

Name: _____

The Dog and His Reflection

A Retelling of Aesop's Fable

by Neal Levin

The Roberts family sat down for dinner, but all Rascal got was a bowl of dry dog food.

The lamb chops smelled delicious. Rascal stood on his hind legs and begged for something juicy.

"Here's a bone," Mr. Roberts said. He opened the front door and tossed the bone into the yard. Rascal scampered after it.

Rascal pranced down the sidewalk with the bone in his mouth. It was better than his dog food, but he wished it had more meat on it.

Not far away, Rascal saw another dog that was gnawing on a bigger bone. The bigger bone looked meatier and juicier.

Rascal snarled and showed his teeth. The other dog snarled back. Rascal barked loudly. The other dog barked back. While the other dog was barking, Rascal snatched the bigger bone and scurried away.

The bigger bone was tastier, but most of the meat had been eaten. Rascal knew the best bones in town came from the butcher shop. He ran down the block to the back of the butcher shop. The butcher's dog was chewing on a steak bone.

Rascal snarled and showed his teeth. The butcher's dog snarled back. Rascal barked loudly. The butcher's dog barked back. Rascal snatched the steak bone and scurried away.



He ran and ran so the butcher's dog wouldn't catch up to him. Finally he came to a stream.

As he crossed the narrow bridge, Rascal looked down and saw his reflection in the water. But he didn't know it was his reflection. He thought it was another dog. And this dog had the biggest steak bone of all!

Rascal snarled at the dog in the water, and the dog snarled back. Rascal barked loudly, and the dog in the water barked back. Rascal jumped into the water to grab the bone that had fallen from the other dog's mouth. But he realized he had dropped his own bone which had sunk to the bottom of the stream.

Rascal had lost everything.

Now all he could do was go back to his dog food at home.

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1. In the beginning of the story, what is troubling Rascal?
 - a. He is hungry.
 - b. His family isn't paying attention to him.
 - c. His family doesn't feed him any table scraps.
 - d. He would rather eat the family's food than his dry food.

2. Why isn't Rascal happy with the bone that Mr. Roberts gave him?

3. What happens each time Rascal gets a bigger bone?

4. At the end of the story, does Rascal get what he really wants? Why or why not?

5. Which lesson does this fable teach?

- a. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- b. Be content with what you already have.
- c. Hard work will pay off in the end.
- d. Be the change you want to see in the world.

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Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. d e _ _ i _ _ i _ _ u _ _

hint: mouthwatering; tasty

2. s _ _ a _ _ _ e r _ _ d

hint: scurried or darted away

3. p _ _ a _ _ c _ _ _ _

hint: moved with bright, bouncy steps

4. g _ _ _ _ w _ _ _ _

hint: chewing or biting

5. s _ _ a _ _ l _ _ _ _

hint: growled and showed its teeth

6. n _ _ _ _ r o _ _

hint: slender; not wide

7. b _ _ t _ _ _ e _ _

hint: someone who sells meat

8. r e _ _ _ e _ _ _ i o _ _

hint: an image that is cast when a surface throws back light

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In the story "The Dog and His Reflection," Rascal's greed causes him to chase something bigger and better to eat, until he makes a mistake and loses the best bone he has.



On the lines below, answer the following questions:

Is it wrong to want something new? Why or why not?

When does wanting new things turn into greed?

ANSWER KEY

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1. In the beginning of the story, what is troubling Rascal? **d**

- a. He is hungry.
- b. His family isn't paying attention to him.
- c. His family doesn't feed him any table scraps.
- d. He would rather eat the family's food than his dry food.**

2. Why isn't Rascal happy with the bone that Mr. Roberts gave him?

Rascal wishes the bone that Mr. Roberts gave him had more meat on it.

3. What happens each time Rascal gets a bigger bone?

Each time Rascal gets a bigger bone, he is unhappy with it. He wishes it was bigger, better, juicier, and so on.

4. At the end of the story, does Rascal get what he really wants? Why or why not?

No. Rascal thinks the dog in the water has the best bone of all, but he doesn't realize he is looking at himself. When he drops the bone, he has nothing but the dry food he started with.

5. Which lesson does this fable teach? **b**

- a. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- b. Be content with what you already have.**
- c. Hard work will pay off in the end.
- d. Be the change you want to see in the world.

ANSWER KEY

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Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. de l i c i o u s delicious
hint: mouthwatering; tasty
2. s c a m p e r e d scampered
hint: scurried or darted away
3. p r a n c e d pranced
hint: moved with bright, bouncy steps
4. g n a w e d gnawed
hint: chewing or biting
5. s n a r l e d snarled
hint: growled and showed its teeth
6. n a r r o w narrow
hint: slender; not wide
7. b u t c h e r butcher
hint: someone who sells meat
8. r e f l e c t i o n reflection
hint: an image that is cast when a surface
throws back light