New England Common Assessment Program

Student Work Samples 2007

Grade 8

Reading

7

The King changes during the course of the folktale. When we first meet him, he is very "impressive and stern." Later he is angry because the thief has brought him a plum pit. After the thief announces that it is no ordinary plum pit, the King is curious and says, "What do you mean by that?" Upon learning that the pit will produce golden plums once planted, the King is suspicious. "Well, if that's the case, why haven't you planted it yourself?" he asks.

The thief reveals that only people who have never stolen or cheated may reap the benefit. The King is regretful, but also honest, because he stole pennies from his mother's purse as a boy. The thief offered the pit to everyone else in the room, but no one accepted. The thief berates them for stealing and not being punished. As a final change, the King is shameful and offers to pay the thief's fine.

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In the tale that the thief presents upon the King changes the King in several way. One way that he changed was that at first the King was mad of seeing what was inside of the box. Then as the thief went on the King got a little happy because he heard about the golden bums. After that he felt ashamed because he knew that he has done some bad things as well in his life like others have too. Then because of that the King felt embarrased because of what has done and let go the thief.

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The king changes because the thief say's that only Someone who hadent stolen or cheated could get the golden plum tree. The king did not get the tree because he had stolen in his past. The king and the other people in the room felt bad that they stolen or cheated So they let the thief go free.

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The king changes from being angry to being nice and letting the thief out of jail.

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The King gets older during the folktale.

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In the story, the clever theif comes up with a way to get out of jail without escaping. The theif takes a plum pit to the King as a gift, telling him that only those who have not Stolen or cheated can have the magic of the golden plums. When the King turns down the gift after realizing that he has stolen something before, the theif turns to the other people present in the room. Alas, all the members of the room have stolen before. The thief laughs at this, wondering why he was jailed for stealing some spices when the other men had also stolen and were still free men. The King realized how this was unfair to the theif, so in hopes of somehow making it up to him, he sets the theif free. The theif of course knew this was going to happen the whole time, which is what made him so clever.

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The thief says that the plum pit is magical and if the has not cheated or stole something it will grow golden plums, but if you have cheated or stole something then the tree will only grow regular plums and not golden plums. When the thief tells the royalty's they all turn the plum pit down because they have done something wrong and they know that they cannot accept the plum pit because they have either cheated or stole something in thier past lifetime and if they accept the plum pit it would be wrong for them to accept it because of what they had done earlier in life.

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How the thief uses the plum theory was he said they grew golden plums. Then he said the planter has to be honest. Once everyone is saying they lied, he says I've only stole spices and have 5 years for it. They were worse than them and they never went to jail. So they let him go because they decided that it was right to do.

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He used the plam pit to get them to confes ther crimes and set him free.

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The thief uses the plumb tree to help him in jail by growing right outside of the window so it grows and he can climb down it.