

Name _____

attracted

fabric

honest

soared

dazzling

greed

requested

trudged

Use the context clues in each sentence to help you decide which vocabulary word fits best in the blank.

Flying high in the air, Eagle **soared** over the forest. Something drew his attention in the forest below and he flew down to see it. It was something colorful that had **attracted** him. When Eagle landed on the forest floor, he saw a splendid piece of cloth with bright, **dazzling** colors.

He knew that the cloth might belong to someone else, but he had always desired just such a scarf. **Greed** got the best of him, and he picked up the piece of **fabric**. Just then, Big Bear appeared, walking slowly toward Eagle. Big Bear **trudged** up next to him.

“Can you help me find my scarf?” Big Bear **requested**. At first, Eagle thought about hiding the scarf. But instead of lying, he decided to be **honest**. “Oh, well,” thought Eagle. He handed the scarf to Big Bear and flew away.

Name _____

Read the selection. Complete the theme graphic organizer.

Detail

Detail

Detail

Theme

Name _____

Read the passage. Use the ask and answer questions strategy to help you understand the folktale.

Anansi and His Children

13 Anansi was a spider who had six children, each with his or her
18 own special ability. The first child was named See Trouble, because
24 he could perceive trouble from far away. The next was Road Builder,
36 followed by River Drinker, Game Skinner, and Stone Thrower. The
46 last child was named Cushion, because he was so very soft. They
58 were all good children who loved Anansi.

65 Anansi was curious about the world and liked nothing more than to
77 travel. He loved to explore places far from home, but one day Anansi
90 became lost! Back at home, See Trouble knew at once what had
102 happened.

103 “Brothers and sisters!” said See Trouble. “Come quickly. Father is
113 lost. We must help him find his way back home.”

123 Road Builder stepped forward, strong and sure-handed. “I will
132 build a road that will lead us to our father,” Road Builder said, and
146 he began to construct a road. The other five children followed Road
158 Builder down the road as he worked. They trudged on and on until
171 finally they came to a mighty river. But, hard as they tried, they could
185 not see their father.

189 “Brothers and sisters,” See Trouble cried. “I know why we do not
201 see our father. He has been swallowed by Big Fish!”

211 “It’s a good thing I’m so thirsty,” said River Drinker as she walked
224 to the river’s edge and put her lips to the water. With gulp after
238 enormous gulp, she drank every drop of water in the river. There in
251 the mud sat Big Fish. Now it was Game Skinner’s turn to help. She cut
266 open Big Fish, and Anansi crawled out, free at last!

Name _____

But the danger was not over. Falcon swooped down from the sky, grabbed Anansi and soared into the clouds.

“Quickly, Stone Thrower!” yelled See Trouble. Taking careful aim, Stone Thrower hit Falcon with a stone. Anansi began to fall. Seeing this, Cushion ran to catch his father. Anansi landed on Cushion with a nice soft bounce, and Anansi was safe! The children cheered, happy to be with their father again.

On the way home, Anansi was attracted to something glowing in the woods. Always curious, he walked toward the glow and found something beautiful. It was a dazzling globe of light.

“Such a wonderful thing!” exclaimed Anansi. “I know just what I will do with it. I will give it to one of my children. But which one should I give it to?”

Seeking help, Anansi called to Nyame, who lived in the sky watching over all living things.

“I found this beautiful globe of light, Nyame. Will you hold it for me while I decide which child I should give it to?” Anansi asked.

“Gladly,” said Nyame, and she reached down carefully to take the globe in hand. As she did so, a soft light fell on the forest.

Anansi went to his children and told them about the ball of light. All night long they argued over which one should receive the gift. Nyame watched from above as the argument went on and on.

It seemed they would never make a decision. So Nyame came to a decision of her own. Instead of giving the globe back to Anansi, Nyame placed it high above for every living thing to see. And that is the story of how the moon came to live in the sky.



Name _____

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

Possible responses provided.

- 1. Pick one of Anansi’s children to write about. Write the name of the character and explain how he or she uses his or her ability to save Anansi.**

Answers will vary but should include one of Anansi’s childrens’ names and an accurate description of how the character uses his or her ability to save Anansi.

- 2. What is the decision Nyame comes to at the end of the story?**

She decides to put the moon in the sky for everyone to see.

- 3. What is one of the themes of this story?**

People can work together to help solve a problem by using their own special abilities.

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

	Words Read	–	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		–		=	
Second Read		–		=	

Name _____

The Tiger, the Brahmin, and the Jackal

The jackal said to the Brahmin, “I understand that you agreed to let the tiger free if the tiger agreed not to eat you.” He turned to the tiger. “And I understand that as soon as you were free, you said you would eat the Brahmin anyway. But I still can’t understand this cage here...”

The tiger snarled impatiently. “Foolish jackal! How many times do I have to explain it?” he said. He walked into the cage to demonstrate how it worked. As soon as he was inside, the jackal closed the door behind him and locked him in.

The jackal turned to the Brahmin. “I think you should leave this cage closed,” he said.

Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know this text is a folktale?

It uses animals to represent different characteristics.

2. What literary elements are included in a folktale?

symbolism; a lesson or message

3. Choose a character. What quality do you think this character symbolizes?

Possible response: The jackal symbolizes trickery.

4. What lesson do you think this folktale teaches?

Possible response: The lesson is to be careful whom you trust.

Name _____

Read each passage below. Write the root word and the definition of the word in bold.

1. Anansi was a spider who had six children, each with his or her own special **ability**.

Root word: ableDefinition: Possible response: talent or skill

2. “Such a **wonderful** thing!” exclaimed Anansi. “I know just what I will do with it. I will give it to one of my children. But which one should I give it to?”

Root word: wonderDefinition: Possible response: amazing, really good

3. “Gladly,” said Nyame, and she reached down **carefully** to take the globe in hand.

Root word: careDefinition: Possible response: gently

4. Nyame watched from above as the **argument** went on and on.

Root word: argueDefinition: Possible response: a fight

Name _____

A. Read each sentence. Circle the words that have prefixes. Then write the words with prefixes on the line.

1. I had to relearn the lesson because my answers were incorrect.

relearn, incorrect

2. The imperfect lock made it difficult to unchain the bike.

imperfect, unchain

3. I did not understand how his room could be so unclean and in such disorder!

unclean, disorder

4. The unhappy customer had to repeat that his meal was uncooked.

unhappy, uncooked

5. The shirt was an irregular shape and caused discomfort.

irregular, discomfort

B. Write the correct *-ed* and *-ing* forms for each verb.

Verb	Verb + <i>ed</i>	Verb + <i>ing</i>
1. flap	<u>flapped</u>	<u>flapping</u>
2. drag	<u>dragged</u>	<u>dragging</u>
3. grin	<u>grinned</u>	<u>grinning</u>
4. scrub	<u>scrubbed</u>	<u>scrubbing</u>
5. admit	<u>admitted</u>	<u>admitting</u>

Name _____

Evidence is details and examples from a text that support a writer’s ideas. The student who wrote the paragraph below cited evidence to show how well the author used the characters’ words and actions to communicate the message or theme of the story.

Topic sentence	→	In “The Tiger, the Brahmin, and the Jackal,” I think the author does a good job of communicating the message of the story.
Evidence	→	A Brahmin lets a tiger out of a cage because the tiger promises not to eat him. Once the tiger is free he says he will eat the Brahmin. A jackal tricks the tiger into walking back into the cage. The message of the story is to
Concluding statement	→	not trust your enemies. I think the author did a good job of communicating the message of the story because each character and event helped me to understand the theme.

Write a paragraph about the text you have chosen. Cite evidence from the text that shows how the author communicates the theme or message through the characters and events. Remember to include strong evidence that supports your opinion and to use correct capitalization and proper nouns.

Write a topic sentence: _____

Cite evidence from the text: _____

Answers will vary but should include a topic sentence, evidence from the text, and a concluding statement. Details and examples from the text should support the writer’s opinion about how well the author communicated the theme. Answers should include evidence that supports the writer’s opinion and use correct capitalization and proper nouns.

End with a concluding statement: _____

Name _____

A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about how you can create a strong opening by adding details.

Draft Model

A man met a fox. The fox asked the man for help. The man had to decide if he wanted to help the fox. Both the fox and the man waited while the man decided if he would help the fox.

1. Who is the man? Where does he meet the fox?
2. What is the problem that the fox has?
3. What details would explain how the man could help the fox?
4. Why is the man trying to decide if he will help the fox?

B. Now revise the draft by creating a strong opening by adding details.

Answers will vary but should include a strong opening with added details.
