

“Two Travelers and the Bear”
By Aesop

Two boys were taking a shortcut on a narrow path through dark and tangled woods. They walked silently through the deep shadows and they pretended not to hear the rustlings in the thickets, for neither wanted to admit that he was frightened.

Then the air rumbled with a low, menacing growl.

"Don't look; I'm sure it's nothing," said the first boy quickly.

"Well, it's a very large nothing!" shouted the second boy. There, lumbering toward them, was a monstrous, hairy bear.

The two friends began to run. Before they had taken three steps, however, the first boy stumbled and sprawled upon the ground.

"Help me!" he cried as he scrambled to get up.

But his friend ran on. He clambered up a towering pine tree and sat astride a bough, clutching the tree trunk and quaking.

The horrible bear loomed over the first boy. Mouth wide, teeth glinting, the bear lunged.

Now, luckily for this boy, he had learned his lessons well, and he remembered that bears usually do not bother anything that is not moving. So, he threw himself facedown in the dirt.

When he felt the bear's hot breath on his ankle, the boy stayed very, very still. When a heavy bear paw lightly touched his back, he closed his eyes and willed himself not to move. The bear sniffed and snuffled, pawed, prodded, and pushed at the boy, until finally the beast's muzzle was next to the boy's face. The creature whiffed and snorted as he nuzzled the boy's ear. Although the boy was in an agony of fright, still he lay unmoving.

After a time, the bear became bored with the limp lump that was the boy. With a final swipe of his huge paw, he turned away and shuffled back into the woods.

At that, the first boy's friend came running back.

"That was amazing!" said the second boy. "The bear put his nose right on your ear! Why, it looked as though he even whispered some secret to you! What did he say?"

The first boy glared at his companion. "The bear told me I need to find a more dependable friend!" he said as he stomped away.

What's the moral of this story?
A friend in need is a friend indeed!

“Two Travelers and the Bear” – Vocabulary**Words to Know**

astride dependable menacing monstrous prodded quaking

Directions: Choose a word from the box that best matches each definition.
Write the word on the line.

_____ 1. threatening; warning of coming trouble

_____ 2. shaking; trembling

_____ 3. with one leg on each side

_____ 4. poked; jabbed

_____ 5. huge; enormous

_____ 6. reliable; trustworthy

Directions: Choose the word from the box that best completes each statement.
Write the word on the line to the left.

_____ 7. *Problem* is to *solution* as *small* is to _____.

_____ 8. *Strolling* is to *walking* as *alarming* is to _____.

_____ 9. *Addition* is to *subtraction* as *sidesaddle* is to _____.

_____ 10. *Hope* is to *hopeful* as *depend* is to _____.

_____ 11. *Confess* is to *tell* as *quivering* is to _____.

_____ 12. *Convinced* is to *persuaded* as *nudged* is to _____.

“Two Travelers and the Bear” – Scoring Rubric**Scoring Guide**

4	<p>Exemplary Student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses the relationships between causes and effects to analyze and keep track of the events in a story. • Identifies the cause-and-effect relationships in a story with or without clue words. • Determines the cause(s) of an effect without it being explicitly stated within the text. • Identifies all the effects of a noted cause, as well as all the causes of a noted effect.
3	<p>Competent Student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies cause-and-effect relationships with or without clue words. • Sometimes determines the cause(s) of an effect without it being explicitly stated within the text. • Identifies some, but not all, the effects of a noted cause, as well as some, but not all, the causes of a noted effect.
2	<p>Developing Student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows that a cause is why something happened and an effect is what happened. • Determines cause-and-effect relationships when the author has included clue words and there is only one cause and one effect. • With help, can identify a cause-and-effect relationship that is not signaled with a clue word.
1	<p>Emerging Student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows that a cause is why something happened and an effect is what happened • With help, can pick out clue words that signal a cause-and-effect relationship. • With help, can identify a cause-and-effect relationship that involves a single cause and a single effect.