

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Goose with the Golden Egg

By Aesop  
620-560 B.C.

*Aesop was a storyteller who lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 BCE. This story is part of his collection of tales known as "Aesop's Fables," which did not survive in writing but were passed down by people retelling them. They have deeply influenced children's literature and modern storytelling culture. As you read, look for evidence to answer this important question: How does the theme of greed develop in this fable?*

- [1] One day a countryman going to the nest of his Goose found there an egg all yellow and glittering. When he took it up it was as heavy as lead and he was going to throw it away, because he thought a trick had been played upon him. But he took it home on second thoughts, and soon found to his delight that it was an egg of pure gold. Every morning the same thing occurred, and he soon became rich by selling his eggs. As he grew rich, he grew greedy; and thinking to get at once all the gold the Goose could give, he killed it and opened it only to find—nothing.



"GREED OFT O'ERREACHES ITSELF."

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## Text-Dependent Questions

**Directions:** For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Which of the following best describes the relationship between the countryman and his goose? [RL.3]
  - A. The countryman is abusive towards his goose, and the goose becomes vengeful.
  - B. The goose struggles to provide the countryman with what he wants, and the countryman gets angry.
  - C. The goose and the countryman have a positive relationship, until the countryman gets greedy.
  - D. The goose and the countryman have a bad relationship, until the goose lays a golden egg.
  
2. Why does the man kill his goose, and how does this action contribute to a theme in the text? [RL.2]
  - A. He is angry because the goose stopped laying eggs.
  - B. He doesn't mean to kill the goose, but he is blinded by greed.
  - C. The goose tries to kill him first, and the man retaliates.
  - D. He thinks he can get more golden eggs by opening the goose, because he overtaken with greed.
  
3. How does the author's use of a dash (—) at the end of the story affect your reading of the text? [RL.5]
  - A. The sentence builds until the climax, and then makes the reader pause before the final word.
  - B. The dash before the last word has the same effect as a period.
  - C. The sentence slows down, to make the reader focus on each individual word.
  - D. The sentence builds until the climax, which is delivered at top speed.
  
4. Which of the following quotations from the text best describes the relationship between prosperity and greed? [RL.1]
  - A. "...he was going to throw it away..."
  - B. "...he soon became rich by selling his eggs..."
  - C. "As he grew rich, he grew greedy..."
  - D. "he killed it and opened it only to find—nothing."

5. Explain the meaning of the story's moral: "Greed often overreaches itself." [RL.2]

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- 4