



# CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

CARL SOMMER

## NOISE! NOISE! NOISE!

### About the Book

Marcus and Marcella hate the noise of the forest animals and the hard work in searching for food every day. Their eyes light up when a chipmunk tells them that the farm has no noise and lots of food.

In spite of being warned by Mama Beaver, they immediately move to the farm. Their dreams come true. But their dreams are shattered when the farmer and his wife come home. The chase is on. After barely escaping, they quickly return to their forest home. They discover that even with all the noise and hard work, the forest is a wonderful place to live.



### Main Virtues

**Tolerance/Friendship/  
Appreciation**

### Other Virtues

Caring, Cheerfulness, Citizenship, Civic Virtue, Community Service, Compassion, Cooperation, Diligence, Dignity of Labor, Friendship, Kindness, Patience, Peacefulness, Perseverance, Positive Mental Attitude, Peacefulness, Respect for Others, and Unity



### Contents

- Willing to Work
- Complaining
- Compassion
- Hasty Decisions
- Listening to Correction
- Persecution Brings Wisdom
- Appreciation
- World's Problems
- Things to be Thankful For
- Questions

## **Willing to Work**

Even though Marcus and Marcella had a beautiful home in the forest, they were always miserable. But all the other animals were very happy living in the forest.

“Work! Work! Work!” complained Marcus. “I hate that every day we have to work so hard to find our food.”

“Me, too,” groaned Marcella. “I’d be so happy to live where it would be easy to find our food.”

Because Marcus and Marcella were not willing to work, they constantly complained and were miserable.

## **Complaining**

One day some crows flew to the big tree by Marcus and Marcella’s house. They began to sing, “Caw! Caw! Caw!”

“The crows are making too much noise,” complained Marcella. “It’s giving me a headache. Tell the crows to quit making so much noise.”

“Quit yelling!” shouted Marcus. “You’re making too much noise.”

One of the crows flew down from the tree and explained, “We’re not yelling, we’re singing.”

“We don’t like to hear your singing,” said Marcus. “You make too much noise. Why don’t you go to the farm and sing?”

Not only did Marcus and Marcella complain about work, they also complained about the noise in the forest. They became two bitter mice.

## **Compassion**

Then some chipmunks came to play tag by their favorite log.

“Chip! Chip! Chip!” yelled the happy chipmunks as they ran and jumped all over the log.

“The chipmunks are making too much noise,” complained Marcella. “Tell them to stop making so much noise.”

“Quit yelling!” screamed Marcus. “You’re making too much noise!”

“We’re not yelling,” said the happy chipmunks. “We’re playing tag.”

Marcus and Marcella became so bitter that even chipmunks happily playing on a log disturbed them. We should be considerate and have compassion for others. Those who are self-centered are miserable.

## **Hasty Decisions**

One of the chipmunks heard them speaking. He came over and said, “At the farmhouse they have lots of good food and no noise.”

“They do?” asked a surprised Marcella.

“Yes, they do,” said the chipmunk.

“Thank you!” said Marcus. “We’re moving right away from this noisy place.”

“Oh good!” said Marcella, beaming from ear to ear. “I’m so glad we

Noise! Noise! Noise!

finally found a place to live where we can eat all the food we want without having to search for it every day.”

“And no noise!” added Marcus.

“Ohhhhh!” said Marcella. “That would be so, so wonderful! I know I will be the happiest mouse in the whole world! Let’s leave right away!”

Marcus and Marcella made hasty decisions. The wise do not make hasty decisions, they think carefully before they act.

## **Listening to Correction**

“Living on the farm can be very dangerous,” warned Mama Beaver. “If the farmer...”

“Thank you for your advice,” said Marcella. She did not want to hear what Mama Beaver had to say. Then Marcella said, “We know that if the farm has no noise and lots of food we’ll be the happiest mice in the whole world!”

“That’s right,” said Marcus. “We’re moving today!”

The wise listen to correction and rebuke, but the proud listen only to themselves.

## **Persecution Brings Wisdom**

When Marcus and Marcella came back, the forest animals came to visit them. “Did the farm have lots of food?” asked a crow.

“The farm had lots of good food,” said Marcus.

“Did the farm have lots of noise?” asked Papa Beaver.

“No,” said Marcella. “It was really quiet.”

“Then why did you leave the farm?” asked a puzzled chipmunk.

“It wasn’t as we thought,” explained Marcus. “It was scary. We didn’t realize how good we had it living here in the forest. Now we appreciate it.”

Then Marcella said, “You can sing and make all the noise you want. Now we like living in the forest.”

Instead of listening to others and thinking carefully what they were going to do, Marcus and Marcella experienced trouble and persecution. But through their troubles and persecution, they finally learned to appreciate what they had.

## **Appreciation**

“Caw! Caw! Caw!” went the happy crows as they began to sing.

“Chop! Chop! Chop!” went the busy beavers as they began to work.

“Chip! Chip! Chip!” yelled the playful chipmunks as they raced around the log.

Then Marcus turned to Marcella and said, “Even with all the noise and hard work, I’m so happy to be living in the forest. We surely were foolish for not appreciating what we had.”

“I agree!” said Marcella, beaming from ear to ear. “The forest is a wonderful place to live.”

Noise! Noise! Noise!

We should be thankful and appreciate the things we have. When we look at others in the world, we discover that we truly are a fortunate people.

## **World's Problems**

Have students make a list of some of the world's problems.

Broken homes  
Lack of shelter  
Loneliness  
Persecution  
No schools  
Floods  
Storms  
Starvation  
Wars  
Diseases

## **Things to be Thankful For**

Have students make a list of things to be thankful for.

Loving Parents  
Comfortable Home  
Brothers and sisters  
Friends  
Teachers  
Place of worship  
School  
The country you live in  
Good Health  
Plentiful Food

## **Questions**

1. What kind of home did Marcus and Marcella have in the forest?

*Marcus and Marcella had a beautiful home in the forest.*

2. Even though Marcus and Marcella had a beautiful home in the forest, how did they feel?

*Marcus and Marcella were always miserable.*

3. What did Marcus say he hated to do every day?

*Marcus said, "I hate that every day we have to work so hard to find our food."*

Because Marcus and Marcella were not willing to work, they constantly complained and were miserable.

4. What did the crows do when they flew to the big tree by Marcus and Marcella's house?

Noise! Noise! Noise!

*The crows began to sing, "Caw! Caw! Caw!"*

5. What did Marcella say to Marcus when she heard the crows singing?  
*Marcella said, "The crows are making too much noise. It's giving me a headache."*

Not only did Marcus and Marcella complain about work, they also complained about noise in the forest. They became two very bitter mice.

6. What did Marcus shout to the crows?  
*Marcus shouted, "Quit yelling! You're making too much noise."*

7. What did one of the crows say?  
*One of the crows said, "We're not yelling, we're singing."*

8. What did Marcella wish she could find?  
*Marcella wished she could find a place to live that has lots of food and no noise.*

9. What did the two beavers say why they needed to chop down trees?  
*The beavers said, "We need to cut down trees to build a house for our family."*

10. What did Marcella complain and wish as the beavers went back to work?  
*Marcella complained, "Noise! Noise! Noise! I wish we could find a place to live without so much noise."*

11. What did some chipmunks begin to do?  
*Some chipmunks came to play tag by their favorite log.*

12. What did Marcella tell Marcus about the chipmunks?  
*Marcella said, "The chipmunks are making too much noise. Tell them to stop making so much noise."*

13. When Marcus told the chipmunks to stop yelling, what did one of the chipmunks say they were doing?  
*The chipmunks said, "We're not yelling. We're playing tag."*

14. Why did Marcus and Marcella become so bitter that even chipmunks happily playing on a log disturbed them?  
*Marcus and Marcella became bitter because they were selfish.*  
We should be considerate and show compassion. Self-centered people do not have lasting happiness.

15. What did the chipmunk say to Marcus and Marcella that made them so happy?  
*The chipmunk said, "At the farmhouse they have lots of good food and no noise."*

16. What did Marcus say to the chipmunk when he heard him say, “At the farmhouse they have lots of good food and no noise”?

*Marcus said, “We’re moving right away from this noisy place.”*

17. Why is it a unwise to make hasty decisions.

*It is unwise to make hasty decisions because one should always think before one acts.*

Hasty decisions can lead one to make many wrong decisions.

18. What did Marcus tell the beavers and crows what they were doing and what they could do?

*Marcus said, “We’re moving there today! Now you can make all the noise you want.”*

19. What did Papa Beaver say they needed to do?

*Papa Beaver said, “You need to appreciate what you have.”*

20. What did Marcus say when Papa Beaver said, “You need to appreciate what you have”?

*Marcus said, “We hate searching for food every day. It’s too much work.”*

21. What did Marcella say when Papa Beaver said, “You need to appreciate what you have”?

*Marcella said, “All the noise in the forest gives me a headache. We’re moving today!”*

22. What did Mama Beaver warn Marcus and Marcella?

*Mama Beaver warned Marcus and Marcella, “Living on the farm can be very dangerous.”*

23. A. What was Marcella’s reaction to Mama Beaver’s warning?

*Marcella did not want to hear what Mama Beaver had to say.*

B. Why did Marcella not want to hear what Mama Beaver had to say?

*Marcella did not want to hear what Mama Beaver had to say because she had already made up her mind what to do.*

The wise listen to correction and rebuke, but the proud listen only to themselves.

24. What did Marcella tell Mama Beaver?

*Marcella said, “We know that if the farm has no noise and lots of food we’ll be the happiest mice in the whole world!”*

25. Who did Marcus and Marcella see when they were walking towards the farmer’s house?

*Marcus and Marcella saw the farmer and his wife.*

26. What did Marcus and Marcella do when they saw the farmer and his wife?

*Marcus and Marcella ran towards the shed.*

27. What did Marcus and Marcella do when they saw the delicious food?  
*Marcus and Marcella ate and ate and ate. They filled their tummies until they could hold no more.*

28. What did Marcella say after she filled her tummy until it could hold no more?  
*Marcella said, "This is so, so wonderful! It can't get any better. I'm the happiest mouse in the whole world!"*

29. What immediately happened when Marcella said, "This is so, so wonderful! It can't get any better. I'm the happiest mouse in the whole world"?  
*Just then the door opened, and the farmer and his wife walked into the house.*

30. Where did Marcus try to hide?  
*Marcus tried to hide under a rag.*

31. What did the farmer's wife say she would not have in her house?  
*The farmer's wife said, "I will not have a mouse in my house!"*

32. What did Marcella say about living in the farmhouse?  
*Marcella said, "Living in the farmhouse is terrible.*

32. What did Marcus say when the chipmunk asked, "Why did you leave the farm"?  
*Marcus said, "It wasn't as we thought. It was scary. We didn't realize how good we had it living here in the forest. Now we appreciate it."*

After experiencing trouble and persecution, Marcus and Marcella learned to appreciate what they had.

34. What did Marcus say to Marcella when the crows began to sing, the beavers began to work, and the chipmunks began to play?  
*Marcus said, "Even with all the noise and hard work, I'm so happy to be living in the forest. We surely were foolish for not appreciating what we had."*

We should be thankful and appreciative for the things we have. When we look at others in the world, we are truly a fortunate people.

35. What did Marcella say when Marcus told her, "Even with all the noise and hard work, I'm so happy to be living in the forest. We surely were foolish for not appreciating what we had"?  
*Marcella said, "I agree! The forest is a wonderful place to live."*

36. List some of the world's problems.  
*Broken homes*

*Lack of shelter*

*Loneliness*

*Persecution*

*No schools*

*Floods*

*Storms*

*Starvation*

*Wars*

*Diseases*

35. List some of the things we should be thankful for.

*Loving Parents*

*Comfortable Home*

*Brothers and sisters*

*Friends*

*Teachers*

*Place of worship*

*School*

*The country you live in*

*Good Health*

*Plentiful Food*