

Today, you will read a fable titled "The Ducks and the Fox." As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the story. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.

Read the fable titled "The Ducks and the Fox." Then answer Questions 1 through 5.

THE DUCKS AND THE FOX

- ① Two Duck sisters were waddling down the road to the pond for their morning swim.
- ② "This is a good road," said the first sister, "but I think, just for a change, we should find another route. There are many other roads that lead to the pond."
- ③ "No," said the second sister, "I do not agree. I really do not want to try a new way. This road makes me feel comfortable. I am accustomed to it."
- ④ One morning the Ducks met a Fox sitting on a fence along the road.
- ⑤ "Good morning, ladies," said the Fox. "On your way to the pond, I suppose?"
- ⑥ "Oh, yes," said the sisters, "we come along here every day."
- ⑦ "Interesting," said the Fox with a toothy smile.
- ⑧ When the sun came up the next morning, the first sister said, "We are sure to meet that Fox again if we go our usual way. I did not like his looks. Today is the day that we must find another road!"
- ⑨ "You are being just plain silly," said the second sister. "That Fox smiled at us. He seemed most gentlemanly."
- ⑩ The two Ducks waddled down the same road to the pond. There was the Fox, sitting on the fence. This time he carried a sack.
- ⑪ "Lovely ladies," said the Fox, "I was expecting you. I am glad that you have not disappointed me."
- ⑫ Opening his sack, he jumped upon them.
- ⑬ The sisters quacked and screamed. They flapped and flopped their wings. They flew home and bolted their door.
- ⑭ The next morning, the two Ducks did not go out. They rested at home to quiet their nerves. On the following day they carefully searched for a new and different road. They found one, and it took them safely to the pond.



1. Part A

What does **accustomed** mean as it is used in Paragraph 3 of “The Ducks and the Fox?”

- a. ready to walk
- b. used to something
- c. not happy
- d. ready to argue

Part B

Which statement best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “I do not agree.”
- b. “...who was very proud of being different...”
- c. “...were waddling down the road...”
- d. “I really do not want to try a new way.”

2. Part A

Which character trait **best** describes the Fox?

- a. polite
- b. kind
- c. tricky
- d. happy

Part B

Which sentence from “The Ducks and the Fox” supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “He seemed most gentlemanly.”
- b. “‘Good morning, ladies,’ said the Fox”
- c. “That fox smiled at us.”
- d. “Opening his sack, he jumped on them.”

3. Part A

What is the lesson of this fable?

- a. Don’t do something just because you’ve always done it.
- b. Never trust a fox with a sack.
- c. If someone you know tells you something, you should trust them.
- d. Don’t trust someone who smiles at you.

Part B

Which details from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “‘Interesting,’ said the Fox with a toothy smile.”
- b. “I really do not want to try a new way. This road makes me feel comfortable.”
- c. “Opening his sack, he jumped upon them.”
- d. “‘No,’ said the second sister... ‘I am accustomed to it.’”

4. Fill in the table. There will be more than one answer for each character.

- a. Wouldn't listen to other characters
- b. Did not trust a stranger
- c. Was very sneaky
- d. Watched the other characters to learn about them
- e. Wanted to do something differently than usual
- f. Decided to do what someone else said
- g. Was very charming

<u>Character</u>	<u>Description</u>
Fox	
First Duck Sister	
Second Duck Sister	

