

My Own Self

Origin: England

In a tiny house in the North Country, far away from any town or village, a poor widow lived all alone with her little six-year-old son.

The widow did not care to stay up late. So, when they had had their supper she would make up a good fire and go off to bed.

This, however, was far too early to please her little son. When she called him to bed, he would go on playing beside the fire, as if he did not hear her. He had always been bad since the day he was born. The more his mother tried to make him obey her, the less he listened. So, it usually ended by him getting his way.

But one night, just at the end of winter, the widow did not want to leave him playing by the fireside. The wind was tugging at the door, and rattling the window-panes. She knew that on such a night, fairies were bound to be out and about looking for mischief. She tried to coax the boy into going at once to bed.

The more she begged and scolded, the more he shook his head. At last, she lost patience and cried that the fairies would surely come and take him. He only laughed and said he wished they would. He would like to play with fairies.

His mother burst into tears, and went off to bed in despair, certain that something dreadful would happen. Her naughty little son sat on his stool by the fire, not caring about her crying.

He had not been sitting long, when he heard a fluttering sound near him in the chimney. The tiniest little girl dropped down by his side. She had hair like spun silver, eyes as green as grass, and cheeks red as June roses. The little boy looked at her with surprise.

"Oh!" he said, "what do they call ye?"

"My own self," she said in a shrill but sweet little voice. She looked at him. "What do they call ye?"

"Just my own self too!" he answered cautiously. Then they began to play together.



She showed him some games and she made animals and people out of the ashes that came alive. But the fire was getting low, and the light dim. The little boy stirred the coals with a stick to make them blaze when out jumped a red-hot cinder that jumped on the fairy child's tiny foot.

She squealed so loudly, that the boy dropped the stick, and clapped his hands to his ears. It was like all the wind in the world whistling through one tiny keyhole. Suddenly, there was a sound in the chimney again. This time, the little boy did not wait to see what it was. He bolted off to bed, where he hid under the blankets. He listened in fear.

A voice came from the chimney speaking sharply:

"Who's there, and what's wrong?" it said.

"It's my own self," sobbed the fairy-child, "and my foot's burnt sore. O-o-h!"

"Who did it?" said the voice angrily. This time it sounded nearer, and the boy, peeping from under the clothes, could see a white face looking out from the chimney-opening.

"Just my own self too!" said the fairy-child again.

"Then if ye did it your own self," cried the elf-mother shrilly, "what's the use in making all this fuss about it?" With that she stretched out a long thin arm, and caught the fairy girl by her ear. She shook her roughly and pulled her out of sight up the chimney.



The little boy lay awake a long time, listening, in case the fairy-mother should come back after all. The next evening after supper, his mother was surprised to find that he was willing to go to bed.

"He's taking a turn for the better at last!" she said to herself. But he was thinking just then that, when next a fairy came to play with him, he might not get off quite so easily as he had done this time.

Theme

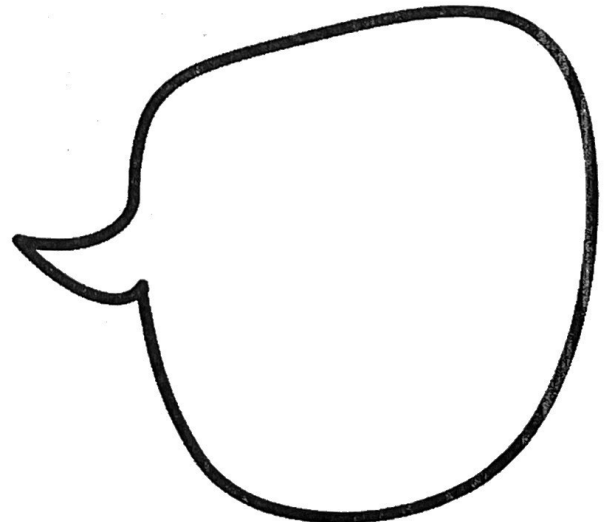
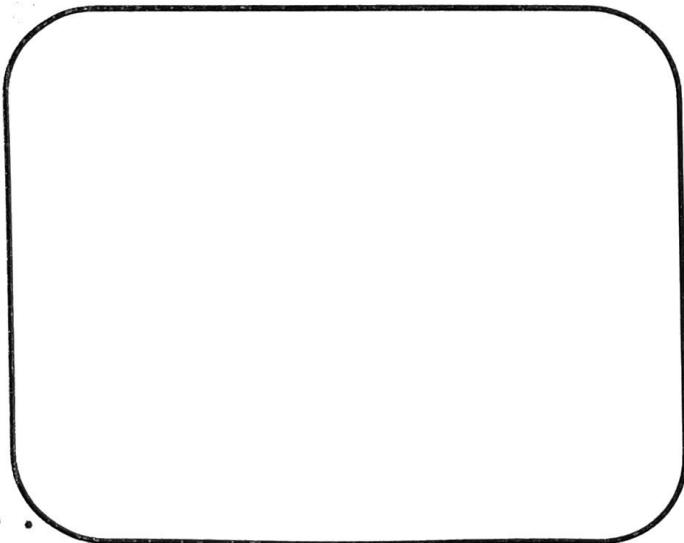
What is the problem or major event in the story?

How does the problem get resolved?

What lesson did the main character learn?

What lesson did you learn?

Describe the them in a word or short phrase.

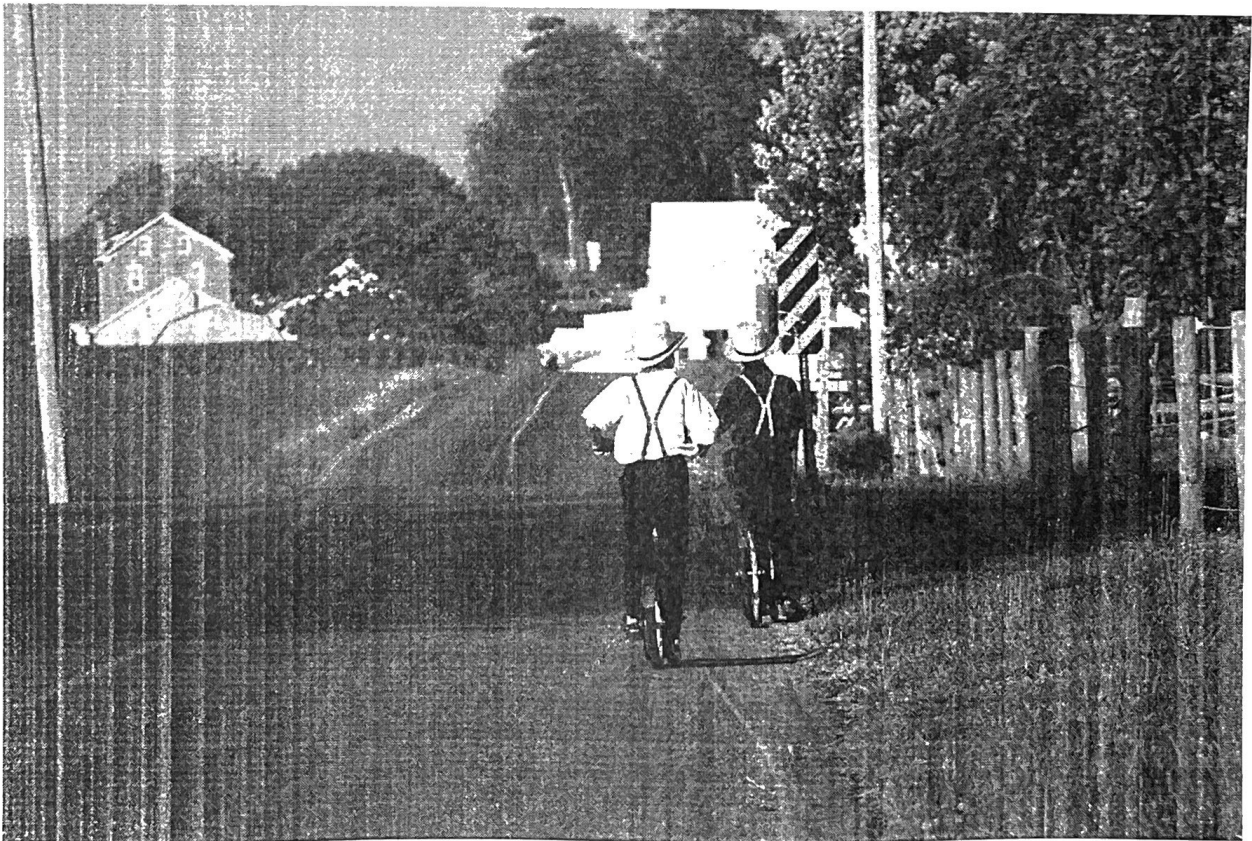


The Amish Way of Life

The Amish are a group of people living in America. They live very simply. The Amish speak their own language. Over 165,000 Amish live in the United States. 1,500 Amish live in Canada. The Amish population is growing. 80% of Amish people live in Pennsylvania.

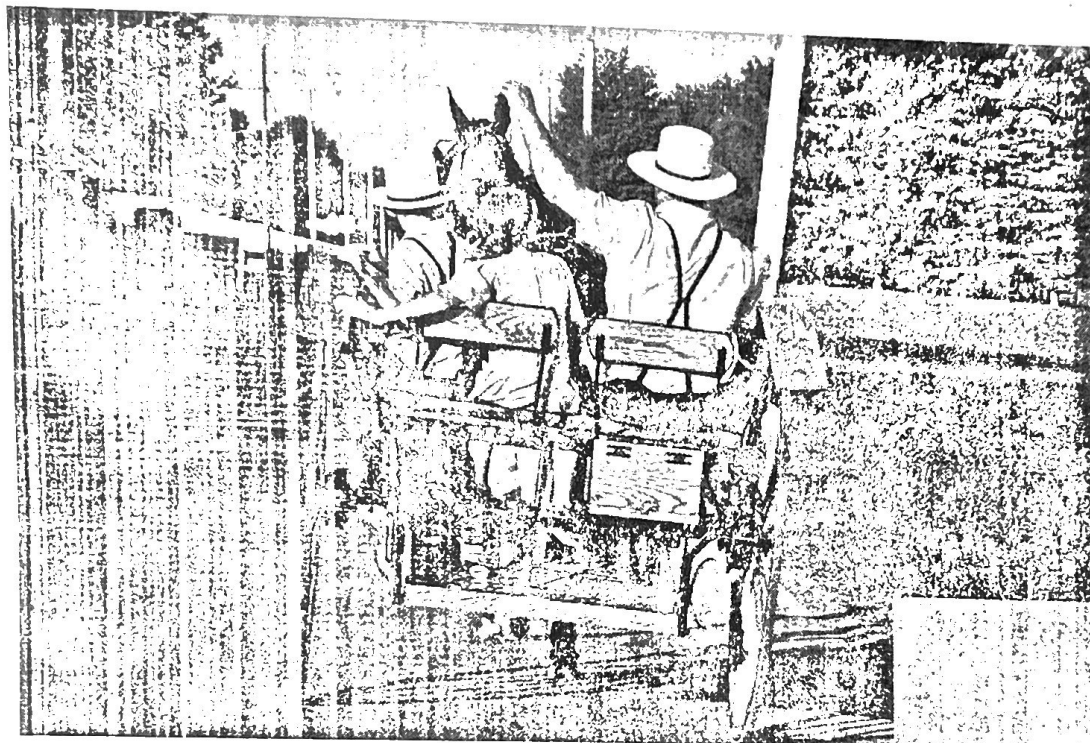
The Amish have strict rules. The church makes rules. Electricity, phones, and cars are not allowed. People use horses and buggies. Women wear long dresses with aprons. Men wear pants, shirts, and suspenders. They wear plain colors. People who do not follow rules are shunned. Being shunned means they are rejected by their community. They need to make up for their wrongdoings. Amish who do not make up for their wrongdoings are excommunicated. Excommunicated members are thrown out of their community.

The Amish community has their own schools. Many of these schools are one-room schoolhouses. A teacher teaches all ages in one classroom. Unmarried Amish women teach Amish schools. There are about 30 children in a class. Children learn English, reading, writing, math, and history. Children go to school until 8th grade. After, they help their family with household duties.



Amish women take care of their family. They also take care of the church and community. Amish women cook. They make and wash clothes. They help neighbors. Amish women follow their husbands. Amish men are often farmers. They grow crops and raise livestock. Amish use horses on their farms.

The Amish way of life is different from modern Americans. Despite this, the Amish thrive. They have a strong community. They take care of each other.



An Amish family on a buggy



An Amish woman

Topic, Main Idea, Details

Answer the following questions Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- a. Amish people
- b. Where Amish live
- c. Amish schools
- d. Amish rules

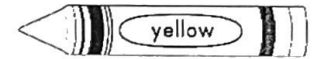


2. Which sentence best tells the main idea of this text?

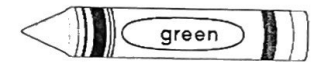
- a. The Amish have very strict rules.
- b. The Amish have very simple lives.
- c. The Amish focus their lives around their family and community.
- d. The Amish people have a different way of life from modern Americans.



3. What details helped you determine the main idea?

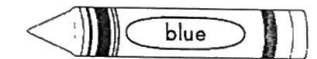


4. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?



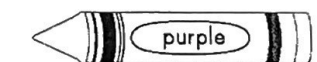
5. Which detail could the author add to paragraph 4 to support the main idea? (Choose all that apply).

- a. Some Amish men are carpenters.
- b. Amish children often walk to school.
- c. Amish women are responsible for caring for children.
- d. Amish people gather in their homes to practice their religion.



6. What is the main idea of paragraph 4?

- a. Amish men and women have different roles.
- b. The Amish community has their own schools.
- c. Amish women are responsible for their family.
- d. The Amish way of life is different than people who live in modern America.



The Frogs & The Ox

An ox came down to a reedy pool to drink. As he splashed heavily into the water, he crushed a young frog into the mud. The old frog soon missed the little one. She asked his brothers and sisters what had become of him.

"A *great big* monster stepped on little brother with one of his huge feet!" said one of them.

"Big, was he!" said the old frog, puffing herself up. "Was he as big as this?"

"Oh, *much* bigger!" they cried.

The frog puffed up still more.

"He could not have been bigger than this," she said. But the little frogs all declared that the monster was *much, much* bigger. The old frog kept puffing herself out more and more. All at once, she burst.

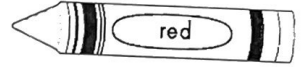


Do not attempt the impossible.

Theme

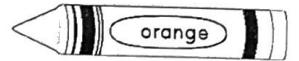
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What happened to the young frog?

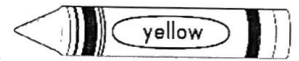


2. What was the *great big monster*?

- a. an ox
- b. a cow
- c. a big frog
- d. the brothers and sisters

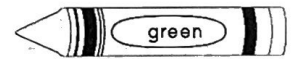


3. Why was the old frog puffing herself up?



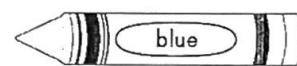
4. What happened to the old frog in the end?

- a. She burst out laughing.
- b. An ox crushed the old frog.
- c. She turned into the monster.
- d. She burst because she puffed up too much.

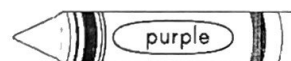


5. Which word could be used to describe the old frog?

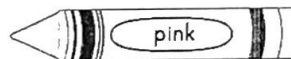
- a. mean
- b. selfish
- c. foolish
- d. greedy



6. What lesson does the author want to teach the reader?



7. Explain what the moral of this story means.



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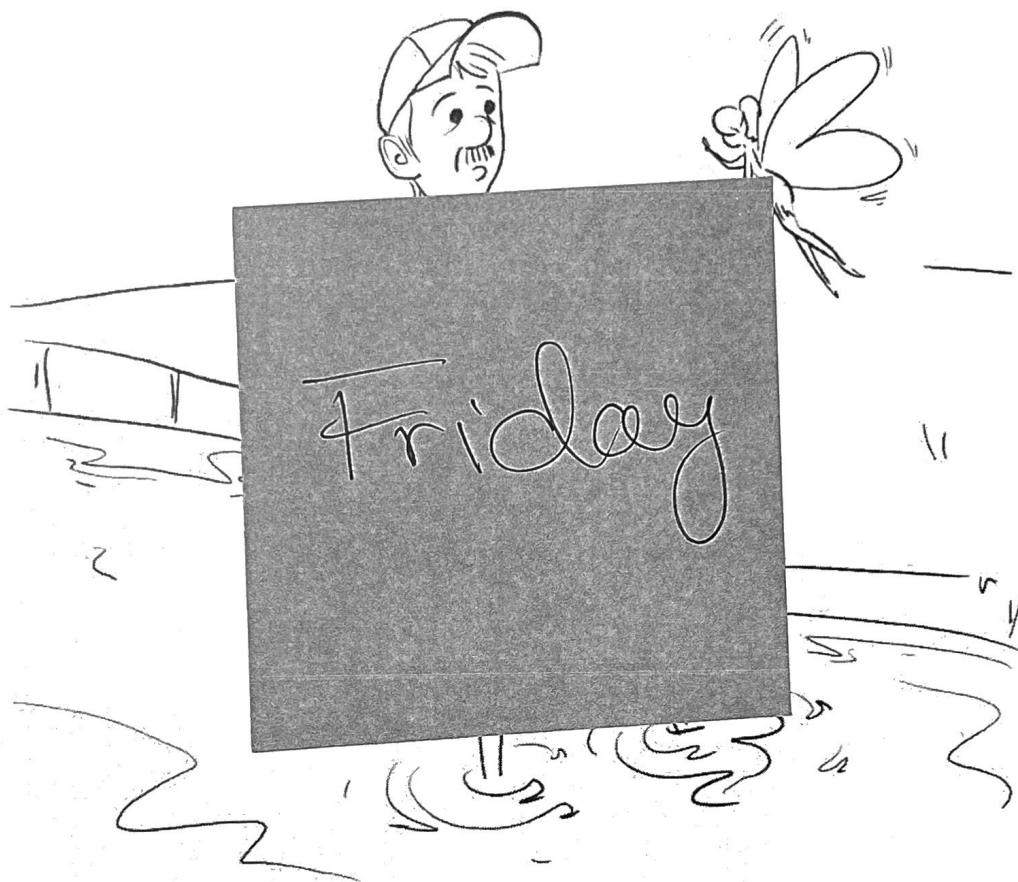
Theme

Name: _____

Date: Friday

Robert Roberts and the Fairies

Origin: Wales



Robert Roberts was a carpenter. He worked hard. But Robert couldn't keep his tongue still. One day he was crossing a brook. A little fairy came up to him. She said, "Robert Roberts, go up to the holly tree that leans over the road on the Red-hill. Dig below it. You shall be rewarded."

The next morning, Robert Roberts set out for the spot. He dug a big hole. He found a box of gold. Afterward, he went back twice. He found gold each time.

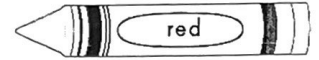
As he grew rich, he began to boast to others. One day he talked of the fairies. He said that he knew them well and that they gave him money. Robert Roberts thought no more of the matter.

He went to the spot a week afterward. He began to dig as usual. Big stones came rolling down the bank. The stones just missed him. He ran for his life. Robert never went near the place again.

Theme

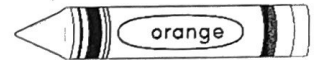
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. Why did the fairy approach Robert?



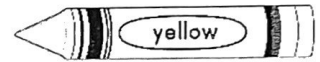
2. What happened to Robert when he dug in the spot the fairy told him to?

- a. Robert found gold and became rich.
- b. Robert found gold and became mean.
- c. Robert found stones instead of gold.
- d. Robert gave money to the little man.

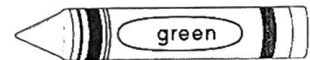


3. How could you describe Robert? Use text evidence to support your answer.

- a. giving
- b. helpful
- c. showoff
- d. adventurous

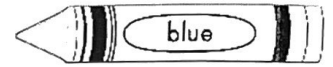


4. Explain the mistake that Robert made in the story.

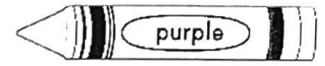


Theme

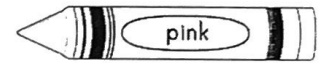
5. What happened to Robert the last time he went to dig a hole?



6. Why didn't Robert return to the spot where he dug the holes?



7. Why didn't Robert find gold the last time he dug?



8. What is the lesson in this story? Use text evidence to support your answer.

- a. Keep all of your riches to yourself.
- b. Money does not always bring happiness.
- c. Fairies can be found in the most unusual places.
- d. Do not brag to others about your good fortune.
