Fortune and the Beggar

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **fable** is a short story, often with animals that talk and act like people. It ends with a **moral**, a lesson about how to live.

Find the moral: What mistake did a character make, or what wise thing did they do? What should we learn from it?

Fortune and the Beggar



A poor man walked from town to town carrying an old, torn bag. As he passed big houses, he grumbled. "These rich people have everything, yet they always want more. If I were rich, I would be happy with just enough."

Suddenly, Fortune appeared beside him, shining like the morning sun. "I have heard you," she said. "Hold open your bag, and I will fill it with gold. But listen carefully: any gold that falls to the ground will turn to dust."

The man's hands shook as he opened the bag. Gold coins poured in. "Is that enough?" asked Fortune.

"Just a little more," he said. More coins poured in. The bag grew heavy, and the old cloth began to stretch. "Your bag is full," warned Fortune. "Stop now, and you will be rich for the rest of your life."

"Only a handful more," begged the man. "Then I will stop."

Fortune poured once more. With a loud rip, the bag split open. Every coin tumbled to the ground and turned to dust. Fortune vanished, and the man was left holding an empty, torn bag.

Moral: *Greed can make us lose everything we already have.*

Fortune and the Beggar

Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What did the man complain about at the start?

(a) The weather
(b) Rich people always wanting more
(c) His shoes

2. What was Fortune's warning?

(a) Don't tell anyone.
(b) Gold that falls to the ground turns to dust.
(c) Spend it quickly.

3. Why did the bag rip?

(a) A dog bit it.
(b) The man asked for too much gold.
(c) It got wet.

4. What does the story show about the man?

(a) He did not follow his own advice.
(b) He was always happy with enough.
(c) He gave his gold away.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **At the start, the man said he would be happy with just enough. How did he act when he got the chance?**

2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**

Answer Key

Fortune and the Beggar · Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

1. What did the man complain about at the start?

- a. The weather
- **b. Rich people always wanting more**
- c. His shoes

2. What was Fortune's warning?

- a. Don't tell anyone.
- **b. Gold that falls to the ground turns to dust.**
- c. Spend it quickly.

3. Why did the bag rip?

- a. A dog bit it.
- **b. The man asked for too much gold.**
- c. It got wet.

4. What does the story show about the man?

- **a. He did not follow his own advice.**
- b. He was always happy with enough.
- c. He gave his gold away.

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **At the start, the man said he would be happy with just enough. How did he act when he got the chance?**
   He kept asking for more and more gold, just like the rich people he complained about.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   Greed can make us lose everything we already have.