

Read this selection to learn how the Donkey and the Monkey found out that they were better off than they thought and answer the questions that follow

## The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole

by Aesop

One day a Donkey and a Monkey were talking together about how unhappy they were.

“My ears are so long that all the animals laugh at me,” said the Donkey. “I wish that I had beautiful horns upon my head like the Ox.”

“You look well enough,” said the Monkey. “But just look at me. Every time I turn my back, the other animals laugh at me.”

“Why do the other animals laugh at you?” asked the Donkey. “You look all right to me.”

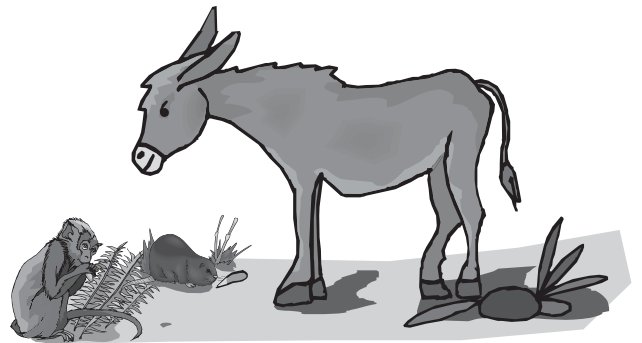
“They laugh at my funny-looking tail,” said the Monkey. “Now if I had a great big tail like the Fox, I would be a beautiful animal indeed.”

A Mole who had just come out of his hole in the ground had overheard the Donkey and the Monkey talking.

“Hold your tongues, both of you,” said the Mole. “You should be thankful for what you have. How would you like to be a Mole? The Moles have no horns at all. The Moles have no tail to speak of. The Moles are nearly blind. The Moles live in the dark under the ground most of the time.”

The Donkey and the Monkey said no more about the things they did not have.

We should be satisfied with what we have. There are always others not as well off as ourselves.



“The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole” by Aesop from *Aesop’s Stories for Pleasure Reading* by Edward W. Dolch.

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| <p>1. What lesson did the Mole want his friends to learn?</p> <p>A Good things come to those who wait.</p> <p>B Good things come in small packages.</p> <p>C If at first you do not succeed, try, try again.</p> <p>D Be grateful for who you are.</p> | <p>2. Which of the following <b>best</b> describes what the Donkey and the Monkey were unhappy about?</p> <p>A what they had to eat</p> <p>B how much work they had</p> <p>C where they lived</p> <p>D how they looked</p> |
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3. When the Mole says “Hold your tongues,” what is he telling the Donkey and the Monkey to do?
- A Stick out their tongues and hold them.
  - B Stop talking in such an unhappy way.
  - C Hold each other’s tongue.
  - D Keep on talking to each other.
4. What did the Donkey and the Monkey have in common?
- A They both had funny-looking tails.
  - B They both had long ears.
  - C They both wanted to be like some other animal.
  - D They both lived in the dark under the ground.

5. Which of the following statements is true?
- A The Donkey wanted a great big tail like the Fox.
  - B The Mole had more to complain about than the Donkey or the Monkey.
  - C The Monkey wanted beautiful horns like the Ox.
  - D The Mole, the Donkey, and the Monkey were all satisfied with how they were.

### End of Set

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*Answers to*  
*Grade 3 Reading Comprehension Sample Items*

| <b>Passage Title</b>                 | <b>Question Number</b> | <b>Correct Answer</b> | <b>Category</b> | <b>Thinking Skill</b> | <b>Objective Number</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole | 1                      | D                     | Interpretation  | Integrating           | 2.04                    |
| The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole | 2                      | D                     | Cognition       | Integrating           | 2.04                    |
| The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole | 3                      | B                     | Interpretation  | Integrating           | 2.04                    |
| The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole | 4                      | C                     | Critical Stance | Analyzing             | 3.02                    |
| The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole | 5                      | B                     | Interpretation  | Generating            | 2.05                    |