Literature Central Message

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Two Goats on a Log

A narrow log bridge crossed a quick little stream. It was only wide enough for one goat at a time.

One morning, a white goat named Bela started across from one side. A brown goat named Tor started across from the other side. They met in the middle.

"Move back! I was here first," said Bela.

"No, you move back! I am in a hurry," said Tor.

Neither goat would turn around. They pushed and butted heads. Then both goats slipped off the log. Splash! They landed in the cold, shallow water. They climbed out wet and grumpy, and neither one got across.

The next morning, the two goats met in the middle again. This time, Bela thought about the cold splash. She knelt down flat on the log. "Step over me," she said. Tor stepped carefully over her back. Then Bela stood up and crossed too.

That day, both goats reached the other side, warm and dry.

1. What is the central message of this fable?
   - The goat who arrives first should always win.
   - Giving way to each other can solve a problem.
   - Goats should never cross a stream on a log.

2. Which event shows the lesson most clearly?
   - Bela started across from one side.
   - Tor said that he was in a hurry.
   - Bela knelt down so Tor could step over her.

3. What happened when neither goat would move back?
   - Tor turned around and went home.
   - Bela found a wider bridge to cross.
   - They both fell into the stream.

4. How did Bela change from the first morning to the second?

She became too scared to cross the bridge.

She started pushing harder than before.

She stopped pushing and found a way to help.

5. Why did Bela kneel down on the second morning?

Tor asked her to rest on the log.

She was too tired to keep walking.

She remembered the cold splash.

6. They climbed out wet and grumpy. What does grumpy mean?

full of joy in a bad mood very sleepy

7. Which detail is true but is NOT the lesson?

Being stubborn can leave everyone worse off.

The bridge was made from a log.

Working together helps everyone get across.

8. What would most likely happen if the goats pushed again the next day?

They would fall in the stream again.

They would both get across quickly.

One goat would wait while the other crossed.

9. Which sentence shows that the goats were stubborn at first?

Neither goat would turn around.

It was only wide enough for one goat.

Tor stepped carefully over her back.

10. What problem do the goats have in this fable?

The bridge is only wide enough for one goat.

The stream is too deep for goats to cross.

The goats cannot find the bridge in the dark.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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1. What is the central message of this fable?

   The goat who arrives first should always win.

   Giving way to each other can solve a problem.

   Goats should never cross a stream on a log.

2. Which event shows the lesson most clearly?

   Bela started across from one side.

   Tor said that he was in a hurry.

   Bela knelt down so Tor could step over her.

3. What happened when neither goat would move back?

   Tor turned around and went home.

   Bela found a wider bridge to cross.

   They both fell into the stream.

4. How did Bela change from the first morning to the second?

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