

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension - Theme



Raccoon and Crayfish

Raccoon was very hungry, so he walked a **mile** to the river. Crayfish hid under a rock to **save** his **life**. Raccoon got into the water and reached under the rock. As soon as Raccoon grabbed Crayfish, it pinched him. He **broke** his grip on Crayfish. Raccoon shook his paw and climbed out of the water. "**Excuse** me Crayfish," he said, "you were right to pinch me, that is the **price** I pay for wanting to eat you. But I am hungry. In fact, I am starving!" Then Raccoon fell down with his eyes closed and his feet sticking up in the air.

Crayfish went to **invite** and tell his friends that Raccoon was dead. All the crayfish made a circle around Raccoon. They lit a **flame** and danced and sang until they were too tired to move. Suddenly, Raccoon jumped up. "Thank you for that lovely dance, he said. Then Raccoon ate up all the foolish crayfish. As the wise one **rule** says, "Never celebrate someone else's troubles." Remember what happened to those crayfish!

Adapted from Comprehension Plus B (page 82), by J. Bruchac

After reading the above story, answer the following questions.

1. Why did Raccoon fall down with his eyes closed and his feet sticking into the air?

he was tired to pretend he was dead he fell asleep

2. Raccoon could be described as _____.

silly unhappy tricky

3. The crayfish could be described as _____.

foolish proud smart

4. What would have been the smartest thing for Crayfish to do after Raccoon fell down?

- ☐ hide and wait to see if Raccoon got up
- ☐ have a party
- ☐ play in the water

5. What is the theme of this story?

- ☐ Raccoons are smarter than crayfish
- ☐ Do not be happy about someone's troubles
- ☐ Don't fish for crayfish or you might get pinched