

THEME

Term 2, Weeks 5 and 6

8

Fabulous fables



Read

Before you read

1. Look at the picture. Why do you think the mice are having a meeting? Write a paragraph of 50 to 60 words about what you think their problem might be.
2. Scan the fable for word meanings.

Read

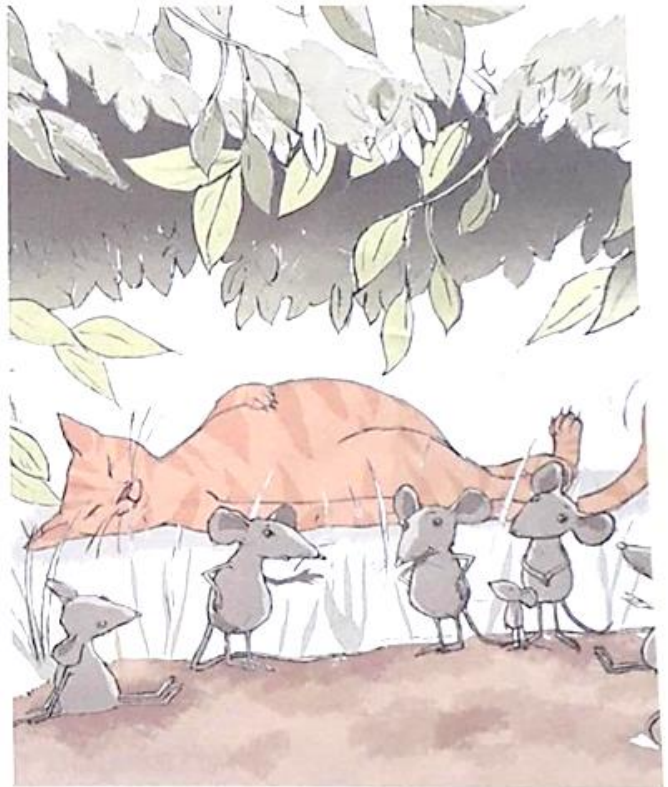
Read the fable.

The mice in council

Once upon a time, all the mice met together in council, and discussed the best way to protect themselves against the cat.

After several suggestions had been debated, a mouse of some standing got up and said, "I have a plan. We should fasten a bell around the neck of the cat to warn us when she is approaching."

All the mice thought the plan was brilliant and they all applauded. Then an old mouse got up and said, "I agree with you all that the plan is a good one, but who will put the bell on the cat?"



After you read

1. Find the words in the fable that mean the same as the words in bold in the sentences below:
 - a) The children **clapped their hands**.
 - b) They **argued** about how to catch a burglar.
 - c) They thought the mouse's plan was **excellent**.

Read

The main idea of a fable is called the moral of the story. The “moral” is the lesson we learn.

Read

Read the following story.



The north wind and the sun

The North Wind and the Sun were having an argument about who was stronger. They decided to have a competition to see who could get the coat off a passing traveller in the fastest time.

The North Wind tried first, and came whirling down on the man. The more the North Wind grabbed at the coat, the more tightly the man hung on to it, wrapping it round himself to stop it from blowing away.

Then the Sun had his turn. He beamed gently on the man, who soon undid the buttons of his coat. Then the sun shone with all his warmth and light. The man took off his coat and finished his journey, glad to be out in the sunshine.

After you read

1. Write the answers to the following questions:
 - a) Who was having a competition?
 - b) What were they trying to prove?
 - c) What did the North Wind do to try to get the coat off the man?
 - d) What did the Sun do to get the coat off the man?
 - e) What does the fable teach us about how people can achieve what they want?

Language practice

Verbs – regular and irregular

- Regular verbs change very little when they change from the present tense to the past tense or to a past participle. We just add -d or -ed or double the last letter and -ed.

For example:

bake – baked – had baked

knit – knitted – had knitted

- Irregular verbs change a lot when we change them from the present to the past tense or to a past participle.

For example:

break – broke – was broken

go – went – has gone

fly – flew – has flown

1. Rewrite this fable in the past tense. Underline all the regular verbs. Circle the irregular verbs.

A dog finds a bone and carries it home in his mouth. Then he crosses a bridge across a river.

He looks down and sees his reflection in the water beneath. "Another dog with a bigger bone," he thinks. He makes up his mind to have that bone too.

He snaps at the reflection in the water, but as he opens his mouth, the bone falls out, drops into the water and sinks out of reach.

2. Write what you think the moral of the fable is.



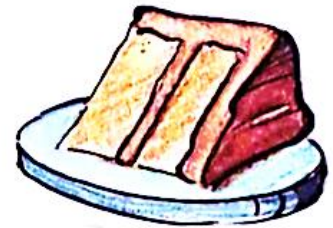
Language practice

Proverbs and Idioms

- **Proverbs** are well-known sayings that teach lessons about life.
- **Idioms** are expressions that have different meanings to the meanings of the separate words.

1. Match the proverbs and their meanings.

A	B
If the cap fits, wear it	Problems seldom happen one at a time
It never rains but it pours	The more you do something, the better you do it
Money doesn't grow on trees	If you want money you have to work for it
Practice makes perfect	Accept what people say about you if it is true



2. Match the idioms in Column A with the meanings in Column B.

A	B
A piece of cake	My favourite person
A slap on the wrist	To make matters worse
A drop in the bucket	A small punishment
It is Greek to me	Very little of what we need
Add fuel to the fire	Even better than you expect
Apple of my eye	I do not understand it at all
Icing on the cake	It is easy