

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.

Kito and the Wise Tortoise



"Oh, Grandfather Tortoise, why must we always wait?" cried Kito, a young antelope, tapping his hooves impatiently. "The juiciest berries are surely on the other side of the Great Baobab! Let's run across the dusty plains now!" Grandfather Tortoise, whose shell was old as mountains, slowly lifted his head. "Patience, young one," he rumbled. "The sun is too high, and the plains hold secrets."

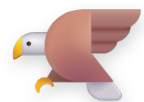
Kito, however, was full of youthful energy and a stubborn spirit. He spotted bright red 'nkula' berries shimmering in the distance. He imagined their sweet taste. "Secrets? What secrets could there be?" he scoffed, bounding away. "I am fast! I will be back before you even take another step!" He didn't wait for Grandfather Tortoise's reply, eager for the fruit.

The sun beat fiercely, making the air shimmer above the dry grass. Kito ran, but the berries seemed no closer. The ground grew hotter, and his throat became parched. He realized he had wandered far from the shade of the baobab tree and the cool riverbed. The plains, once inviting, now felt vast and empty.



Suddenly, a dark shadow passed overhead. Kito looked up to see a hungry eagle circling. He panicked, exposed and alone, far from any hiding place. He remembered Grandfather Tortoise's warning about the plains' "secrets." He deeply regretted his impatience and not listening to the elder's wisdom.

With his heart pounding, Kito found thorny bushes and hid, trembling, until the eagle flew away. Exhausted and thirsty, he slowly made his way back, learning a hard lesson. When he finally reached Grandfather Tortoise, the sun was



setting. "Grandfather," Kito whispered, "I understand now. Your wisdom is a shield."
Grandfather Tortoise nodded. "Patience and listening to elders will always guide you, Kito."



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who are the two main characters in this story, and where are they at the beginning?

(2) What challenge did Kito face after he ran off on his own?

(3) What does the phrase "stubborn spirit" tell you about Kito's personality?

(4) Was Kito's choice to run off alone a good one? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

(5)



What lesson does this fable teach about listening to elders? How can this lesson help you in your own life?

