

Grades 4-8

“The Fox and the Grapes” (Aesop)

A hungry Fox saw some fine bunches of Grapes hanging from a vine that was trained along a high trellis. He did his best to reach them by jumping as high as he could into the air, but it was all in vain, for they were just out of reach. So he gave up trying and walked away with an air of dignity and unconcern, remarking, “I thought those Grapes were ripe, but I see now they are quite sour.”

High-Level Critical & Analytical Thinking Questions

1. What does the Fox’s final comment reveal about his reasoning process?

- A. He believes the grapes were poisonous
- B. He wants to convince others he never wanted the grapes
- C. He is trying to protect his pride after failing
- D. He plans to return later for the grapes

2. Which theme is MOST strongly supported by the Fox’s behavior?

- A. Hard work always leads to success
- B. People often criticize what they cannot have
- C. Animals are more clever than humans
- D. Failure should be celebrated

3. How would the meaning of the story change if the Fox had eventually reached the grapes?

- A. The story would emphasize patience instead of rationalization
- B. The Fox would still believe the grapes were sour
- C. The moral would remain exactly the same
- D. The story would become about teamwork

4. What human behavior does the Fox symbolize in this fable?

- A. The desire to share success with others
- B. The tendency to blame others for mistakes
- C. The habit of pretending we never wanted something we failed to achieve
- D. The ability to learn from failure

5. Which evidence from the passage BEST supports the idea that the Fox is embarrassed by his failure?

- A. He sees grapes hanging from a vine
- B. He jumps as high as he can
- C. He walks away “with an air of dignity and unconcern”
- D. He says the grapes are “quite sour”

Answer Key

- 1 — **C** *He changes his attitude to protect his pride after failing to reach the grapes.*
- 2 — **B** *The fable illustrates how people often dismiss or criticize what they cannot obtain.*
- 3 — **A** *If he succeeded, the story would shift toward perseverance rather than rationalizing failure.*
- 4 — **C** *The Fox represents people who pretend they never wanted something after failing to get it.*
- 5 — **C** *His exaggerated “dignity and unconcern” shows he is trying to hide embarrassment.*