The Fox and the Crow

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 crow found a big piece of cheese on a picnic table. She grabbed it in her beak and flew up to a high branch to enjoy it.

A hungry fox trotting by smelled the cheese. He looked up and licked his lips. "I must have that cheese," he thought. But he could not climb the tree, so he came up with a sly plan.

"Good morning, beautiful bird," said the fox sweetly. "What shiny black feathers you have! What bright, sparkling eyes!"

The crow puffed out her chest. No one had ever spoken to her so kindly.

"I'm sure," the fox went on, "that a bird as lovely as you must have the most wonderful voice in the forest. Won't you sing just one song for me?"

The crow was so pleased that she opened her beak wide and let out a loud "CAW!" Down fell the cheese, right into the fox's waiting mouth. "Thank you," said the fox, chewing happily. "Next time, think twice before you trust someone who praises you too much."

Moral: *Be careful of people who flatter you. They may want something from you.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Where did the crow find the cheese?

(a) On a picnic table
(b) In a shop
(c) On the ground

2. Why didn't the fox just take the cheese?

(a) He wasn't hungry.
(b) He couldn't climb the tree.
(c) He was friends with the crow.

3. Why did the fox praise the crow?

(a) He wanted her to drop the cheese.
(b) He really liked her singing.
(c) He wanted to be friends.

4. What made the cheese fall?

(a) The wind
(b) The crow opened her beak to sing.
(c) The fox shook the tree.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Which word best describes the fox? Use a detail to explain.**

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

Answer Key

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2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Which word best describes the fox? Use a detail to explain.**
   Sly. He pretended to be kind and said nice things so the crow would drop the cheese.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   Be careful of people who flatter you. They may want something from you.