

# Unit 10 Animals in traditional stories

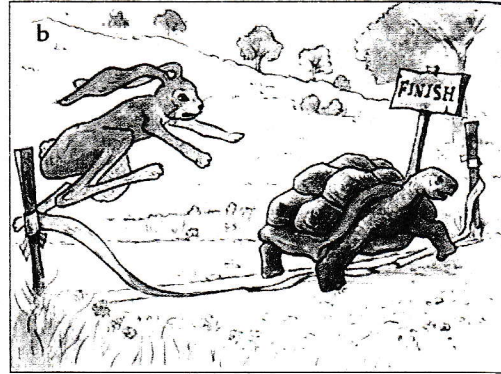
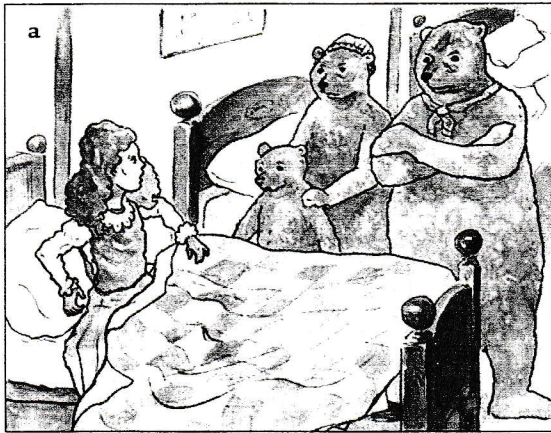
KEY READING SKILL SKIMMING

KEY VOCABULARY SKILL GUESSING MEANING FROM CONTEXT

## Focus

1 Read the information and describe these pictures with a partner.

Every country has traditional stories, which show the culture and character of the people and the moral values of their society. Many of these stories include animals.



2 Match each story with a picture. Tell a partner anything you know about these stories.

- 1 The Tortoise and the Hare \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Little Red Riding Hood \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Goldilocks and the Three Bears \_\_\_\_\_

## Think about it

1 With a partner, guess which adjective is often used to describe each of these animals that appear in traditional stories.

fox hare bear wolf cat rooster snake goat

- a opportunistic      c dumb      e frightened      g boastful
- b clumsy      d obstinate      f cunning      h wicked

2 Which animals appear in traditional stories in your country? Describe their characters.

KEY: \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary

Read this

### Masha

One day her grandmother went into the forest for help to cook. He

One day her grandfather offered when he as long to 'keep' room to up the

On the way you! Don't bear was continue Suddenly and 10

- 1 a focused
- 2 a appeared
- 3 a small
- 4 a quickly
- 5 a get

## Predictions

You're going to animal ...

### The Legend

- a is killed
- b tricks
- c is the
- d refuses to

## Reading



Read



Read this story. Then guess the correct meaning of each word or phrase in *italics*.

**Masha and the Bear – a traditional Russian folk story**

One day, Masha went into the forest to pick some berries because she wanted to make a pie for her grandparents. She was so <sup>1</sup> *absorbed by* her search for the berries that she <sup>2</sup> *wandered* deep into the forest and got lost. Finally, she came across a <sup>3</sup> *cottage*, so she decided to stop and ask for help. A bear lived there, but instead of helping Masha, he made her stay there to clean and cook. He warned Masha that if she ever went out of the house, he would eat her.

One day Masha had an idea. She told the bear she wanted to bake some pies for her grandparents, and she asked if she could deliver them. Of course, the bear refused, but he offered to take the pies to Masha's grandparents (thinking he would <sup>4</sup> *furtively* eat them himself when he went into the forest). Masha realized this and told the bear he could deliver the pies as long as he didn't <sup>5</sup> *peek* in the basket. She said she would climb the highest tree in the forest to <sup>6</sup> *keep an eye on* him and make sure he didn't eat them. The bear agreed, and after he left the room to get ready, Masha quickly hid inside the basket. When the bear came back, he picked up the basket and set off.

On the way, he decided to rest and eat a pie, but Masha cried out, "I can see you! I can see you! Don't sit under that tree! Don't eat the pies for tea! Take them to my grandparents!" The bear was so <sup>7</sup> *astounded* that Masha could see him that he never looked in the basket and continued on his way. When he arrived at her grandparents' house, he knocked on the door. Suddenly, some dogs appeared and <sup>8</sup> *charged* toward the bear, who dropped the basket in <sup>9</sup> *panic* and <sup>10</sup> *fled*. Masha jumped out and was free.

- |                 |            |                   |                    |              |              |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 a focused on  | b bored by | c forgetful about | 6 a encourage      | b watch over | c protect    |
| 2 a appeared    | b walked   | c lived           | 7 a relieved       | b pleased    | c astonished |
| 3 a small house | b bridge   | c stranger        | 8 a rushed         | b moved      | c walked     |
| 4 a quickly     | b eagerly  | c secretly        | 9 a disbelief      | b fright     | c doubt      |
| 5 a get         | b look     | c sit             | 10 a went to sleep | b cried      | c ran away   |

**Predicting**

You're going to read two traditional stories. With a partner, look at the titles and guess which animal ...

The Lion and the Hare

The Buffalo and the Mouse

- a is killed by a smaller animal.
- b tricks another animal.
- c is the most stupid.
- d refuses to give another animal food.

**Reading fluently**



Read the text quickly. Time yourself, and record your time in the chart on page 6.



Read this story. Then guess the correct meaning of each word or phrase in *italics*.

**Masha and the Bear – a traditional Russian folk story**

One day, Masha went into the forest to pick some berries because she wanted to make a pie for her grandparents. She was so <sup>1</sup> *absorbed by* her search for the berries that she <sup>2</sup> *wandered* deep into the forest and got lost. Finally, she came across a <sup>3</sup> *cottage*, so she decided to stop and ask for help. A bear lived there, but instead of helping Masha, he made her stay there to clean and cook. He warned Masha that if she ever went out of the house, he would eat her.

One day Masha had an idea. She told the bear she wanted to bake some pies for her grandparents, and she asked if she could deliver them. Of course, the bear refused, but he offered to take the pies to Masha's grandparents (thinking he would <sup>4</sup> *furtively* eat them himself when he went into the forest). Masha realized this and told the bear he could deliver the pies as long as he didn't <sup>5</sup> *peek* in the basket. She said she would climb the highest tree in the forest to <sup>6</sup> *keep an eye on* him and make sure he didn't eat them. The bear agreed, and after he left the room to get ready, Masha quickly hid inside the basket. When the bear came back, he picked up the basket and set off.

On the way, he decided to rest and eat a pie, but Masha cried out, "I can see you! I can see you! Don't sit under that tree! Don't eat the pies for tea! Take them to my grandparents!" The bear was so <sup>7</sup> *astounded* that Masha could see him that he never looked in the basket and continued on his way. When he arrived at her grandparents' house, he knocked on the door. Suddenly, some dogs appeared and <sup>8</sup> *charged* toward the bear, who dropped the basket in <sup>9</sup> *panic* and <sup>10</sup> *fled*. Masha jumped out and was free.

- |                 |            |                   |                    |              |              |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 a focused on  | b bored by | c forgetful about | 6 a encourage      | b watch over | c protect    |
| 2 a appeared    | b walked   | c lived           | 7 a relieved       | b pleased    | c astonished |
| 3 a small house | b bridge   | c stranger        | 8 a rushed         | b moved      | c walked     |
| 4 a quickly     | b eagerly  | c secretly        | 9 a disbelief      | b fright     | c doubt      |
| 5 a get         | b look     | c sit             | 10 a went to sleep | b cried      | c ran away   |

**Predicting**

You're going to read two traditional stories. With a partner, look at the titles and guess which animal ...

The Lion and the Hare

The Buffalo and the Mouse

- a is killed by a smaller animal.
- b tricks another animal.
- c is the most stupid.
- d refuses to give another animal food.

**Reading fluently**



Read the text quickly. Time yourself, and record your time in the chart on page 6.

# The Lion and the Hare

A traditional African story, from Ethiopia

One day in the forest, Lion caught little Hare.

"I am too small and skinny for you to eat. Let me go and I'll help you catch a bigger animal," said Hare. Lion agreed, and together they went hunting. Lion caught a large bull, but Hare caught only a scrawny old donkey.

"Oh dear, Lion. That's bad luck. Your bull is so thin and unhealthy."

"The bull looks all right to me," Lion said.

"Well, everyone knows that if it's a good bull, you'll see a cloud of dust rise from it when you hit it," said Hare.

Lion had never heard of that, but as he didn't want to appear dumb, he agreed and hit the bull. Of course, there was no dust.

"See?" said Hare, "No good." Then he hit the donkey, and a huge cloud of dust rose into the air. So Lion demanded that he have the donkey and that Hare have the bull.

Later, Hare found some feathers and decided to pretend they were knives. "Look, Lion. I have eight light knives and you have only one. If you lose your knife, you'll be defenseless." So Lion insisted that they swap, and he took the eight feathers, thinking they were knives.

Later, when they came to Lion's cave, Hare said, "Oh dear, Lion. Your house has only one door. If a hunter finds you, you can't escape. Mine has many doors, so I can escape easily." So Lion insisted that they swap houses.

Then Lion took the donkey into Hare's small house. It was very cramped and uncomfortable, and when he tried to cut the donkey, the donkey laughed because the feathers tickled him, and ran away. Meanwhile, Hare took the big bull and made a delicious stew in his spacious, warm cave.

And to this day, whenever Donkey remembers how Lion tickled him with the feathers, he still laughs and laughs.

## Understanding the text

### 1 Answer these questions.

- Why didn't Lion eat Hare?
- What happened when Lion tried to eat the donkey?
- Why did Mouse challenge Buffalo to a fight?
- How did Mouse manage to kill Buffalo?
- Why did Fox agree to help Mouse?

### 2 Work with a partner. Find ...

- three ways Hare tricked Lion when they went hunting.
- what Hare ate that evening.
- how Fox helped Mouse.
- why Fox ended up eating Mouse.
- where the fight between Mouse and Buffalo took place.

The  
A N

Once  
wasn't h  
hide - so

"That

But Mo  
squash M  
onto Buff  
pain. He tr

"I hav

Just th  
hadn't cau

"Cut H

Fox, w  
him a very

"Pleas  
hungry."

"Oh, yo  
Mouse, a

Mouse, sw  
If you

3 Who or

- cramp
- scrawn
- huge
- migh
- skinny

4 With a  
stories. Th

Lion  
Hare  
Donkey

5 Choose  
points. Th

# The Buffalo and the Mouse

## A Native American tale

Once upon a time, Mouse was gathering food in a meadow when Buffalo came to graze. Mouse wasn't happy about this because he knew Buffalo would trample the grass, leaving him no place to hide – so he challenged Buffalo to a fight.

"That's not a good idea," laughed Buffalo. "I can step on you easily!"

But Mouse wouldn't back down, and he provoked Buffalo into attacking him. Buffalo tried to squash Mouse by stamping on the ground with his mighty hooves. However, Mouse swiftly jumped onto Buffalo's back and crawled into his ear. He started to eat Buffalo's brain! Buffalo screamed in pain. He tried to throw Mouse off, but he couldn't. Soon, Buffalo fell to the ground and was dead.

"I have killed the mighty Buffalo," said Mouse, adding proudly, "I am the greatest!"

Just then, Fox arrived. He was very hungry because he had been looking for food all day but hadn't caught anything.

"Cut Buffalo into small pieces for me, Fox, and I'll give you some of the meat," said Mouse.

Fox, who was absolutely starving, agreed. When he had finished cutting up the meat, Mouse gave him a very small piece, which Fox quickly devoured.

"Please may I have some more?" Fox asked. "I have a big family to feed, and we are all so hungry."

"Oh, you are too greedy, Fox," said Mouse. "I've already given you too much," complained Mouse, and he reluctantly gave Fox an even smaller piece of meat. Thereupon Fox jumped on Mouse, swallowed him quickly, and took the meat to feed his family.

If you are proud and selfish, you will lose everything in the end.

### 3 Who or what do these adjectives describe?

- a cramped \_\_\_\_\_
- b scrawny \_\_\_\_\_
- c huge \_\_\_\_\_
- d mighty \_\_\_\_\_
- e skinny \_\_\_\_\_

**scrawny** *adj*  
very thin

**dust** *noun* ★★  
very small pieces of dry earth or sand

**meadow** *noun*  
a field where grass and wild flowers grow

### 4 With a partner, think of three adjectives to describe each of these characters from the stories. Then make a group and explain your choices.

Lion _____	Buffalo _____
Hare _____	Mouse _____
Donkey _____	Fox _____

### 5 Choose one story. Your partner should choose the other story. Each make notes of the main points. Then use your notes to retell your story. Don't look at the text.