

**Third Grade**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Week Study Guide**

**How Midnight Mothered Her Neighbor's Kittens**

Midnight had no babies of her own. Tarlequin, her next door neighbor, had two soft, little, cuddly ones. Midnight was lonely. Her tail grew big and bushy, and her eyes grew dark and bright as she trotted off toward the wood shed where, in a barrel of nice smelling shavings, her neighbor had set up for her house.

Tarlequin was not at home that morning. Midnight did not stop to knock, but gave a big spring and landed right in the middle of the babies' bed. Then she took one of the babies right in her mouth by the loose skin at the back of its neck, jumped out of the barrel, and ran home as fast as she could. She laid the stolen kitten softly down on her own bed, and began to wash it all over with her funny, rough tongue.

Soon the kitten began to cry, for it was hungry and missed its own mother. Alice heard the strange sound and ran to find out what it could be.

When Midnight saw her little mistress, she curled herself up all around the stolen baby and began to growl and hiss, something she had never done to Alice before.

"Oh, mamma, do come and see what Midnight has found!"

"Well, well!" said mamma. "It is one of Tarlequin's babies. Where did she get it?"

"Why are Midnight's eyes so shiny, and why does she growl at me, mamma? I am afraid to touch her," said Alice.

"She thinks that you are going to take the kitten away, little daughter; but it will never do to let her keep it. Tarlequin will miss it and, besides, we have no way of feeding it."

Alice's mother began to talk softly to Midnight. After a while she put her hand down and gently **stroked** the cat's face. Very soon Midnight allowed mamma to take both herself and the little kitten up in her arms. Then mamma carried them back to Tarlequin's barrel in the neighbor's wood shed.

Tarlequin was at home this time. She seemed very glad to see her lost baby back again and called, "Meow! meow! meow!"

Mamma stroked Tarlequin, saying, "Nice kitty! nice kitty!" Then she put Midnight right down in the nest beside Tarlequin and stroked her. Soon the two cats were purring softly and licking each other and the two kittens by turns.

That was the last time that Midnight was ever lonely, for she lived in Tarlequin's barrel after that, and helped bring up Tarlequin's babies; and she took just as good care of them as their own mother did, too.

She **cuddled** close to them when they were asleep so that they would not feel cold. Every day she licked their coats until they were smooth and shiny. When the kittens

were big enough, Midnight brought them all the plump mice they could eat, and she let them tumble and scramble all over her, nip at her ears and play with her tail as much as ever they liked.

1. How does Midnight feel at the beginning of the story? (RL.3.3)

- A. happy      B. lonely      C. confused      D. angry

2. Where did Tarlequin and her kittens live? (RL.3.1)

- A. inside Alice's house      B. in the pound  
C. in the forest      D. in a barrel

3. What is the meaning of word **cuddled** in the last paragraph of the story? (RL.3.4)

- A. pushed away      B. let go      C. hugged      D. hide

4. In paragraph 9, what does the word **stroked** mean? (RL.3.4)

- A. rubbed      B. broke      C. hit      D. kicked

5. What is the problem in the story? (RL.3.2)

- A. Tarlequin had no babies of her own and she stole a kitten from her neighbor.  
B. Tarlequin's kitten ran away.  
C. Alice wanted to take the kitten to live in a shelter.  
D. Midnight had no babies of her own and she stole a kitten from her neighbor.

6. How did Alice's mother solve the problem? (RL.3.2)

- A. She brought the kitten and Midnight to live with Tarlequin.  
B. She found milk to feed the baby kittens.  
C. She took all of the cats to live in the house with her.  
D. She found new kittens to live with Midnight.

7. Which sentence from the story tells that Midnight was scared when Annie went over to her bed?  
(RL.3.3)

- A. "Tarlequin was not at home that morning."
- B. "Why are Midnight's eyes so shiny, and why does she growl at me, mamma?"
- C. "Alice's mother began to talk softly to Midnight."
- D. "Alice heard a strange sound."

### The Swift Runner

In the olden times, animals were fond of sports. They often held contests, with prizes for those that won.

Once a prize was offered for the animal who could prove himself the **swiftest** runner.

The reward was to be a pair of great antlers. Each animal was to carry the antlers on his head, while running the race. The animal that would win, would have the antlers for his own.

A path through the woods was chosen for the race course. There were many bushes and brambles along the way.

All the animals gathered at the place of meeting. They chose Black Bear to be judge of the race. It was decided that the rabbit and the deer alone should try for the prize.

"They are the best runners. None of the rest of us could hope to win," said the other animals.

White Rabbit was given the first chance.

"I am willing to try for the prize," White Rabbit said, "but I would like first to look over the ground where I am to run."

So White Rabbit disappeared in the woods. He was gone so long that Red Fox was sent to look for him.

Red Fox found the rabbit hard at work, cutting off twigs to clear a path along which to run.

Red Fox went back and told the other animals what White Rabbit was doing.

Pretty soon White Rabbit came out of the woods. He was all ready to put on the antlers and begin the race for the great prize.

"Oh, no!" said Judge Bear. "We cannot allow you to enter the great race. You are too fond of gnawing twigs. You may keep on gnawing twigs instead of trying for the prize." So little White Rabbit was not allowed to run for the prize.

Red Fox placed the horns upon the head of the deer and said, "It is your turn to try to win the race."

Then the animals gave three loud cheers and told the deer to do his best.

The deer ran swiftly along the woodland path. He carried the antlers so skillfully that they were not once caught in the bushes.

When the deer returned to the place of meeting, Judge Bear proclaimed him winner of the race.

As Black Bear gave the prize to the deer, he said, "Henceforth, you shall wear the antlers on your head. You shall always be called the Swift Runner."

1. Who was given the title of Swift Runner? (RL.3.1)  
A. the bear                      B. the deer      C. the fox                      D. the rabbit
  
2. Why were White Rabbit and the deer the only two chosen to run the race? (RL.3.2)  
A. They both could run with antlers on their heads.  
B. They were both faster than the other animals.  
C. They were both fond of gnawing twigs.  
D. They both knew the path well.
  
3. Which words best describes Judge Bear? (RL.3.3)  
A. cruel                      B. rude                      C. kind                      D. fair
  
4. Which word describes the deer? (RL.3.3)  
A. slow                      B. quick                      C. scared                      D. quiet

5. Why did White Rabbit want to explore the path he had to run before the race began? (RL.3.1)
- A. He wanted to see Red Fox on the path before the race.
  - B. He wanted to make it difficult for the deer to run the race.
  - C. He wanted to clear the path to make running the race easier.
  - D. He wanted to practice running on the path before the race began.
6. How did White Rabbit's choice to gnaw on twigs affect the outcome of the race? (RL.3.3)
- A. The deer was not allowed to run because White Rabbit cleared a path for him.
  - B. The deer won the race because White Rabbit was not allowed to run in the race.
  - C. White Rabbit won the race because he cleared the path for himself.
  - D. Neither the deer nor the White Rabbit were allowed to run in the race.
7. What is the setting of the story? (RL.3.5)
- A. in the ocean
  - B. in the woods
  - C. at the zoo
  - D. in the courthouse
8. In paragraph two, what does the word **swiftest** mean? (RL.3.4)
- A. fastest
  - B. most careful
  - C. slowest
  - D. hardest working
9. What is the moral of the story? (RL.3.2)
- A. Cheaters always win.
  - B. It does not pay to cheat.
  - C. Only animals who run fast are important.
  - D. Animals always cheat.

10. Which animal reported what White Rabbit was doing in the woods? (RL.3.1)

- A. White Rabbit      B. Red Fox      C. Black Bear      D. Deer

11. Which sentence from the story tells the reader why deer have antlers? (RL.2)

- A. "It was decided that the rabbit and the deer alone should try for the prize."  
B. "As Black Bear gave the prize to the deer, he said, "Henceforth, you shall wear the antlers on your head."  
C. "Red Fox found the rabbit hard at work, cutting off twigs to clear a path along which to run."  
D. "The deer ran swiftly along the woodland path."

### Muscles and Bones

People need muscles and bones so they can move and so their bodies will be supported. Both muscles and bones are under the skin. They work with each other to hold the body together. They give the body its shape and help to keep it going.

②

Muscles are soft and stretchy, almost like rubber bands. People have about 600 muscles in their body, and each one has a different job to do. Some muscles work without any help from us (**involuntary muscles**). For example, muscles in our eyes and stomach work without having to be told what to do. Muscles in our heart work the same way. They keep the heart pumping without any thought from us.

③

We also have muscles we can control. These are called **voluntary muscles**. These muscles are connected to bones. If you decide you want to pick up a pencil or throw a baseball, your muscles will help you do it. Your muscles will help you to move your bones.

④

Unlike muscles, bones are hard and solid. Because bones are made out of a more solid material than muscles, they help to give the human body its shape. Imagine what your body would look like if it was only made of soft, stretchy muscles! Muscles connect to bones and help to hold bones together. Then, bones support the body and give it its shape.

5

Hard bones also help to keep soft parts of our bodies, like our lungs, safe. What would happen if you were hit in the chest with a ball? Without your ribs, a set of bones in your chest, your lungs could be seriously damaged!

5

When they work together, muscles and bones help people to move. Together, they give the body its shape. Muscles help to keep parts of the body going, and bones help to keep parts of the body protected.

1. What is the main idea of the selection? (RI.3.2)
  - A. The human body has over 600 muscles.
  - B. Muscles help people move and bones give the human body its shape.
  - C. Ribs are a set of bones that protect a person's lungs.
  - D. The heart is the most important muscle in the body.
  
2. Which quotation supports the main idea of the selection? (RL.3.2)
  - A. "People have about 600 muscles in their body, and each one does a different job."
  - B. "They keep the heart pumping without any thought from us."
  - C. "If you decide you want pick up a pencil or throw a baseball, your muscles will help you do it."
  - D. "Muscles help to keep parts of the body going, and bones help keep parts of the body protected."
  
3. How do voluntary muscles differ from involuntary muscles? (RL.3.8)
  - A. Voluntary muscles give the soft parts of the body protection.
  - B. We do not control involuntary muscles but we can control voluntary muscles.
  - C. Involuntary muscles can be controlled but voluntary muscles cannot be controlled.
  - D. Voluntary muscles and involuntary muscles are the same.

4. What adjective best describes bones? (L.3.1a)
- A. soft                      B. solid                      C. stretchy                      D. hot
5. What is an example of an involuntary muscle? (RI.3.7)
- A. throwing a baseball                      B. writing a letter
- C. kicking a soccer ball                      D. pumping blood to all parts of your body
6. Which of the following is similar to a muscle? (RL.3.7)
- A. a baseball                      B. a desk                      C. a rubber band                      D. a rock
7. According to the text, which statement is true? (RI.3.3)
- A. Muscles are hard and protect the organs.
- B. Bones are soft and stretchy, almost like rubber bands.
- C. People have about 600 bones in their body.
- D. Both muscles and bones are under the skin.

### **The Cow**

*From A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1885*

The friendly cow all red and white,  
I love with all my heart:  
She gives me cream with all her might,  
To eat with apple-tart.

- 5 She wanders lowing here and there,  
And yet she cannot stray,  
All in the pleasant open air,  
The pleasant light of day;
- And blown by all the winds that pass
- 10 And wet with all the showers,  
She walks among the meadow grass  
And eats the meadow flowers.

1. Based on the poem, who will eat the apple tart?

- A. the cow   B. the reader   C. the flowers   D. the speaker

2. Read the lines from the poem:

She wanders lowing from here and there  
And yet she cannot **stray**

What is the meaning of the word **stray** as it is used in these lines?

- A. Become wild   B. fall down   C. run away   D. eat too much

3. Which words from the poem help you know the cow lives outside?

- A. "The friendly cow all red and white."  
B. "She gives me cream with all her might."  
C. "She wanders lowing here and there."  
D. "And blow by all the winds that pass."

4. What does the cow do in the third stanza of the poem?

- A. The cow runs away from her home in the meadow.  
B. The cow feels the wind and rain, and eats flowers.  
C. The cow runs out of cream, and begins to eat a tart.  
D. The cow comes inside out of the wind and the rain.

Answers

**How Midnight Mothered Her Neighbor's Kittens**

1. B	2. D	3. C	4. A	5. D
6. A	7. B	8.	9	10.

**The Swift Runner**

1. B	2. B	3. D	4. B	5. C
6. B	7. B	8. A	9. B	10. B
11.B				

**Muscles and Bones**

1. B	2. D	3. B	4. B	5.D
6. C	7. D			

**The Cow**

1. B	2. C	3. D	4. B
------	------	------	------