

THE MAN WITH THE COCONUTS

Year 5 English • Reading Comprehension

Name: _____

Date: _____

Learning focus: I can infer what a character thinks, feels or believes, and explain why a character behaves in a particular way.

PART A — WHAT DOES THE CHARACTER THINK?

1. The boy looks at the heavy load on the horse before giving his advice. What does this suggest about the boy?

- A. He is not paying attention.
- B. He notices the problem with the heavy load.
- C. He wants the man to arrive late.
- D. He is afraid of the horse.

2. The boy tells the man that if he goes slowly, he will arrive very soon, but if he goes fast, it will take all day. What does the boy probably believe?

- A. Going slowly will help the man keep the coconuts on the horse.
- B. The man should leave the coconuts behind.
- C. The journey is actually very long.
- D. The horse cannot walk quickly.

3. The man cannot believe the boy's "strange speech". What does this tell us about the man's viewpoint?

- A. He thinks the boy's advice makes perfect sense.
- B. He thinks the boy's advice is strange or unlikely to work.
- C. He is angry because the boy stole his coconuts.
- D. He is worried that the boy will follow him.

PART B — WHY DID HE DO THAT?

4. Why did the man hurry his horse after speaking to the boy?

- A. He wanted to prove that the boy was wrong.
- B. He wanted to lose his coconuts.
- C. He wanted to make his horse tired.
- D. He wanted to stop travelling.

5. The coconuts fall off and the man has to stop and pick them up. Why does he hurry the horse even more afterwards?

- A. He wants to make up for the time he has lost.
- B. He has forgotten what the boy said.
- C. He wants the coconuts to fall off again.
- D. He thinks the horse is walking too slowly.

6. The man keeps repeating the same action even after the coconuts fall off. What does this suggest about him?

- A. He changes his mind very easily.
- B. He is determined to prove that his own idea will work.
- C. He does not care about getting home.
- D. He has forgotten where he lives.

PART C — READ BETWEEN THE LINES

7. Which statement best describes the difference between the boy's viewpoint and the man's viewpoint?

- A. The boy thinks speed is important, while the man thinks it is dangerous.
- B. The boy thinks the man should go slowly, while the man believes going quickly will get him home sooner.
- C. Both characters believe the man should hurry.

D. Both characters think the coconuts are too heavy.

8. What can we infer about the man's feelings when the coconuts fall off for the first time?

A. He is probably frustrated because he has lost time.

B. He is delighted.

C. He is frightened of the boy.

D. He is bored.

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PART D — EXPLAIN YOUR INFERENCE

9. Why does the man continue to hurry even though it has already caused a problem?

Write a complete sentence. Use what happened in the story to support your answer.

10. Imagine you are the man after the coconuts fall off for the second time. Which thought would most likely be in your mind?

- A. "I should probably try going slowly."
- B. "I must hurry even more!"
- C. "I should throw away all the coconuts."
- D. "The boy was not talking to me."

Now explain: What has happened that makes you think this?

PART E — CHARACTER EVIDENCE

11. Complete the sentences. Think about each character's viewpoint.

Character	What does this character believe?	What evidence supports your idea?
The boy		
The man		

PART F — YEAR 5 CHALLENGE ■

12. What can we infer about the man's character from the way he behaves?

Give a reason for your answer and refer to something he does in the story.

Remember: An inference is an idea we work out from clues. Good readers ask: *What does the character do? What might that show? What makes me think that?*