

# The Little Gray Pony

Who can describe what a blacksmith does? Why was the blacksmith so important to a community? What tools were essential to this trade? What was the forge used for? Why did blacksmiths have to heat up the metal?

One way to make a fire burn for a long time is to use coal. When coal is lit, it burns for a long time. Longer than wood.



# *The Little Gray Pony*

*Today you will listen to a fictional story about a tradesperson who provides coal.*



# The Little Gray Pony

There was once a man who owned a little gray pony.

Every morning when the dewdrops or little drops of water were still hanging on the pink clover in the meadows, and the birds were singing their morning song, the man would jump on his pony and ride away, clippety, clippety, clap!





# The Little Gray Pony

The pony's four small hoofs played the jolliest tune on the smooth pike road, the pony's head was always high in the air, and the pony's two little ears were always pricked up; for he was a merry gray pony, and loved to go clippety, clippety, clap!

What do you think merry means?



# The Little Gray Pony

The man rode to town and to country,  
to church and to market, uphill and  
downhill; and one day he heard  
something fall with a clang on a stone  
in the road. Looking back, he saw a  
horseshoe lying there.



# The Little Gray Pony

And when he saw it, he cried out:

“What shall I do? What shall I do?  
If my little gray pony has lost a  
shoe?”





# The Little Gray Pony

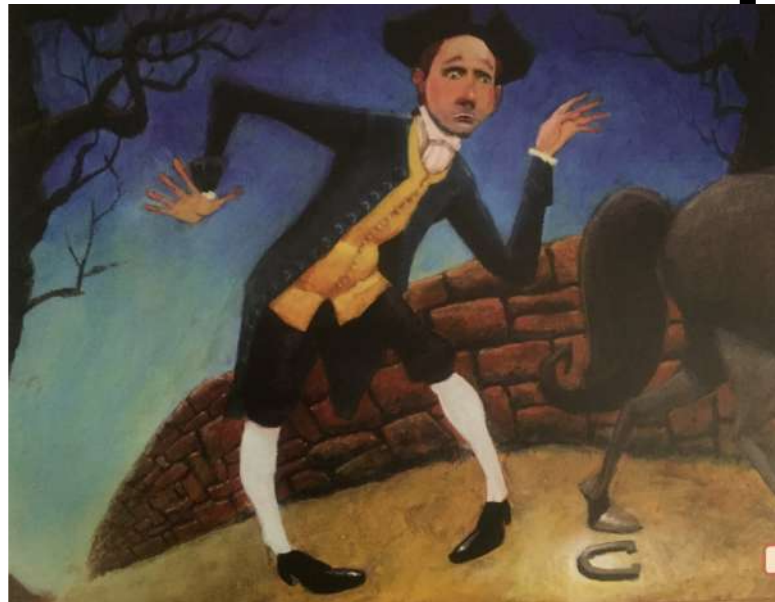
Then down he jumped, in a great hurry, and looked at one of the pony's forefeet; but nothing was wrong. Forefeet are the horse's front feet. He lifted the other forefoot, but the shoe was still there. He examined one of the hindfeet or backfeet, and began to think that he was mistaken; but when he looked at the last foot, he cried again:



# The Little Gray Pony

“What shall I do? What shall I do?  
If my little gray pony has lost a  
shoe?”

Why is the man upset that one of the  
pony's horseshoes has fallen off?  
What does a horseshoe do?





# *The Little Gray Pony*

Lisa Blackstone, Horse And Rider Club



[www.HorseRidingVideos.ORG](http://www.HorseRidingVideos.ORG)

# The Little Gray Pony

Then he made haste or hurried to go to the blacksmith, and when he saw the smith, he called out to him:

“Blacksmith! Blacksmith! I’ve come to you;  
My little gray pony has lost a shoe!”



# The Little Gray Pony

But the blacksmith answered and said:

“How can I shoe your pony’s feet,  
Without some coal, the iron to heat?”

To shoe means to put the horseshoe on  
the horse. Coal is a soft, black stone  
that when burned, gives off a steady,  
lasting heat.





# The Little Gray Pony

The man was downcast when he heard this; but he left his little gray pony in the blacksmith's care, while he hurried here and there to buy the coal. What do you think downcast means? Where would you go to buy something?



# The Little Gray Pony

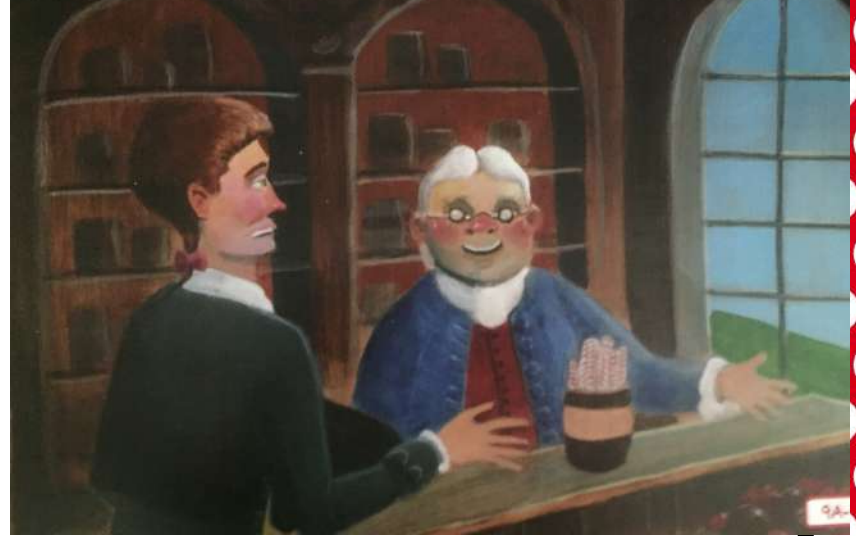
First of all he went to the store; and when he got there, he said:

“Storekeeper! Storekeeper! I’ve come to you;  
My little gray pony has lost a shoe!



# The Little Gray Pony

And I want some coal, the iron  
to heat,  
That the blacksmith may shoe  
my pony's feet."





# The Little Gray Pony

*But the storekeeper answered and said:*

*“Now, I have apples and candy to sell,  
And more nice things than I can tell;  
But I’ve no coal, the iron to heat,  
That the blacksmith may shoe your  
pony’s feet.”*



# The Little Gray Pony

Then the man went away sighing, and saying:

“What shall I do? What shall I do?  
My little gray pony has lost a shoe!”



# The Little Gray Pony

By and by he met a farmer coming to town with a wagon full of good things. Why might the farmer be coming to town? He said to the farmer:

“Farmer! Farmer! I’ve come to you;  
My little gray pony has lost a shoe!  
And I want some coal, the iron to heat,  
That the blacksmith may shoe my pony’s feet.”





# The Little Gray Pony

*Do you think the farmer will have coal?*

*Then the farmer answered the man and said:*

*“I’ve bushels of corn and hay and wheat,  
Something for you and your pony to eat;  
But I’ve no coal, the iron to heat,  
That the blacksmith may shoe your  
pony’s feet.”*



# The Little Gray Pony

*So the farmer drove away and left the man standing in the road, sighing and saying:*

*“What shall I do? What shall I do?  
My little gray pony has lost a shoe!”*



# The Little Gray Pony

*In the farmer's wagon, full of good things, he saw corn, which made him think of the mill, so he hastened there, and called to the dusty miller:*

*"Miller! Miller! I've come to you;  
My little gray pony has lost a shoe,  
And I want some coal, the iron to heat,  
That the blacksmith may shoe my pony's feet."*





# The Little Gray Pony

Do you think the miller will have coal? What would millers have?

The miller came to the door in surprise, and when he heard what was needed, he said:  
“I have wheels that go round and round,  
And stones to turn till the grain is ground;  
But I’ve no coal, the iron to heat,  
That the blacksmith may shoe your pony’s feet.



# The Little Gray Pony

Then the man turned away  
sorrowfully or sadly and sat  
down on a rock near the  
roadside, sighing and saying:

“What shall I do? What shall I  
do?”

My little gray pony has lost a  
shoe!”



# The Little Gray Pony

After a while a very old woman came down the road, driving a flock of geese to market, and when she came near the man, she stopped to ask him his trouble. He told her all about it, and when she had heard it all, she laughed till her geese joined in with a cackle.





# The Little Gray Pony

She's laughing because she knows who has the coal. Do you have any ideas?

The old woman said:

"If you would know where the coal is found,  
You must go to the miner, who works in the ground."



# The Little Gray Pony

Then the man sprang to his feet, and, thanking the old woman, he ran to the miner. Now the miner had been working and looking for coal many a long day down in the mine, under the ground, where it was so dark that he had to wear a lamp on the front of his cap to light him at his work! He had plenty of black coal ready and gave great lumps of it to the man, who took them in haste to the blacksmith.



# The Little Gray Pony

The blacksmith lit his great red fire, and hammered out four, fine, new shoes with a cling!  
And a clang! And fastened or attached them on with a rap!  
And a tap! Then away rode the man on his little gray pony, clippety, clippety, clap!





# *The Little Gray Pony*



# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Why does the pony make a clippety, clippety, clap sound when it walks?

# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Where and why did the man go when he noticed his pony was missing a shoe?



# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Why couldn't the blacksmith make the pony  
a new horseshoe?

# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Evaluative**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Why did the man leave his pony at the blacksmith's shop instead of riding him when he went to go find coal?

# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Evaluative**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

What do you think might happen to a pony or horse if it continued to walk without a horseshoe?



# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Which tradesperson did he meet when he went to the store? What did the shopkeeper have?

# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Which tradesperson did he meet on the road?  
What did the farmer have?

# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

What tradesperson did he meet after the farmer? What did the miller have?



# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

What tradesperson did the old woman tell the man he needed to find? What did the miner give the man?

# The Little Gray Pony

Comprehension Questions:

**Evaluative**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

The little gray pony only lost one shoe. Why do you think the blacksmith made him four new ones instead of just one?

# **Word Work**

*Explicit Vocabulary Instruction*



# The Little Gray Pony

In the read aloud you heard, "The pony's four small hoofs played the jolliest tune on the smooth pike road, the pony's head was always high in the air, and the pony's two little ears were always pricked up; for he was a **merry** gray pony, and loved to go clippety, clippety, clap!"

Say the word **merry** with me.  
Whisper merry to the ceiling.  
Whisper merry to your neighbor.  
Let's clap it out.

## *The Little Gray Pony*

**Merry** is another word for happy.

*Monique was merry on her birthday and celebrated the special day with all of her friends.*

# The Little Gray Pony

Tell me about a time when you or someone you know was merry. Use the word merry when you tell about it.

“I was merry when...”



## *The Little Gray Pony*

*What's the word we have been talking  
about?*

*Let's clap it out.*

## The Little Gray Pony

The opposite of merry is downcast, or sad. If you think the event I describe would make you merry, clap your hands. If you think the event would make you feel downcast, stand up.

## *The Little Gray Pony*

*Your ice cream cone melted and you  
had to throw it away.*



## *The Little Gray Pony*

*Your mom said you could go to a  
friend's house.*

*The Little Gray Pony*

*Your cat was sick.*

*The Little Gray Pony*

*You got a new bike.*

*The Little Gray Pony*

*You read a great book.*



## *The Little Gray Pony*

*You spilled paint on your favorite shirt.*