

# Folktales *(cont.)*

## Passage #12

Do not use student guide pages with this passage.

Here are some words you will need to know as you listen to this folktale:

**audible:** able to be heard      **devious:** deceptive, dishonest, untrustworthy

### The Sick Lion

One day the lion, king of all the beasts, was extremely ill. He did not come out of his cave, but instead lay groaning and murmuring faint, barely audible roars whenever anyone came near.

The other animals did not know what to do. For as long as they could remember the lion had made all their decisions. They had long since forgotten how to think for themselves. After much discussion, they agreed that they must visit him in his cave, for if they stayed away he would certainly be angry and they would suffer upon his recovering. Besides, in his current condition he obviously couldn't harm them even if he wanted to.

So one at a time, or occasionally in small groups, the animals went to the royal cave. Some took him a gift such as the best bit of meat from a recent catch. Others just went to inquire about his health. Large and small, each animal in the lion's kingdom all made their way to his dwelling. However, the fox stayed away. Eventually the lion noticed that the fox never visited him. So the king sent his servant, a hyena, to inquire why the fox was being so rude.

"Fox," said the hyena, "You have displeased His Majesty the lion. Although he is desperately ill, you have not even put your nose inside his cave to ask how he is feeling. What excuse do you have for your disrespectful behavior?"

The fox replied, "Hyena, I would like to see the king, for I respect his wisdom. Indeed, I once came right to the mouth of the cave bearing my best piece of meat as a get-well present."

"And?" the hyena prompted him.

"Although I was anxious to see the king, when I got there I noticed something that made me too frightened to go in," said the fox.

"And what was that?" asked the hyena.

The fox replied, "I saw many pairs of footprints in the sand from all sorts of animals. But they were all going one way—into the cave. Not a single footprint came out. I did not want to enter a place from which I would never return."

The clever fox had figured out the lion's devious plan. Believing he was sick and harmless, the animals he usually had to chase down for food were all coming right into his cave—and ending up as his next meal.

# Folktales *(cont.)*

## Passage #12 Questions

1. Which of the following statements represents the lesson taught in this folktale? Place a checkmark next to one and use it in your answer.

Try to find out the reason someone is acting a certain way.

Just because everyone else is doing something, doesn't make it the wise thing to do.

Explain how the story teaches this lesson. Use two details from the folktale to support your answer. (6 points)

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2. How is the fox's response different from what the hyena expected? (4 points)

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3. What is the fox really trying to say when he tells the hyena, "I didn't want to enter a place from which I wouldn't return"? (4 points)

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4. What did you learn about following the crowd from this story? (1 point)

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# Folktales *(cont.)*

## Answer Key *(cont.)*

### Passage #9

1. This story teaches that when you act selfishly, you will eventually suffer. *(2 points)* The owl acted selfishly when he took the tiger lily *(2 points)*, but then the other animals punished him for doing it. *(2 points)*
2. He assumed he was the most beautiful bird *(1 point)*, and he stole the tiger lily. *(1 point)*
3. The owl can only see well at night. *(1 point)* The owl doesn't fly during the day. *(1 point)* The owl must live apart from the other birds. *(1 point)*
4. They would be trying to teach people not to steal *(2 points)* and not to act selfishly. *(2 points)*

### Passage #10

1. This folktale teaches that a true friend will not desert you even in the face of danger. *(2 points)* The bear tells this to the man on the ground. *(2 points)* The first man is not a true friend because he only thinks about his own safety and does nothing to help the man on the ground. *(2 points)*
2. He was probably afraid that the bear would kill him. *(1 point)* He thought that he would be safer up a tree than on the ground. *(1 point)*
3. He couldn't fight the bear alone. *(1 point)* He didn't want the bear to eat him. *(1 point)* He pretended to be dead because he had heard that a bear will not eat a dead body. *(2 points)*
4. He would have tried to defend himself and his friend. *(2 points)* Perhaps together they could have driven the bear off. *(1 point)*

### Passage #11

1. This story teaches that sometimes others say charming things just to get something from you. *(2 points)* In the conversation between a bull and a panther, the panther tells the bull that he is beautiful except that his horns ruin his appearance. *(2 points)* In truth, the panther just wants the bull to get rid of the horns so he can attack and eat him. *(2 points)*
2. The panther wanted to charm the bull into thinking that he would look better without horns so that the bull would get rid of his horns. *(2 points)* The panther wanted the bull to have no horns because the panther was afraid of being injured by them. *(1 point)*
3. The panther said they ruined his appearance *(1 point)* and the bull believed the panther. *(1 point)* The bull wanted to be better-looking. *(1 point)*
4. The bull should have ignored the panther's comments. *(1 point)* The bull should have realized that he looks the way a bull is supposed to look. *(2 points)*

### Passage #12

1. This folktale teaches that just because everyone else is doing something, doesn't make it the right thing to do. *(2 points)* All the other animals are visiting the lion, and the fox is pressured by the hyena to visit, too. *(2 points)* The fox wisely refuses because he realizes that the animals are being eaten by the lion. *(2 points)*
2. The hyena expects the fox to apologize *(1 point)* and go to see the lion immediately *(1 point)*. Instead, the fox tells the hyena that he knows that the sick lion is up to something. *(2 points)*
3. The fox really means that he doesn't want to end up as the lion's meal. *(2 points)* He is telling the hyena that he has figured out the lion's evil plan. *(2 points)*
4. I learned that following the crowd can be dangerous. *(1 point)*