The Fox and the Tiger

Stories that came down

Name _____ Date _____

This is a short fable from China, written down more than 2,000 years ago. Read it, then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Tiger

Once a fox met a tiger. The latter bared his teeth, stretched out his claws, and was about to devour him. But the fox spoke and said: "My dear sir, you must not think that you are the only king of beasts. Your courage does not compare with my own. Let us walk together, and do you keep behind me. And if men catch sight of me and do not fear me, then you may devour me." The tiger was willing, and so the fox led him along a broad highway. But the travelers, when they saw the tiger in the distance, were all frightened and ran away.

Then the fox said: "How about it? I went in advance, and the men saw me and had not as yet seen you."

And thereupon the tiger drew in his tail and ran away himself.

The tiger had remarked quite well that the men were afraid of the fox, but he had not noticed that the fox had borrowed the terror he inspired from him.

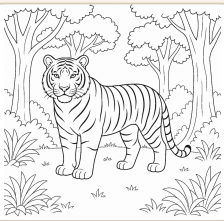
The Fox and the Tiger. Richard Wilhelm, The Chinese Fairy Book, translated by Frederick H. Martens (1921). Public domain.

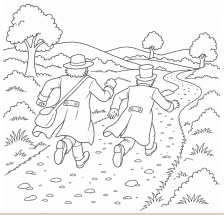
Lesson 25

MATCH

Draw a line from each picture to who it is in the fable.







the ones who ran away	the clever one	the strong one

CIRCLE

For each sentence, circle whether the story shows what the tellers thought, or whether it cannot prove that this happened.

The fox was clever and used the tiger's power to frighten people.	the story shows this	it cannot prove this
A real fox and a real tiger once walked down a road together.	the story shows this	it cannot prove this
People who told this story found it funny that someone can seem fierce by standing near a stronger person.	the story shows this	it cannot prove this
We know the exact Chinese words the first teller used.	the story shows this	it cannot prove this

WRITE

Finish this sentence about the fable.

This story can tell us ... but it cannot tell us ...

_____

_____

Key words

legend · folklore · collector · evidence