

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 5: Lesson 20 Students will read the last section of *Why the Dog Hates the Cat* to further analyze the interactions and change in relationship between Tabby and Blackfoot, leading to the moral of the story. Additionally, students will have an overall take-away that difficult situations can impact the actions and choices people make.

Why the Dog Hates the Cat

From A Chinese Wonderbook by Norman Hinsdale Pitman

Section 5:

The two adventurers reached the river just as the sun was rising above the eastern hills. When they reached the cottage, the door was shut, the Widow Wang and Ming-li still sleeping a fitful, hungry sleep.

"They have given up," whispered the cat, "I will go inside and make them happy."

So saying, she sprang lightly through the window, which, alas! was too small and too far from the ground for the faithful dog to enter.

"Here I am, Mrs. Wang," meowed Tabby, brushing against the sleeping widow "and here is the treasure you are weeping for. I have rescued it and brought it back to you."

The widow, wild with joy at sight of the beetle, seized the cat in her scrawny arms and hugged Tabby tightly to her bosom.

"Breakfast, son, breakfast! Wake up! Fortune has come again. We are saved from starvation!"

Soon a steaming hot meal was ready, and you may well imagine how the old woman and her son, heaping praises upon Tabby, filled the cat's platter with good things, but never a word did they say of the faithful dog, Blackfoot, who remained outside sniffing the fragrant odors and waiting in sad wonder, for all this time the cunning cat had said nothing of Blackfoot's part in the rescue of the golden beetle.

At last, when breakfast was over, slipping away from the others, Tabby jumped out through the window.

"Oh, my dear Blackfoot," she began laughingly, "you should have been inside to see what a feast they gave me! The widow was so delighted at my bringing back her treasure that she could not give me enough to eat, nor say enough kind things about me. Too bad, old fellow, that you are hungry. You'd better run out into the street and hunt up a bone."

Maddened by the trick of his companion, the enraged dog sprang after the cat who took off like lightning, laughing down the alley.

Rushing out into the street, Blackfoot barked the entire story of Tabby's treachery to other dogs, at the same time advising that all self-respecting dogs should from that time onwards should never befriend a cat.

And that is why the descendants of old Blackfoot, whether in China or in the countries of the West, have waged continual war upon the children and grandchildren of Tabby.

Independent Practice:

Why the Dog Hates the Cat is a Chinese fable that teaches us a lesson through the eyes of some very interesting characters! Widow Wang, Ming-li, Mr. and Mrs. Chu, as well as Tabby and Blackfoot have all shown us that relationships can change a lot during difficult times. Throughout the story, we've seen this play out in each relationship. Characters treated each other in a variety of ways, and most characters ended up acting selfishly and damaging their relationships.

Remember, this fable was told by a narrator. Now, *you* are going to be the narrator and rewrite this fable. It's the same story with all of the same characters, but with a twist! Instead of approaching the problem of hunger in a selfish way, the characters in *your* version choose to be kind and caring.

Think about:

- The way your characters react to the magic golden beetle.
- How your characters interact with one another.
- What will change in your characters' relationships based on the way they treat one another.

Last, but not least, you get to give your version of the fable a new title!

To support your writing, use evidence from your character charts as well as your answers to the questions asked throughout our time together.

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