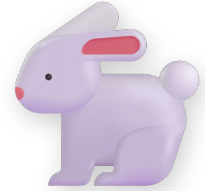




Read the fable carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

Think about what the character learned and what lesson the fable is teaching.

Brer Rabbit's Berry Trick



In the heart of the forest, where the sun dappled through ancient trees, lived Brer Rabbit, known for his quick wit. A long, dry spell had brought a scarcity of sweet, wild berries. Most animals struggled, but Brer Fox and Brer Bear, with their immense strength, had discovered a hidden, lush berry patch. They guarded it fiercely, boasting loudly, their voices echoing through the quiet woods, making Brer Rabbit's stomach rumble with envy.



Brer Rabbit watched them from the briar patch, his ears twitching. Brute force wouldn't work. He needed a clever plan to turn their greed against them. He decided to visit, putting on his most pitiful, sorrowful face, his whiskers drooping.

"Oh, Brer Fox! Oh, Brer Bear!" he sighed dramatically, approaching their guarded patch. "Times are hard, indeed. My little ones are so hungry, and there's not a single berry to be found. You two are so lucky to have such a wonderful patch." Brer Fox puffed out his chest, and Brer Bear grunted, enjoying Brer Rabbit's apparent misery.

"Well, Brer Rabbit," said Brer Fox with a smirk, "some of us work harder than others to find our provisions." Brer Rabbit nodded sadly. "Indeed," he agreed, "though I did hear a whisper, just last night, about a most unusual thing. A 'Singing Spring' that only appears when the moon is highest, deep in the Whispering Hollow. They say its water can make any berry grow twice as sweet, twice as big." He paused, looking thoughtful. "But it's guarded by a truly enormous, sleepy old owl with talons like daggers. Far too dangerous for a small creature like me."



Brer Fox and Brer Bear exchanged glances. Their eyes gleamed with skepticism and intense greed. "A singing spring, you say?" Brer Bear rumbled, trying to sound unconvinced. "And it makes berries sweeter?" Brer Rabbit nodded vigorously. "Oh, yes! But the owl, you see. It's said to have hearing so keen it can hear a dewdrop fall. You'd have to be as silent as a shadow and as brave as a lion to get past it." He emphasized the danger, fueling their desire to prove their strength.

"Ha! An owl is no match for us!" declared Brer Fox, flexing his paws. "We'll show that owl a thing or two!" Brer Bear nodded, imagining mountains of super-sweet berries. Brer Rabbit then gave them convoluted, confusing directions, stressing the need to bring back a large bucket of the spring's magical water. "And remember, absolute silence! The slightest peep, and the spring vanishes!" he whispered. With grunts of determination, Brer Fox and Brer Bear lumbered off into the deepening twilight, eager for their prize.

As soon as their heavy footsteps faded, Brer Rabbit let out a soft chuckle .



He hopped straight into the unguarded berry patch. The air was thick with the sweet, tangy smell of ripe berries. He ate until his belly was round and full, savoring every juicy bite. He even gathered a large basketful for his family. When Brer Fox and Brer Bear returned at dawn, exhausted and covered in scratches from their fruitless search for a non-existent spring, they found Brer Rabbit napping peacefully, a purple stain on his whiskers. They realized then that wit often triumphs over brute force.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character of this story, and where does he live?



(2) What challenge did Brer Rabbit face at the beginning of the story?

(3) In the first paragraph, what does the word "scarcity" mean?

(4) Was Brer Rabbit's choice to trick Brer Fox and Brer Bear a good one? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.

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





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