

## Assignment 3

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following fairy tale. As you read, think about what lesson the story is trying to teach. Answer the questions.

### The Country Mouse and the Town Mouse

Once upon a time ... a town mouse, on a trip to the country, met a country mouse. They spent the day together and became friends. The country mouse took his new friend into the meadows and vegetable gardens, making him sample all the good things of the land. Never having seen the beauties of the countryside, the town mouse was thrilled, though the country mouse's plain food wasn't nearly as fine as his own usual meals. To thank his friend for the lovely outing, he invited the country mouse to visit him in the town. And when the country mouse saw the pantry at his friend's house, full of hams, cheese, oil, flour, honey, jam and stacks of other goodies, he stood speechless with surprise.

"I've never seen anything like it! Are all those wonderful things for eating?"

"Of course!" came the reply. "You're my guest, so tuck in!" They began to feast, while the country mouse tried not to stuff himself. He wanted to taste everything before finding his tummy full.

"You're the luckiest mouse I've ever met!" said the country mouse to his town brother. The town mouse was listening with delight to his friend's praise, when suddenly, the sound of heavy footsteps interrupted their feast.

"Run for it!" whispered the town mouse to his friend. They were just in time; for within an inch of them stood the lady of the house's large foot. Luckily, the lady went away and the two mice returned to enjoy their meal, so rudely interrupted.

"It's all right! Come on!" said the town mouse. "Don't worry. She's gone. Now for the honey! It's delicious. Have you ever tasted it?"

"Yes, once, a long time ago," the country mouse lied, trying to sound casual. But when he tasted it, he exclaimed, "Scrumptious! By the King of Mice! I've never eaten anything so lovely in all my life!"

Suddenly there came the sound of footsteps, this time thumping heavily. The two mice fled. The man of the house had come to fetch some bottles, and when he saw the spilt honey, he groaned, "Those ghastly mice again! I thought I've got rid of them. I'll send the cat!" Trembling with terror, the mice hid away. This time it was not only the sudden visit that had given them a fright, it was the man's awful words. The mice were so scared, they held their breath, making no sound. Then, since all remained quiet, they began to feel braver, and picked up enough courage to leave their hidey-hole.

"We can come out now! There's nobody here!" the town mouse whispered.

Suddenly, the pantry door creaked, and the two luckless mice froze in fear. Out of the dim light glowed a pair of horrid yellow eyes. A large cat was staring round the room in search of its prey. The country mouse and the town mouse tiptoed silently back to their hidey-hole. They wished their pounding hearts would stop beating, for fear of the cat hearing the noise they made. But, as luck would have it, the cat discovered a juicy sausage. Forgetting why his master had sent him into the pantry, he stopped to eat it. No longer hungry after that, the cat decided that he might as well leave mouse-hunting for another day. Off he padded, to have forty winks elsewhere.

Now, as soon as the country mouse realized that all danger was past, he did not lose a second. He hastily shook hands with his friend, saying, "Thanks so much for everything! But I must rush off now! I can't stand all these shocks and scares! I'd far rather sit down to a plain meal of a few acorn in peace in the country than face a great spread of delicious food surrounded by dangers on all sides!"

1. What "life lesson" is this fairy tale trying to teach?

2. Why do you think each mouse preferred his own home?

City Mouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Country Mouse: \_\_\_\_\_