

ELA4R1

# Identifying Themes or Lessons

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passages and then answer the questions.

## Walks All Over the Sky

Back when the sky was completely dark there was a chief with two sons, a younger son, One Who Walks All Over the Sky, and an older son, Walking About Early. The younger son was sad to see the sky always so dark so he made a mask out of wood and pitch (the Sun) and lit it on fire. Each day he travels across the sky. At night he sleeps below the horizon and when he snores sparks fly from the mask and make the stars. The older brother became jealous. To impress their father he smeared fat and charcoal on his face (the Moon) and makes his own path across the sky.

—From the *Tsimshian of the Pacific Northwest*

1. This passage is which genre (type) of literature

- (A) folktale  
(B) nonfiction  
(C) poetry  
(D) fable

2. What is the theme of this story?

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## Fox and the Grapes

One warm summer day, a fox was walking along when he noticed a bunch of grapes on a vine above him. Cool, juicy grapes would taste so good. The more he thought about it, the more the fox wanted those grapes. He tried standing on his tiptoes. He tried jumping high in the air. He tried getting a running start before he jumped. But no matter what he tried, the fox could not reach the grapes. As he angrily walked away, the fox muttered, "They were probably sour anyway!"

Moral: A person (or fox) sometimes pretends that he does not want something that he or she cannot have.

3. This passage is which genre (type) of literature?

- (F) poetry  
(G) folktale  
(H) nonfiction  
(J) fable

4. What is the lesson, or moral, of this story?

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