



Read the fable carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

Think about what the character learned and what lesson the fable is teaching. Use details from the story to support your answers.

## The Fox and the Crane's Dinner



Flicker, a cunning fox, lived in a cozy den deep within the Whispering Woods. He often thought himself the cleverest creature around. One sunny afternoon, Flicker decided to play a trick on his friend, a graceful crane named Long Beak. He invited Long Beak over for dinner.



“My dear friend, please enjoy this delicious soup!” Flicker announced with a sly smile. He placed two shallow, flat dishes on the table. The soup smelled wonderful, filling the den with a rich, savory aroma. Flicker quickly lapped up his meal, but Long Beak, with her long, thin beak, could only dip the very tip into the wide dish. She tried and tried, but most of the soup remained untouched. Long Beak felt a pang of hunger and a little sadness.

Long Beak, though disappointed, remained polite. “Thank you, Flicker,” she said, “that was... interesting. Perhaps you would join me for dinner tomorrow at my home by the river?” Flicker, always eager for a free meal, readily agreed. He imagined a feast of fish and berries.

The next evening, Flicker arrived at Long Beak’s riverside nest. Long Beak greeted him warmly and presented two tall, slender jars. Inside, the jars were filled with tasty fish stew. Long Beak easily dipped her long beak into the jar, slurping up the stew with satisfaction. Flicker, however, could not get his wide snout into the narrow opening. He sniffed the delicious stew, but could not reach a single bite. He grew increasingly frustrated.



Flicker watched, his stomach rumbling, as Long Beak finished her meal. He realized his own trick had come back to him. He left Long Beak's home hungry and humbled. The lesson was clear: Treat others as you wish to be treated, for unkindness often returns to its sender.



---

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

---

**(1) Who are the two main characters in this fable, and where does Flicker the fox live?**

---

---

---

**(2) What problem did Long Beak face when Flicker invited her for dinner?**

---

---

---

**(3) In the first paragraph, the fable describes Flicker as "cunning." What does the word "cunning" mean in this story?**

---

---

---

**(4) Was Flicker's choice to trick Long Beak a good one? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.**

---

---

---



(5) What lesson does this fable teach? How could this lesson help you in real life?

---

---

---

