

Name _____

Read. Then, answer the questions.

Mike and Moe

We chose our first cat, Mike, at the animal shelter when he was only eight weeks old. He was a very independent kitten from the beginning.

When Mike was about two years old, I heard a faint cry while I was reading on the patio. I did not see anything. The crying persisted. Finally, about 10 feet above where I was sitting, I saw a tiny kitten sitting on a tree branch.

I called for my brother, Ben, to bring a ladder. Ben climbed up the first two rungs and handed me the tiniest kitten I had ever seen.

The kitten did not have a collar, so we did not know who he belonged to. But, we knew that the kitten needed special care, so we took the kitten to our veterinarian. She told us how to feed him with an eyedropper.

When we got home, Ben took a picture of the kitten and hung it on a telephone pole. We wanted to take care of him, but if his owner was looking for him, she might be sad or upset. Ben and I fed the kitten with an eyedropper for two weeks. Nobody claimed him, so we named him Moe.

At first, Mike was not nice to Moe. Now, they are good friends. We have no idea how Moe ended up in that tree, but we are glad that he did. We think that Mike is glad too.

1. How long do the brothers need to feed the kitten with an eyedropper?

2. Is the story told in first- or third-person narration? Circle the evidence in the story that supports your answer.

3. Why do the brothers hang a picture of the kitten on a telephone pole? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.



Reflect

How does the author support the fact that Ben and his brother are caring?

Name _____

Read. Then, answer the questions.

The Girl and the Almonds

A girl, hungry after a day of play, spied a jar of honeyed almonds. "Mom, may I please have some nuts?" she asked, her **ravenous** tummy growling.

"It's almost time for dinner," said her mother. "Only take a handful."

The greedy little girl reached into the jar, grabbing as many nuts as she could hold. But, when she tried to pull out her hand, it got stuck. She tugged until her arm grew sore and tears of disappointment flowed down her cheeks.

Amazed at her daughter's stubbornness, her mother said, "Let go of half of the almonds, or you will end up with none at all."

The Raven and the Pitcher

For months, rain had not fallen in the desert. The cacti's fleshy leaves had dried and withered into flat, leathery discs. Creeks shaded by the canyons had turned to clay.

A raven circled high above. He knew that death would come by sunset if he could not find water. Spotting something in a deserted campsite, the raven swooped down. It was a pitcher half-filled with water! But, he could not reach the water.

He perched beside the container and thought. Grabbing a small pebble, he dropped it into the pitcher. He dropped pebble after pebble into the pitcher, and the water rose closer to the top. At last, he was able to drink his fill and save his life.

1. What does *ravenous* mean in "The Girl and the Almonds"?

2. The daughter is stubborn. What evidence in the story supports this?

3. Read the first paragraph of "The Raven and the Pitcher." Why did the author include such descriptive language?



Reflect

The fables have similar themes. Compare and contrast the two stories using evidence from both to support your answer.

Name _____



Woodie Lost and Found

Read the story. Answer questions about it on page 25.

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Woodie was scared. For the second time in her young life, she was lost. When the branch fell on her little house and fence, she had just barely escaped. She scrambled across her pen as quick as lightning. The thunder crashed, and Woodie leaped across the fallen fence into the woods. Now the rain poured down. The wind howled. The little woodchuck shivered under a big oak tree. She did not know what to do.

When Woodie was a baby, she had gotten lost in the woods. She could not find food for herself. She hurt her paw, and she spent hours licking it to make it feel better. All day, she scratched at a small hole in the ground to try to make a burrow. This made her even more hungry.

But then one day, Rita had found her. Rita had knelt down by Woodie's badly made burrow and held out an apple. Slowly, Woodie limped out and took the apple. It was the best thing she had ever tasted in her life. Rita took the baby woodchuck to the wildlife center where Woodie had lived ever since. Most of the animals at the wildlife center were orphans. Rita taught them how to live in the wild and then let them go when they were ready. But Woodie's paw did not heal well, and Rita knew Woodie would never be able to live in the wild like other woodchucks. So Rita made Woodie a small house at the wildlife center. Woodie even had a job; she visited schools with Rita so that students could learn all about woodchucks.

But now the storm had ruined Woodie's house. Scared by the loud crash, Woodie had run so fast that she had gone into the woods by mistake. Woodie did not know how to find her way back home again. Where was Rita?

At dawn, the rain ended. Woodie came to a big stream. She drank some water. She sniffed the air. Maybe the center was across the stream. Woodie jumped onto a rock and then hopped to another one. She landed on her bad paw and fell into the fast-moving water. She struggled to keep her nose above water. The current tossed her against a tangle of broken branches from the storm. Woodie clung to the branches with all her might.

"There she is!" Woodie heard Rita's voice. She saw Rita with Ben, another worker from the center. Rita waded over to the branches. In moments, Woodie was safe in Rita's arms. Rita wrapped a blanket around the tired, soaking-wet woodchuck. Woodie purred her thanks. By the time Ben pulled the van into the parking lot at the wildlife center, Woodie was fast asleep.

Name _____



Woodie Lost and Found (cont.)

Circle the answer for each question about the story on page 24.



1. What was the problem in the story "Woodie Lost and Found"?
 - a. Woodie hurt her paw.
 - b. Woodie had been lost as a baby.
 - c. Woodie got lost during a big storm.
2. Who is the main character in the story?
 - a. Rita, the wildlife expert
 - b. Woodie, a woodchuck
 - c. Ben, a wildlife center worker
3. What happens right before Woodie gets lost in the storm?
 - a. She is unable to dig a burrow for herself.
 - b. Rita loses Woodie on a trip to a school.
 - c. The fence of Woodie's pen falls down in the storm.
4. Why do you think we are told about Woodie's life as a baby?
 - a. so we know that Woodie has been lost before—she knows what to do
 - b. so we know that Woodie cannot live in the wild—she is in danger
 - c. so we know Woodie trusts people—she knows if she waits, someone will always come to find her
5. What is the climax of the story?
 - a. A branch falls on Woodie's house and she barely gets out in time.
 - b. Woodie shivers under a big oak, all alone in the storm.
 - c. Woodie falls into the water as she tries to cross a stream.
6. What is the solution/resolution of the story?
 - a. Rita finds Woodie under the tree and gives her an apple.
 - b. Rita finds Woodie, rescues her from the stream, and takes her home.
 - c. Rita finds Woodie and takes her on a visit to a school.
7. What facts do we find out about woodchucks in the story? (Circle all that apply).
 - a. Woodchuck babies do not really need their parents.
 - b. Woodchucks like apples.
 - c. Woodchucks can run very fast.

