

Sample Lesson #2

Why the Thunder and Lightning Live Far Away

Keezy and Mams hurried inside to get out of the rain. Thunder crashed, and lightning flashed, and the rain pounded against the roof of the farmhouse.

"The storm is so scary," said Keezy. "Why is it so loud?"

"You know we need that rain, baby," said Mams. "And the storm won't hurt you. Not like in the olden days when thunder and lightning lived on Earth with all the other people."

"What?" asked Keezy, "thunder and lightning didn't live with people."

"Oh, yes they did, but the king made them live at the far end of the town, as far as possible from other people's houses. The thunder was an old mother ewe, and the lightning was her son, a ram with big curly horns. Whenever the ram got angry, he used to go around burning houses and knocking down trees. He damaged farms and killed people.



"Whenever the lightning did these bad things, his mother, the ewe, shouted at him to stop and not do any more damage. She was the thunder, but the lightning ram didn't care in the least about what his mother said. And when he was in a bad temper, he did a lot of harm. The people couldn't stand it, so they complained to the king.

"Then, the king made a special order that the thunder ewe and the lightning ram should leave the town and live far away. This didn't do much good, though. When the ram got angry, he still burned the forest, and the flames sometimes spread to the farms and consumed them. So the people complained again, and the king banished both the lightning and the thunder from Earth and made them live in the sky where they couldn't cause so much destruction.

"Ever since then, when the lightning gets angry and wants to do his damage, you can hear his mother, the thunder, scolding him and telling him to stop. But sometimes, when the mother goes far away, and her voice can't be heard, her no-count son goes into a rage and starts destroying things again. And he gets away with it."

By the time Mams finished her story, the storm had gone quiet. Keezy went outside into the calm sunlit yard.

- CCRA.R.6 1. Why does Mams tell the story of the thunder and lightning?
- A) to teach Keezy a lesson about obeying her mother
 - B) to entertain Keezy and take her mind off the storm
 - C) to teach Keezy about summertime weather patterns
 - D) to show that thunder and lightning were once sheep
- RL.4.1 2. According to the story, why do thunder and lightning live in the sky?
- A) People complained about the lightning.
 - B) They did too much damage on the ground.
 - C) The king decided they should live in the sky.
 - D) all of these
- RL.4.3 3. Why does the storyteller call the lightning the thunder's no-count son?
- A) He does not take care of his mother, the thunder sheep.
 - B) Nobody knows where the lightning comes from.
 - C) He behaves badly and destroys things when he gets angry.
 - D) The lightning is a ram with big curly horns.
- L.4.4.A 4. In the passage, find and circle the word *banished*. From the context clues, you can tell that *banished* means _____.
- raised up knocked down sent away disappeared
- RL.4.4 5. Find and circle the word *consumed*. From the context clues, you can tell that *consumed* means _____.
- brightly painted burned up grew more rapidly
- L.4.5.A 6. In the story, lightning is a ram. What traits does a ram have in common with lightning?
- A) powerful, fierce, and destructive
 - B) four legs and curly horns
 - C) only comes out at night
 - D) lights up the sky
- L.4.5.A 7. In the story, what traits does the old mother sheep have in common with thunder?
- A) Sometimes she is far away and cannot be heard.
 - B) At times, she is very loud.
 - C) She has a close relationship with lightning.
 - D) all of these