

## Lesson #4

### The Fox, the Bear, and the Butter Jar

Fox and Bear lived together in an abandoned house in the woods. One winter morning, Bear found a big clay jar full of butter under a shelf in the pantry. Bear, who loved butter, was thrilled, and he showed the jar to Fox. The two friends decided to save the butter until the first day of spring.

Now, Fox couldn't stop thinking about the delicious butter. Being a cunning fellow, he crafted a plan to get Bear out of the house, so he could taste the butter. After a meager supper of dry bread and green berries, Fox suddenly pretended to hear someone calling him. He rushed to the door and told Bear he was going on a picnic. Instead, Fox hid behind a tree and waited. Bear decided it was safe to go out, with Fox gone on a picnic and the butter jar safely hidden, so off he went on his evening walk. When Bear was out of sight, Fox crept home, slipped into the pantry, and licked butter from the jar until he could eat no more.

Soon Bear stopped thinking about the butter, but each night Fox waited until Bear was gone again. Bit by bit, he ate the butter until it was all gone. On the first morning of spring, Bear woke up thinking about the butter. When he discovered the empty jar, Bear knew that he had been tricked, and he chased Fox out of the house.

As Fox was running, he came upon a shepherd watching over his flock.

"I'm being chased by an angry bear," Fox cried to the shepherd. "He's going to eat me. Please, let me hide."

The kind shepherd hid the deceitful fox under his cloak. While hidden, Fox smelled something delicious—a sandwich—made from bread slathered with slabs of butter. The ungrateful fox gnawed a hole in the shepherd's lunch pouch, ate the sandwich, and ran off.

Then, Fox curled up under a bush and fell fast asleep. Later, he woke up feeling refreshed and made his way down the road. Just as Fox was passing a little house on a hill, Bear came around the corner, almost crashing into him. Fox panicked! He ran to the little house and knocked on the door.

"Help!" he called to the owner. "I'm being chased by an angry bear. Open the door and let me in."

The owner did open the door, but unfortunately for Fox, it was the same shepherd whose sandwich Fox had eaten. The shepherd chased him away with a stick.

"Sorry, my friend," called the shepherd. "It's easy to trick somebody once, but not twice!"

1. Underline the words that describe Fox.

generous                      sly                      greedy                      dependable

2. Why does Fox craft a plan to get Bear out of the house?

- A) Bear is angry with Fox.
- B) Someone is calling him.
- C) Fox wants to get the butter.
- D) Bear wants to go on a picnic.

3. Match each term with its clue.

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ abandoned     | A) became fearful         |
| _____ pantry        | B) food cupboard          |
| _____ cunning       | C) dishonest; untruthful  |
| _____ meager        | D) in an unlucky way      |
| _____ deceitful     | E) left by the owner      |
| _____ panicked      | F) sly; crafty; tricky    |
| _____ unfortunately | G) skimpy; not satisfying |



4. Why does the shepherd decide to hide Fox under his cloak?

- A) The shepherd sees an angry bear and is afraid.
- B) Fox threatens to hurt the shepherd.
- C) The shepherd doesn't want Fox to get hurt.
- D) The shepherd wants to trick Fox and capture him.

5. Put these events in order. Number 1–6.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Bear comes around the corner, almost crashing into Fox.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fox gnaws a hole in the shepherd's pouch.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bear discovers the empty jar and is angry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The shepherd chases Fox away with a stick.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fox and Bear decide to save the butter until spring.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fox curls up under a bush and falls fast asleep.