International School of Monterrey

Junior High School **___th Grade**
Trimester ___ **Literature**

Name _____ Date _____ List #____

The Donkey and the Salt

1 Jahi was a salt trader. He traveled a long way to the Red Sea each week to gather salt from the shores. The road Jahi traveled crossed a wide desert. With no trees in sight, the sun beat down on Jahi and his traveling partner—an old donkey. Jahi was always glad when he and his donkey finally reached the Red Sea.

2 On the way home from the Red Sea, there were many hills and streams to cross. One particularly hot day, the donkey was tired and did not like his heavy load.

3 The donkey hung his head down and went as slowly as he could.

4 After a while, they came to a stream that had a narrow wooden footbridge over it. It was not wide enough for the donkey to cross.

5 The donkey went through the water. *Splash! Splash! Splash!*

6 In the middle of the stream was a large stone that neither of them saw. The donkey stumbled and fell, soaking the bags. As the water ran over the salt, some of the salt dissolved in the water.

7 Jahi moved quickly to help the donkey and make sure he wasn't hurt. However, the donkey was glad he had fallen, for he found his load was now much lighter.

8 They came to another stream, but this time the donkey did not stumble. He lay down in the middle of the stream on purpose! He thought he was very clever.

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9 This time he lost so much salt that his master was angry. Jahi would have to go back to the seashore for another load. He and the donkey turned around and walked back to the Red Sea to get more salt.

10 As they walked along, Jahi looked at the donkey. Then he laughed to himself. He thought he knew a way to stop the donkey from losing salt in the water.

11 When they came to the wide, calm seashore, Jahi picked up sponges from the seashore instead of collecting salt. He filled the donkey's bags with the sponges. Jahi knew this meant he wouldn't have a load of salt to sell at the market. However, at the moment, he believed teaching the donkey a lesson was more important. After the sponges were loaded, they started for home.

12 The donkey thought, "What a light load I have!" He trotted happily over the rough road.

13 Again they came to the stream. "Ah!" the donkey thought, "I will make my load even lighter!"

14 He lay down in the middle of the stream, and the water soaked the bags on his back. But unlike the salt, the sponges did not disappear. They filled with water. The sponges got bigger and heavier.

15 Now the donkey's load was so heavy that he was having trouble standing up.

16 Jahi kindly helped him, but the donkey was not happy.

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17 "Oh," the donkey thought, "I will never lie down in the water again!"

18 A week later, Jahi led his donkey back to the seashore for more salt.

19 This time, he filled the bags with salt instead of sponges.

20 Remembering how heavy the bags were after he went into the water, the donkey watched his footing as he crossed the streams. He did not want to fall again.

21 Jahi and the donkey made it safely to the market that day, bags full of salt.

I. DIRECTIONS: For each sentence, choose the option that BEST completes It. (4 pts.)

_____ 1. The donkey lies in the water to dissolve the heavy salt. He thinks he is ___.
A. Careful
B. Lazy
C. Surprised
D. Clever

_____ 2. Jahi does not like that the donkey is dissolving the salt. He thinks the donkey is __.
A. Careful
B. Lazy
C. Surprised
D. Clever

_____ 3. Jahi fills the donkey's bags with sponges. The donkey is ___ at how heavy the bags get when he lies down in the water.
A. Careful
B. Lazy
C. Surprised
D. Clever

_____ 4. The next time, the donkey decides to be ____ when he crosses the streams.
A. Careful
B. Lazy
C. Surprised
D. Clever

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