Name _____ Date _____

The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs

Aesop's fable · 2nd–4th grade

A farmer and his wife owned a goose that was unlike any other. Every morning, when the farmer went to the barn, he found a shining golden egg in her nest.

The farmer sold the golden eggs at the market, and little by little, he and his wife became rich. They bought new clothes, a fine cart and a bigger house.

But the richer they got, the less patient they became. "One egg a day is so slow," the farmer grumbled. "Think how rich we'd be if we had all the gold at once."

His wife nodded. "The goose must be full of gold inside. Why should we wait?"

So that night, the farmer took his knife to the barn and killed the goose to get all the gold inside her.

But when he looked, there was no gold at all. Inside, she was just like any other goose.

The farmer and his wife stared at each other in horror. They had destroyed the very thing that made them rich. From then on, there were no more golden eggs, ever again.

Questions

1. What was special about the goose?

2. How did the farmer get rich?

3. Why did the farmer get upset?

4. What did they find inside the goose?

5. Which word best describes the farmer at the end?

6. What is the moral?

7. What should the farmer have done?

8. Why is it hard to be patient?

The lesson in my own words

Answer Key

1. It laid golden eggs.
2. By selling the golden eggs.
3. One egg a day felt too slow.
4. No gold at all.
5. greedy.
6. Wanting too much, too fast, can make you lose what you have.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.

Lesson: Wanting too much, too fast, can make you lose what you have.