



CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

SOMMER-TIME STORIES

THE COUNTRY MOUSE AND THE CITY MOUSE

Story Description



City Mouse turns up his nose at the Country Mouse’s simple home and plain food. Back at his house in the city, he treats his country cousin to a soft bed, beautiful gardens, and a buffet of delicious things to eat. Country Mouse is greatly impressed with City Mouse’s riches until he meets a cat and nearly loses his life in a mousetrap.

City Mouse might have a beautiful home with fancy trappings, but Country Mouse prefers his own home where he has a cozy bed, healthy food, and a safe, peaceful life. Join Country Mouse and City Mouse in this modern-day retelling of a classic Aesop fable, to learn that peace and safety are more valuable than material possessions.

Main Character Traits

Appreciation/Cheerfulness/Peacefulness

Other Character Traits

Friendship, Humility, Proper Work Ethic, Respect for Others, Safety, and Tolerance

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Cheerfulness/Friendship/Tolerance

Country Mouse opened the door and greeted City Mouse with a big smile. "Welcome! It's so good to see you...." "I would love to see your beautiful house....I'm looking forward to seeing your home....I can't wait to eat your food....I would love to see your wonderful place."

No matter what City Mouse says about Country Mouse's house, Country Mouse remains cheerful and is tolerant of City Mouse's opinions. This shows that Country mouse knows how to be a good friend. However, City Mouse does not display qualities of a good friend because he continually puts down Country Mouse's house and food.

Respect for Others/Humility

"Is this where you live, in an old tree in the forest? ...Don't you have any beautiful gardens and flower beds growing around your house? I have green lawns and all sorts of beautiful flowers around my house. Once you see where I live, you'll never want to live in a place like this again."

..."Is this your living room? I feel so sorry for you. I can hardly wait until you see where I live. Once you see my living room, you'll never want to live in a home like this again."

..."Ewwwww! Is that what you eat? I can't eat that kind of food. Wait until you see the delicious meals I eat every day. Once you see my food, you'll never want to eat your food again."

..."Ohhhhh! I can't sleep in a bed made of straw! Wait until you see the bed that I sleep in. Once you lie down in my bed, you'll never want to sleep in a straw bed again."

City Mouse puts down Country Mouse's house, living room, bed, and food which shows disrespect for Country Mouse. City Mouse also brags about his own house and food in the city. He should show humility because no one wants to be around someone who is bragging all the time.

Proper Work Ethic

Then Country Mouse said, "Let me get you something that's very good to eat. I just gathered some seeds....I just found some beetles before you came. They're delicious."

Country Mouse has been working hard to get food for himself and City Mouse. If you want to eat, you need to be willing to work for your food.

Safety

When they came to the house, City Mouse whispered, "Shhhhh! We have to be very, very quiet."

...Country Mouse heard a strange noise. "What's that?" he asked.

City Mouse looked and saw a cat running toward them. "Run!" screamed City Mouse. "Run as fast as you can!" They jumped off the shelf and dashed through a small hole. City Mouse shook all over.

"Why are you shaking?" Country Mouse asked. "And why did we have to run

so fast?"

"That's a cat. If he ever catches you, it will be the end of you."

...Then Country Mouse walked over to another piece of cheese. He was just about to pick it up when City Mouse screamed, "STOP! Don't touch that cheese!"

"Why not? It looks like all the other cheeses."

"It's a mousetrap! If that trap closes on you, you'll be dead!"

Country Mouse found out that his life was not safe in the city house. First the cat almost got him and then he just about stepped in the mousetrap.

Peacefulness/Safety/Appreciation

"Let's get out of here!" Country Mouse said, shaking all over. "This place is very scary. I'm going back to my home. You can live in your beautiful house, sleep in your wonderful bed, and eat your delicious food. You can boast about your wonderful house, but you live in constant fear and danger. I have a cozy home where I live, a bed to sleep in, and plenty of good food to eat. You only have a house, but I have a home where there's always peace and quiet. I know that my home is a much, much better place to live in than your house."

Country Mouse carefully sneaked out of the house with City Mouse following. When they got outside the gate, Country Mouse waved goodbye. As Country Mouse walked back to his home in the forest, he said, "A home with peace and safety is a much, much better place to live in than a house with plenty and danger."

Country Mouse has learned to truly appreciate the safety and peacefulness of his country home now that he has seen the dangers of city living. You should always appreciate what you have instead of wanting something else. Even if you do get that something else, it will probably not be as wonderful as you thought it would be.

Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, why was City Mouse shocked at Country Mouse's home?

To City Mouse it was very poor and just an old tree instead of the fabulous mansion with flower beds and gardens like he was used to.

2. How did Country Mouse greet City Mouse?

He welcomed him with a big smile and said that it was so good to see him.

3. How did Country Mouse describe his home in the forest?

He said it was very peaceful and quiet.

4. After City Mouse complained about the outside of Country Mouse's home, what did he complain about next?

He complained about Country Mouse's living room.

5. How did Country Mouse describe his living room?

He said it was nice and cozy.

6. What did City Mouse say about Country Mouse's food?
He said he couldn't eat that kind of food, and he wanted Country Mouse to try some of his delicious city food.
7. What did City Mouse say when Country Mouse invited him to spend the night?
He wanted to see where he would sleep.
8. What did City Mouse think of Country Mouse's bed?
He couldn't sleep on it because it was made of straw.
9. How do you think Country Mouse felt when City Mouse kept putting his home down?
His feelings may have been hurt. (inference)
10. What should City Mouse have said about Country Mouse's home?
He should have kept his thoughts to himself about his being so much better; he should not have said anything that was not nice about the house or the food that belonged to Country Mouse. Then if he wanted to invite his friend to come visit, his friend could make up his own mind about which was better. (inference)
11. What did City Mouse suggest that they do?
He said that they should leave immediately and go to his home in the city.
12. How did City Mouse think that Country Mouse would feel about living in the city?
He thought that Country Mouse would never want to go back to the country to live.
13. What was the last food Country Mouse offered City Mouse?
He offered some freshly caught beetles.
14. What did Country Mouse think about City Mouse's house?
He thought it was beautiful.
15. In what way did the mice have to enter the city house?
They had to sneak in through a small hole in the wall.
16. What did Country Mouse think about City Mouse's bed?
He thought it was beautiful, very soft, and much better than his bed.
17. At first, what did Country Mouse think about City Mouse's food?
He thought it was the most delicious food he'd ever had and like nothing he had ever seen.

18. What caused City Mouse and Country Mouse to run in fright?
A cat chased them and would have killed them if it had caught them.
19. What did Country Mouse say about cats in the forest?
He said that he never had to worry about cats in the forest.
20. When the mice went into the basement to eat cheese, why did City Mouse scream at Country Mouse to stop?
Country Mouse was almost killed by the mousetrap.
21. After the mousetrap, what did Country Mouse decide to do and why?
He decided to go back to his country home where he had peace and quiet and safety along with a cozy home, his bed, and plenty to eat even though it wasn't the fanciest or most delicious.
22. What lesson did Country Mouse learn?
A home with peace and safety is much better than a house with plenty and danger.