

LESSON 20

THE MISER

After reading the passage and answering the multiple choice questions, parents may ask the following discussion questions for a further elaboration on misers and greed.

1. Many people would agree that saving money would be a good thing. What is the difference, then, between saving money and what the miser was doing in the story?

Many people save money for "a rainy day." They know that there may be a time in the future when that extra money that they saved will come in handy. Many adults, for instance, save up money for that time when the car breaks down and a new one is needed, or they put money in a special bank account so that they are not left penniless when they can no longer work in old age. The miser in the story, however, is saving money for the sake of having money not spending it. As the stranger suggests by throwing a rock into the hole, money is only worth something if it spent.

2. Are more men than women pictured in books and stories as misers? Why do you think that is so? It is true that men (or women) are more likely to be misers?

In discussing this question, teachers may introduce the idea of stereotypes. A stereotype is a common understanding of a group of people that may or may not have a basis in truth. It is true that men more so than women are pictured as misers in literature, but the statement that more men are misers would be hard to prove or disprove. Some examples of characters in novels that are stereotypical misers include Scrooge of Charles Dickens' novel A Christmas Carol, the weaver in George Eliot's novel Silas Marner, and Shylock of Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.

3. The word *frugal* means being wise with one's money. When a frugal person earns money, he does not just spend it on frivolous things, and more likely he will save it for a rainy day. Frugality (or being wise with your money) will allow people to save up money for a car, or a house, or education. When, however, does being frugal turn into being a miser?

Simply put, being frugal involves wisdom and being a miser involves selfishness and a senseless hoarding of money.

READING EXERCISE A

1. c
2. a
3. a
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. b

8. b
9. c
- 10.b

THE DOG IN THE MANGER

“The Dog and the Manger” illustrates at least two of the points made in the previous fable, which parents may want to point out. Like the miser, the dog does not (and cannot) use the hay that he has reserved for himself. Such behavior is selfish and reprehensible: the stranger in the story of the miser scolds the miser for his miserliness and the farmer scolds the dog for his selfishness.

READING EXERCISE A

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. c

1. LITERARY WORDS: PLOT AND THEME

2. WRITING EXERCISE: NARRATIVE

There are several ways of going about arguing, illustrate or explaining a point. One way is through *narrative*. In this lesson, students are asked to write about a personal experience that illustrates the idea that “many people don’t let others enjoy what they have, even though they don’t want or need it.”

3. PHONICS AND VOCABULARY: QU

PHONICS EXERCISE A

1. c
2. b
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. a
7. b
8. c
9. a
- 10.b

PHONICS EXERCISE B

1. quantity
2. quiet
3. quill
4. question
5. banquet
6. square
7. tranquil
8. quite
9. quarter
10. eloquence

4. GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

GRAMMAR EXERCISE A

The subjects have been bracketed rather than circled.

1. John's [father] [traveled] to New Zealand.
2. Betty's [cookies] [taste] great!
3. The [papers] on the desk [have disappeared] somewhere.
4. My [brother] [is riding] his brand new bike.
5. [Grant] and [Max] [bought] a new baseball mitt.
6. The neighbor's garage door [opened] with a creak. OR
The neighbor's garage [door] [opened] with a creak.

Explanation: "Garage door" is a noun phrase acting as the subject. However, "Garage" may also be considered an attributive noun (a noun acting as an adjective), and thus "door" may also be bracketed by itself excluding "garage."

7. Sometimes [Emmett] [buys] gum at the supermarket.

Explanation: The word "sometimes" belongs to the predicate, as it is an adverb modifying "buys," telling how often Emmett buys gum at the supermarket.

8. [Emma] and [Elise] [have] a cat.
9. A mysterious [neighbor] [fed] their pet.
10. [Some] of the boys [like] drinking tea.

GRAMMAR EXERCISE B

1. N
2. Y
3. Y
4. N
5. N

6. Y
7. Y
8. N
9. N
- 10.Y

GRAMMAR EXERCISE C

1. T
2. F
3. F
4. F
5. F
6. F
7. T
8. T
9. T
- 10.T