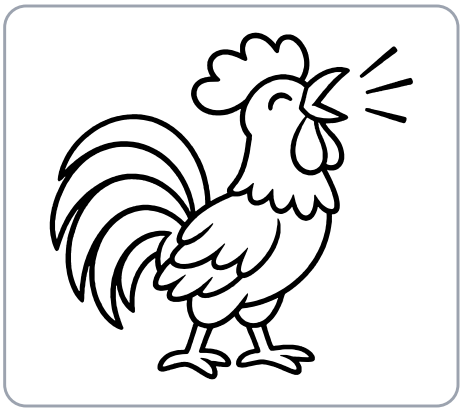
Name _____ Date _____

Characters

Read the story. The questions are on the next page.

Rooster's Big Mistake



Every morning, Rooster flew to the top of the fence, puffed up his chest and crowed as loudly as he could. A moment later, the sun peeked over the hills.

"Did you see that?" Rooster bragged to the other animals. "The sun comes up because I call it. Without me, the farm would stay dark forever."

Duck rolled her eyes, and Donkey just yawned. They had heard it all before.

One night, Rooster stayed up late counting the stars, and in the morning he slept and slept. When he finally opened his eyes, the barnyard was bright and warm. The sun was already high in the sky!

Rooster's heart sank. "The sun came up without me," he whispered. "I am not important after all." He hid in the hayloft all day and would not come out.

That evening, Duck climbed the ladder to find him. "The sun doesn't need you," she said gently, "but we do. The farm felt too quiet all day, and nobody knew when to get up. We missed your song."

The next morning, Rooster crowed from the fence again. This time he didn't brag. He crowed for his friends.

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Name _____ Date _____

Characters

Rooster's Big Mistake: look back at the story to answer.

1. What is Rooster like at the beginning of the story? Give a detail that shows it.

2. Why did Rooster sleep late?

He stayed up late counting the stars.

The sun came up early.

Duck told him to rest.

3. "Rooster's heart sank." What does this mean?

He felt very sad and let down.

His heart moved lower in his body.

He fell back asleep.

4. How did Rooster change by the end? What made him change?

5. Rooster thought the sun rose because he crowed. Do you agree? Why or why not?

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Name _____ Date _____

Characters

Read the story. The questions are on the next page.

Squirrel's Secret Map



Squirrel was the best acorn gatherer in the whole forest, but she had one big problem. She could never remember where she had buried her acorns.

Every fall she dug hundreds of little holes, dropped an acorn into each one and patted the dirt flat. Then, in the middle of winter, she would stand in the snow, scratching her head. "Was it under the oak tree, or the pine tree, or by the big gray rock?" Most of her acorns stayed lost, and some of them grew into new oak trees.

This year, Squirrel racked her brain for a plan. At last she had a bright idea. She found a smooth piece of bark and a sharp stick. Each time she buried an acorn, she scratched a tiny mark on the bark to show where it was.

Her friend Crow laughed at her. "A map? What a nutty idea!"

But when the deep snow came, Squirrel pulled out her map. She followed the marks, dug down, and found her acorns one after another. Soon she had plenty to share, even with Crow, who had not saved a single thing.

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Name _____ Date _____

Characters

Squirrel's Secret Map: look back at the story to answer.

1. What was Squirrel's problem at the beginning?

She could not remember where she buried her acorns.

She could not find any acorns.

Crow took her acorns.

2. "Squirrel racked her brain for a plan." What does this mean?

She hurt her head.

She thought very hard.

She put her brain on a rack.

3. Name a trait that describes Squirrel. Give a detail from the story that shows it.

_____

_____

_____

4. How did Squirrel's map change what happened in winter?

_____

_____

_____

5. Crow called the map "a nutty idea." What do you think of the idea? Why?

_____

_____

_____

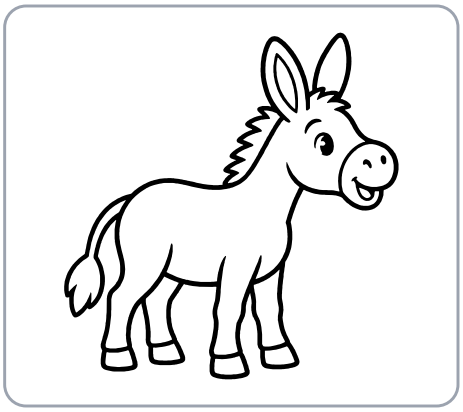
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Name _____ Date _____

Characters

Read the story. The questions are on the next page.

Donkey Carries Too Much



On the morning of the fair, Donkey wanted to be the most helpful animal on the farm. “I will carry everything!” he announced.

Duck brought a basket of speckled eggs, and Rooster brought a sack of golden corn. Tortoise brought a jar of honey, and the goats brought an enormous wheel of cheese. One by one, Donkey piled every package onto his back.

“Are you certain that isn't too much for one animal?” asked Tortoise.

“Don't worry, I am as strong as an ox,” Donkey said proudly. He took one step, and then another, but his legs began to wobble. The load felt like a ton of bricks, and halfway up the steep hill he could not go any farther.

Donkey's ears drooped. “I bit off more than I could chew,” he admitted. “I wanted to be helpful, but I can't carry everything by myself.”

“Then let us help you,” said Tortoise kindly. Rooster carried the corn, and Duck carried her own eggs. The goats rolled their cheese along the bumpy path. Tortoise was too slow to keep up with the others, so she rode on Donkey's back and held the honey carefully in her lap.

Working together, the friends reached the fair just in time.

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Name _____ Date _____

Characters

Donkey Carries Too Much: look back at the story to answer.

1. Why did Donkey want to carry everything?

2. "I am as strong as an ox." What does Donkey mean?

He wants to be an ox. He is an ox. He thinks he is very strong.

3. How did Donkey's choice cause a problem? What happened next?

4. "I bit off more than I could chew." What does this mean?

I ate too fast. I tried to do too much. My teeth hurt.

5. Tortoise asked if the load was too much. Should Donkey have listened? Explain what you think.

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Name _____ Date _____

Literal or Nonliteral?

Circle literal or nonliteral for each sentence from the stories.

Literal words mean exactly what they say. Nonliteral words mean something different from what they say, like "It's raining cats and dogs."

1. Rooster flew to the top of the fence. **literal** **nonliteral**
2. Rooster's heart sank. **literal** **nonliteral**
3. Squirrel racked her brain for a plan. **literal** **nonliteral**
4. Squirrel scratched a mark on the bark. **literal** **nonliteral**
5. The load felt like a ton of bricks. **literal** **nonliteral**
6. Donkey loaded the eggs onto his back. **literal** **nonliteral**
7. At last she had a bright idea. **literal** **nonliteral**
8. The goats rolled their cheese along the path. **literal** **nonliteral**

9. Choose one nonliteral sentence above. Write what it really means.

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Name _____ Date _____

What Does It Mean?

Draw a line from each phrase to what it means.

her heart sank	●	● a silly, foolish idea
racked her brain	●	● very strong
a bright idea	●	● something very heavy
as strong as an ox	●	● tried to do too much
a ton of bricks	●	● she felt sad and let down
bit off more than he could chew	●	● the sun just began to show
a nutty idea	●	● thought very hard
the sun peeked over the hills	●	● a smart, clever plan

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Characters

Rooster's Big Mistake: look back at the story to answer.

1. What is Rooster like at the beginning of the story? Give a detail that shows it.

He is proud. He brags that the sun comes up because he calls it.

2. Why did Rooster sleep late?

- He stayed up late counting the stars.
- The sun came up early.
- Duck told him to rest.

3. "Rooster's heart sank." What does this mean?

- He felt very sad and let down.
- His heart moved lower in his body.
- He fell back asleep.

4. How did Rooster change by the end? What made him change?

He stopped bragging and crowed for his friends, because Duck told him they needed and missed his song.

5. Rooster thought the sun rose because he crowed. Do you agree? Why or why not?

No. The sun rose even when he slept, so his crowing does not make it rise.

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Characters

Squirrel's Secret Map: look back at the story to answer.

1. What was Squirrel's problem at the beginning?

She could not remember where she buried her acorns.

She could not find any acorns.

Crow took her acorns.

2. "Squirrel racked her brain for a plan." What does this mean?

She hurt her head.

She thought very hard.

She put her brain on a rack.

3. Name a trait that describes Squirrel. Give a detail from the story that shows it.

Clever. She thought of making a map on bark to find her acorns.

4. How did Squirrel's map change what happened in winter?

She followed the marks and found her acorns, so she had plenty to eat and share.

5. Crow called the map "a nutty idea." What do you think of the idea? Why?

I think it was smart, because it worked and she found her acorns.

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Characters

Donkey Carries Too Much: look back at the story to answer.

1. Why did Donkey want to carry everything?

He wanted to be the most helpful animal on the farm.

2. "I am as strong as an ox." What does Donkey mean?

He wants to be an ox. He is an ox. He thinks he is very strong.

3. How did Donkey's choice cause a problem? What happened next?

The load was too heavy, so he could not get up the hill. Then his friends each carried their own things.

4. "I bit off more than I could chew." What does this mean?

I ate too fast. I tried to do too much. My teeth hurt.

5. Tortoise asked if the load was too much. Should Donkey have listened? Explain what you think.

Yes. If he had listened, he would not have gotten stuck on the hill.

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Literal or Nonliteral?

Circle literal or nonliteral for each sentence from the stories.

Literal words mean exactly what they say. Nonliteral words mean something different from what they say, like "It's raining cats and dogs."

1. Rooster flew to the top of the fence. **(literal)** **nonliteral**
2. Rooster's heart sank. **literal** **(nonliteral)**
3. Squirrel racked her brain for a plan. **literal** **(nonliteral)**
4. Squirrel scratched a mark on the bark. **(literal)** **nonliteral**
5. The load felt like a ton of bricks. **literal** **(nonliteral)**
6. Donkey loaded the eggs onto his back. **(literal)** **nonliteral**
7. At last she had a bright idea. **literal** **(nonliteral)**
8. The goats rolled their cheese along the path. **(literal)** **nonliteral**

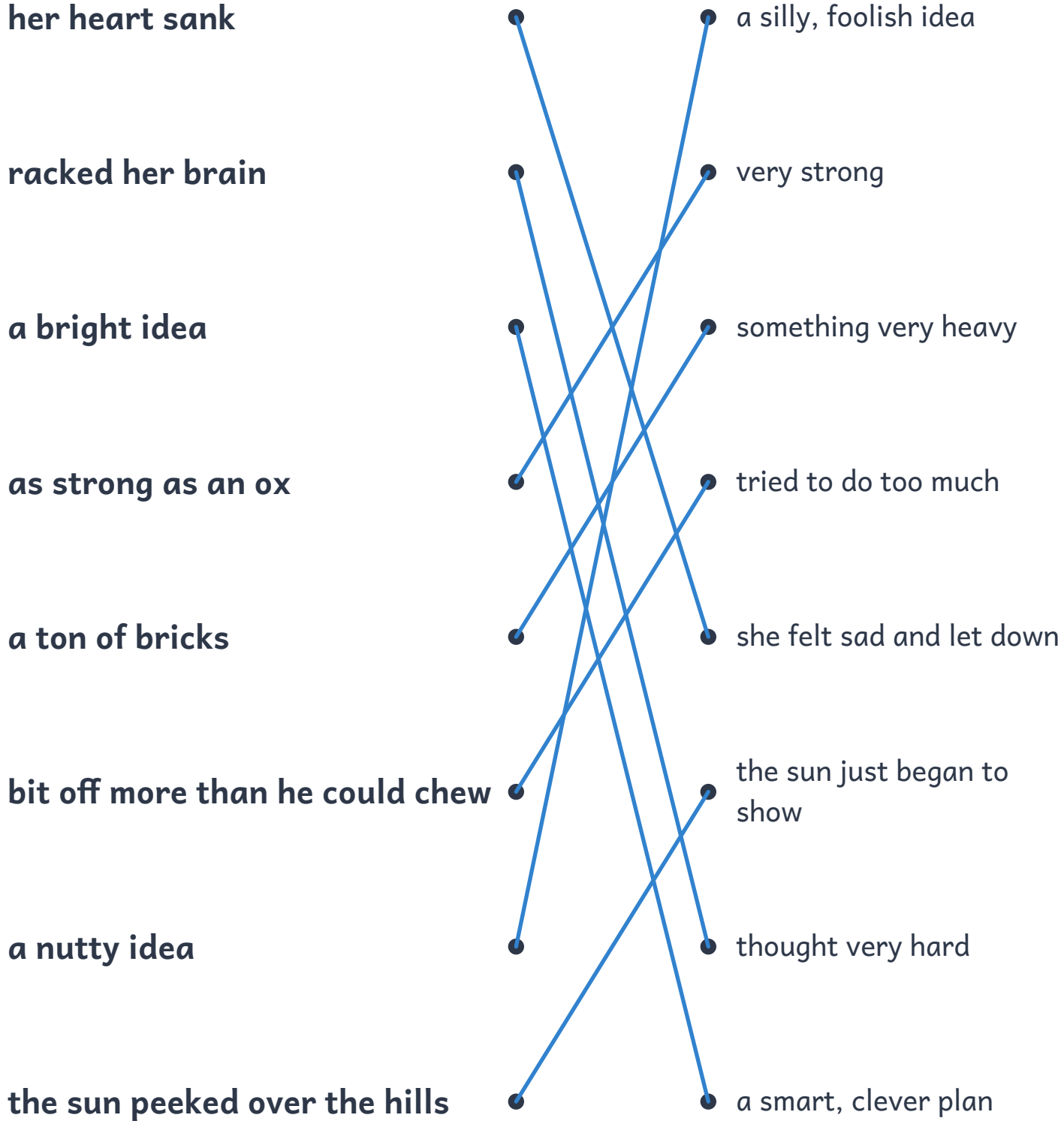
9. Choose one nonliteral sentence above. Write what it really means.

"The load felt like a ton of bricks" means the load felt very, very heavy.

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What Does It Mean?

Draw a line from each phrase to what it means.



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