

Name: _____

Date: _____

Frogs of Loon and Luma

Once upon a time there were two frogs. One lived far away in the land of Loon. The other lived even farther away in the land of Luma. Neither knew about the other, yet one day they had a similar thought.

"I have never been to Luma," said the Loon frog. "I wonder what it is like there? Surely life is more interesting and exciting."

"My life is so boring," said the Luma frog. "I think I'd like to see what it is like in Loon. I imagine it's much better to live there."

By chance, both frogs chose the same day to start their exploration of their new worlds. The journeys were longer and more difficult than either had imagined, but both were determined to see if Luma (or Loon) was a better place than their own homes.

The two met at the top of a pass in the great mountains that separated the countries from each other.

"Where are you from and where are you going?" croaked the Loon frog.

"Well, I'm from Luma and I'm making a special journey to Loon to see how wonderful it must be," replied the other.

"What a coincidence! I'm from Loon myself. I too am on a journey, but I want to see the land of Luma. Unfortunately, the trip has been a long one, don't you agree? Wouldn't it be nice if we both could just get a glimpse of our destinations? Then our long walk might be easier to bear."

"If only we were taller," replied the Luma frog, "we might be able to see each place from this high vantage point."

So the two frogs agreed to stand on their hind legs and balance each other with their front legs. The Loon frog faced Luma and the Luma frog faced Loon. When they looked over each others shoulders, they didn't realize that in this position their bulgy eyes would see behind them instead of in front.

"How strange!" said the Luma frog. "Loon isn't very special. It's exactly like where I just came from."

"Yes, it's amazing," said the Loon frog. "I thought it would be different and it's not. It's really not worth the bother to go on."

"Since everything everywhere must be just the same," replied the other. "I guess home is the best place for me."

So they both returned home and lived happily ever after for each believed that Loon and Luma were just as similar as the two lily pads in their own two ponds.

1. "They didn't realize that in this position their bulgy eyes would see behind them instead of in front." In this sentence *realize* means almost the same as

- A. declare
- B. discuss
- C. comprehend
- D. claim

2. The frogs wanted to see each other's home because

- A. they wanted to visit each other
- B. they thought life there would be more exciting
- C. they wanted to prove that they lived in a better place
- D. they thought it would be just the same as where they lived

3. The two frogs met

- A. at Loon.
 - B. at Luma.
 - C. at the top of a mountain pass.
 - D. in a pond.
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4. The author most likely wrote this passage

- A. to entertain people
 - B. to give information about frogs
 - C. to persuade people to visit different lands
 - D. to describe Loon and Luma
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Little Journeys

I've ridden the school bus many times
 coming and going
 losing track of time.
I've seen every view in a different way,
 passing new faces
 but the same houses each day.
Images melt into a mixed-up mess.
 I laugh with my friends
 finding out whose jokes are best.
I've watched seasons pass,
 traveled through sun and storms.
 I thought, "this won't last,"
but I know the time is now,
 to appreciate little journeys
 and then show others how.

5. The author would MOST agree with which of the following?

- A. Enjoy all experiences in life because each is special.
 - B. The school bus ride is simply a way to get somewhere.
 - C. My friends like to watch the seasons pass quickly.
 - D. It's best to keep experiences to yourself.
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The Two Goats on the Mountain

Once there was a little goat that wanted to climb a big mountain, because that's what goats like to do. Every day, from the bottom of the mountain, he watched the other goats standing on top of the mountain. He wondered what it would be like to look over the valley from such a high place. He thought it would be very beautiful.

Once he decided that it was his day to climb, he was in a hurry to get to the top. He started up the path and continued to make his way up until he reached a ridge where he could take a short rest. He was very close to the top and could not wait to join the other goats that he could see from where he stood.

He noticed that the mountain was very steep the rest of the way. He could not see a path up to the top of the mountain from where he stood. "I want to be at the top now," he said.

"Well," he said to himself, "I guess I will just have to jump up to the top." So he gathered all of his strength, and he jumped as high as he could. He jumped only a foot off the ground. He tried again, only to have the same unsuccessful result. Again and again he jumped with all of his might, but always landed back where he started.

"How," he said to himself, "did all those other goats get so high? Maybe they are bigger and stronger than I am."

Just then another little goat came up behind him on the ridge. "What are you doing?" she asked.

"I am trying to get to the top of the mountain," he answered.

"Then follow me," she told him.

The first little goat followed his new friend. He walked to the far side of the ridge and saw there was a winding path up the other side of the mountain. It was an easy path to climb, and soon they were at the top.

"Sometimes," said the second little goat, "the fastest way to get where you want to go is to take many small steps instead of one giant leap."

6. How did the first little goat try to get to the top before the second goat arrived?
- A. He ran fast without stopping.
 - B. He took several different paths.
 - C. He jumped several times.
 - D. He asked for help.
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The Extraordinary Cat:

A Chinese Tale

by Pleasant De Spain

Once there was a Chinese mandarin who had a cat that he treasured above all other animals. He loved the cat so much and thought that it was so extraordinary that he named it Sky.

One day soon after, an advisor to the court spoke to the mandarin and explained, "There is something much more powerful than the sky, and that is the cloud. The cloud can darken and even hide the sky from view."

"Quite right," agreed the mandarin. "From this day forth my beautiful cat shall be called Cloud."

Two weeks later the mandarin's wife said, "Dear husband, I don't think that Cloud is a proper name for your cat. There is something stronger than the cloud, and that is the wind that blows the cloud about."

"Indeed! From now on my superior cat will be called Wind. Here Wind! Here Wind! Nice little Wind."

During the next month the mandarin's brother came for a visit and agreed that the cat was the most extraordinary animal he had ever seen. "But," he said, "Wind is not a suitable name for this superb creature. The wind is servant to that which it cannot penetrate. . . such as a wall. The wall is stronger than the wind."

"I hadn't thought of that," replied the mandarin, "and you are to be congratulated, brother, for being so observant. From now on, my dearest cat, the most wonderful cat on earth, will be called Wall."

The very next day the royal gardener heard the mandarin call his cat, "Wall," and said, "But sire, you are forgetting that a mouse is able to chew a hole in a wall. The mouse is the strongest."

"How clever of you," said the mandarin. "From this day forth my lovely cat will be called Mouse. Come here Mouse!"

But just then the mandarin's son skipped into the garden to play, and when he heard his father call the cat "Mouse," he started to laugh and laugh!

"What causes you to laugh, my son?" asked the mandarin.

"Father" replied the boy, "everyone knows that there is something stronger than the mouse and that's the cat who catches him!"

The mandarin smiled and then began to laugh with his son. "Of course! How foolish I've been. From now on my extraordinary animal will be called by the name it most deserves, and that is Cat!"

7. Another good title for this passage could be

- A. The Wise Ruler
 - B. So Many Cats at the Court
 - C. The Wind and the Clouds
 - D. The Cat with Many Names
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8. Which of these shows that the mandarin thinks that his cat is extraordinary?

- A. The mandarin makes the cat an advisor.
 - B. The mandarin thinks of the cat like a son.
 - C. The mandarin gives the cat special names.
 - D. The mandarin builds the cat its own garden.
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9. Who tells the mandarin he could change the cat's name to "Mouse"?

- A. the son
 - B. the brother
 - C. the gardener
 - D. the wife
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10. The author writes that the mandarin "had a cat that he treasured above all animals." What does the word *treasured* mean in this sentence?

- A. carried around
- B. put up for sale
- C. thought highly of
- D. played a lot with

Answer Key

1. C) comprehend
2. B) they thought life there would be more exciting
3. C) at the top of a mountain pass.
4. A) to entertain people
5. A) Enjoy all experiences in life because each is special.
6. C) He jumped several times.
7. D) The Cat with Many Names
8. C) The mandarin gives the cat special names.
9. C) the gardener
10. C) thought highly of