



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
2007**

**Grade 4  
Reading**

# Reading

1 Which word rhymes with pale?

- A. bull
- B. fail
- C. pole
- D. call

2 The word whole belongs in which sentence?

- A. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the pie crust.
- B. I could eat the \_\_\_\_\_ pie at once.
- C. Flour spilled out of a \_\_\_\_\_ in the bag.
- D. Please make a \_\_\_\_\_ in the foil.

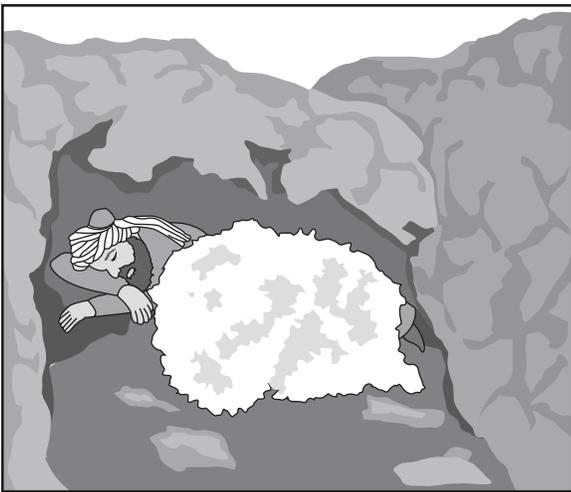
Read this story about a shepherd and his treasured sheepskin. Then answer the questions that follow.

## The Shepherd's Treasure

*a Persian folktale*

*retold by Mark Morano*

1 Once upon a time there was a poor man who herded sheep in Persia. He lived by himself in a cave. The only thing he owned was a sheepskin. He wore the sheepskin over his tattered clothes during the day. At night he would pull the sheepskin around him to keep warm. The old sheepskin was his best friend.



Over the years, as the shepherd took care of his sheep, he learned many things. He listened to the birds, and their songs taught him the joy of life. He watched the sky and clouds and learned when the rain would fall. He also learned about people. He made friends with other shepherds and listened to their problems. They told their friends about the wise shepherd and how he had helped

them. Many people went to the shepherd for help. Little by little, everyone heard about the wise shepherd. Soon even the Shah heard of the shepherd and how he helped anyone who came to him.

The Shah was a good king and was always looking for wise people to help rule his country. When he heard about the shepherd, the Shah decided to see how wise he was. He told his servant he would disguise himself as a poor traveler. First he gave his servant all his good clothes. Next he put on the oldest clothes he could find.

The Shah took some fruit and nuts, and rode off on a donkey to find the shepherd. After a long ride he found the shepherd herding his sheep. The Shah started talking to the shepherd and asked him to share his food. While they ate, the Shah asked the shepherd many questions.

The Shah then said, "Thank you for sharing lunch, but I must leave. I am a poor traveler who has a long way to go."

The shepherd smiled. "It's all right. I know it is a long ride back to the palace."

The Shah was surprised that the shepherd knew he was the king. He sat and thought for a moment. "Even though I was disguised as a poor traveler, you knew I was the king. How is that?"

The shepherd answered, “Shah, even though your clothes are tattered, you wear them like a king. You speak as if you are used to people obeying. It is easy to see you are not a poor traveler.”

“I now know that you are a wise man as everyone has told me,” said the Shah. “Because you are so wise, I will make you the governor of this part of my country.”

At first everyone was happy that the shepherd was the new governor because they loved and trusted him. But before long, people noticed that the governor always had with him a camel carrying a heavy chest with two locks. The people began to talk to each other about what was in the chest.

“Why does he have two locks?” someone asked. “Do you think there is treasure inside?”

“Maybe he keeps the gold we pay for taxes in that chest,” said a friend.

“That isn’t right. That gold is for the Shah. Does our new governor keep it for himself?” wondered another.

Soon the Shah heard stories that the people were not happy with their new governor. He was angry when he found out that everyone said the new governor was stealing his gold.

The Shah heard about a treasure that the governor kept with him. The Shah told his servants to get his horse ready. He called for his greatest judges, and they all went off to see the new governor.

The Shah rode up to the governor and said, “What are these stories I have heard

about you stealing my gold? And what is this treasure of yours?”

The governor shook his head. “I haven’t taken any of your gold,” he said.

“If you haven’t,” said the angry Shah, “then open your treasure chest and show me what is inside.”

The governor had his servants take the heavy chest down from the camel’s back. He took two keys from his pocket and opened the two locks.

The Shah and his judges leaned forward. The governor opened the chest and took out the treasure inside. It was his old sheepskin. He held it up so everyone could see and said, “When I was a poor shepherd this was my best friend. It covered me each day and warmed me at night. I have kept it safe in this chest so that I would never forget that I was once poor. It helps me remember that even though I am rich, I am no better than anyone else.”

The Shah smiled and said, “This man is indeed a wise and good governor. From this day on, he will be the greatest of all my governors.”

And so the governor who was once a poor shepherd became one of the most important men in Persia. But he always kept his treasure, the old sheepskin, which had been his best friend.

- 3 At the beginning of the story, why is the old sheepskin the shepherd's "best friend"?
- A. It is worth as much as gold.
  - B. It keeps him covered and warm.
  - C. It was a gift from a good friend.
  - D. It came from a sheep he had cared for.

- 4 In the first paragraph, the word tattered describes clothing that is
- A. torn.
  - B. heavy.
  - C. loose.
  - D. colorful.

- 5 As the shepherd cared for his sheep over the years, he learned how to
- A. make friends with kings.
  - B. help rule a country.
  - C. sing songs to people.
  - D. listen to people and animals.

- 6 Why does the Shah go in search of the shepherd the **first** time?
- A. to see if the shepherd really is poor
  - B. to learn how to be as wise as the shepherd
  - C. to ask the shepherd to become governor
  - D. to see if the shepherd really is wise

7 Read the dictionary definitions below.

**rule** (noun): 1. what should be followed  
(verb): 2. to lead and control others

Write two of your own sentences to show **each** meaning of the word rule. Use the word rule in each sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Read the dictionary definitions below.

**judge** (noun): 1. the person who decides  
(verb): 2. to give an opinion

Write two of your own sentences to show **each** meaning of the word judge. Use the word judge in each sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- 8 The people lose trust in their new governor when he
- A. no longer talks with them.
  - B. begins to steal gold from the Shah.
  - C. keeps a locked chest with him.
  - D. borrows camels that belong to others.

- 9 Why does the shepherd keep his old sheepskin after he becomes the governor?
- A. He never throws anything away.
  - B. He wants to remember that he was once poor.
  - C. He uses it to stay warm each night.
  - D. He wants to make sure it does not get stolen.

- 10 From now on, the people of Persia will **most likely**
- A. trust the new governor.
  - B. keep their gold hidden.
  - C. watch the Shah closely.
  - D. find their own sheepskins.

- 11 The word more rhymes with
- A. good.
  - B. four.
  - C. post.
  - D. flour.



# Acknowledgments

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## Grade 4 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand <sup>1</sup>	WV	WV	LJ	WV	LJ	LJ	WV	LA	LJ	LA	WV	LJ
GLE Code	3-1	3-3	3-4	3-3	3-4	3-4	3-3	3-5	3-4	3-5	3-1	3-4
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1
Item Type <sup>2</sup>	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	B	B	B	A	D	D		C	B	A	B	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

<sup>1</sup>Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LJ = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation, II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

<sup>2</sup>Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response