The Eagle and the Fox

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 Eagle and the Fox



An eagle and a fox once promised to be good neighbours. The eagle built her nest at the top of a tall tree, and the fox made her den among the bushes at its foot. Each raised a family of little ones.

One day, while the fox was out looking for food, the eagle grew hungry. Breaking her promise, she swooped down, snatched one of the fox cubs and carried it up to her nest.

When the fox came home, she begged the eagle to give back her cub. But the eagle felt safe so high up. "You cannot climb this tree," she said. "What can you do to me?"

The fox did not give up. She remembered that farmers were burning dry branches in a field nearby. She ran to the field, picked up a burning stick in her mouth and carried it back to the tree.

She laid the stick among the dry leaves at the bottom of the trunk. Smoke began to rise toward the nest. The eagle panicked. She had to fly down quickly and bring back the fox's cub to keep her own chicks safe.

From then on, the eagle remembered that breaking a promise could cause trouble even for the strongest bird in the sky.

Moral: *Breaking a promise to a friend will come back to hurt you, even if you think you are safe.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What did the eagle and fox promise?

(a) To be good neighbours
(b) To share food
(c) To race

2. How did the eagle break the promise?

(a) She moved away.
(b) She took one of the fox's cubs.
(c) She stole the fox's food.

3. Why did the eagle feel safe?

(a) Her nest was high in a tall tree.
(b) She was bigger.
(c) The fox was asleep.

4. How did the fox get her cub back?

(a) She climbed the tree.
(b) She brought smoke to the tree.
(c) She asked other animals.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Was the eagle right to feel safe? Explain.**

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

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What did the eagle and fox promise?

- **a** **To be good neighbours**
- **b** To share food
- **c** To race

2. How did the eagle break the promise?

- **a** She moved away.
- **b** **She took one of the fox's cubs.**
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3. Why did the eagle feel safe?

- **a** **Her nest was high in a tall tree.**
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4. How did the fox get her cub back?

- **a** She climbed the tree.
- **b** **She brought smoke to the tree.**
- **c** She asked other animals.

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Was the eagle right to feel safe? Explain.**
   No. The fox was clever and found a way to make the eagle give back the cub, even though the nest was high up.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   Breaking a promise to a friend will come back to hurt you, even if you think you are safe.