The Dog and His Reflection

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?

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A dog named Rufus was trotting home with a big, meaty bone in his mouth. He had found it behind the butcher's shop, and he planned to enjoy it under his favourite tree.

On the way, Rufus crossed a narrow wooden bridge over a calm stream. He glanced down at the water and stopped. There, looking up at him, was another dog holding an even bigger bone.

"That bone is bigger than mine," Rufus thought. "I want it." He growled at the dog in the water. The other dog growled back.

Rufus decided to grab the bigger bone. He opened his mouth wide and barked loudly at the other dog.

Splash! His own bone fell from his mouth, tumbled into the stream and sank out of sight. The other dog's bone disappeared too, because it had only ever been Rufus's reflection.

Rufus trotted home with nothing at all, wishing he had been happy with the bone he had.

Moral: *If you are greedy, you may lose what you already have.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Where did Rufus find the bone?

(a) Behind the butcher's shop
(b) In the park
(c) At home

2. What did Rufus see in the water?

(a) A fish
(b) His own reflection
(c) A real dog

3. Why did Rufus open his mouth?

(a) To eat
(b) To drink
(c) To bark and grab the other bone

4. What happened to Rufus's bone?

(a) It fell in the stream and sank.
(b) He buried it.
(c) He shared it.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Why did the other dog's bone look bigger?**

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

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. Where did Rufus find the bone?

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- (b) In the park
- (c) At home

2. What did Rufus see in the water?

- (a) A fish
- (b) **His own reflection**
- (c) A real dog

3. Why did Rufus open his mouth?

- (a) To eat
- (b) To drink
- (c) **To bark and grab the other bone**

4. What happened to Rufus's bone?

- (a) **It fell in the stream and sank.**
- (b) He buried it.
- (c) He shared it.

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Why did the other dog's bone look bigger?**
   It was Rufus's own reflection, and he only thought it was bigger because he was greedy.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   If you are greedy, you may lose what you already have.