Unit 4 Skill Focus: Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes

Unit 4 Theme: Fables

Who Was Aesop?
Aesop’s fables are known and loved around the world. Yet very little is known about the man who told these stories. Aesop is thought to have been a slave in ancient Greece. He was born more than 2,500 years ago, in about 620 BCE. Aesop was a wise man. His master admired him for his wisdom. At that time, a master could free a slave whom he admired.

Aesop told stories because, in those days, very few people could read or write. When stories were good and well told, people would remember them and retell them. This is how they were passed along.

Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes
Combine information from a text with what is already known to build additional meaning.

The Tortoise and the Hare
Tortoise and Hare were friends who lived near a very big hill. Hare, with his long, strong legs, could run up the hill and then down again in sixty seconds. Tortoise, with his short, stubby legs, could not move very fast. It took him a very long time to get anywhere.

Hare always teased Tortoise about how slowly he walked. Tortoise was sick and tired of Hare’s teasing, so one day he challenged Hare to a race.

“This is a joke! You’ve got to be kidding,” Hare said with a laugh. “I can run circles around you. You’ll never beat me!”

“We’ll see,” said Tortoise.

Which animal should win the race?

The Ant and the Grasshopper
One summer day, a grasshopper was hopping around, chirping and singing to his heart’s content. An ant passed by, carrying a long kernel of wheat to his nest.

“Why not come and play with me instead of working so hard?” asked the grasshopper.

“I’m collecting food now,” said the ant. “I recommend that you do the same.”

“Why bother?” asked the grasshopper. “We have plenty of food at the moment!”

“Suit yourself,” replied the ant. The ant continued his work and the grasshopper leaped merrily away.

When winter came, the grasshopper had no food and was very hungry. I think I’ll pay a visit to that little ant, he thought. He probably has plenty of food.

When the ant saw the starving grasshopper, he felt sorry for him. “I will help you this time,” he said, “but next summer, you had better chirp, sing, and work!”
Skill Focus — Drawing Conclusions/ Predicting Outcomes

Will Tim and Juliana change their minds about wanting a puppy?
Ready, Set, Puppy!

You could say Aunt Gwen started it all.

At our annual family picnic, she announced that Daisy was going to have puppies.

She said, “If I can find some nice families, Daisy’s puppies will make perfect holiday presents.”

Tim and I looked at each other, and we both thought the same thing. Could there possibly be a nicer family than ours?

So Tim and I decided we would get a puppy. But there was a problem—two problems, really.

Mom and Dad.

We told Aunt Gwen to pick out the best puppy and save it for us.

She said, “Is this all right with your parents?”

I said, “We haven’t asked yet, but I know they’ll say yes.”

Aunt Gwen raised one eyebrow. “Well,” she said, “I’ll pick you out a puppy. And I’ll hold it for you. But your mom and dad must say it’s all right.”
First we tried begging. “Can we ppleaseeeeeeese have one of Daisy’s puppies? PLEEEEEEEEASE?”
We did that for about three days.

Then we tried crying. “We just *sniff* really *sniff*, really want a puppy *sniff, sniff*.”
With the help of cut-up onions, Tim and I cried real tears.
Onions are awful, so we only did that a few times.

Then we decided to show Mom and Dad that we could take care of our new dog.
Tim played the part of the puppy, and I played the part of the new dog owner.
I took the puppy for a walk, and I fed the puppy in the kitchen.

I even taught the puppy to bring Mom the newspaper, and to sit up and beg Dad for a treat.
And after a good laugh, Mom and Dad finally said . . . YES!
Our own puppy!
We called Aunt Gwen to tell her the good news, and she was excited, too.
About two weeks later, a huge box arrived at our house. Inside were forty-eight rolls of paper towels and a note.

May 3 2005

Dear Tim and Juliana,

Soon you will learn why they say that a dog is man’s best friend. You will also learn why these paper towels are man’s second-best friend. You will find them useful for cleaning up things like mud, slobber, and food drips—and that’s the pleasant stuff.

This little box will last you a few weeks. Probably.

With love,
Aunt Gwen

Tim laughed and laughed. So did I. But then I looked over at Mom and Dad.

They weren’t laughing. Not even a little bit.

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### Graphic Organizer and Questions

1. How do you know that Aunt Gwen has taken care of dogs before?
2. Do you think Tim and Juliana realize how hard it will be to take care of the puppy? Find details in the text to support your answer.
3. What if Tim and Juliana were about to get a kitten? Rewrite one of Aunt Gwen’s letters so it describes how to prepare for a new kitten.
4. Copy the chart below. Fill in the possible problems with caring for each pet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pet</th>
<th>Possible Problems</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bird</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rabbit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turtle</td>
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### Reading Comprehension Skills

- Sequencing
- Main Idea
- Compare and Contrast
- Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes
- Fact and Opinion
- Cause and Effect

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Note: These pages have been modified for ease of viewing and downloading. Actual size of reader: 5 in. x 8.25 in.