

Folktales

The Cockroach and the Mouse

by Julia Wall
illustrated by Tim Jones



Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

Fox and Crane

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Ask and Answer
Questions

Skill: Theme

Vocabulary

attracted, dazzling, fabric,
greed, honest, requested,
soared, trudged

Vocabulary Strategy

Root Words

Word Count: 1,253

**Essential Question****What are some messages in animal stories?**

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Chapter 1

Something Round and Silver

Martina Cockroach was cleaning her house when a shiny object attracted her eye. Something round and silver was stuck in a gap between the floorboards.

“What on earth could that be?” Martina muttered. She moved closer to take a look.



Martina pulled and tugged to get the round silver thing out, and just when she thought she couldn't pull and tug anymore, out it popped.

The silver thing wobbled wildly several times, making a noise like a drum roll, and then came to a stop.

Martina crept closer. After nearly being squashed by it, she was a little afraid of what it might be.

“Oh!” she exclaimed. “It's a coin!”

She thought, “I could buy myself something special.” Then she had another idea—perhaps she could use this new treasure to help her.

Martina sat down and thought. She realized that good fortune had come her way and she wanted to make the most of it.

“I could use the coin to help me choose a husband,” Martina thought. She had four suitors and couldn’t decide which one she should marry.

She wondered what they all had in common.

“Of course!” said Martina, remembering that they all loved freshly baked corn cakes, called *arepas*. “I will use the coin to buy arepas. Their delicious smell will attract Goat, Cat, Rooster, and Mouse in no time!”



Martina went to her closet. “Which dress shall I wear?” she wondered. She decided that her red dress made of silk fabric would be perfect.

STOP AND CHECK

What does Martina decide to do with the coin?

Chapter 2

Martina Buys Some Corn Cakes

The next morning, Martina slipped into her red dress. She picked up her silver coin and set out for the bakery. Her progress through the streets was slow because the coin was very heavy.



At last, Martina arrived at the store and requested five arepas from the baker.

“You’ve come at the perfect time,” he said, smiling cheerfully. “These arepas are fresh out of the oven.”

Martina handed him the silver coin and thanked him. The arepas smelled good, and she could feel their warmth. “Maybe I could eat one now,” she thought, but she decided to control her greed and wait until her suitors visited.

When she arrived home, Martina sat down on her patio and waited.




STOP AND CHECK

Why doesn't Martina eat an arepa right away?



Chapter 3

Animals Come Calling



Martina didn't have to wait long. Goat was the first one to smell the special treats.

“Good morning, Martina!” he bleated. “You look dazzling today. What’s that delicious smell?”

“Arepas,” said Martina.

Goat smacked his lips. “Is there one for me?”

“There is,” replied Martina, “if you serenade me and I am happy with your song. Then you may have an arepa *and* you may ask for my hand in marriage.”

Goat was so excited that he started singing right away. “Bleat! Bleeaatt! Bleat, bleat, bleat!”

Martina's antennae started to twitch. "Goat," she said, "please stop."

"Does that mean you won't give me an arepa?" asked Goat.

"I'm sorry," said Martina. "It also means that you can't ask for my hand in marriage."

Goat trudged away sadly.

The next suitor to smell the arepas was Cat. Martina told him about her plan for choosing a husband, and he sang a few warm-up notes.

"Meow! Mee-oww, meow, meow!"

"No arepas for you, Cat," said Martina. "And no marriage proposal either!"





Martina's third suitor was Rooster.

"I sing every morning," he said proudly, "so I'm sure you'll like my song."

Martina thought that sounded promising.

"COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!" crowed Rooster.

"Rooster," Martina gasped, "you frightened me half to death!"

"But that's the sound I make to wake everyone up," said Rooster.

"Well," said Martina, "there's no danger of anyone sleeping through that!"

Finally, Perez the Mouse, Martina's final suitor, appeared. "I hear that you're looking for a suitor. May I serenade you?" he asked. And then he began to sing.

*"Cucarachita Martina,
No cockroach is sweeter.
I would lose my whiskers for you,
If that was what I had to do!"*

His voice was high, but it was beautiful, and he was an honest mouse. Martina's heart soared and she knew she had found her match.

STOP AND CHECK

Why does Martina send Goat, Cat, and Rooster away?



Chapter 4

Perez Falls into the Pot

Martina invited Perez to dinner to celebrate their engagement.

“I will make my special soup,” said Martina. She threw some ingredients into a pot and left Perez to stir the soup while she went out to buy salt.

On her way to the store, she met Goat. “You look happy, Martina,” he said. “Who was the successful suitor?”

“It was Perez,” said Martina. “I’m making soup to celebrate. Please join us, and tell Cat and Rooster that they are welcome too.”

“Thank you,” said Goat. “I will.”



Back in Martina's house, Perez was stirring the soup. "I wonder what is in Martina's soup," he thought. "If I lean over, I'll be able to see."

Standing on tiptoe, Perez lost his balance and fell into the soup with a mighty splash.

At that moment, Goat, Cat, and Rooster arrived.

"Help!" screamed Perez. "I've fallen into the soup!"



The three animals looked at each other. They were all thinking the same thing, “If he dies, then one of us will marry Martina!”

Just then, Martina arrived home. “Where’s Perez?” she asked.

“In here!” he shouted from the pot.

“Rescue him!” Martina screamed.

The other animals suddenly remembered that Perez was their friend and dragged him out of the pot.

All was forgiven, by Perez, anyway, and the five friends celebrated his lucky escape with hot soup and fresh arepas.



STOP AND CHECK

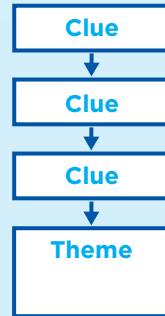
Why don't Goat, Cat and Rooster rescue Perez right away?



Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use your graphic organizer to summarize the message of *The Cockroach and the Mouse*.



Text Evidence

1. How can you tell this story is a folktale?
Identify two features that tell you this. **GENRE**
2. What do we learn from the animals in this story about helping each other? Include two important details in your answer. **THEME**
3. What is the root word of *attracted* on page 2?
ROOT WORDS
4. Write about the way Martina chose a husband. **WRITE ABOUT READING**



Compare Texts

Read about how Fox and Crane trick each other.

Fox and Crane

One day, Fox and Crane were hunting the same mouse. Fox was about to pounce when Crane snapped her bill shut on the rodent. She quickly tipped her head back, and the mouse disappeared down her throat.

“Mmm!” said Crane. “What a tasty lunch!”

Fox cleared his throat. “Actually, Crane,” he said, “that was *my* lunch you just ate.”

“I caught it first,” said Crane. “Besides, it’s too late now.”

Fox knew Crane was right, but he had a plan to get back at her. “Why don’t you come to my place tomorrow for mouse soup?” he asked.



“What’s that sneaky fox up to?” thought Crane. She accepted his invitation and the next day flew to Fox’s den.

When Crane arrived, Fox was preparing his soup. He was stirring some freshly caught mouse into a delicious broth with carrots, onions, and herbs.

“That soup sure smells good!” said Crane.

“It tastes good too,” said Fox. He dished the soup into two shallow bowls and invited Crane to join him.

Fox started drinking his soup with loud slurps. “It’s delicious, if I do say so myself!”

Crane could wet the tip of her bill in the bowl, but she couldn’t drink the soup because her bill was too long. “Fox is paying me back,” she thought.

“This tastes different from the mouse soup I make,” lied Crane. “Come by tomorrow and try some.”

“We both know she can’t taste my soup,” thought Fox. “What’s that crafty crane up to?”

The next day, he ran to Crane's home. Two tall jars of mouse soup were waiting. Fox put his muzzle into a jar, but he couldn't reach the soup. Crane started to laugh, and so did Fox.

"You only did to me what I did to you," admitted Fox. "Let's hunt for mice and make soup together, and stop playing tricks!"

"Okay," said Crane. "I'll bring along my jar!"

Fox laughed. "And I'll bring my bowl," he said.



Make Connections

What do the animals in *Fox and Crane* teach us?

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How are the endings of *The Cockroach and the Mouse* and *Fox and Crane* similar? How are they different?

TEXT TO TEXT

Focus on Literary Elements

Imagery Imagery is descriptive language that helps us make pictures in our mind. A writer uses imagery to describe how something looks, sounds, smells, feels, or tastes. We use these images to help us understand a story better.

Read and Find On page 2 of *The Cockroach and the Mouse*, the writer uses descriptive adjectives and verbs to help the reader form mental pictures. For example, *round and silver, shiny, muttered, crept, tugged, popped*.

On page 3, the imagery “a noise like a drum roll” helps the reader *hear* what is being described. The images used on page 6 help the reader taste, smell, or feel the *arepas*: “The *arepas* smelled delicious, and Martina could feel their warmth.”

Your Turn

Choose a character, place, or event in *The Cockroach and the Mouse* or *Fox and Crane* and use imagery to describe it vividly. Write your description down, then share it with someone.

Literature Circles

Fiction

Thinkmark

Setting

Where did *The Cockroach and the Mouse* take place?

Characters

Who are the main characters?

How would you describe Martina?

How would you describe Perez the Mouse?

Plot

What did Martina want?

How did she solve her problem?

How did the story end?

Conclusions

What conclusion can you draw about friendship from these stories?

Author's Purpose

Why do you think the author wrote *The Cockroach and the Mouse*?