

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Skedaddle's Big Boast

Skedaddle the monkey lived deep in the jungle. Tall trees with giant leaves shaded the ground, and long vines grew from the trees. Skedaddle loved to swing from the vines. He also loved to travel from one end of the jungle to the other. He would come back to his home and tell the other monkeys what he had seen and done.

One evening, Skedaddle dangled from a branch over the heads of the other monkeys. He told an exciting tale about what he'd done while crossing the jungle.

"I taught the snakes on the other side of the jungle to eat wild yams!" he boasted. "They love them."

The other monkeys gasped in surprise. The snakes were one of the biggest dangers of the jungle.

"There are trees of gold that never run out of fruit," Skedaddle said. "I planted more of them so the animals there would always have food."

The other monkeys gasped in surprise. Sometimes, it was hard for them to find food. Trees that never ran out of fruit would solve the problem.

"I helped a family of elephants build a bridge across a river." Skedaddle swung around the branch then did a little dance. "Now they don't have to get their feet wet."

The other monkeys gasped. That was an amazing feat.



Grade 4 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

“Hogwash!”

Skedaddle looked down to see Monkeyshines, an older monkey who had a lot of followers. He stood with his arms crossed and a frown on his face.

“I can prove it!” Skedaddle said. “The elephants will tell you.” He pointed to where the elephants made their way through the forest.

Monkeyshines laughed, and the other monkeys joined him. “There is no need for that,” he said. “Just go to the other side of the jungle and bring back a golden fruit. That will prove what you say is true.”

Skedaddle picked at his fur as he thought. “All right,” he said after several minutes. “I will go to the other side of the jungle and bring back the fruit.”

“And I will go with you,” Monkeyshines said. He laughed again.

Skedaddle did not know what to say. If Monkeyshines went too, he would know Skedaddle was fibbing.

“Well?” Monkeyshines asked. “Are you ready to go?”

Skedaddle shook his head. “No. I’m too tired to go right now. Perhaps tomorrow.”

Monkeyshines and the other monkeys laughed again. “That’s what I thought. I suppose there will be an excuse tomorrow as well.”

Skedaddle hung his head. Monkeyshines had called out his boast, and now all the monkeys were laughing at him.



Questions:

1. What does the word boast mean?
 - a. A boast is a cross between a boat and toast.
 - b. To boast means to talk with too much pride about things you have done.
 - c. To boast means to clean a lot of houseboats.
 - d. A boast is a piece of meat cooked on a boat.

2. What does Skedaddle claim he did?
 - a. Skedaddle claims he convinced the snakes to eat wild yams.
 - b. Skedaddle claims he planted the seeds of the golden fruit.
 - c. Skedaddle claims he helped the elephants build a bridge.
 - d. All the above.

3. What does Monkeyshines ask Skedaddle to do?
 - a. Monkeyshines asks Skedaddle to make cookies.
 - b. Monkeyshines asks Skedaddle to call the elephants.
 - c. Monkeyshines asks Skedaddle to bring back a golden fruit.
 - d. Monkeyshines asks Skedaddle to groom him.

4. Why doesn't Skeddaddle want to go with Monkeyshine?

5. An old saying is "Deeds count, not boasting words." What do you think that means?

Answers:

1. What does the word boast mean?
 - b. To boast means to talk with too much pride about things you have done.

2. What does Skedaddle claim he did?
 - d. All of the above.

3. What does Monkeyshines ask Skedaddle to do?
 - c. Monkeyshines asks Skedaddle to bring back a golden fruit.

4. Why doesn't Skedaddle want to go with Monkeyshine?

Skedaddle knows that they will not be able to find any golden fruit because he was just boasting and not telling the truth.

5. An old saying is "Deeds count, not boasting words." What do you think that means?

Answers will vary.