


"Donkey"– Take-Home Flyer

 Stories to Grow by Parents! Discover Whootie Owl's <i>FREE</i> Fairytales: www.storiestogrowby.org !	We read a story in class from Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series: "A Donkey to Market" (Cambodia)
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Ask your child about the story we read in class from Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series entitled:

"A Donkey to Market"

Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series builds an understanding of story elements - **plot, setting, characters, and theme.**

Bonus! The stories also offer gentle, character-building messages.

✱ **The character-building message of this story is:**

"Thinking for Oneself"



Please help your child with this homework assignment:

✱ **Talk about a time when your child made the best choice by thinking for him/herself, or talk about a time when someone your child knows made the best choice. Have your child write a synopsis of what happened below:**

✓ **Parents! This assignment is due:** _____

Student: _____ **Parent:** _____

Questions to Answer

On the Characters and the Setting

About the Characters

Fill in the correct number

- A.** Which sentence below **BEST** describes how the grandfather and his grandson felt when different people scolded them?
- ① They wanted to go back home and forget about taking the donkey to market.
 - ② They wanted to please the ones who were scolding them by doing whatever they were told.
 - ③ They wanted to tell those who were scolding them to mind their own business.
 - ④ They felt thirsty and wanted a drink of water at the well.
- B.** Which sentence below **BEST** describes how the two felt at the END of the story?
- ① They were sorry they ever decided to take the donkey to market.
 - ② They were thinking of clever things they should have said to the ones who scolded them.
 - ③ They would no longer let what other people said bother them.
 - ④ They wanted to brag about how much money they made with their donkey at market.

About the Setting

Fill in the correct number

- A.** How would you describe the place where the grandfather and his grandson live?
- ① mostly tall buildings
 - ② mostly farms
 - ③ mostly factories
 - ④ mostly stores
- B.** Donkeys are known as *beasts of burden* because they work hard to carry and move heavy things for people. What other animal below is also a *beast of burden*?
- ① chicken
 - ② mule
 - ③ dog
 - ④ bear
- C.** What did the grandfather mean when he said at the beginning of the story that everyone in their village already had a donkey?
- ① The people in their village would probably not pay the best price for a donkey because everyone already has one.
 - ② The people in their village would probably pay the best price because they wanted to have as many donkeys as possible.

Questions to Answer

On the Plot and the Main Idea

About the Plot:

Fill in the correct number

- A.** Which of these events happen at the **BEGINNING** of the story?
- ① The grandfather and his grandson talk to the officer at the customhouse.
 - ② The grandfather and his grandson decide the time has come to take their donkey to market.
 - ③ Girls at the well scold the grandfather for making the grandson walk behind him like a servant.
 - ④ The grandfather and his grandson walk across the field.
- B.** Which of these events happen at the **END** of the story?
- ① The villagers laugh at the strange sight of two men carrying a donkey.
 - ② The grandfather explains that everyone in their village already has a donkey.
 - ③ The grandfather and his grandson decide to take the donkey to market their own way.
 - ④ The grandfather and his grandson decide to carry the donkey on a pole.

About the Main Idea:

Fill in the correct number

- A.** Why do so many people scold the grandfather and his grandson?
- ① No one, for miles around, likes the grandfather or his grandson.
 - ② People want to see how many times they can get the grandfather and his grandson to change places.
 - ③ When people see something they don't like, they will often say out loud what they think.
 - ④ People want to slow down the grandfather and his grandson because they are trying to get to market themselves.
- B.** Why do the grandfather and his grandson finally decide to take the donkey to market their own way?
- ① They want to see how many people they can make angry on the way to Kompang.
 - ② They decide they cannot please everyone, so they might as well please themselves.
 - ③ The grandfather knows a shortcut, and taking that way will get them to market more quickly.
 - ④ The grandson wants to show the girls at the well that he will be the one to ride the donkey.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Circle the correct answer

Selection 1

Long ago in Cambodia, there lived an old man with his grandson. Together, they raised a donkey's foal. When the foal grew up, it became a handsome and plump donkey with smooth, brown fur.

What can you suppose about where the old man and his grandson lived?

- A.** They probably lived in the city.
- B.** They probably lived on a farm.
- C.** They probably lived in a hut in the woods.
- D.** They probably lived in a circus.

Selection 2

He rubbed his chin. "If only we could get this donkey to the village of Kompang, we could get a very nice price for it. At Kompang there are many people who still need donkeys. But it is far away. If we rode the donkey all the way there, it would get tired and thin. By the time we got to Kompang, we might no longer get the best price for it. What is the best way to take this donkey to market?"

What is a good word to describe the grandfather?

- A.** thoughtful
- B.** rushed
- C.** angry
- D.** tired

Reading Comprehension Questions, *continued*

Circle the correct answer

Selection 3

As the farmer saw the two men and the donkey come closer, he called out again. "Is that a donkey you have with you? Why on earth are you both *walking* through a field of thorns when you have a *donkey*? My goodness, at least *one* of you should ride the donkey!"

The farmer seems to feel

- A.** sorry that he did not already clear the field of thorns.
- B.** amazed that people would choose to walk in a thorny field when they could ride a donkey.
- C.** angry that the grandfather and his grandson did not ask his permission before walking through his field.
- D.** happy to finally have some visitors.

Selection 4

The villagers became angry. "Is this what the world has come to?" they cried. "The young ride while their elders walk beside them on foot? You should get down at once! Your *grandfather* should be the one to ride!"

On hearing this, the young man immediately climbed down. The old man took his place on the donkey. And the two of them continued on their journey.

By their actions, you can guess that it is important to the grandfather and his grandson to

- A.** change riders as often as possible as they can.
- B.** argue when villagers make unfair demands on them.
- C.** annoy other people whenever they can.
- D.** satisfy other people whenever they can.

Reading Comprehension Questions, *continued*

Circle the correct answer

Selection 5

- ☐ "Where are the two of you going?" said the officer.
"We are bound for the village of Kompang," they said.

The words "bound for" mean

- A.** going to.
- B.** coming from.
- C.** going to tie the donkey's feet.
- D.** getting confused.

Selection 6

At last the two of them decided there was only one thing they could do.

"We will just have to travel as we see fit, and put up with whatever blame comes along."

At the end of the story, you can tell that the grandfather and his grandson

- A.** are more concerned than ever about people who scold them.
- B.** are not going to worry anymore if people scold them.
- C.** are sorry they ever decided to take their donkey to Kompang.
- D.** are looking forward to getting mad at the next villager who scolds them.

Sequence of Events

Circle the correct answer

Story Timeline:

Box 1 The boy says to his grandfather, "Look how fat and nice this donkey has grown."

Box 2 At the village, the grandson is scolded for riding the donkey while his grandfather walks.

Box 3

Box 4 At the customhouse, the officer scolds both the father and his grandson.

Box 5

Question A

Which of these events belongs in Box 3?

- 1) The farmer says, "At least *one* of you should ride the donkey!"
- 2) The foal grows to be a handsome and plump donkey with smooth, brown fur.
- 3) At the well, the young women scold the grandfather for riding while his grandson walks.
- 4) "Why don't we walk the donkey?" suggests the boy. "Then he won't get tired."

Question B

Which of these events belongs in Box 5?

- 1) At last the two of them decided there was only one thing they could do.
- 2) After traveling yet more distance, they reach a customhouse.
- 3) Around the well, a circle of young women are gathered to draw water.
- 4) They bind the donkey's feet and carry him on a pole.

Answer Key - Multiple-Choice Questions

A Donkey to Market

Characters & Setting:

Left column:

A - ②

B - ③

Right column:

A - ②

B - ②

C - ①

Plot & Main Idea:

Left column:

A - ②

B - ③

Right column:

A - ③

B - ②

Reading Comprehension Questions:

Selection 1 – **C**

Selection 2 – **A**

Selection 3 – **B**

Selection 4 – **D**

Selection 5 – **A**

Selection 6 – **B**

Sequence of Events:

Question A – **3**

Question B – **4**

Open Response Questions

As you write, be sure to:

- *Use your own ideas.*
- *Write neatly and clearly.*
- *Use only the space provided.*

Whootie Owl's Tip:

How to **ACE** these questions!

Answer the question that's asked—
read it carefully!

use **C**olorful words

give **E**xamples



Question 1

Think of any other story you've read with characters that remind you of the grandfather and his grandson. How are the characters in that story similar?

story:

Question 2

At the end of the story, the grandfather and his grandson decide to travel "as they see fit". They will no longer worry if people scold them or not. What do you think made them change?

Open Response Questions, *continued*

As you write, be sure to:

- *Use your own idea.*
- *Write neatly and clearly.*
- *Use only the space provided.*

Whootie Owl's Tip:

How to **ACE** these questions!

Answer the question that's asked—
read it carefully!

use **C**olorful words

give **E**xamples



Question 3

How do you think the grandfather and his grandson decide to take the donkey to market at the end of the story? Describe it here:

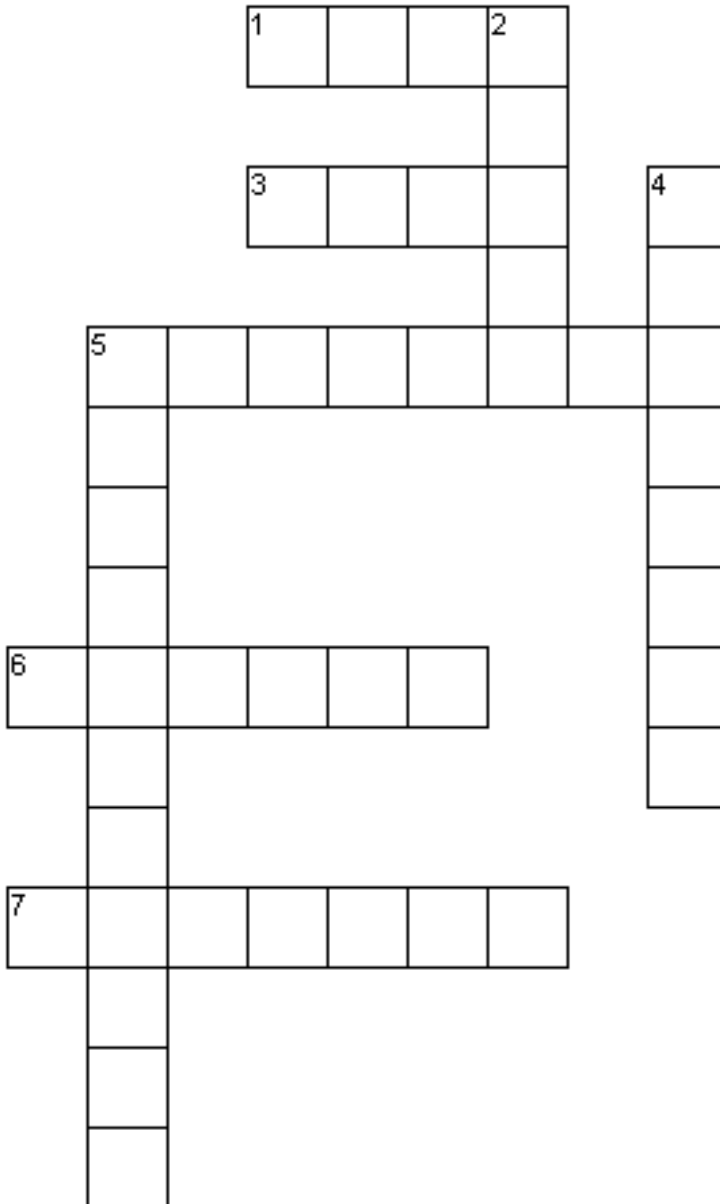
.....

Imagine the grandfather and his grandson take their donkey to market in just the way you described above. As they pass through the next village, a group of villagers laugh at them and scold them. Write the conversation (*dialog*) of what the villagers say and—this time—how the grandfather and his grandson respond.

[illegible]

Crossword Puzzle

A Donkey to Market



Across

1. A name for a baby donkey.
3. The long stick that the grandfather and his grandson passed between the tied legs of the donkey.
5. The country where the story about the donkey took place.
6. The animal that they wanted to take to market.
7. The village where they hoped to sell their donkey.

Down

2. The farmer's land that was full of thorns.
4. He was the first one to ride the donkey.
5. Where the officer scolded the grandfather and his grandson for both riding the donkey.

What Decision did they Make?

It's not clear from the story exactly how the grandfather and his grandson finally chose to take their donkey to market. What choice do you think would have been best?

- ☐ They walked the donkey.
- ☐ One of them rode the donkey.
- ☐ They took turns riding the donkey.
- ☐ They carried the donkey.
- ☐ Something else:

Challenge!

Write your own ending to the story.

Start at the point when the grandfather and the grandson made their decision. How did they feel about it? Try to include conversation in your writing. If you like, show what happened on the way back—did they see anyone they had seen on the way to market?

Begin your new ending after this sentence:



At last the two of them decided there was only one thing they could do.

Characters Who Change



Characters may look the same at the end of a story, but sometimes they think or feel differently than they did at the beginning. **Why?** Maybe:

- ✓ they learned something
- ✓ they made a choice or important decision
- ✓ they changed their way of thinking

At the end of the story *A Donkey to Market*, do you think the grandfather and his grandson changed? (check the box you think is **most true**)

- ☐ **Yes**, they learned something new.
- ☐ **Yes**, they made an important decision.
- ☐ **Yes**, they changed their way of thinking.
- ☐ **Yes** they changed, but not in one of the ways shown above:

- ☐ **No**, the characters did not change.

★ Describe why you believe the statement beside the box you checked is true. Go back to the story to find **proof**.



Why I know the box I checked is most true:

Use another sheet of paper if you want.

The Setting

A **setting** is ***where*** and ***when*** a story takes place.
 Circle **one** of the **3 sentences below**.

- (1) You are raising a donkey.
- (2) You have to go to a well for your water.
- (3) You have to walk all day to get to the next town.

Think for a moment: What would it be like?

- What would you **see**? _____
- What would you **hear**? _____
- What could you **touch**? _____



*This is what I can imagine about the sentence that
 I circled:*

If you need more space, use another piece of paper.

Life Without Cars, Buses or Trains

The people in this story did not have cars, buses or trains. They used donkeys to help them carry heavy objects and to take them where they wanted to go. You can see why donkeys were important!



What if there were no cars, buses or trains ***in your life?***

What if the only way you could move something heavy was to carry it yourself (or take it on a donkey)?

What if you had to **walk** everywhere you wanted to go?

WHAT DID YOU DO YESTERDAY?

WERE YOU IN SCHOOL? WAS IT A WEEKEND? ☐

Briefly describe your day yesterday. Where did you go?
How did you get there?

This is what happened in my life yesterday: _____

Use an extra sheet of paper if you want.

Setting

Now describe what your life would have been like **yesterday**
without cars, buses or trains:



 Clue: Think about your clothes, food, and items in your kitchen. How would they be different? What else would be different in your life?

If there were no cars, buses or trains, this is how my life would have been different yesterday: _____

[illegible]

Use an extra sheet of paper if you want.

[illegible]

About the Donkey

The grandfather and his grandson traveled to Kompang to get the best price for their donkey.

- ★ The donkey is in the same animal family as the horse.
- ★ Donkeys have been used in Asia and Africa for 5000 years as a **beast of burden**.
- ★ A grown-up donkey is from 3 to 5 feet tall at its shoulder –as tall as most 4th graders!



About Cambodia

Cambodia is a country in Asia.



CAMBODIA

- ★ The land of Cambodia is about the size of the state of Oklahoma.
- ★ Cambodia separated from France in 1953.

The Plot - *Can You Retell It?*



Your Mission: Retell in *just a couple of sentences*
what happens in *two or more pages* of a story!

Beginning of the Story—Retell pages **1** and **2**.

→ *What if you had to tell someone what happened on those two pages in just **10 seconds**? What would you say?*

Middle of the Story—Retell pages **3**, **4**, and **5**.

→ *Try to write what happened on pages 3, 4, and 5 in no more than **20 words**!*

End of the Story—Retell pages **6** and **7**.

→ *Pretend you are telling the story to a four-year-old child. You want the child to go to bed so you quickly **wrap up the story**.*

A Version with a Different Ending

Look at a different version of the story below. It is written by **Aesops**, a Greek slave who lived over 2000 years ago. You'll see the story is similar **—but the ending is different!**

Aesop's "The Miller, His Son, and the Donkey"

A miller and his son decide to take their donkey to market. They start their journey by walking alongside the donkey, but they are scolded for letting the donkey walk. So the father lets his son ride the donkey. Then the boy is scolded for making his father walk. So they switch—the father rides and the boy walks. Soon they are scolded again, so they decide to both ride the donkey. Then they are scolded for making the donkey work too hard! That's when they decide to carry the donkey.

*They are carrying the donkey over a bridge when people laugh at the sight of two men carrying a donkey. The donkey is scared. He jerks the pole and falls in the river. Alas! **The miller and his son lose their donkey!***



WHICH ENDING DO YOU LIKE BETTER?



Be honest! *It doesn't matter which one you check.*

- ☐ The Greek version where the donkey falls into the river at the end.
- ☐ The Cambodian version where the grandfather and his grandson decide to take the donkey to market their own way at the end.



The ending I checked is better because:

Compare and Contrast - the Two Versions

Compare: Write what's the **same** about the two stories in the gray area in the middle.

Contrast: Write what's **different** about the two stories in the white areas on the right and left.

How the Greek version is different:

The main characters are a miller and his son.

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How the two stories are the same:

There is a donkey.

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How the Cambodian version is different:

The main characters are a grandfather and his grandson.

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Challenge! On a separate piece of paper, describe which parts you like best that are **different** in the two stories.

[illegible]

Conflict and Solution

Grandfather and grandson decide to walk alongside the donkey.

CONFLICT

The owner of a field says *one* of them should ride the donkey.

SOLUTION

Grandson rides and grandfather walks.

CONFLICT

Villagers say the grandfather should ride out of respect for elders.

SOLUTION

Grandfather rides and grandson walks.

CONFLICT

Young women say a parent should not make a child walk behind.

SOLUTION

Both ride the donkey.

CONFLICT

Customs officer says the donkey should not have to work so hard.

SOLUTION

Both carry the donkey.

CONFLICT

Villagers laugh. "Imagine that! Two men carrying a donkey!"

SOLUTION AT THE END:

The grandfather and his grandson decide to travel as they see fit, and put up with whatever criticism or scorn comes along.



Why do you think they made that decision? _____

Challenge!

Describe another book or story about a conflict. Describe the conflict. How was it solved? Do you like the way it was solved? Was it similar to the conflict in *A Donkey to Market*? How was it different?

The title of the book or story: _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Main Idea

Name one time when it is a good idea to do what other people tell you to do.

Name one time when it is ***not*** a good idea to do what other people tell you to do.

Choose one of the three questions below. Write a complete paragraph to answer this question. Start your paragraph with a topic sentence supported by reasons and examples. You can continue writing on the next page.

- When is it a good idea to do what other people tell you to do?
- When is it ***not*** a good idea to do what other people tell you to do?
- How can you tell the difference?



You can continue writing on the next page.

[illegible]

Write Your Own Story About a Donkey

Now you can write a story of your own about a donkey!

Your story can be **very different** from the one in this book!
It can have a completely different *setting*, *plot*, and *main idea*.

Here's the challenge: Try writing your story about the donkey in the voice of the donkey.

Wait a minute! what's a Voice?

Voice: How a character speaks—you get to know a character from the words a character uses.

✓ A reader can learn a lot by the **voice** of a character.

Example of "voice":

Did you ever hear about a book called *Black Beauty*? It's written in the **voice** (or from the *perspective*) of a horse named **Black Beauty**.

Black Beauty—the horse—begins the story this way:

"While I was young I lived upon my mother's milk, as I could not eat grass. In the daytime I ran by her side, and at night I lay down close by her. When it was hot, we used to stand by the pond in the shade of the trees, and when it was cold, we had a nice warm shed near the plantation."

- **Black Beauty**, by Marcia Sewell

- Notice that Black Beauty says, "*I* can remember" and "*When I* was young."
- That's called speaking in the **first person**.
- When you tell your own story in the voice of a donkey, remember to use the **first person**. Say, as Black Beauty said: "*I*...."

- Find a setting for your story:

Where does your story take place?

*on a farm? in the woods?
in this country? another country?
in a make-believe place?
somewhere else?*

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.....

When does your story take place?

*modern times? long time ago?
summer, fall, winter or spring?
at a certain time of day or
over several days?*

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Tips and Tricks:

- How to develop a personality for your donkey:

First: Think of an animal that you already know, such as a pet.

or— think of a character in a favorite animal story

or— think of a person you already know

K *Imagine how your donkey acts in some ways like your pet,
the animal character, or the person you already know!*

	<i>My donkey acts like _____ when</i>

Give your donkey a name: _____



A Quick Way to Start Planning Your Story about a Donkey:

- Think of a problem for your donkey.

Here are some ideas. Check one you like, or check as many as you want to use. You can also make up your own!

- _____ Donkey (or a friend, or the master) is lost.
- _____ Danger is coming— maybe a lion, dragon, storm.
- _____ Donkey can no longer bray (is it an evil spell?).
- _____ Master is mean and cruel.
- _____ Donkey must find something—maybe a treasure?
- _____ Donkey must complete an impossible task.
- _____ **Your own idea:** _____

What **main problem** will your donkey have?



This is my donkey's main problem:

- Think of *what your donkey will do* to try to solve this problem. The choices your donkey makes say something important to the reader about the donkey as a character.

How will the **main problem** be solved at the end?



This is how the main problem will be solved:

✓ **The Main Idea**


The **main idea** is the *most important idea* in a story.

What is the main idea in your story?

----> It's what you want your reader to think at the end of the story. For example, when you finished the story about the donkey in this book, what were you thinking? Were you thinking it was good that the grandfather and his grandson decided to go their own way? Or were you thinking something else?

 **Clue: How to find the main idea of your story-**

Finish this sentence: "**It is good when...**" or: "**It is important to...**"

 *It is*


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Try this! Describe **one time** in your story when the reader will understand your main idea. For example, it could be when the main problem is solved at the end, when some of your characters act in a certain way, or when one of your characters makes a choice.

 *The reader will understand my main idea when:*

.....

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★ **Play "The Secret Voice Game"!**
A Game for Writing in a Character's Voice

HOW TO PLAY:

First, write down **ONE** adjective for your donkey.



Such as: kind, sad, angry, brave, bossy, caring

My donkey is mostly _____.

Then, get a separate sheet of paper. Pretend you **are** the donkey from your story. Write three sentences about yourself.



You may start with, "I am a donkey who..." Or start with, "Let me tell you about myself." Or come up with your own way of telling about yourself as the donkey in 3 sentences!

Hand in your paper to your teacher. All the other students in your class will hand in their papers, too.

Your teacher reads aloud each "Secret Voice"

The class—not including the one who wrote it—has to guess which adjectives best describe the donkey based on the three "Secret Voice" sentences they hear.

The writer of the "Secret Voice" will find out how closely the adjectives the class chooses match the word she or he wrote on the top of this page!