
The Boy and the North Wind: A Tale from Norway

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Illustrated by Laura Jacobsen

Overview

In Norway, the cold winds blow from the north. But when the wind blows away the flour carried by the baker's young son, he sets out on a journey to insist it be returned. Themes: bravery, perseverance

Before Reading

- Find Norway on a globe or world map. Ask students to speculate about the weather in a northern country. Share the cover and title of the book. Discuss what the season is based on the illustration. (See p 32 about Norway.)
- Ask: *What do you think is in the bowl the boy is holding?* (Accept reasonable answers.) *What can you tell from the illustration about what is happening to the contents of the bowl?* (Infer that the wind is blowing away the contents.)

During Reading

- Read through page 13. Ask: *What do you think the boy will do when he finds the North Wind?* (Accept reasonable answers.) Read pages 14-15 and confirm their predictions.
- Read through page 18. Ask: *What do you think the innkeeper is going to do?* (Accept reasonable answers.) Read page 19 and confirm their predictions.
- Finish reading the story. Then ask: *What lesson did the innkeeper learn? The boy?* Discuss his bravery and perseverance.

After Reading

- Have students picture-read the story, noting the raven throughout. Discuss how the illustrator enhanced the story through the use of this character.
- Ask the questions on page 31 of the book. Then ask: *How would you feel about the story if the boy ended up going home without solving his problem?*

Word Work

Write the word *flour* on the board. Discuss how the word sounds like *flower*, which is called a **homophone** (same sound, different spelling). Have students read through the story and identify other homophones. Some homophones they may find in the story include, but are not limited to: *high, blew, four, here, inn.*

ELL Tip

Help students pronounce multisyllabic words by writing the stressed syllable in uppercase letters: BLUStered, DIStraight, INNkeeper.

Extension: Be an Artist

Students will need white construction paper, a white crayon, and blue watercolors. Have students look at the cover of the book and draw swirls of wind with the crayon. Students may also draw white (snow-covered) trees. Using the blue paint, students brush over the entire paper. The white crayon will resist the paint, showing through. For a night scene, paint over in dark blue or use some black paint.

Worksheet Note

Let students justify their responses. For example, some students may think the North Wind is mean because he blew away the flour. Others may not, because he eventually helped the boy.

Common Core State Standards

ELA-Literacy: RL.2.1; RL.2.2; RL.2.3; RL.2.5; RL.2.6; RL.2.7

Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it's conveyed through key details in the text.

Name _____

WHAT A CHARACTER!

Think about the people in the book. They are the **characters**.

A character may be brave. A character may be mean.

Those are called **characteristics**.

Read the character names on the left side of the chart.

Read the characteristics across the top.

Make an X in one or more boxes to tell about each character. The first one shows you how.

Each character may have more than one characteristic.



	Brave	Hard working	Helpful	Careful	Clever	Strong	Mean	Lazy
Boy	X							
Mother								
North Wind								
Raven								
Innkeeper								

1. Who do you think was the best character? _____

2. Who do you think was the strongest character? _____

3. Who do you think was the worst character? _____