The Travellers and the Bear

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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Two friends, Tom and Will, were walking along a forest path. "If anything goes wrong," Tom said, "we will stick together." Will nodded.

Suddenly, a huge bear stepped out from the trees. Tom was quick. Without a word to his friend, he scrambled up the nearest tree and hid among the branches.

Will could not climb fast enough. Remembering that bears sometimes leave still creatures alone, he lay flat on the ground and held his breath.

The bear sniffed Will's face and ears. Will stayed perfectly still. At last, the bear lost interest and lumbered back into the forest.

Tom climbed down, laughing nervously. "What did the bear whisper in your ear?" he asked.

Will brushed the dirt off his coat. "It told me never to trust a friend who runs away the moment there is trouble."

Moral: *A true friend stands by you when things go wrong.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What did the friends promise at the start?

(a) To stick together
(b) To race home
(c) To find a bear

2. What did Tom do when the bear appeared?

(a) Helped Will
(b) Climbed a tree and hid
(c) Fought the bear

3. Why did Will lie still?

(a) He was tired.
(b) He was hurt.
(c) Bears sometimes leave still creatures alone.

4. Did the bear really whisper to Will?

(a) Yes
(b) No, Will was teaching Tom a lesson.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Did Tom keep his promise? 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 friends promise at the start?

- **a** **To stick together**
- **b** To race home
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2. What did Tom do when the bear appeared?

- **a** Helped Will
- **b** **Climbed a tree and hid**
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3. Why did Will lie still?

- **a** He was tired.
- **b** He was hurt.
- **c** **Bears sometimes leave still creatures alone.**

4. Did the bear really whisper to Will?

- **a** Yes
- **b** **No, Will was teaching Tom a lesson.**

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Did Tom keep his promise? Explain.**
   No. He climbed the tree to save himself and left Will alone with the bear.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   A true friend stands by you when things go wrong.