ER.DFA1.3.R.RL.02 Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures: determine the central message, lesson, moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

by: Aesop

There once was a shepherd boy who was bored as he sat on the hillside watching the village sheep. To amuse himself he took a great breath and sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!"

The villagers came running up the hill to help the boy drive the wolf away. But when they arrived at the top of the hill, they found no wolf. The boy laughed at the sight of their angry faces.

"Don't cry 'wolf', shepherd boy," said the villagers, "when there's no wolf!" They went grumbling back down the hill.

Later, the boy sang out again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" To his naughty delight, he watched the villagers run up the hill to help him drive the wolf away.

When the villagers saw no wolf they sternly said, "Save your frightened song for when there is really something wrong! Don't cry 'wolf' when there is NO wolf!"

But the boy just grinned and watched them go grumbling down the hill once more.

Later, he saw a REAL wolf prowling about his flock. Alarmed, he leaped to his feet and sang out as loudly as he could, "Wolf! Wolf!"

But the villagers thought he was trying to fool them again, and so they didn't come.

At sunset, everyone wondered why the shepherd boy hadn't returned to the village with their sheep. They went up the hill to find the boy. They found him weeping.

"There really was a wolf here! The flock has scattered! I cried out, "Wolf!" Why didn't you come?"

An old man tried to comfort the boy as they walked back to the village.

"We'll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning," he said, putting his arm around the youth, "Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!"

2-3 Lexile 420-820: 720L
1. What is the moral of The Boy Who Cried Wolf?
   a. Don’t ever believe what children say.
   b. Only tell a lie about something one time.
   c. Nobody believes someone who tells lies even when they are telling the truth.
   d. It’s okay to lie as long as you apologize after you tell the lie.

2. What type of story is The Boy Who Cried Wolf?
   a. a myth
   b. a fable
   c. a fairy tale

3. Which of the following is a detail in The Boy Who Cried Wolf that helps the reader figure out what kind of story it is?
   a. The story explains why the universe works the way it does.
   b. The story includes magic and ends with “They lived happily ever after.”
   c. The story has animals and teaches the reader a lesson.
Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky

Nigerian Folktale

Many years ago the sun and water were great friends, and both lived on the Earth together. The sun would visit the water, but the water never visited the sun. The sun asked the water why it was that he never came to see him in his house. The water said that the sun's house was not big enough, and that if he came with his people, he would drive the sun out.

The water then said, "If you want me to visit you, you need to build a very big house; but I warn you that it will have to be a huge place. My people take up a lot of room."

The sun promised to build a very big place. Soon he returned home to his wife, the moon, who greeted him with a smile. The sun told the moon what he had promised the water. The next day they started building a huge home.

When it was finished, the sun asked the water to come and visit him.

When the water came, he called out to the sun, and asked him if it would be safe for him to enter. The sun answered, "Yes, come in, my friend."

The water then began to flow in, along with the fish and all the water animals.

Very soon the water was knee-deep, so he asked the sun if it was still safe, and the sun again said, "Yes," so more water came in.

When the water was to the top of a man's head, the water said to the sun, "Do you want more of my people to come?" The sun and moon both answered, "Yes," not knowing any better, so more water came in. The sun and moon had to sit on the top of the roof.

Again the water asked the sun and he got the same answer. The water very soon overflowed the top of the roof, and the sun and moon were forced to go up into the sky. This is where they have lived ever since.

2-3 Lexile 420-820: 770L
4. Is this an example of a myth or a fable? How do you know?
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5. What caused the sun and moon live in the sky?
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2-3 Lexile 420-820: 770L
4. Is this story an example of a myth or a fable? How do you know?
Possible Answer: This story is a myth. I know it’s a myth because it’s a story that happened a long time ago and it explains why the universe is that way it is.

5. What caused the sun and moon live in the sky?
Possible Answer: The sun and the moon live in the sky because they asked the water to visit their house. When the water visited their house, he asked whether it would be safe for him and his people to enter. The sun and moon said it would be safe for them to enter the house. When they entered the house, the water rose too high and overflowed over the sun and moon’s roof. This forced the sun and moon into the sky.