

THE FARMER, HIS SON AND A DONKEY – 1

Read the fable.

A farmer stood shaking his head after inspecting his meagre wheat crop. He concluded that it would not support his family for the following year, so he called for his son to prepare the donkey to be sold at the markets.

The farmer, the son and the donkey walked side by side to the markets. On their journey, they passed a group of women who started to laugh when they saw the trio.

‘Why are you both walking beside a donkey when you might ride it?’ they asked curiously.

The farmer shrugged and ordered his son to climb upon the donkey. They continued along the path to the markets until they passed an old man who pointed his finger at them in anger.

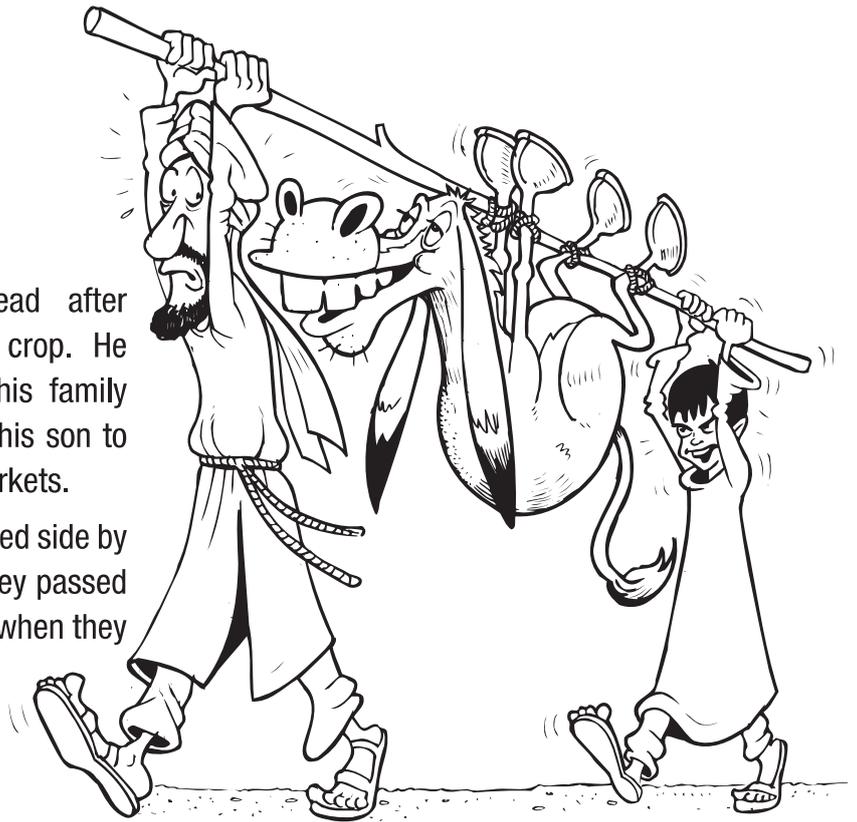
‘You ungrateful boy! Why do you ride like a king when your poor father walks on his tired feet? Children have lost all respect for their elders!’ the old man scolded.

The farmer looked at his son, who slid down the side of the donkey—his face red with shame. The father shrugged again, and mounted the donkey’s back.

Moments later, they walked past a group of young girls who were astonished at the sight before them.

‘You are a cruel man’, the girls jeered. ‘Why do you ride while your son stumbles along beside you like a servant?’

The boy looked up at his father, whose face was beetroot-red. The farmer motioned for the donkey to stop so that his son could climb aboard.



Just outside the village, a group of gypsies were sitting by a small fire chattering noisily to each other. When they saw the two passengers on the donkey, they stopped chatting and called out in anger.

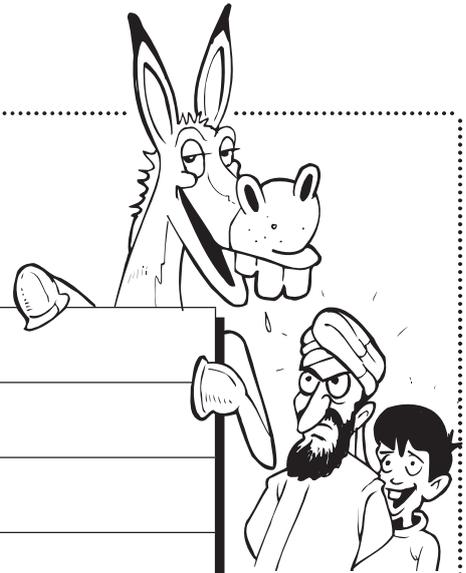
‘Why do you ride that poor donkey? Can you not see his back buckling under your weight? It would be smarter for you to carry him than he to carry you!’

The boy and his father quickly dismounted the donkey and looked for a long pole. They tied the donkey’s legs together and attached him, upside down, to the pole, then positioned the pole on their shoulders.

As they entered the markets, the donkey, seeing the stalls and villagers upside down, decided he was not happy with his predicament and began to kick and buck so hard that the ropes broke and he fell to the ground. In an instant, the donkey had galloped out of the markets. The farmer and his son stood and watched in amazement as the donkey disappeared from their sight.

THE FARMER, HIS SON AND A DONKEY – 2

Use the text on page 11 to answer the questions.



1 Literal

(a) Complete the chart.

Who?	What did they demand?
	Someone to ride the donkey.
Old man	
	Son to ride the donkey.
Gypsies	

(b) What caused the farmer's face to turn 'beetroot-red'?

2 Deductive

A fable is a story that teaches the reader a lesson about how to behave. This is also called a 'moral'.

(a) What do you think the moral of this fable is?

(i) *Slow and steady wins the race.*

(ii) *It is easier to think up a plan than to carry it out.*

(iii) *He who tries to please everybody, pleases nobody.*

(b) Explain your choice.

3 Evaluative

'It would be smarter for you to carry him than he to carry you!'

(a) Do you think the gypsies meant for the farmer and the son to carry the donkey?

Yes **No**

Explain _____

(b) Who do you think had the right idea about the trip to the markets?

Farmer and son Women Old man
Girls Gypsies

(c) Explain your choice. _____

THE FARMER, HIS SON AND A DONKEY – 3

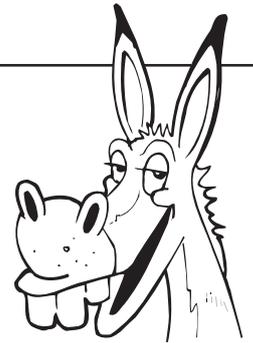
Use the text on page 11 to complete the activities.

- 1 Retell the story of the trio's journey to the markets from the donkey's point of view. Include what the donkey was thinking during the day's events and reveal what happened to him once he had fled the markets.

Your story can be in the form of:

a diary a play a narrative story (with dialogue)

Title



What were you thinking when you left the farm?

Who did you meet along the way?

How did you feel about your passengers?

Where did you run to?

Who did you meet there?

Continue on the back of this sheet.