

Reading comprehension

A FABLE: THE MAN, THE BOY AND THE DONKEY

Read this fable (a story containing a lesson), then answer the questions.

The Man, the Boy, and the Donkey

A man and his son were taking their donkey to market. As they walked along by its side, a countryman passed and said, "You fools, what is a donkey for but to ride upon?" So the man put the boy on the donkey, and they went on their way.

Soon, they passed a group of men. One said, "See that lazy boy. He lets his father walk while he rides."



The man took his son off and climbed on himself. They hadn't gone far when they passed two women. One said to the other, "Shame on that lazy lout to let his poor son trudge along."

The man didn't know what to do, so he pulled his son up beside him on the donkey. When they reached the town, the people laughed and pointed at them. The man asked what they were laughing at.

The people said, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself for overloading that poor donkey of yours – you and your son?"

So they both got off and wondered what to do. They cut down a pole and tied the donkey's feet to it. Then they raised the pole and the donkey to their shoulders. They staggered along until they came to a bridge. The donkey, getting one of its feet loose, kicked out and caused the boy to drop his end of the pole. In the struggle the donkey fell over the bridge, and was drowned.

The old man and his son, feeling sad, made their way home, thinking: "When we try to please everybody, we please nobody."

1 Who called the man and his son fools?

2 Who was the first one to sit on the donkey?

3 What word did the group of men use to describe the boy?

4 Who did the man and his son see after the group of men?

5 Where were they when people laughed and pointed at them?

6 What word tells you the man and his son found it hard to carry the donkey?

7 What happened to the donkey at the end?

8 What lesson did the man and his son learn?



Grammar

Write out the sentences below using capital letters and full stops. (Remember: names need capital letters.)

1 axel firestone is a caveboy

.....

2 axel has a baby sister called tuft

.....

3 his mum and dad are called flame and ash

.....

4 they all live together in a cave

.....

Using an apostrophe for contraction

Use the contractions in the rocks to complete the sentences.



Dusk told Axel what she was going to do.

- 1 (It is) too far to walk back with these heavy baskets.
- 2 (I have) got a plan.
- 3 (I am) going back to get help.
- 4 We (cannot) both go back.
- 5 So (you are) going to stay here.
- 6 (Do not) move from this spot.

Writing



What would your name be?

What would be your super power?

How would you use your super power?

What adventures/missions would you complete if you were a superhero?

Can you try and use:

- *capital letters for names (Wonderful Wilcox)
- * a pattern of 3 for description (e.g. I would be cool, fast and stylish)
- * similes (as fast as lightning)
- * adventurous adjectives (treacherous)
- * commas in a list (save people, complete missions, make people smile and give the best hugs)
- * subordinating conjunctions (as, until, when, if, that, because)
- * coordinating conjunctions (or, and, but, so)
- * exclamation marks (what a fantastic superhero I would be!)
