

Coyote and the Rolling Rock

One beautiful spring day Coyote and Fox were out for a walk when they came to a big, smooth rock. Coyote threw his blanket over it, and they sat down to rest. Soon, the sun got very hot, and Coyote said to Rock, "Brother, you may take my blanket because you are poor and have let me rest on you. Always keep it."

Then Coyote and Fox went on their way. They had not gone far when the sky filled with dark clouds, and rain began to fall. The only shelter they could find was in a shallow streambed. Coyote said to Fox, "Go back to Rock and ask him to lend us the blanket. We can cover ourselves and keep dry."

Fox did as Coyote had asked, but Rock said, "No. He gave it to me as a present."

"Well," said Coyote when he heard, "Rock is certainly ungrateful." He grew angry and went back and snatched the blanket off Rock. "I need this to keep dry. You have been out in the rain and snow all your life. It won't hurt you to be without my blanket."

When the sun came out, they began their walk again. After a while they heard a loud noise. "Fox, little brother," said Coyote, "go back and see what is making that noise."

Fox went to the top of the hill and soon came running down. "Run," he shouted, "Rock is coming!" Coyote looked back. Rock had rolled over the hilltop and was rushing down upon them. Fox quickly jumped into a badger hole.

Coyote raced madly down the hill and leaped into the raging river. He knew he was safe because rocks sink in water. But when Rock splashed into the river, it began swimming.

Reading Comprehension

1. How do you know that this folktale is mostly make-believe?
 - A. A coyote and fox can't talk.
 - B. The setting is not real.
 - C. A coyote and fox can't go for a walk.
 - D. A coyote and fox are not real animals.
2. Which of these could really happen?
 - A. Coyote rests next to a rock.
 - B. A rock talks.
 - C. Coyote carries a blanket.
 - D. Fox does what Coyote asks him to.
3. Which of these is make-believe?
 - A. It is a beautiful spring day.
 - B. The sky fills with dark clouds.
 - C. Fox jumps into a badger hole.
 - D. A rock splashes into the river and starts swimming.
4. What do you think Coyote does next?
 - A. He cries for his mommy.
 - B. He tries to get other animals to stop Rock.
 - C. He apologizes to Rock.
 - D. He gives up.

From "The Children's Hour"

Between the dark and the daylight,
When the night is beginning to lower,
Comes a pause in the day's occupations,
That is known as the Children's Hour.

...

A sudden rush from the stairway,
A sudden raid from the hall!
By three doors left unguarded
They enter my castle wall!

They climb up into my turret
O'er the arms and back of my chair;
If I try to escape, they surround me;
They seem to be everywhere.

...

I have you fast in my fortress,
And will not let you depart,
But put you down into the dungeons
In the round-tower of my heart.

And there I will keep you forever,
Yes, forever and a day,
Till the walls shall crumble to ruin,
And moulder in dust away!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Reading Comprehension

1. In stanza one, "between the dark and the daylight" probably means
 - A. right before you go to sleep.
 - B. after dinner.
 - C. just before it gets dark.
2. In stanza three, *turret* means "little tower." What does it probably refer to?
 - A. "the arms and back"
 - B. "my chair"
 - C. "me"
3. The last stanza is about
 - A. keeping something until you die.
 - B. crumbling walls.
 - C. what it's like to be in prison.
4. Longfellow's poem is about a father's love for his children. It playfully compares this love to
 - A. the night.
 - B. his children.
 - C. a castle.
5. We typically spell the word *moulder* from stanza five as *molder*. Look the word up in a dictionary. Write the definition below:

