

THEME task cards

2nd & 3rd GRADE

1. Theme

One day in autumn, a family of ants were bustling about in preparing grain for the winter. A starving grasshopper with a fiddle under his arm begged for a bite to eat. "What!" cried the ants in surprise; "haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the grasshopper; "I was so busy making music."

The ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust. "Making music, were you?" they cried. And they turned their backs on the grasshopper and went on with their work.

What is the moral of this story?

- a. Music brings joy.
- b. Ants are smarter than grasshoppers.
- c. There's a time for work and a time for play.
- d. Having fun is more important than playing.



2. Theme

An ox came down to a pool to drink. As he splashed into the water, he crushed a young frog into the mud. The old frog asked her brothers and sisters what had become of the young frog. "A great big monster stepped on brother," said one of them. The old frog puffed herself up.

"Was he as big as this?"

"Oh, much bigger!" they cried. The frog puffed up more.

"He could not have been bigger than this," she said. But the little frogs all declared that the monster was much, much bigger. The old frog kept puffing herself out more and more until, all at once, she burst.

What is the moral of the story?

- a. Frogs are foolish.
- b. Ox are dangerous.
- c. Do not attempt the impossible.
- d. It is better to be safe than sorry.



Theme



3. Theme

Jack and his mother were very poor. Jack decides he must sell their prized cow at the market. "Don't sell your cow. All you need to do is to buy these magical beans," whispered a stranger out of nowhere. "When they grow, you will be richer than your wildest dreams," the stranger said.

Jack bought the beans with the last money he had. When he got home, he realized what a mistake that had been. Now, his family had nothing. He threw the beans out the window. Overnight, the beans grew into a vine that went to the clouds. He climbed to the top of the vine and found a giant ready to eat him. Jack escapes but takes with him the giant's treasures: a magical harp and a hen that lays eggs filled with coins.

What is the moral of the story?

- a. Mistakes can turn out to be a good thing.
- b. Never sell something important.
- c. Don't trust strangers.
- d. Always listen to your parents.



4. Theme

Pecos Bill was the best cowboy that ever lived. Everyone wanted to be like Pecos Bill. He could ride any horse, but one day he decided he wanted to ride a tornado too - not just any tornado, but the biggest tornado anyone had ever seen. He chose the biggest tornado he could find. Bill bravely reached up, grabbed that tornado and hopped on. That tornado fought back like an angry bear. Bill hung on and stopped the tornado. Bill knew he could beat the tornado all along, so he was able.

What can the reader learn from Pecos Bill?

- a. Try only things that are not scary.
- b. Believing in yourself can help you do hard things.
- c. Always try dangerous things to become a hero.
- d. Safety is not always the most important thing.



Ways to Use Task Cards

1. **Centers**
2. **Scoot:** Pass out one card for each student. Set a timer and say, “scoot!” when the timer goes off. Students move seats to the next card. They continue to rotate until they are back at their original seat.
3. **Scavenger Hunt:** Hide cards around the room. Students search for cards and answer them.
4. **Jenga:** Number Jenga blocks. Students stack the blocks, then take turns pulling blocks. Students answer the corresponding number card.
5. **Whole class practice:** Teacher displays card on the projector. Students answer on mini white boards.
6. **Exit Tickets:** Give each student a task card at the end of the lesson. Have them answer on a sticky note.



Theme Challenge

Underline evidence from each passage that supports the theme of each story.



4. Theme

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2.

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3.

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clouds. He cli
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What is the

- a. Mistake
- b. Never
- c. Don't trust strangers
- d. Always listen to your parents.



1.

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for the win
bite to eat.
for the win
"I
so busy ma
Th
they cried.
their work.

What is the

- a. Frog
- b. Ox
- c. Do not accept the impossible
- d. It is better to be safe than sorry.

What is the moral of this story?

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Answer Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Card #	Answer	Card #	Answer
1.		16.	
2.		17.	
3.		18.	
4.		19.	
5.		20.	
6.		21.	
7.		22.	
8.		23.	
9.		24.	
10.		25.	
11.		26.	
12.		27.	
13.		28.	
14.		29.	
15.		30.	

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1.		16.	
2.		17.	
3.		18.	
4.		19.	
5.		20.	
6.		21.	
7.		22.	
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11.		26.	
12.		27.	
13.		28.	
14.		29.	
15.		30.	

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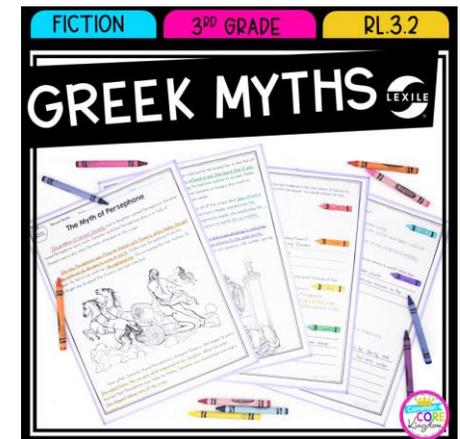
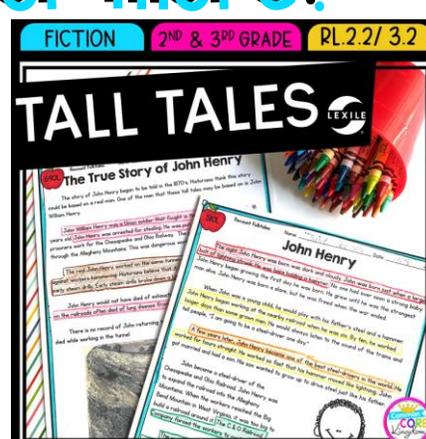
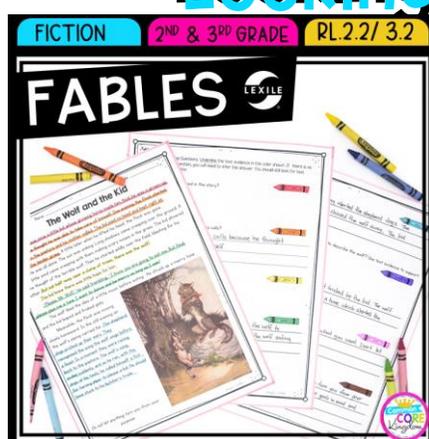
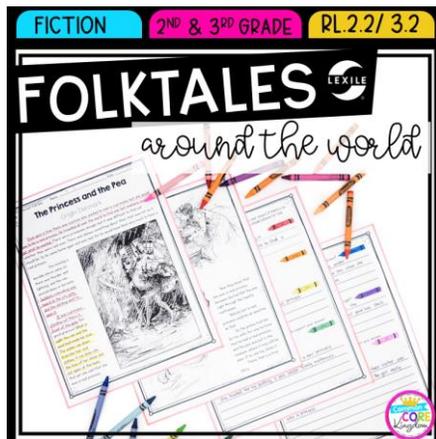


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