

SKILL: Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose
The Raindrops' New Dresses **3rd Grade Poem**

Source: Public Domain, may be used with citation.

"We're so tired of these gray dresses!"
Cried the little drops of rain,
As they came down helter-skelter
From the Nimbus cloud fast train.

Then the Sun peeped out a minute.
"Dears, be good and do not fight,
I have ordered you new dresses,
Dainty robes of purest white."

Ah! then all the tiny raindrops
Hummed a merry glad refrain,
Under umbrellas people said: "How pleasant
Is the music of the rain!"

Just at even, when the children
Had been safely tucked in bed,
There was such a rush and bustle
In the dark clouds overhead!

Then those raindrops hurried earthward,
At the North Wind's call, you know,
And the wee folks, in the morning,
Laughed to see the flakes of snow.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why do you think the poet wrote this poem?

- a. to tell how it snows
- b. to make people like rain
- c. to get people to think about nature
- d. to get people to like snow

2. How do you think the poet feels about nature?

- a. He likes nature.
- b. He doesn't like nature.
- c. He is afraid of nature.
- d. He thinks nature is funny.

3. Why does the poet say "How pleasant is the music of the rain"?

- a. to get you to worry about storms
- b. to get you to think how rain can be nice
- c. to get you to stay inside
- d. to get people to use umbrellas

4. Why does the poet tell how children like the snow?

- a. because snow falls overnight when they are asleep
- b. because snow is very cold
- c. because snow can be a fun part of nature
- d. because snow is a kind of rain

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

Poets write poems to help people think about something. What does this poet want you to think about?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	a	a	b	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. How rain and snow can be pleasant.

SKILL: Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose**The Boy Who Cried "Wolf!"****3rd Grade Fiction**

Source: Public Domain, adapted by Center for Urban Education, may be copied with citation.

There was once a boy who lived in a village up in the mountains. His family owned many sheep. The boy had a job, and that job was to watch the sheep. If a wolf came near, he needed to call for help. His sheep stayed on a hill near the village where he watched them every day.

One day, he thought of a trick he could play on the people who lived in the village. He was bored, so he thought this would be a way to have fun. He ran toward the village crying out loudly for help.

He shouted, "Wolf! Wolf! Come and help! The wolves are at my lambs! The wolves are trying to eat them!"

There were many villagers in the town. They heard him crying and thought that they had to help. So, the kind villagers left their work and ran to the field to help him. They would try to help him chase away the wolves and protect his lambs. But when the villagers got there, the boy laughed at them. There was no wolf there. He just wanted to watch them come running! He thought it was funny.

Then another day the boy tried the same trick. Once again, the villagers came running to help him out, and once again the boy laughed at them.

Then, one day, a wolf really did come and it started chasing the lambs. In great fright, the boy ran for help. "Wolf! Wolf!" he screamed. "There is a wolf! Help! Please! Help! Please!"

All the villagers heard him, but this time they did not come. They thought he was pulling another mean trick. They had learned their lesson and did not need to be laughed at again. So, no one paid attention to him and the shepherd-boy lost all his sheep—they all ran away.

When people in the village found out what had happened, they were sorry, but they told the boy it was his fault. That is the kind of thing that happens to people who lie. Even when they tell the truth, no one believes them. People are just so used to their lies.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

6. Why does the writer tell you how the boy "cried wolf"?

- a. to tell the story
- b. to show what kind of boy he was
- c. to tell how he lied
- d. to tell how dangerous wolves are

7. Why did the writer have the people come to help the boy at first?

- a. to show people are good
- b. to show people are foolish
- c. to show how the boy fooled them
- d. to show how the people worried

8. Why did the writer have people not come the last time the boy cried wolf?

- a. to show they were mean
- b. to show the boy lied
- c. to show it is bad to lie
- d. to show that the boy was mean

9. How does the writer feel about the boy?

- a. He likes him a lot.
- b. He thinks he is funny.
- c. He thinks he is too young.
- d. He thinks he is not good.

10. *Write your own answer to this question.*
Why do you think the writer wrote this story?

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Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	b	a	c	d

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. To tell people they should not lie.