

Close Reading of Rigorous Text

As required by Common Core-based standards and assessments, the books ask students to find evidence from the text to support their answers.

2 Focused Instruction Lesson 2

Read the first part of the story. Then answer the questions.

Turtle Tricks Rabbit
retold from the traditional American Indian folktale

- Once, long ago, Turtle and Rabbit were walking through a field of grass. "Hey, Turtle," said Rabbit. "I will race you through this grass." "Okay," said Turtle, "though I fear I will lose."
- "Of course you will surely lose!" Rabbit said gleefully. Rabbit always saying these sorts of things, bragging about how fast he was, made Turtle feel bad sometimes.
- "But you are very short," Rabbit continued. "I will not be a you in the grass so you must wear a white feather on your head so I can see where you are during the race."
- "Okay," said Turtle.
- But Turtle had a plan. That night, he visited his family and said, "Family, Rabbit has challenged me to a race. And I need your help to beat him!" He explained his trick to his family. The plan was that Turtle's family members would wear a white feather on their heads and they would stand at different locations on the race course. When the race was over, they would stand at the finish line and would pretend that turtle had won.

Think About It 🍷

What is the theme of this story? The theme is the lesson that the author is trying to teach.

Rabbit wants Turtle to _____

He brags that he will _____

Rabbit's bragging makes Turtle _____

Turtle knows that _____

So Turtle asks his family _____

Turtle's actions show that he knows the only way to win the race is to _____

3 Guided Practice Lesson 2

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Noisy Chipmunk
an American Indian folktale

- Chipmunk and his grandmother lived in a village. Chipmunk was a very noisy little creature. His grandmother used to say: "My Grandson, when you are out in the woods, you must not make so much noise. Something will catch you."
- But Chipmunk did not listen to her. Every morning he went to the woods. He ran about until he found some berries. Then he climbed a tree and sat on a limb to eat the berries, he made all the noise he could.
- One evening, Chipmunk's grandmother told him to be quiet. She said, "A giant wanders in the woods chasing and other creatures. He has a bag full of red feathers. Whenever he catches a small animal, he pops it into a pot and cooks it."
- "I do not believe that!" said the little Chipmunk. He went to the woods every day, and I have never seen a giant."
- "Be careful," warned his grandmother. "If you make too much noise, the giant will catch you."
- The next day, Chipmunk went out as usual. He ran along looking for berries. They were far away. He will walk as far as I can, for I wish to see the giant."
- Chipmunk walked on and on. Finally, he found a cliff. On top of the cliff and ate. All the while he was eating, he made as much noise as he could. He thought, "Maybe the giant will come."
- Well, the giant did hear him. He heard the noise that little Chipmunk made, but he was not sure it was Chipmunk, because the cliff was too high.

A CLOSER LOOK

Underline phrases in the story that show how Chipmunk gets away from the giant.

3 Guided Practice Lesson 2

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Why does the Chipmunk throw branches down at the giant?

- Part A
How does Chipmunk escape from the giant?
 - He makes a lot of noise.
 - He gives the giant his berries.
 - He agrees to come down off the cliff.
 - He tricks the giant so that he can run away.
- Part B
What do Chipmunk's actions show about his personality? Give examples from the story to support your answer.

3 Guided Practice Lesson 2

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The way characters behave in folktales often gives clues to the moral, or theme, of the story.

3 One day, a giant was walking through the woods. He was looking for small animals to catch. He had a bag full of red feathers. Whenever he catches a small animal, he pops it into a pot and cooks it.

What is the theme of this story is that you can get out of a difficult situation if you are smart. Write a paragraph about the theme of this story.