The Tiger Finds a Teacher/The Ungrateful Tiger

An Adaptation of a Story from China

Once there lived a tiger who was strong, but so clumsy that he could hardly ever catch any animals.

One day he saw a cat coming down the mountainside. The cat's swift movements were the envy of the tiger, who thought to himself, "Wouldn't it be fine if I were as clever as that cat!"

The tiger went to the cat and said, "Honored Teacher Cat, could you teach me how to climb the mountain as well as you do?"

Knowing that tigers are wicked at heart, the cat was afraid that if she taught him all she knew, then her own life would be in danger. She replied, "I don't think I'd better."

"Honored Teacher Cat," he said, "I am a man of my word. If you will teach me, I will not betray you. And, if anyone should ever bully you, I shall go after him."

Tricked by these words, the cat said, "All right. If you are sure you will not be ungrateful, I'll teach you."

The tiger was overjoyed and knelt down in front of the cat saying, "I shall never forget you. May I fall into the deepest gully if I am ever unkind to you!"

The tiger kept his word for some time and soon that cat had taught him all her tricks — except one.

One day, the tiger looked at the cat's plump body, and his mouth began to water. What a good meal she would make! But the cat was aware of the tiger's intentions. She decided to give him a test.

"I have taught you all I know," she said. "You need no further lessons."

The tiger thought his chance had come. "Aha!" he said to himself. "This fat little cat will not escape my claws now."

In a sly voice, the tiger said, "Teacher," said he, "what is that there on the tree?"

As the cat turned her head to look, the tiger threw himself upon her. But just as quickly, the cat ran up the tree.

The tiger flew into a rage and flung himself at the tree. But he did not know how to climb it. The cat skipped about in the branches, now and then tantalizing him by sitting down to wash, or by looking at him. The tiger grew angrier and angrier, but there was nothing he could do. The cat jumped from tree to tree until she had vanished.

All the tiger's wicked schemes came to naught. All he could do was to make his way up the mountain again.
The Ungrateful Tiger
An Adaptation of a Korean folktale

A long time ago, high in the mountains, the people of a small village came together to decide what to do about tigers wandering near their home.

"We have to do something! We're too scared to go out of the village," said one man.

The villagers decided to dig deep holes to trap the tigers. A few days later, a young man heard loud howling sounds as he walked along the village.

The young man followed the howling sounds until he saw a deep hole with a tiger in it. The tiger tried to jump out and each time he fell back and howled.

"Hello, Mr. Tiger," said the young man. "How did you get down there?"

The tiger cried, "I was walking along in the forest as tigers do, looking for something to eat, when suddenly I fell into this deep hole."

The tiger pleaded, "Please, please help me get out of here. If you help me I will be very grateful."

The young man was a very kind person. He found a large tree branch that had fallen on the ground and pushed and pulled it to the side of the deep hole.

The tiger sprang up the branch and out of the deep hole.

"Ah! That's better," said the tiger, pleased to be free.

The young man felt suddenly nervous, standing next to the large tiger so he decided to leave.

"I must be going now. Good–bye, Mr. Tiger," he said.

"Not so fast!" said the tiger. "I'm going to eat you."

"But, but, you said you'd be grateful if I helped you," stammered the young man. "We should ask someone else to judge if that is fair."

The tiger agreed and they found an ox and told him the story.

"I think it is fair for the tiger to eat you," said the ox. "Humans treat oxen very badly. We're made to work all day with no rest."

The young man quickly yelled, "Let's ask someone else!"
The tiger agreed and they went to ask the biggest tree in the forest. "I think it is fair for the tiger to eat you. You humans chop us down whenever you want."

The tiger showed his big teeth and the young man began to shake. The young man saw a hare hopping along. "Please Mr. Hare, help judge if Mr. Tiger should eat me."

The hare said, "Before I can judge I must see exactly what happened."

They all went to the deep hole where the young man had rescued the tiger.

"Now show me exactly where you were," the hare said to the tiger. The tiger jumped into the hole.

"Was this branch in the hole?" asked the hare.

"No," answered the tiger. The young man and the hare pulled the branch out.

"My judgment is that it is not fair for you to eat the young man," said the hare. "You should have been grateful for his help."

The hare hopped away and the young man hurried off to the village, leaving the ungrateful tiger howling in the deep hole.
3 TEACHER READS:
Read and complete the task that follows.

What is the theme of "The Tiger Finds a Teacher"? Be sure to use details from the passage to support your answer.

Master ID: 182776 Revision: 2
Standards:
CCSS.LA.4.RL.CCR.2
CCSS.LA.4.RL.4.2

4 TEACHER READS:
Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Suppose a story had the same theme as "The Tiger Finds a Teacher" and "The Ungrateful Tiger." What would the theme of that story most likely be?

A. Trust anyone who is in need of help.
B. Expect the best from those you help.
C. Don't hurt the one who helps you.
D. Treat others how you want to be treated.

Master ID: 179581 Revision: 1
Correct: C
Standards:
CCSS.LA.4.RL.CCR.2
CCSS.LA.4.RL.4.2

5 TEACHER READS:
Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Read this sentence from "The Tiger Finds a Teacher."

The tiger flew into a rage and flung himself repeatedly at the tree.

In this sentence, the author is using

A. an idiom
B. a simile
C. a metaphor
D. hyperbole

Master ID: 287153 Revision: 1
Correct: A
Standards:
CCSS.LA.4.L.CCR.5
CCSS.LA.4.L.4.5.b
Which sentence is missing from this summary of "The Tiger Finds a Teacher"?

A tiger is jealous of a cat's movement. So, the tiger asks the cat to teach him how to be like a cat. The cat agrees to teach the tiger what she knows. __________ When the cat is done teaching the tiger, the tiger tries to eat the cat. The tiger's plan does not work because the cat outsmarts the tiger.

A. The cat teaches the tiger how to climb a tree.
B. The cat then asks tiger to teach her to be like a tiger.
C. The cat teaches the tiger all but one important cat skill.
D. The cat runs away before she begins teaching the tiger.

Master ID: 179580 Revision: 1
Correct: C
Standards:
CCSS.LA.4.RL.CCR.2
CCSS.LA.4.RL.4.2
Indian and Greek Fables

The Heron and The Crab – Indian Fable

Once upon a time there lived a Heron by the side of a pond. He was a lazy creature who thought of a plan to get a supply of fish without doing much work. One day, he went to the side of the pond and put on a gloomy face, without attempting to catch any fish. The pond was also inhabited by a Crab, who was wise and often helped the fish in the pond.

On seeing the gloomy Heron, the Crab asked him what was the matter. The Heron said, "Alas! I am worried that soon the pond will have no fish. I overheard a group of fishermen talking about catching all the fish in this pond. I know of a pond somewhat far away where all the fish shall be safe. If the fish are interested, I can carry a few each day to the other pond where they will be safe."

All the fish were eager to make use of the Heron to reach a safer pond. Everyday some of them volunteered to go with the Heron. Each day the Heron took some fish in his beak. On reaching a large rock, he would eat the fish and leave the bones at the rock. The Heron was able to get a continuous supply of fish with no effort at all. The Crab became curious and asked to make the trip to the new pond. When they got closer to the rock, the Crab realized what the Heron had been doing. Enraged, the Crab used its claws to kill the Heron. The Heron died a selfish death.

The Goose With the Golden Eggs – Greek Fable

One day a farmer going to the nest of his Goose found an egg all yellow and glittering. When he picked it up, it was as heavy as lead. He was going to throw it away because he thought someone was playing a trick on him, but he decided to take it home. He soon found to his delight that it was an egg made of pure gold. Every morning the same thing would occur, and he soon became extremely wealthy by selling his eggs. As he grew rich, he grew greedy. Thinking that he could get the gold all at once, he killed the Goose and opened it, only to find nothing.
6. **TEACHER READS:**

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

**The Heron in the Indian fable is most like**

A. a hero  
B. a trickster  
C. an evil stepmother  
D. a fairy godmother

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7. **TEACHER READS:**

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

**In both stories, the main character**

A. suffers because of their selfish actions.  
B. loves gold.  
C. is killed.  
D. is a well-behaved bird.

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Master ID: 287240 Revision: 1  
Correct: B  
Standards:

- CCSS.LA.4.RL.CCR.9  
- CCSS.LA.4.RL.4.9

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Master ID: 42817 Revision: 1  
Correct: A  
Standards:

- CCSS.LA.4.RL.CCR.9  
- CCSS.LA.4.RL.4.9
TEACHER READS:
Read the question to yourself and select the best answer(s).

Read the sentence below.

"Perhaps you could look up," Jared whispered. He warned his sister just in time, allowing her to duck and avoid the baseball flying at her head.

Suppose you were asked to revise the first sentence so that it better matches the second sentence. Which sentence(s) could you use? Select all that apply.

A. "Look at that," Jared wondered aloud.
B. "Look out!" Jared shouted toward his sister.
C. "Head's up sis," Jared yelled to his sister.
D. "Watch out for that baseball," Jared screamed.
E. "Isn't that interesting," Jared said, pointing at a baseball.

Correct: BCD
Standards:
CCSS.LA.4.L.CCR.3
CCSS.LA.4.L.4.3.a

TEACHER READS:
Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Read this sentence.

The rain pelted the roof like falling gumballs.

The underlined phrase most likely means that the

A. rain fell hard.
B. rain fell lightly.
C. rain fell quietly.
D. rain fell sweetly.

Correct: A
Standards:
CCSS.LA.4.L.CCR.5
CCSS.LA.4.L.4.5.a