

Skill: Analyze Author's Techniques, including Figurative Language

FICTION: City Mouse—A Fable

5th Grade Assessment

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

Once a little mouse who lived in the country invited a little mouse from the city to visit him. When the little City Mouse sat down to dinner he was surprised to find that the Country Mouse had nothing to eat except barley and grain.

"Really," he said, "you do not live well at all; you should see how I live! I have all sorts of fine things to eat every day. You must come to visit me and see how nice it is to live in the city."

The little Country Mouse was glad to do this, and after a while, he went to the city to visit his friend. The very first place that the City Mouse took the Country Mouse to see was the kitchen cupboard of the house where he lived. There, on the lowest shelf, behind some stone jars, stood a big paper bag of brown sugar. The little City Mouse gnawed a hole in the bag and invited his friend to nibble for himself.

The two little mice nibbled and nibbled and nibbled, and the Country Mouse thought he had never tasted anything so delicious in his life. He was just thinking how lucky the City Mouse was, when suddenly the door opened with a bang, and in came the cook to get some flour.

"Run!" whispered the City Mouse. And they ran as fast as they could to the little hole where they had come in. The little Country Mouse was shaking all over when they got safely away, but the little City Mouse said, "That is nothing; she will soon go away and then we can go back."

After the cook had gone away and shut the door, they stole softly back, and this time the City Mouse had something new to show: he took the little Country Mouse into a corner on the top shelf, where a big jar of dried prunes stood open. After much tugging and pulling, they got a large dried prune out of the jar on to the shelf and began to nibble at it. This was even better than the brown sugar. The little Country Mouse liked the taste so much that he could hardly nibble fast enough. But all at once, in the midst of their eating, there came a scratching at the door and a sharp, loud "MIAOUW!"

"What is that?" said the Country Mouse. The City Mouse just whispered, "Sh!" and ran as fast as he could to the hole. The Country Mouse ran after, you may be sure, as fast as HE could. As soon as they were out of danger, the City Mouse said, "That was the old Cat; she is the best mouser in town,—if she once gets you, you are lost." Imagine you were eating dinner and a lion came. That was how they felt.

"This is very terrible," said the Country Mouse; "Let's not go back to the cupboard again."

"No," said the City Mouse, "I'll take you to the cellar; there is something special there."

The City Mouse took his little friend down the cellar stairs and into a big cupboard where there were many shelves. On the shelves were jars of butter and cheeses in bags and out of bags. Overhead hung bunches of sausages, and there were spicy apples in barrels standing about. It smelled so good that it went to the little Country Mouse's head. He ran along the shelf and nibbled at a cheese here, and a bit of butter there, until he saw an especially rich, very delicious-smelling piece of cheese on a queer little stand in a corner. He was just on the point of putting his teeth into the cheese when the City Mouse saw him.

"Stop! Stop!" cried the City Mouse. "That is a trap!"

The little Country Mouse stopped and said, "What is a trap?"

"That thing is a trap," said the little City Mouse. "The minute you touch the cheese with your teeth something comes down on your head hard, and you're dead."

The little Country Mouse looked at the trap, he looked at the cheese, and he looked at the little City Mouse. "If you'll excuse me," he said, "I think I will go home. I'd rather have barley and grain to eat and eat it in peace and comfort, than have brown sugar and dried prunes and cheese,—and be frightened all the time."

The little Country Mouse went back home, and there he stayed all the rest of his life.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why does the writer say nibbled and nibbled and nibbled?

- a. It tells what happens.
- b. It helps you know it went on for a time.
- c. It is a nice verb.
- d. That is what mice do.

2. Why does the writer use exclamation marks?

- a. to show the mice were tiny
- b. to show what is happening
- c. to show it is dangerous
- d. to show what the mice heard

3. Why did the writer end the story with the Country Mouse going home?

- a. to show the idea of the story
- b. to show he was tired
- c. to show what happened
- d. to show why the mouse left

4. Why did the writer talk about a lion?

- a. because cats are like lions
- b. to show that the mice were afraid
- c. to help you understand how the mice felt
- d. because lions eat mice

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

How did the writer keep you interested in the story?

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	b	c	a	c

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

5. Answers may include that it had different events and dialogue.

Skill: Analyze Author's Techniques, including Figurative Language

Poem : His Eye is on the Sparrow

This text is in the public domain.

5th Grade Assessment

Why should I feel discouraged
Why should the shadows come
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heavenly home
My constant friend is He
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me

I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free
For His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me

"Let not your heart be troubled"
His tender word I hear
And resting on His goodness
I loose my doubts and fears
Tho' by the path He leadeth
But one step I may see
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me

Whenever I am tempted
Whenever clouds arise
When song gives place to sighing
When hope within me dies
I draw the closer to Him
For care He sets me free
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know He watches me

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

6. Why does the song end each part with “And I know He watches me?”

- a. to rhyme
- b. to make each part the same
- c. to make the idea clear
- d. to be cheerful

7. What does the line “whenever clouds arise” mean?

- a. when it is going to rain
- b. when there is a problem
- c. when people have hope
- d. when there is sunshine

8. What does “when song gives place to sighing” mean?

- a. when someone gets sad
- b. singing makes you happy
- c. people need songs
- d. people need to remember songs

9. What does the sparrow in the song mean?

- a. it is small but special
- b. it is a tiny bird
- c. it sings a sad song
- d. it is a special bird

10. Write your own answer to this question.

How does the song make you feel?

How does the songwriter help you feel that way?

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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	c	b	a	a

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

10. Answers will vary. Students should explain how the song affects them.