



Assessments will contain selected response items as well as writing prompts.

adapted from **"The Cobbler and the Rich Man"**

by Lida Brown McMurry

- 1 A **cobbler** worked in his shop from morning until night. As he worked he sang. Tired people who heard him were rested. Sad men and women were cheered as they came near the shop. Children visited him. They watched him at his work and heard him sing. They called him "Jolly Gregory."
- 2 "How can he sing when he works so hard and makes so little?" many asked. But still his singing went on.
- 3 Across the road from the cobbler lived a rich man. His home was beautiful, his clothes fine, and his **fare** the best that money could buy. But never in his life had he been known to give to anyone who needed help. He was really tired, for he **lacked** one thing which he very much wanted—sleep. Sometimes he could not get to sleep until early morning. Then his neighbor's song would waken him. He wished that sleep could be bought for money.



- 4 One day he said to himself, "I believe I will help that cobbler over the way. He has a hard time to make enough money to buy his food and clothes." So he sent for the cobbler.
- 5 "Jolly Gregory," he said, "how much do you earn in a year?"
- 6 "How much a year?" replied the cobbler, scratching his head. "I never **reckon** my money in that way. It goes as fast as it comes, but I am glad to be able to earn it. I cobble on from day to day and earn a living."
- 7 "Well then, Gregory, how much do you earn each day?" asked the rich man.
- 8 "Why, sometimes more and sometimes less," answered the cobbler. "On many days—the holidays—I earn nothing. I wish there were fewer of these; but then we manage to live."

Glossary

cobbler—a person who makes or fixes shoes

fare—food

lacked—needed

reckon—think of

- 9 "You are a happy man now," said the rich man, "but I will make you happier." He handed the cobbler five hundred dollars. "Go spend this money carefully. It will supply your needs for many days," he said.
- 10 The cobbler had never dreamed of so much money before. He thought it was enough to keep him in food and clothes all his life.
- 11 He took the money home and hid it, but he hid his joy with it. He stopped singing and became sad. He could not sleep for fear of robbers. He thought that everyone who came into his shop was trying to find out his secret, or wished a gift. When a cat ran over the floor, he thought a thief had slipped through the door.
- 12 At last, poor man, he could bear it no longer. He took the money, and hurried to the rich man. He cried, "Oh, give me back my songs and my sweet sleep! Here is your money, every cent of it. I made a poor trade."
- 13 The rich man looked at him and said, "I thought I had made you happy. I have not missed your songs, for, strange as it may seem, I have been sleeping soundly ever since I talked with you."

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Part A

1. What is the lesson of the passage?

- A The best way to keep money safe is to put it in the bank.
- B People can help their neighbors by not making too much noise.
- C It is important to get enough sleep every night.
- D It takes more than money to bring a person happiness.

Part B

2. Which quotation from the passage *best* supports the answer in Part A?

- A "As he worked he sang. Tired people who heard him were rested." (paragraph 1)
- B "But never in his life had he been known to give to anyone who needed help." (paragraph 3)
- C "He was really tired, for he lacked one thing which he very much wanted—sleep. Sometimes he could not get to sleep until early morning. Then his neighbor's song would waken him." (paragraph 3)
- D "He took the money, and hurried to the rich man. He cried, 'Oh, give me back my songs and my sweet sleep! Here is your money, every cent of it. I made a poor trade.'" (paragraph 12)

Part A

3. What is the meaning of the phrase “makes so little” in paragraph 2?

- A** The cobbler is only able to work on a small number of shoes each day.
- B** The cobbler works only on small children’s shoes.
- C** The cobbler earns a small amount of money from his job fixing shoes.
- D** The cobbler makes shoes that feel too small.

Part B

4. Which quotation from the passage *best* supports the answer in Part A?

- A** “Sad men and women were cheered as they came near the shop.” (paragraph 1)
- B** “Children visited him. They watched him at his work and heard him sing.” (paragraph 1)
- C** “He was really tired, for he lacked one thing which he very much wanted—sleep.” (paragraph 3)
- D** ““On many days—the holidays—I earn nothing. I wish there were fewer of these; but then we manage to live.”” (paragraph 8)

5. Which word describes the cobbler at the beginning of the passage?

- A** funny
- B** glad
- C** greedy
- D** sleepy

6. What caused the rich man to give money to the cobbler?

- A** The rich man liked to give his money away to others.
- B** The rich man wanted to pay the cobbler for fixing his shoes.
- C** The rich man needed to get rid of his money because people were trying to steal it.
- D** The rich man wanted to buy sleep by giving the cobbler money to keep him from singing.

7. Which *two* quotations from the passage show how the cobbler changed after receiving the money?

- A "“You are a happy man now,’ said the rich man, ‘but I will make you happier.’” (paragraph 9)
- B “He handed the cobbler five hundred dollars.” (paragraph 9)
- C “The cobbler had never dreamed of so much money before.” (paragraph 10)
- D “He took the money home and hid it, but he hid his joy with it.” (paragraph 11)
- E “He stopped singing and became sad.” (paragraph 11)

8. Read the sentence from paragraph 6.

“It goes as fast as it comes, but I am glad to be able to earn it.”

What does the phrase “it goes as fast as it comes” mean?

- A The cobbler does not have money because someone is stealing it.
- B The cobbler does not make money because he does his work for free.
- C The cobbler saves all of his money in the bank in town.
- D The cobbler spends the small amount of money that he makes quickly.

9. What can the reader conclude about the cobbler from paragraphs 11-13?

- A The cobbler enjoyed having enough money for food and clothes.
- B The cobbler wanted to get more money because he did not have enough.
- C The cobbler enjoyed being able to relax instead of working so hard.
- D The cobbler wanted to return to his old way of life.

Writing Prompt

Writing prompts for language arts will be scored by teachers in each school/district using rubrics and/or scoring guides provided by Instructure.

You have read the passage from “The Cobbler and the Rich Man” about a poor cobbler who receives money from a rich man. Explain how the lives of both men change as a result of the rich man giving money to the cobbler. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Editing

10. Read the sentence.

Eleanor Roosevelt was one of the more importanter women in history.

Which change, if any, is needed to the underlined text?

- A importanter
- B importantest
- C most important
- D No change

11. Read the sentence.

Barry could not open the lid, yet he decided not to eat the crackers.

Which change, if any, is needed to the underlined text?

- A lid, but
- B lid, or
- C lid, so
- D No change

12. Read the sentence.

Danny sent a letter in the mail to his grandma.

Which change, if any, is needed to the underlined text?

- A send
- B sended
- C sented
- D No change