

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 5: Lesson 18** Students will read a section of *Why the Dog Hates the Cat* to identify two new characters in the fable and investigate their approach to problem-solving

**Why the Dog Hates the Cat**

From A Chinese Wonderbook by Norman Hinsdale Pitman

Section 3:

Now began a long period of perfect happiness. Mother, son, dog and cat—all enjoyed themselves to their hearts' content. All manner of new foods such as they had never tasted were called forth from the pot by the wonderful little beetle. Bird-nest soup, shark's fins, and a hundred other delicacies were theirs for the asking, and soon Ming-li regained all his strength, but, I fear, at the same time grew somewhat lazy, for it was no longer necessary for him to work. As for the two animals, they became fat and sleek and their hair grew long and glossy.

But alas! The little family became so proud of their good fortune that they began to ask friends and relatives to dinner in order to show off their good meals. One day a Mr. and Mrs. Chu came from a distant village. They were much surprised at seeing the high style in which the Wangs lived. They had expected a beggar's meal, but went away with full stomachs.

"It's the best stuff I ever ate," said Mr. Chu, as they entered their own tumble-down house.

"Yes, and I know where it came from," exclaimed his wife. "I saw Widow Wang take a little gold toy out of the pot and hide it in a cupboard. It must be some sort of charm, for I heard her mumbling to herself about pork and dumplings just as she was stirring up the fire."

"A charm, eh? Why is it that other people have all the luck? It looks as if we were doomed forever to be poor."

"Why not borrow Mrs. Wang's charm for a few days until we can add a little meat to our own bones? Of course, we'll return it sooner or later."

"Doubtless they keep very close watch over it. When would you find them away from home, now that they don't have to work anymore? As their house only contains one room, and that no bigger than ours, it would be difficult to borrow this golden trinket."

"Luck is surely with us," cried Mrs. Chu, clapping her hands. "The Wangs are going out to the fair today. I overheard Mrs. Wang tell her son that he must not forget. I will slip back then and borrow the little charm from the box in which she hid it."

"Aren't you afraid of Blackfoot?"

"Pooh! He's so fat he can do nothing but roll. If the widow comes back suddenly, I'll tell her I came to look for my big hair-pin, that I lost it while I was at dinner."

"All right, go ahead, only of course we must remember we're borrowing the thing, not stealing it, for the Wangs have always been good friends to us, and then, too, we have just dined with them."

So skillfully did this crafty woman carry out her plans that within an hour she was back in her own house, happily showing the beetle to her husband. Not a soul had seen her enter the Wang house. The dog had made no noise, and the cat had only blinked her surprise at seeing a stranger and had gone to sleep again on the floor.

Great was the yelling and weeping when, on returning from the fair, hungry for a hot meal, the widow found her treasure missing. She went back to the little box in the cupboard ten times before she could believe it was empty, and the room looked as if a cyclone had struck it, so long and carefully did the mother and son hunt for the lost beetle.

Then came days of hunger that were all the harder to bear since the recent time of good food. Oh, if they had only not got used to such delicious food! How hard it was to go back to scraps and scrapings!

But if the widow and her son were sad over the loss of the good meals, the two pets were even more so. They were reduced to hunger and had to go out every day to the streets in search of stray bones and garbage that decent dogs and cats turned up their noses at.

One day, after this period of hunger had been going on for some time, Tabby began suddenly to jump about in great excitement.

"Whatever is the matter with you?" growled Blackfoot. "Are you mad from hunger, or have you caught another flea?"

"I was just thinking, and now I know the cause of all our trouble."

"Do you indeed?" asked Blackfoot, surprised. "Yes, I do indeed. Are you willing to help me bring good fortune back to our family?"

"Of course I am. Don't be silly," barked the dog, wagging his tail joyfully at the thought of another good dinner.

"All right. Here is the plan.

**Independent Practice:**

Everything changed for Mr. and Mrs. Chu once they showed up to the Wang's for dinner and saw the fabulous feast that lay before them. Mrs. Chu was clever enough to know that this was *not* the normal feast of her friends, Widow Wang and Ming-li. Mrs. Chu knew she had to watch closely to see if she could figure out how Widow Wang made this unbelievable meal, and she did! Mrs. Chu discovered Widow Wang's secret of the golden beetle and made a plan to borrow it, if only for a few days, and then return it later. After a bit of convincing, Mr. Chu agreed and Mrs. Chu was off to take the golden beetle from Widow Wang's kitchen cupboard.

Mr. and Mrs. Chu made the decision to 'borrow' the golden beetle without telling Widow Wang. They were hungry too and thought they would only need it for a few days to fatten up, then, they would return it. No harm done!

Form an opinion about this situation, either agreeing or disagreeing with Mr. and Mrs. Chu's decision to take the beetle from the Widow Wang. Based on your opinion, include how their decision might impact their relationship with one another and with the Wangs.

Support your opinion with reasons and evidence pulled from your notes, including your character chart and answers from the questions you answered during today's lesson.

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