree. Fox praises her, so she gives him the cheese.
- D** Fox smells a tasty piece of cheese. He asks Crow for some of the cheese, but she is selfish. When Crow drops the cheese, Fox runs away with it.

GO ON

Directions

Read this passage. Then answer questions 13 through 18.

The Mounds of Cahokia

by E. D. Mahr, Appleseeds

abandoned: left suddenly

ceremony: formal
celebration

terraced: carved into steps

thatch: dried grasses

- 1 The year was 1150. The chief stepped out of his huge thatched house into the chilly dawn air. His 50-foot-tall house was built atop a terraced, flat-topped mound, 100 feet high. The mound covered 14 acres. The chief looked down upon his city of 20,000 people.
- 2 Small thatch-roofed houses were in neat rows near the chief's mound and a large central plaza. Pathways connected neighborhoods, markets, and other, smaller plazas. Grain-storage buildings, sweat lodges, and other ceremonial huts were used by different people. Around the center of the city was a two-mile-long wall, 15 feet high, made of nearly 20,000 log poles. Every 70 feet there was a watchtower. Other, smaller mounds were scattered around the city.
- 3 Beyond the houses were fields. There, the people grew corn, squash, pumpkins, sunflowers, and other crops.
- 4 The chief saw fires being lit in front of the houses as the villagers began their day. A mother boiled chunks of pumpkin and spices for breakfast. Days earlier, she had sliced the pumpkin into rings, using a knife made of obsidian (volcanic glass). Since then, the pumpkin rings had been hanging on a stick, drying in the sun. Now she mixed water and ground corn together in a clay pot and began to make flat corn cakes.
- 5 From his high platform, the chief could see the sun calendar, made of 48 log poles standing in a ring. At the center of the ring stood another pole. From their calendar, the people could tell the seasons and important ceremonial dates. The time was drawing near for the ceremony of the fall equinox, when day and night are the same length.
- 6 Today, we call this place Cahokia (ka-HOE-key-ah). Cahokia lies across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri. Today, we call the high chief's mound Monks Mound. It is the largest Indian mound north of Mexico, and the largest ancient earth construction on this continent. More than 22 million cubic feet of earth was moved for the mound construction. The soil was carried one basketful at a time on people's backs.

- 7 Smaller mounds—120 of them—dot Cahokia. These smaller mounds were used for religious worship, burials, and homes for the wealthy. In one mound, the body of an important ruler was laid on a blanket decorated with more than 20,000 seashells. From the shells, scientists learned that the people of Cahokia traded with other Indians who lived near the ocean.
- 8 Scientists have been studying Cahokia for many years, and they have learned a lot. But some mysteries remain. After being alive and well for nearly 700 years, why was the great city abandoned? What did the Indians call themselves? Will you be the one to find the answers?
-

- 13** What helped the people of Cahokia know the ceremonial dates?
- A** 120 small mounds scattered around
 - B** 48 log poles standing in a ring
 - C** a two-mile-long wall made 15 feet high
 - D** watchtowers built every 70 feet
- 14** With which idea about the Indians of Cahokia would the author agree?
- A** There's someone alive who knows where they went.
 - B** They probably used machines to build the mounds.
 - C** Some people still want to know what happened to them.
 - D** They could not really tell the date just by watching the sun.

GO ON

15 Read this sentence from paragraph 7 of the passage.

In one mound, the body of an important ruler was laid on a blanket decorated with more than 20,000 seashells.

What does the word “decorated” mean in this sentence?

- A** made beautiful
- B** set out to sea
- C** kept safe
- D** carried off

16 One reason the people of Cahokia built the smaller mounds was to

- A** form a wall around the city
- B** make a sun calendar
- C** bury thousands of seashells
- D** make houses for wealthy people

17 What is the meaning of the word “ceremony” in the passage?

- A** formal celebration
- B** dried grasses
- C** carved into steps
- D** left suddenly

18 This passage is **mostly** about what aspect of Cahokia?

- A** where the mounds of Cahokia are located and how scientists discovered them
- B** the people who built the mounds of Cahokia and what their lives were like
- C** the chief who lived in a 50-foot-tall house on top of Monks Mound
- D** why the people of Cahokia suddenly left their city after almost 700 years

Directions Read this poem. Then answer questions 19 through 24.

The Cow

*from A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson,
published by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1885*

The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple-tart.

5 She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray,
All in the pleasant open air,
The pleasant light of day;

10 And blown by all the winds that pass
And wet with all the showers,
She walks among the meadow grass
And eats the meadow flowers.

19 Based on the poem, who will eat the apple tart?

- A** the cow
- B** the reader
- C** the flowers
- D** the speaker

GO ON

20

Read these lines from the poem.

**She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray**

What is the meaning of the word “stray” as it is used in these lines?

- A** become wild
- B** fall down
- C** run away
- D** eat too much

21

Which words from the poem help you know that the cow lives outside?

- A** “The friendly cow all red and white”
- B** “She gives me cream with all her might”
- C** “She wanders lowing here and there”
- D** “And blown by all the winds that pass”

22

What does the cow do in the third stanza of the poem?

- A** The cow runs away from her home in the meadow.
- B** The cow feels the wind and rain and eats flowers.
- C** The cow runs out of cream and begins to eat a tart.
- D** The cow comes inside out of the wind and the rain.

- 23** Which line from the poem **best** shows how the speaker feels about the cow?
- A** “I love with all my heart”
 - B** “And yet she cannot stray”
 - C** “All in the pleasant open air”
 - D** “She walks among the meadow grass”

- 24** What is the **main** message of “The Cow”?
- A** People can care deeply for animals.
 - B** Animals such as cows belong outside.
 - C** It’s good to take care of yourself.
 - D** The best things in life are free.

STOP

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 25 through 27.

Following the Stars

by Krista O'Connell

- 1 "Wait up!" Robert said, hurrying along the forest path.
- 2 Jake stopped for a moment, letting his eyes adjust to the semi-darkness around him. Thankfully, there was plenty of moonlight. "You're too slow," he called. "Hurry up!"
- 3 "No, you're too fast," Robert replied with a smile. "Slow down!" This was a regular joke between the two boys. They had been friends for as long as either could remember. And they were as different as they could be.
- 4 But this evening, Jake wasn't in the mood for joking. They were completing the final test for their summer nature camp. They had to find the North Star and follow it until they came to an open field. The counselors would be waiting for them beside a toasty warm campfire. Each of the boys wore a whistle. If either blew the whistle, it would be a signal they were lost.
- 5 Robert was calm. He had spent lots of time hiking, even at night. But his friend was in a rush and getting worried. This was Jake's first time out of the city. He wanted to get to the safety of the campfire as quickly as he could. "I'm going to blow my whistle. What were they thinking letting us wander around the woods alone at night?" Jake griped, standing close to Robert.
- 6 "Take it easy!" Robert patted Jake on the back. "We just have to use what we learned. Let's break it down into steps. We can do this!"
- 7 Jake took a deep breath. "Okay, okay. I guess we're not in any danger yet. First things first, find the Big Dipper," Jake said. The two boys stood still and looked up. For a moment, they forgot about their task and stared in wonder at the sight. Away from the lights of the city, the black sky was bursting with stars.
- 8 But soon the boys remembered their job and began searching for the stars that formed the Big Dipper. "There!" Robert shouted, pointing his finger at a patch of stars.
- 9 Jake looked up to where Robert was pointing. He smiled when he saw a familiar shape among the tangle of stars. "Okay, let's go," Jake said, and started walking quickly away from their spot in the forest.

- 10 Robert grabbed his shoulder. “Wait, let’s take our time. We want to be sure we get it right,” Robert said, shaking his head. Jake was always jumping into things too fast. “What’s the next step?”



- 11 Jake sighed. “I guess you’re right. Okay, the next thing is to find the two stars at the end of the Big Dipper, on the side of the cup across from the handle,” he said.
- 12 “There they are,” Robert said. He pointed to the picture, and then up into the sky.
- 13 “Now, we just have to imagine a line connecting the stars. The end of the line should point to the North Star,” Jake recalled. They soon saw the star that shone brighter than many of the others around it. They began walking toward it, hoping their decision was the right one.
- 14 They didn’t have to travel far. Within minutes, they could see the warm glow of a campfire through the trees. When they proceeded into the clearing, everyone clapped and cheered. “Told you we wouldn’t need the whistle,” Robert told Jake with a grin and a friendly whack on the back.
- 15 “I guess you were right . . . for once,” Jake said, smiling. He was proud that he hadn’t given up and blown the whistle. As the friends walked toward the fire, they knew they would remember how those stars had helped them find their way, long after they returned home.

GO ON

25

How do Jake and Robert find the North Star? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

26

How does Robert’s calm nature help the boys reach their goal? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

27

Why does the author say that “the black sky was bursting with stars” in paragraph 7? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

GO ON

Directions

Read this passage. Then answer questions 28 and 29.

How Benny West Learned to Be a Painter

by Edward Eggleston

*from Stories of Great Americans for Little Americans,
published by American Book Company, 1895*

- 1 In old times there lived in Pennsylvania a little fellow whose name was Benjamin West. He lived in a long stone house.
- 2 He had never seen a picture. The country was new, and there were not many pictures in it. Benny's father was a Friend or Quaker. The Friends of that day did not think that pictures were useful things to make or to have. Before he was seven years old, this little boy began to draw pictures. . . . At school he used to draw with a pen before he could write. He made pictures of birds and of animals. Sometimes he would draw flowers.
- 3 He liked to draw so well, that sometimes he forgot to do his work. His father sent him to work in the field one day. The father went out to see how well he was doing his work. Benny was nowhere to be found. At last his father saw him sitting under a large poke-weed. He was making pictures. He had squeezed the juice out of some poke-berries. The juice of poke-berries is deep red. With this the boy had made his pictures. When the father looked at them, he was surprised. There were portraits of every member of the family. His father knew every picture.
- 4 Up to this time Benny had no paints nor any brushes. The . . . [Native Americans] near the house of Benny's father must have liked the boy. They showed him how to make red and yellow colors for himself. He got some of his mother's indigo to make blue. He now had red, yellow, and blue. By mixing these three, the other colors that he wanted could be made.
- 5 But he had no brush to paint with. He took some long hairs from the cat's tail. Of these he made his brushes. He used so many of the cat's hairs, that her tail began to look bare. Everybody in the house began to wonder what was the matter . . . At last Benny told where he got his brushes.
- 6 A cousin of Benny's came from the city on a visit. He saw some of the boy's drawings. When he went home, he sent Benny a box of paints. With the paints were some brushes. And there was some canvas such as pictures are painted on. And that was not all. There were in the box six beautiful engravings.

7 The little painter now felt himself rich. He was so happy that he could hardly sleep at all. At night he put the box that held his treasures on a chair by his bed. As soon as daylight came, he carried the precious box to the garret. The garret of the long stone house was his studio. Here he worked away all day long. He did not go to school at all. Perhaps he forgot that there was any school. Perhaps the little artist could not tear himself away from his work.

garret = an attic

8 But the schoolmaster missed him. He came to ask if Benny was ill. The mother was vexed when she found that he had stayed away from school. She went to look for the naughty boy. After a while she found the little truant. He was hard at work in his garret. She saw what he had been doing. He had not copied any of his new engravings. He had made up a new picture by taking one person out of one engraving, and another out of another. He had copied these so that they made a picture that he had thought of for himself.

truant = a student who misses school without an excuse

9 His mother could not find it in her heart to punish him. She was too much pleased with the picture he was making. This picture was not finished. But his mother would not let him finish it. She was afraid he would spoil it if he did anything more on it.

10 The good people called Friends did not like the making of pictures, as I said. But they thought that Benny West had a talent that he ought to use. So he went to Philadelphia to study his art. After a while he sailed away to Italy to see the pictures that great artists had painted.

11 At last he settled in England. The King of England was at that time the king of this country too. The king liked West's pictures. West became the king's painter. He came to be the most famous painter in England.

12 He liked to remember his boyish work. He liked to remember the time when he was a little Quaker boy making his paints of poke-juice and [Native American] colors.

GO ON

28

Before his cousin gave him paints and brushes, what did Benny use to make his pictures? Use **two** details from the passage to support your response.

29

How was making pictures more important to Benny than working or going to school? Use **two** details from the passage to support your response.

Directions Read this play. Then answer questions 30 and 31.

The Old Man and His Grandson

by Augusta Stevenson
from Children's Classics in Dramatic Form, Book 3
published by Houghton Mifflin Company, 1908

TIME: now.

PLACE: a certain MAN'S house.

THE MAN

HIS WIFE

THEIR SON—LITTLE HANS

THE GRANDFATHER

- 1 *[The MAN, his WIFE, little HANS, and the GRANDFATHER sit at the table eating the noon meal.]*
- 2 MAN: Be careful, father! You are spilling the soup on your coat.
- 3 GRANDFATHER (*trying to steady his trembling hand*): Yes, yes, I'll be careful.
- 4 *[Short pause.]*
- 5 WIFE (*sharply*): Grandfather! You have spilled the soup on my clean tablecloth!
- 6 GRANDFATHER (*embarrassed*): Dear me! Dear me!
- 7 *[Short pause.]*
- 8 MAN: Here, father, is your plate of meat.
- 9 *[The old man takes the plate, but lets it fall.]*
- 10 WIFE (*angrily*): There now! Just see what you have done!
- 11 GRANDFATHER: My hand shook so—I'm sorry—so sorry!
- 12 WIFE: That won't mend the plate!
- 13 MAN: Nor buy a new one!
- 14 WIFE (*to her husband*): He should eat from wooden dishes.

GO ON

- 15 MAN (*nodding, pointing to a wooden dish*): Let him have that one for his meat.
- 16 [*The Grandfather sighs sadly. The Wife gets a wooden dish and fills it with meat. Little Hans leaves the table and plays with his blocks on the floor.*]
- 17 WIFE (*handing the wooden dish to the Grandfather*): Here's one you can't break. Go now and sit in the corner behind the oven. You shall eat there hereafter. I cannot have my tablecloths soiled—that I cannot!
- 18 [*The Grandfather takes his wooden plate and goes to the seat in the corner behind the oven. His eyes are filled with tears.*]
- 19 MAN: Come, little Hans, and finish your dinner.
- 20 WIFE (*turning to Hans*): Bless me! What are you making, child?
- 21 HANS: A wooden trough for you and father to eat out of when I grow big.
- 22 [*The Man and his Wife look at each other; there is a pause.*]
- 23 MAN (*showing shame*): He will treat us as we have treated father!
- 24 WIFE (*weeping*): 'T will serve us right!
- 25 MAN (*kindly*): Father, throw that wooden dish out of the window. I am ashamed of what I have done; forgive me!
- 26 WIFE (*kindly*): Father, come back to the table. I too am ashamed. Forgive me, dear father.

30 In line 17 of the play, the wife hands the grandfather a wooden dish. How have events earlier in the play built up to this event? Use **two** details from the play to support your response.

Planning Page

You may **PLAN** your writing for question 31 here if you wish, but do **NOT** write your final response on this page. Write your final response on pages 24 and 25.



GO ON

