

Grade 3: Unit 1, Week 2 Keeping in Touch

Read Aloud: The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

A Fable by Aesop retold by Margaret H. Lippert

Wonderful Words: *pantry, ashamed, scamper, row, dodge*

The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

There was once a happy little Country Mouse, who lived in a big wheat field. In the summer she feasted on grains of wheat or on bits of bread from the farmers' lunch boxes. When the weather grew cold she moved into the farmhouse and picked up bits of cake and bread and cheese which the cook dropped on the kitchen floor. These she stored away in her little mouse hole in the attic until she had a good supply laid in for the winter.

Now one day during the winter the little Country Mouse's cousin, a City Mouse, sent a letter to tell her that she was coming to visit her. When she arrived, they chatted for a while, and the little Country Mouse took her visitor to see her attic pantry. Proudly she showed her the mound of cheese bits, the heaps of bread and cake crumbs, and the neat piles of nuts and dried peas.

But when the City Mouse had eaten a hearty dinner, she wiped her whiskers daintily and said, "You poor thing! So this is the way you live, on left-overs dried up in the attic. Come with me to the city and I will show you a real feast!"

The Country Mouse immediately felt rather ashamed of her simple home, so she quietly went along with the City Mouse to visit her. The City Mouse led the way into a huge brick house, up a great staircase, and into a dining room.

The rich people who lived in the big house with the City Mouse were just having dinner, so the two little mice hid behind the door.

“Keep very still,” said the City Mouse. “When they leave the table we can have all the food that is left.”

The eyes of the little Country Mouse grew big and round at that, for she had never seen so much food in her whole busy life. So she sat very still until, with a scuffling of feet and scraping of chairs, the big people left the table.

“Come on,” squeaked the City Mouse. Peeking cautiously to right and left she led the way across the room, up onto a chair, and from the chair onto the table, with the Country Mouse scampering along behind her.

The Country Mouse took a long look around her at the table still crowded with good things, and sighed a deep, happy sigh.

“This is wonderful,” she said, taking a big bite out of a beautiful cheese. “You live just like a prince!”

She had scarcely finished squeaking when, with a snarl, a cat pounced up on the table. After her came the cook, shouting and waving a big spoon. And into the room bounded two dogs, barking fiercely. Then there was a terrible row! In the midst of it the two mice skittered down to the floor and dodged into a handy hole.

“We’ll wait until all is quiet again and go back for some more,” whispered the City Mouse. But her country cousin shook her head firmly.

“We’ll wait until it is quiet again and then I’ll go home as fast as I can. You are welcome to all the fine food you can get, my friend. As for me, I prefer my dry crusts in my peaceful attic! But let’s keep in touch!”

pantry

Define: A **pantry** is a small room where food supplies are kept.

Example: The woman stored cans of soup in the **pantry**.

Ask: What are some of the items you might find in a **pantry**?

ashamed

Define: To be **ashamed** is to feel embarrassed or upset.

Example: Mike was **ashamed** to tell his friend he had broken her bicycle.

Ask: What would make a person feel **ashamed**?

scamper

Define: To **scamper** is to run lightly and quickly.

Example: The rabbit **scampered** into the woods.

Ask: What animals have you seen **scampering**?

row

Define: A **row** is a noisy quarrel or a fight.

Example: The students had a **row** over who would be first in line.

Ask: Have you heard people on the street having a **row** over something? What do you think they were arguing about?

dodge

Define: To **dodge** is to avoid something or somebody by moving quickly.

Example: Kristina **dodged** the snowball that someone threw in the park.

Ask: When have you **dodged** a ball?