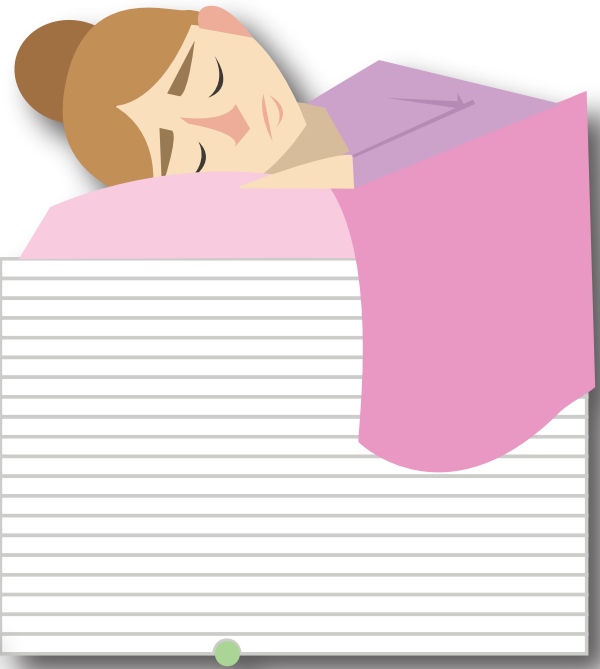
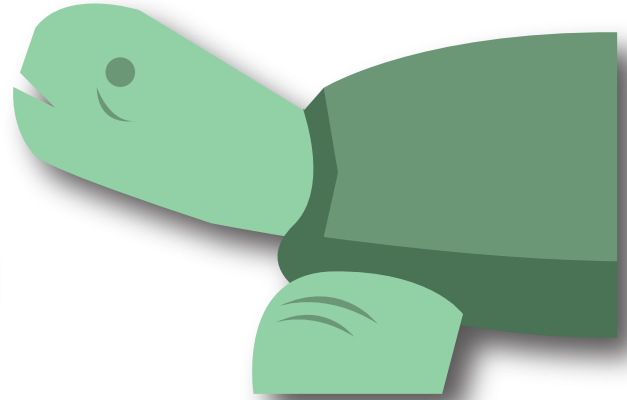


# Stories, Fables, and Comprehension

1<sup>st</sup>  
GRADE



# Table of Contents

## Stories, Fables, and Comprehension

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

The Sleeping Beauty

The Tortoise and the Ducks

Caterpillar

Stone Soup

The Ugly Duckling

The Princess and the Pea

Rumpelstiltskin

Stories and Fables Quiz \*

Certificate of Completion

Answer Sheets

*\* Includes Answer Sheet*

Directions: Read the story. Write three questions about the story on the next page.

## THE TOWN MOUSE AND THE COUNTRY MOUSE



A Town Mouse once visited a relative who lived in the country. For lunch, the Country Mouse served wheat stalks, roots, and acorns, with a dash of cold water for drink. The Town Mouse ate very sparingly, nibbling a little of this and a little of that, and by her manner making it very plain that she ate the simple food only to be polite.

After the meal the friends had a long talk, or rather the Town Mouse talked about her life in the city while the Country Mouse listened. They then went to bed in a cozy nest in the hedgerow and slept in quiet and comfort until morning. In her sleep the Country Mouse dreamed she was a Town Mouse with all the luxuries and delights of city life that her friend had described for her. So the next day when the Town Mouse asked the Country Mouse to go home with her to the city, she gladly said yes.

When they reached the mansion in which the Town Mouse lived, they found on the table in the dining room the leavings of a very fine banquet. There were sweets and jellies, pastries, delicious cheeses, indeed, the most tempting foods that a Mouse can imagine. But just as the Country Mouse was about to nibble a dainty bit of pastry, she heard a Cat mew loudly and scratch at the door. In great fear the Mice scurried to a hiding place, where they lay quite still for a long time, hardly daring to breathe. When at last they went back to the feast, the door opened suddenly and in came the servants to clear the table, followed by the house dog.

The Country Mouse stopped in the Town Mouse's den only long enough to pick up her carpet bag and umbrella.

"You may have luxuries and dainties that I have not," she said as she hurried away, "but I prefer my plain food and simple life in the country with the peace and security that go with it."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Write three questions you would ask someone about the story. Use the question words: Who, What, Where, When Why, How.

For example: What did the Country Mouse dream about?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Directions: Read the story. Answer the questions below.

## THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

by Charles Perrault

Once upon a time there was a king and queen who for a very long time had no children. After a time, a little daughter was born to them, and they were so pleased that they gave a christening feast to which they invited a number of fairies. Unfortunately, they left out one older fairy who was very angry. She said the princess should die when she reached the age of 16, by pricking her hand with a spindle.

All the other fairies, except one, had already given the princess their beautiful gifts. This last one said she could not prevent part of the wicked wish coming true; but her gift should be that the princess should not really die, but only fall into a deep sleep. It should last for a hundred years, and at the end of that time, she should be awakened by a king's son.

It all happened as the fairies had predicted. When the princess was 16 years old, she saw an old woman spinning and took the spindle from her to try this strange new work. Instantly, she pricked her hand and fell into a deep sleep, as did everyone else in the palace. Around the castle grew some roses and hedges, thick and prickly.

At the end of the hundred years, a king's son heard of the castle, and the enchanted princess who lay asleep there and was determined to rescue her. He cut his way through the thick prickly hedge, and at last, he came to the princess. When he saw how lovely and how sweet she looked, he fell in love with her. He stooped down and kissed her lips.

At once, she awoke. The king and queen and all the courtiers, who had fallen asleep at the same time all awoke at the same time.

As the princess was as much taken with the prince's appearance as he was with hers, they decided to be married. The wedding was celebrated the same day with great pomp and ceremony.

**1. What caused the Princess to fall into a deep sleep?**

---

---

**2. Write one question you want to ask about the story below and answer it.**

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story, then complete the exercise on the next page.

## THE TORTOISE AND THE DUCKS

by Aesop

The tortoise, you know, carries his house on his back. No matter how hard he tries, he cannot leave home. They say that Jupiter punished him so, because he was such a lazy stay-at-home that he would not go to Jupiter's wedding, even when especially invited.

After many years, the tortoise began to wish he had gone to that wedding. When he saw how gaily the birds flew about and how Hare and Chipmunk and all the other animals ran nimbly by, always eager to see everything there was to be seen, the tortoise felt very sad and discontented. He wanted to see the world too, and there he was with a house on his back and little short legs that could hardly drag him along.

One day he met a pair of ducks and told them all his trouble.



"We can help you to see the world," said the ducks. "Take hold of this stick with your teeth and we will carry you far up in the air where you can see the whole countryside. But keep quiet or you will be sorry."

The tortoise was very glad indeed. He seized the stick firmly with his teeth, the two ducks took hold of it one at each end, and away they sailed up toward the clouds.

Just then a crow flew by. He was very much astonished at the strange sight and cried:

"This must surely be the King of Tortoises!"

"Why certainly—" began the tortoise.



But as he opened his mouth to say these foolish words he lost his hold on the stick, and down he fell to the ground, where he was dashed to pieces on a rock.

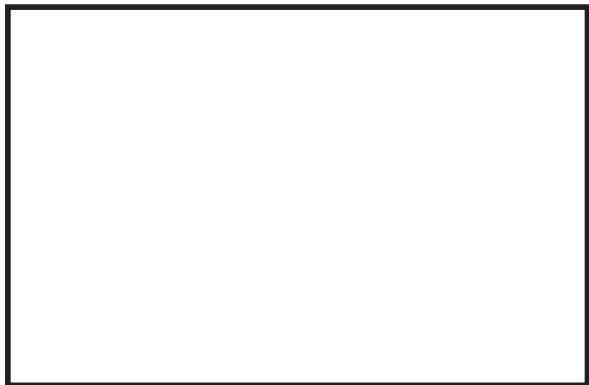
*Moral: Foolish curiosity and vanity often lead to misfortune.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Write a summary of the Beginning, Middle, and End of the story. Draw a picture.

## BEGINNING



---

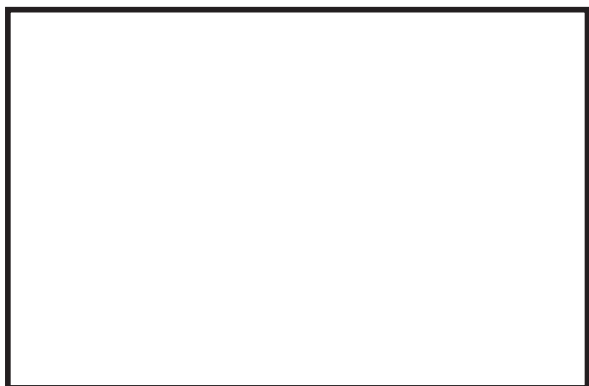
---

---

---

---

## MIDDLE



---

---

---

---

---

## ENDING



---

---

---

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the poem. Answer the questions.

## Caterpillar

by Christina Rossetti

Brown and furry  
Caterpillar in a hurry,  
Take your walk  
To the shady leaf, or stalk,  
Or what not,  
Which may be the chosen spot.  
No toad spy you,  
Hovering bird of prey pass by you;  
Spin and die,  
To live again a butterfly.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw a picture of a caterpillar.

**Describe the caterpillar in words and draw a picture in the box above.**

---

---

**What happens to the caterpillar when he “dies”?**

---

---

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## STONE SOUP

One day, in a small village next to a flowing river, two hungry wanderers showed up looking for ingredients to make a delicious soup. Since the two had no money, none of the villagers were willing to give them any vegetables or meat. With no ingredients, the two went down to the river and filled their pot with water. They then placed a large stone in the pot and began boiling the water. Soon, a curious villager asked them what they were doing. One of the men answered, "We are cooking stone soup, but we are still missing a few ingredients to finish it properly." The villager said she did not mind giving them some ingredients, if she could have some as well. The two men said they would be happy to share with the entire village once the soup was ready. After the word spread, many villagers brought spices, vegetables and meat to add to the soup. In the end, everyone enjoyed the hearty soup!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

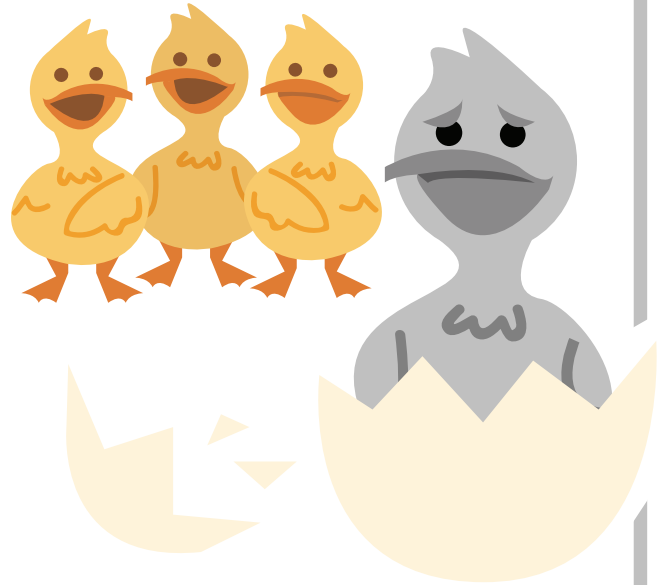
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE UGLY DUCKLING

by Hans Christian Andersen

It was a beautiful spring morning on a small farm near the woods. In a cool, shaded corner, a duck built a warm nest to sit on her four precious eggs. Strangely, one of the eggs was much larger than the rest.

To her excitement, the eggs started to rumble and crack. One, two, three eggs popped open, and three little ducklings poked their heads into the world. At the same time, the biggest egg began to crack as well. To the mother's surprise, a big, gray duckling stumbled out of the egg! Although he was different, and not as cute as the other ducklings, she loved him nonetheless.



The next day, the duck introduced her family to the other animals on the farm. Seeing the strange gray duckling, the pig, mallard and mouse all burst out laughing. The poor duckling bowed his head in shame. He felt like he didn't belong. That night, as his family slept near the barn, the gray duckling decided to leave to find people that liked him for who he was.

Before long, he ran into a kind old woman, her rooster and her cat. She invited him into her home, and they all treated him like family. Over time, the little gray duckling began to grow. Although he was happy, he always felt something was missing.

One day, as he stared out on the pond, he saw a family of beautiful swans wading in the cool breeze. He wanted to go swimming with them. As he approached the pond, he saw his reflection for the first time. The ugly duckling had grown into a beautiful swan! From below, the cat and rooster happily watched their friend fly high in the sky. Finally, the little gray duckling had found himself.

# THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

by Hans Christian Andersen

Once upon a time, there was a prince looking to marry a princess. One day, his father and mother asked all the princesses in the land to come over to their castle. Unfortunately, the prince did not get along with any of them. The angry princesses stormed off into the rainy night.

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door. The prince opened the door to see a beautiful princess standing in the rain. Even though she didn't look like a princess with her clothes and hair all wet, the prince invited her in from the cold. She told the prince and his family that she was a princess.

The queen was doubtful. As the queen prepared the bed for the visitor, she placed a tiny pea under 20 mattresses. Only a true princess would be able to feel the pea! When the princess awoke the next morning, she had a terrible pain in her back. When the prince and his family heard of this, they knew she was indeed a real princess. The prince had found the princess of his dreams, and the two soon got married.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Once upon a time, there was an old carpenter who wanted to impress the king. Since he did not have great wealth, he told the king that his daughter could spin straw into gold. After hearing this, the king called for the daughter and locked her into a room full of straw. "Turn this straw into gold, or I will leave you in this room forever," he said. The carpenter's daughter did not know what to do! She did not know how to spin straw into gold.

As she cried, a small creature appeared and asked her why she was crying. "If I don't turn this straw into gold, I will be locked in here forever," she wept. The creature said he could spin the straw into gold, but wanted her necklace in return. She agreed, and the creature began magically turning the straw into solid gold coins.

The next day, the king was overjoyed to find the room full of gold! He moved the girl into a bigger room, filled with more straw. "Turn all this straw into gold, or I will lock you in here forever!" commanded the king.



Just as she was losing hope, the strange creature appeared again that night. She asked him again to work his magic, but this time, he wanted the young woman's ring in return for his work. She gave the creature her ring, and once again he spun all the straw in the room into gold. When the king walked in the next morning, he was ecstatic. The gold was piled high, up to his eyes! The king moved the girl into an even bigger room. This time, however, he told the carpenter's daughter that he would marry her if she succeeded one last time.

Like the night before, the creature appeared again and offered his help. With no more jewelry to take, the creature demanded the young woman's first-born child. She reluctantly agreed, and once again the creature turned the straw into gold. The king soon married the carpenter's daughter, and they had a beautiful baby together.

One stormy night, the creature returned to claim his reward. She offered the creature jewels and riches instead. "Anything you want, but please, not my child!" she cried. The creature thought it over. If you can guess my name, I will disappear forever. I'll give you one week to think!" he said.

The young woman had a trick up her sleeve! She sent a messenger to follow the creature home. On the way there, he overheard the creature singing a song that revealed his name.

The messenger rushed back to tell his queen the good news. When the creature returned a week later, the carpenter's daughter screamed out the name the messenger had heard: "RUMPELSTILTSKIN!" In a puff of smoke, the creature disappeared forever.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Quiz Directions: Use what you learned from the previous four stories to circle the best answer.

1. In the *Princess and the Pea* story, how many mattresses did the princess have to sleep on?

A. 10

B. 30

C. 20

2. What animal did the Ugly Duckling turn out to be? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many times did Rumpelstiltskin appear in the story, *Rumpelstiltskin*? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did the carpenter's daughter find out Rumpelstiltskin's name?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. In the story *Stone Soup*, why do the two villagers place the large stone in the pot?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Word Search

**Word Bank**

MOTHER GOOSE

PEA

PRINCESS

RED RIDING HOOD

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

SLEEPING BEAUTY

L	M	J	G	R	A	K	P	L	J	I	P	M	G	A
G	G	M	X	I	D	U	L	R	O	F	E	P	Z	E
T	A	T	X	Q	F	Z	I	H	I	R	A	L	M	S
J	B	S	S	J	B	Y	T	K	W	N	Y	M	F	W
C	Y	I	X	B	A	E	H	G	U	I	C	A	X	L
V	H	X	K	H	B	P	R	P	B	A	I	E	J	C
M	O	T	H	E	R	G	O	O	S	E	D	H	S	J
K	D	O	O	H	G	N	I	D	I	R	D	E	R	S
N	I	K	S	T	L	I	T	S	L	E	P	M	U	R
S	L	E	E	P	I	N	G	B	E	A	U	T	Y	S



# DIPLOMA

Hereby bestowed upon

---

for excellence in  
completion of

---

# Answer Sheets

## Stories, Fables, and Comprehension

Stories and Fables Quiz

# Answer Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Quiz Directions: Use what you learned from the previous four stories to circle the best answer.

1. In the *Princess and the Pea* story, how many mattresses did the princess have to sleep on?

A. 10

B. 30

C. 20

2. What animal did the Ugly Duckling turn out to be? A swan

3. How many times did Rumpelstiltskin appear in the story, *Rumpelstiltskin*? Four

4. How did the carpenter's daughter find out Rumpelstiltskin's name?

She sent a messenger to follow him home.

5. In the story *Stone Soup*, why do the two villagers place the large stone in the pot?

They were poor and had no meat or vegetables for their soup.

7. Word Search

**Word Bank**

MOTHER GOOSE

PEA

PRINCESS

RED RIDING HOOD

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

SLEEPING BEAUTY

L M J G R A K P L J I P M G A  
G G M X I D U L R O F E P Z E  
T A T X Q F Z I H I R A L M S  
J B S S J B Y T K W N Y M F W  
C Y I X B A E H G U I C A X L  
V H X K H B P R P B A I E J C  
M O T H E R G O O S E D H S J  
K D O O H G N I D I R D E R S  
N I K S T L I T S L E P M U R  
S L E E P I N G B E A U T Y S