The Whistle

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 Whistle



When Benjamin was seven years old, his family gave him some coins on a holiday. He felt very rich. He ran straight to a shop that sold toys.

On the way, he met a boy blowing a whistle. The sound was loud and wonderful. Benjamin wanted that whistle more than anything. Without thinking, he offered the boy all of his coins for it, and the boy quickly agreed.

Benjamin raced home, whistling all over the house. He whistled in the kitchen, in the hall and up the stairs. His family covered their ears.

When his brothers and sisters found out what he had paid, they laughed. "You gave four times what that whistle was worth!" his sister said. "With that money, you could have bought the whistle and lots of other good things too."

Benjamin felt foolish. He cried more about the money he had wasted than he had enjoyed the whistle. Suddenly, its sound didn't seem so wonderful.

As he grew up, Benjamin never forgot that day. Whenever he was tempted to buy something he didn't really need, he told himself, "Don't pay too much for the whistle."

Moral: *Think carefully before you spend. Don't pay more for something than it is really worth.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What did Benjamin get on the holiday?

(a) A whistle
(b) Some coins
(c) A toy boat

2. Why did Benjamin want the whistle?

(a) He liked its loud, wonderful sound.
(b) He needed it for school.
(c) It was on sale.

3. Why did his brothers and sisters laugh?

(a) He whistled badly.
(b) He paid four times what it was worth.
(c) He lost the whistle.

4. What did Benjamin learn?

(a) Whistles are bad.
(b) Don't pay too much for something.
(c) Never buy toys.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **How did Benjamin's feelings about the whistle change?**

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. **How did Benjamin's feelings about the whistle change?**
   At first he loved it and whistled all over the house. After he learned he paid too much, he felt foolish and the sound no longer seemed wonderful.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   Think carefully before you spend. Don't pay more for something than it is really worth.