Day 1
Grade 4

LEVEL 13, UNIT 9
FABLE

The Donkey and the Salt:
A Fable

Long ago, a **merchant bought** big sacks of salt at the market. He loaded the sacks onto his donkey's back, and the two set off for home.

They came to a stream and began to **wade** across it. The heavy **burden** caused the donkey to lose his balance. He slipped and fell into the water. When the donkey stood up again, his load was much lighter. Most of the salt had **dissolved** in the water.

The merchant returned to the market and bought salt again. Once again, he loaded the sacks onto the donkey's back. When they came to the stream again, the donkey remembered how to lighten his burden. He purposely fell into the water. The salt disappeared, and the donkey rose to his feet without the weight of his load.

The merchant watched with a knowing look. Then he led the donkey back to the market. This time, the merchant did not buy salt. He bought a load of sponges. When the donkey came to the stream, he quickly lay down. The sponges filled with water. Back on his feet, the donkey was surprised to find that his load was much heavier than before.

KEY VOCABULARY

merchant (noun) A *merchant* is a person who buys and sells things.

wade (verb) To *wade* is to walk through shallow water.

burden (noun) A *burden* is a heavy load.

dissolved (verb) To *dissolve* is to become mixed into a liquid.

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▶ How many times does the donkey fall in the stream?

▶ Explain why the donkey's load is lighter after he falls in the stream the first time?

▶ Illustrate two scenes from the fable: the first time the donkey falls in the stream and the second time he falls. Describe how the scenes are similar and how they are different.

▶ What might the donkey do differently the next time he crosses the stream with sacks on his back?

▶ Do you think the merchant did the right thing? Why or why not?

▶ Write your own story in which one character teaches a lesson to another character.

DIGIT DETECTIVE - A

To solve the puzzle, here's what to do. Cross off the numbers that fit each clue.
With clever sleuth-work, when you're done, you'll be left with only one!

Greater than 8 x 62	Inches in 7 yards	Less than 4 x 54

6 x 45	9 x 33

What number am I?

215   270   510

252   498   277   208

210   297   502