The Blind Men and the Elephant

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?

The Blind Men and the Elephant



Long ago, in a village far away, lived six men who could not see. They had heard stories about a wonderful animal called an elephant, but none of them had ever met one.

One day, a traveller arrived with an elephant. The six men hurried to learn what it was like. Each one reached out and touched a different part.

The first man touched the elephant's broad side. "An elephant is like a wall!" he said. The second man felt its smooth, pointed tusk. "No, it is like a spear!"

The third man held the wriggling trunk. "You're both wrong. An elephant is like a snake." The fourth man wrapped his arms around a leg. "It is like a tree trunk!" The fifth man touched an ear. "It is like a giant fan." The sixth man grabbed the tail. "It is clearly like a rope."

The six men began to argue. Each was sure he was right and the others were wrong. Their voices grew louder and louder.

At last, a wise woman passing by said, "Each of you is partly right, and each of you is partly wrong. You have each touched only one part. Put your ideas together, and you will understand the whole elephant."

Moral: *We each see only part of the truth. Listening to others helps us understand the whole picture.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did the men want to touch the elephant?

(a) They had never met one.
(b) They wanted to ride it.
(c) It was lost.

2. What did the man touching the trunk think?

(a) It was like a wall.
(b) It was like a snake.
(c) It was like a fan.

3. Why did the men argue?

(a) Each thought only he was right.
(b) They were hungry.
(c) The elephant ran away.

4. What did the wise woman tell them?

(a) To go home
(b) To put their ideas together
(c) To buy the elephant

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Why did each man describe the elephant differently?**

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

Answer Key

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4. What did the wise woman tell them?

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- **b** **To put their ideas together**
- **c** To buy the elephant

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Why did each man describe the elephant differently?**
   Each man touched only one part of the elephant, so each one thought the whole animal was like that part.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   We each see only part of the truth. Listening to others helps us understand the whole picture.