

Lesson 2

Read this version of a Mayan fable. As you read, think about how the boy and the old man are alike and how they are different. Look for clue words.

The Child Who Would Not Obey

A long time ago, there was a boy who refused to obey his parents or anyone in authority. One afternoon, he ran away from his crowded village because he did not want to follow strict rules or to learn discipline. For miles and miles, he trudged through dense woods until he came upon a lone thatched cottage. Although the old man who lived there knew the boy's story, he generously invited the boy to stay.

The next morning, as the old man prepared for work, he asked the boy, "Do you like beans as much as I do?" The boy nodded agreeably. The old man said, "Good. Today, cook exactly thirteen beans in a pot." Before nightfall, the boy filled a clay pot with water, put it on the fire, and threw in thirteen beans. At the last minute, he added two more fistfuls despite the old man's directions. Once the water boiled, the pot filled up until it flowed over the top. Frustrated and annoyed, the boy found another clay pot, filled it with water, and then divided the beans between the

two containers. To his surprise, beans also poured out of the second pot.

When the old man came home, he found two piles of beans and two broken clay pots. "What happened? Did you disobey me?" he asked impatiently. Sighing, the old man gave the boy new instructions. He said severely, "Cook the beans as I have told you, and whatever happens do not open that little door over there."

The next morning, the old man again left for work. The boy counted out thirteen beans, put them in a pot, and placed the pot over a fire to cook. Curious about the door, he opened it and discovered a room with some water jars and two brightly colored capes. He pulled the lid off one jar, and dark clouds escaped. Chilled to the bone, the boy put on the green cape. A clap of thunder boomed, and the boy, who had been knocked unconscious by the thunderbolt, was hurled into the sky.

When the old man heard the thunder, he hastened home and put on the red cape.

Abruptly, the storm ceased. The old man rescued the motionless boy, took the lid off the water jar so that the clouds could return to their resting place, and put the green and red capes away in a trunk. Sternly, the old man said, "I told you not to open that door, and your reckless disobedience nearly killed you. If I hadn't come, you might have been lost in the violent storm forever."

The terrified boy said, "Who are you? Why do you keep clouds in a jar?"

The old man replied, "I am the one who controls the rain."

The boy said, "You must be wise and powerful." From that moment on, he was obedient and promised to listen to his parents. He had learned a valuable lesson from an old man who knew the secrets of the clouds, the rains, and the storms.



Answer these questions about the fable.

1. Both the boy and the old man

- Ⓐ controlled the rain.
- Ⓑ liked cooked beans.
- Ⓒ were disobedient.
- Ⓓ were hurt in the storm.

3. What is another way the boy was different from the old man?

- Ⓐ The boy lived in a crowded village.
- Ⓑ The boy lived deep in the woods.
- Ⓒ The boy wore a red cape.
- Ⓓ The boy owned three water jars.

2. The boy was different from the old man because the boy was

- Ⓐ wise.
- Ⓑ foolish.
- Ⓒ powerful.
- Ⓓ cautious.

4. The boy was disobedient before the storm. How did the boy act after the storm?

- Ⓐ tired
- Ⓑ rude
- Ⓒ independent
- Ⓓ obedient

5. How was the boy's initial behavior toward his parents and toward the old man similar? What were the results of his actions? Use a clue word.

Lesson 4

Read this version of a legend from Vietnam. As you read, think about how Tam and Cam are alike and how they are different. Look for clue words.

Tam and the Golden Slipper

Tam and her father, a hardworking rice farmer, lived near the Red River in Vietnam. Tam's mother had died when Tam was only a baby, and Tam's father had married again. Unfortunately, Tam's stepmother was a jealous, selfish woman who treated Tam badly, especially after her own daughter, Cam, was born.

After Tam's father died, Tam's stepmother expected Tam to work in the rice fields all day and then do housework at night. Tam carried water buckets, tended young rice plants, cooked savory meals, and cleaned the cottage. Exhausted, she slept for only a few hours in a dreary corner of the kitchen. Cam, on the other hand, never did any chores. Instead, she played, read poems, and gorged herself on the tasty foods that Tam prepared.

"Why do I have to do all the household chores and work in the fields, too?" asked Tam.

"Silly goose," said Tam's stepmother. "Who else will do it?"

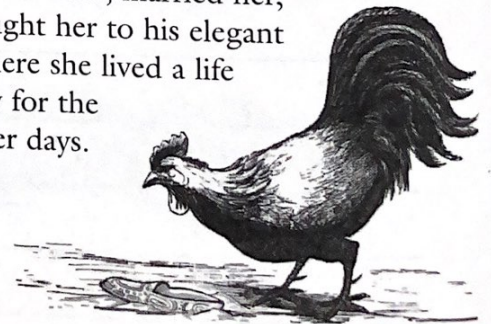
One day, a mysterious woman appeared and spoke to Tam. She said, "You are gentle and kind. Take care of the animals. Then let them help you." Every day, Tam saved her food scraps and fed them to a flock of blackbirds, a rooster, and a water buffalo.

On the morning of the autumn harvest festival, Tam timidly asked if she could go. Tam's stepmother said, "Cam and I will go,

but you have work to do. First, put this rice into bags, for we must sell some at the festival." Tam stared at the huge pile of rice, turning away so that her stepmother wouldn't see her bitter tears. It would take days to fill the bags!

Suddenly, a flock of blackbirds swooped down, loaded the rice bags grain by grain, and then flew away in a swirl of dust. As the dust settled, Tam spotted a yellow silk shirt and a pair of black silk pants. Then the rooster scratched at the dirt until a pair of golden slippers appeared. Next to the slippers was a water buffalo wearing a jewel-covered saddle! Tam rode the water buffalo to the festival. Once there, she took off on foot, hoping to catch a glimpse of the handsome prince. In her haste, Tam lost one of the slippers. But a blackbird clutched it in its beak and dropped it near the prince's royal carriage. "Who wears such a delicate golden slipper?" the prince asked. "I must meet her."

Every woman in Tam's village lined up to try on the slipper, but none could wear it because it was either too big, too small, too wide, or too narrow. When it was Cam's turn, she wedged her foot into the slipper until she cried in pain. Then Tam shyly placed her foot into the slipper. It fit perfectly! The prince fell in love with Tam, married her, and brought her to his elegant castle where she lived a life of luxury for the rest of her days.



Answer these questions about the legend.

1. How were Tam and Cam alike?

- Ⓐ Both lived in the prince's castle.
- Ⓑ Both played, read, and ate tasty meals.
- Ⓒ Both tried on the golden slipper.
- Ⓓ Both were treated badly by their mother.

3. Unlike Cam, Tam

- Ⓐ played and read poetry.
- Ⓑ cleaned and cooked.
- Ⓒ attended school.
- Ⓓ went to the harvest festival.

2. How was Tam different from Cam?

- Ⓐ Tam couldn't wear the golden slipper.
- Ⓑ Tam married the prince.
- Ⓒ Tam was cruel to animals.
- Ⓓ Tam attended the harvest festival.

4. Before marrying the prince, Tam's life was filled with work. After marrying the prince, Tam's life was filled with

- Ⓐ sorrow.
- Ⓑ haste.
- Ⓒ luxury.
- Ⓓ mystery.

5. Tell how the other village women who tried on the golden slipper were different from Tam. Use a clue word.

READ THE PASSAGE

Think about the similarities and differences between kinds of puddings from around the world.

A Pudding by Any Other Name

When you think of pudding, do you picture a bowl of creamy chocolate or vanilla dessert? Most people in the United States probably think of pudding in the same way. But there are many kinds of puddings, and not all of them are sweet.

In England, *pudding* can refer to desserts or to side dishes that are eaten with breakfast, lunch, or dinner. These puddings are usually not sweet. They can include butter, flour, spices, and even meats, such as sausage. A blood pudding is a salty side dish made with sheep's or cow's blood that is cooked until it is thick. Yorkshire pudding is almost like a bread and is often served with roast beef. And Christmas pudding is a sweet bread pudding that is served during holidays. It is not creamy like the milk-based puddings most of us are used to, though.

Other countries have puddings, too. Rice pudding is a sweet dessert popular in India and some parts of the United States. It is made with milk, sugar, rice, and spices such as cinnamon. Noodle kugel (KOOH-gul) is a side dish that comes from Eastern Europe. It is a baked mixture of noodles, eggs, butter, and cottage cheese.

Whether you like a creamy, sweet pudding or a salty, starchy pudding, you can travel almost anywhere and find a pudding to suit your tastes.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Both English puddings and American puddings _____.
 - can be desserts
 - are eaten only during holidays
 - are made with bread or rice
 - are usually eaten after dinner
- Which one is true about rice pudding and blood pudding?
 - Both puddings are sweet.
 - Both puddings are common in India.
 - Rice pudding is a dessert, but blood pudding is a side dish.
 - Blood pudding is popular in the United States, but rice pudding is not.
- Christmas pudding is like rice pudding because both are _____.
 - creamy
 - made with flour
 - made with milk
 - sweet
- How are noodle kugel and Yorkshire pudding alike?
 - Both are eaten as side dishes.
 - Both are sweet.
 - Both are made with bread.
 - Both are chocolate flavored.