

**Theme Graded Assignment**  
**4.5b**

**A Broken Vase**

Jeremy ran down the hall into the kitchen. He threw open the refrigerator and grabbed a bottle of water. He slammed the door and ran back down the hall. He didn't want to miss a second of his favorite show. As he turned the corner, he bumped the table in the hall. *CRASH*. His mom's favorite vase fell to the floor. Jeremy felt sick. It was a present from his mom's best friend. He picked up the large chunks of glass and swept up the small pieces. He put all the evidence outside in the garbage can. Jeremy went back to his room and turned off the TV. He felt too upset to enjoy his show. What would he say to his mom?

That night when his mom got home from work, Jeremy hid in his room. He didn't want to tell his mom what had happened. At dinner he could hardly speak.

"Jeremy, you aren't sick are you?" his mom asked.

"No, just tired." Jeremy said. "Can I go to bed early?"

That night Jeremy could hardly sleep. The next day was Saturday. He had planned to spend the day with his best friend. How could he possibly have any fun? He tossed and turned all night.

The next morning Jeremy woke up feeling even worse. Jeremy sat at the counter, trying to eat breakfast, but could hardly eat. He knew what he needed to do.

Jeremy walked outside where his mom was gardening. "Mom, I need to talk to you."

"What's wrong, Jeremy? You've been acting funny. I've been worried."

"Mom, yesterday I accidentally broke your new vase. I was running down the hall and bumped the table. I should have told you yesterday, but I was scared," Jeremy said quietly.

Jeremy's mom stared at him for a moment. "I knew something had happened to my vase. I was wondering when you'd tell me the truth. I am upset that my vase is broken. You need to be more careful. However, things can be replaced. As your punishment, you'll have to stay home today."

"Okay, mom. I'm really sorry," said Jeremy.

"I hope you learned your lesson," said Jeremy's mom.

"I promise I won't run in the hall anymore."

"No, how have you felt since you broke the vase? Wouldn't it have been easier to tell the truth right away?" asked mom.

"You're right, mom. I have been pretty miserable. If I had told you yesterday, we'd have been happier."

The moral of "A Broken Vase" can best be described as -

- A. always be honest
- B. be careful in the house
- C. go to bed early
- D. lying is fun

Which sentence from "A Broken Vase" best supports the lesson?

- A. The next morning Jeremy woke up feeling even worse.
- B. As he turned the corner, he bumped the table in the hall.
- C. He felt too upset to enjoy his show
- D. If I had told you yesterday, we'd have been happier.

Lexile Level: 500-600

### The Greedy Dog



It was a fall day. A hungry dog smelled something delicious cooking in his owner's house. He was always looking for something tasty to eat.

The hungry dog snuck inside the house. He saw a delicious steak resting by the stove. The dog crept over the counter and took the steak. He rushed out of the house with it before anyone could stop him and never stopped running until he reached the woods. He planned to cross the stream, then he would be able to enjoy his meal.

As he carried the meat over a bridge, the dog looked down into the stream. There he saw his own reflection in the clear water. He thought he was looking at another dog and that dog had a delicious looking steak, too!

The dog was very hungry and decided he wanted two pieces of meat. The dog let out a loud growl and opened his mouth to grab the other dog's meat. However, as soon as he opened his mouth, his delicious piece of meat fell. As it sank to the bottom of the water, the dog realized his mistake. Now, instead of having something good to eat, the dog had nothing at all. The dog walked home, hanging his head. His stomach growled.

3. The moral of the story can best be described as -

- E. share with others
- F. do not steal
- G. wait to be fed
- H. don't be greedy

4. Which sentence from the story best supports the lesson?

- E. Now, instead of having something good to eat, the dog had nothing at all.
- F. He was always looking for something tasty to eat.
- G. The dog walked home, hanging his head.
- H. The dog crept over the counter and took the steak.

### Standing Up

Kendall's favorite part of the day was lunch. He liked school, but liked hanging out with his friends at lunch. They sat at the same table every day. It was a nice break from all the stresses of class.

Today a new girl started at school. Kendall and his friends watched her get in the lunchline. She was all alone. They continued talking. Suddenly they heard a commotion.



The new girl had dropped her tray. She stood in the middle of the cafeteria, stunned and looking as if she might cry.

Kendall's friends started to laugh and point. Kendall quickly snapped, "Cut it out guys. Don't make her feel worse."

Kendall stood up. He walked over to the new girl and helped her pick up her things. He then walked her to get a new lunch. "Hey, why don't you sit with us today? It's hard being new. We can show you around and introduce you to some of the kids."

The new girl smiled and followed Kendall to the lunch table.

5. The theme of the story can best be described as -

- A. It's important to stand up for others' feelings.
- B. It's easy to make friends when you are new.
- C. Be careful carrying your tray.
- D. Friends shouldn't make fun of each other.

6. Which sentence from the story best supports the theme?

- A. Kendall's favorite part of the day was lunch.
- B. "Cut it out guys. Don't make her feel worse."
- C. Kendall and his friends watched her get in the lunchline.
- D. The new girl smiled and followed Kendall to the lunch table.

### An Unlikely Pair

Junior was a friendly Golden Retriever. He lived on a farm and had a comfortable, fortunate life. He could run around on the farm safely, chasing birds, resting under trees, and enjoying the outdoors. Each evening around dinner time, he'd hear his owner call, "Junior! Time for dinner!" Junior would run back to the house to the loving embrace of his owner and enjoy a dinner. With a full belly, he'd rest in the house, dry and warm.



One cold afternoon, Junior's owner let him out to play. Junior was cold, but he loved his freedom on the farm. As he walked past the barn, he heard a quiet crying. His ears perked up. He followed the noise. Beneath some old boxes, he found what was making the noise - a young, orange tabby cat. The sight of the poor cat made Junior sad. The cat was skinny. Its ribs stuck out and it looked as if it had been living on its own for quite a while. Junior thought about his full food dish and warm bed. He had an idea.

Junior coaxed the cat out of its hiding spot and encouraged it to follow him. The cat kept its distance at first, but then began to trust Junior. Junior led the cat into the house and showed it his full dish of food. The cat gobbled the entire dish of food and meowed happily. Junior then led the poor cat to his bed. There, he and the cat snuggled up. The cat, who had been alone and without love for a long time, began to purr.

7. Which does NOT describe the theme of the story?

- A. Treat others with kindness.
- B. Share with others.
- C. It's hard to be alone.
- D. Take good care of your pets.

8. Which sentence best supports the theme of the story?

- A. With a full belly, he'd rest in the house, dry and warm.
- B. The cat, who had been alone and without love for a long time, began to purr.
- C. The sight of the poor cat made Junior sad.
- D. Junior was a friendly Golden Retriever. He lived on a farm and had a comfortable, fortunate life.

### A Miserable Weekend



It was finally Saturday afternoon. After a long week at school, Eliza always looked forward to playing at the park with her best friend Addison. She put her helmet on, and rode to the park.

When Eliza got there, she saw something unusual. Addison was playing with someone else. *How could she! Eliza thought. Addison said she'd be waiting for me!*

Eliza didn't know what to do. She felt so angry. Why was her best friend playing with someone else? Eliza decided to go home. She went to her room and laid on her bed and watched TV. She had a miserable weekend alone.

Monday came quickly and Eliza walked into school. She saw Addison coming her way. Eliza felt herself get hot and angry again. She remembered how Addison picked someone else to play with.

"Eliza! Where were you Saturday? I waited for you at the park for hours. My cousin was visiting from Maryland. I wanted her to meet my best friend."

Eliza suddenly felt regret. *Her cousin?* She thought to herself. *I missed all of the fun.*

Eliza felt hot, but this time not from anger, but embarrassment.

9. What lesson can be learned from reading the story?

- A. Choose your friends wisely.
- B. Jealousy only causes problems.
- C. It's okay to get angry.
- D. Friends should stay together.

10. Which sentence from the story shows Eliza learned a lesson?

- A. Addison said she'd be waiting for me!
- B. I missed all of the fun.
- C. I waited for you at the park for hours.
- D. How could she!