

The Fox and the Crow

by Aesop

This text is from "Aesop's Fables."



One bright morning as the Fox was following his sharp nose through the wood in search of a bite to eat, he saw a Crow on the limb of a tree overhead. This was by no means the first Crow the Fox had ever seen. What caught his attention this time and made him stop for a second look, was that the lucky Crow held a bit of cheese in her beak.

"No need to search any farther," thought sly Master Fox. "Here is a dainty bite for my breakfast."

Up he trotted to the foot of the tree in which the Crow was sitting, and looking up admiringly, he cried, "Good-morning, beautiful creature!"

The Crow, her head cocked on one side, watched the Fox suspiciously. But she kept her beak tightly closed on the cheese and did not return his greeting.

"What a charming creature she is!" said the Fox. "How her feathers shine! What a beautiful form and what splendid wings! Such a wonderful Bird should have a very lovely voice, since everything else about her is so perfect. Could she sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."

Listening to these flattering words, the Crow forgot all her suspicion, and also her breakfast. She wanted very much to be called Queen of Birds. So she opened her beak wide to utter her loudest caw, and down fell the cheese straight into the Fox's open mouth.

"Thank you," said Master Fox sweetly, as he walked off. "Though it is cracked, you have a voice sure enough. But where are your wits?"

The flatterer lives at the expense of those who will listen to him.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What animal does the Fox see on the limb of a tree?
 - A. a Dove
 - B. an Eagle
 - C. a Crow
 - D. a Blue Jay

2. The most exciting or important part of a story is the climax. What is the climax of this story?
 - A. The Fox trots to the tree in which the Crow is sitting.
 - B. The Crow keeps her beak closed on the cheese and does not return the Fox's greeting.
 - C. The Fox says that he will hail the Crow as the Queen of Birds if she sings.
 - D. The cheese falls from the Crow's beak into the Fox's mouth.

3. The Crow does not trust the Fox at first. What evidence in the text supports this statement?
 - A. The Crow does not return the Fox's greeting.
 - B. The Fox tells the Crow that she has splendid wings.
 - C. The Crow opens her beak wide to utter her loudest caw.
 - D. The Crow wants to be called the Queen of Birds.

4. The Fox compliments the Crow only because he wants the cheese. What evidence in the text supports this conclusion?
 - A. The Fox tells the Crow that she has a beautiful form and splendid wings.
 - B. The Fox says that he will hail the Crow as Queen of Birds if she sings a song.
 - C. When the Crow opens her beak, the cheese falls out of it.
 - D. The Fox stops complimenting the Crow after he gets the cheese.

5. What is the theme of this story?

- A. Crows are easier to take care of than Foxes are.
- B. Getting a lot of praise can lead you to do something foolish.
- C. If you have more food than you can finish on your own, you should share it.
- D. One act of kindness often leads to another.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"What a charming creature she is!" said the Fox. "How her feathers shine! What a beautiful form and what splendid wings! Such a wonderful Bird should have a very lovely voice, since everything else about her is so perfect. Could she sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."

Listening to these flattering words, the Crow forgot all her suspicion, and also her breakfast."

Based on this evidence, what are "flattering words"?

- A. insults and rude names
- B. compliments and praise
- C. suggestions and advice
- D. warnings and alerts

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"What a charming creature she is!" said the Fox. "How her feathers shine! What a beautiful form and what splendid wings! Such a wonderful Bird should have a very lovely voice, since everything else about her is so perfect. Could she sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."

How could the last sentence be rewritten without changing its meaning?

- A. "If she could sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."
- B. "Before she could sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."
- C. "Never could she sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."
- D. "Could she sing just one song instead, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."

8. What happens to the cheese when the Crow opens her beak?

9. Explain why the Crow opens her beak.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Explain whether the Fox or the Crow is more responsible for the Crow losing the cheese.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.