





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.

## Kofi and the River's Gift

In a small village nestled beside the wide, powerful Great River, lived  Kofi the Tortoise. The river was the lifeblood of their community, providing water for crops and a home for many creatures. But one season, a terrible drought gripped the land. The sun beat down relentlessly, and the river, though still wide, became a treacherous maze of shifting currents and hidden rocks. On a small island in the middle of this challenging river stood a magnificent mango tree, its branches heavy with the juiciest, most golden fruits anyone had ever seen. The sweet, tangy scent of the ripe mangoes wafted across the water, teasing the hungry villagers.

Day after day, the villagers grew hungrier. Strong animals like Leo the Lion  and Tembo the Elephant tried to cross the river. Leo roared, "This river is too strong! No one can cross!" He tried to leap from rock to rock, but the current was too swift, pulling him back to shore. Tembo, with his mighty trunk, attempted to wade, but the hidden depths and treacherous currents made him stumble, forcing him to retreat. Frustration settled over the village like a heavy blanket.

Kofi, known not for his speed or strength, but for his quiet wisdom and keen observation, watched from the riverbank. He saw the powerful currents, but he also noticed something else: large, sturdy logs, uprooted by the drought-swollen river upstream, occasionally drifted slowly past. He thought to himself, "Strength may fail, but patience and a clever mind can find a path."



The next morning, while others still grumbled about their hunger, Kofi made his way to a calm spot along the riverbank. He sat patiently, his eyes fixed on the water. After a long wait, a particularly large and stable log came floating downstream. With careful, deliberate movements, Kofi climbed onto the log, positioning himself securely. The log, guided by the river's flow, began its slow journey towards the island.



It was a long, gentle ride, but Kofi remained steady. Eventually, the log bumped softly against the island's shore. Kofi carefully disembarked and made his way to the mango tree. He gathered as many ripe mangoes as he could carry, ensuring he picked only what was needed, not out of greed. He then waited again, knowing the river would eventually offer another passage back.

When Kofi returned to the village, laden with the golden fruit, a cheer erupted. The villagers, who had watched his slow, steady progress, were astonished and deeply grateful. Kofi shared the mangoes with everyone, ensuring each family received a portion. Elder Kwesi, the wisest in the village, smiled and said, "Kofi has shown us that great strength is not always in the muscle, but in the mind and heart. Patience and cleverness can overcome the greatest obstacles, and sharing what we gain brings true joy to our community."

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### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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**(1) Who is the main character and where do they live or find themselves?**

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**(2) What problem or challenge did the character face?**

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**(3) What does "treacherous" mean in this story?**

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**(4) Was Kofi's choice to wait for a log a good one? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.**

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

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