Name: _____ Date: _____

The Wolf and the Crane

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 235 words

The wolf gobbled his supper far too quickly. Suddenly a bone stuck fast in his throat.

He coughed and gagged and hopped around on one foot. The bone would not come out, however hard he tried.

Just then a crane came walking along beside the river. She had long skinny legs and a long skinny bill.

"Please help me!" croaked the wolf. "Your bill is long enough to reach it. Pull it out, and I will reward you."

The crane did not like the wolf very much. But she did not like to see anybody choking.

"Open wide," she said carefully. The wolf opened his mouth as wide as he could.

She stretched her neck and slid her head inside. It was dark and warm and terribly smelly.

She felt around gently with her bill. At last she found the bone and pulled it out.

The wolf swallowed and coughed and breathed deeply. "Ahh," he said. "That is so much better."

The crane stepped back politely. "Now," she said, "what about my payment?"

"Payment?" said the wolf. He showed his sharp teeth in a terrible grin.

"You put your head in a wolf's mouth. Then you took it out again! You should be grateful."

The crane said nothing at all. She turned and walked away. She never looked back.

When the wolf called again, the crane kept on walking. She did not even turn around.

Questions

1. What was stuck in the wolf's throat?

A. A bone
B. A twig
C. A stone

2. What did the crane ask for?

A. A place to sleep
B. Her payment
C. A song

3. Why did the crane walk away without a word?

A. The wolf had no thanks to give

B. She was in a hurry

C. She was afraid of the dark

4. What does "gobbled" mean in this story?

A. Ate slowly

B. Cooked

C. Ate too fast

5. What does this fable show?

A. Wolves are good at hopping

B. Do not expect thanks from unkind people

C. Cranes are shy

Words to know

croaked: spoke hoarsely

gobbled: ate too fast

crane: tall wading bird

choking: unable to breathe

payment: reward

grin: big smile

Answer key: The Wolf and the Crane

1. A. A bone
2. B. Her payment
3. A. The wolf had no thanks to give
4. C. Ate too fast
5. B. Do not expect thanks from unkind people