

Theme: People in Different Profession Lesson

The Greenhorn and the Mule Egg

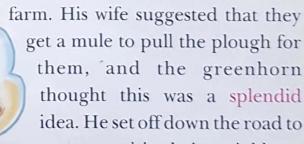
Get Started

Discuss in groups:

At times, we all get bored and want some change in our lives. Then we daydream about having some adventure. If you were given a choice, what kind of adventure would you choose? Do you think it would be easy for you to follow your dreams? Discuss with your friends.

here was a chap who got real sick of working in the big city. One day, he quit his job, packed up his luggage, and moved with his wife and kids to Kansas to become a farmer. He bought a big piece of land with a grand old barn and some fields just ready to plough and plant.

Now, being a bit of a greenhorn, the poor fellow didn't know where to start with that



visit their neighbour and ask him where he could buy a mule.

plough (or plow) a large farming equipment used to turn over and cut furrows in soil greenhorn an inexperienced person, beginner | splendid excellent, praiseworthy

That neighbour was a bit of a wag. In about five seconds, he was sure that his new neighbour was a greenhorn and decided to have a bit of fun with him.

"Well, you could advertise for a mule in the local paper," the neighbour said. "But if you want to do it the Kansas way, then you should get yourself a mule egg and hatch your own. That way you can train the mule up from birth to do exactly as you want."

The greenhorn's eyes got real wide. "I didn't know mules are hatched from eggs," he said excitedly. "Where do I get one?"

"It just so happens I have one mule egg left from the last batch I raised," the neighbour said. He went into the shed and came out with a round, hairy coconut. The greenhorn's eyes litup.

"How much do I owe you?" he asked his neighbour.

"That'll be a dollar. And mind you, you've got to sit on the mule egg night and day for a week before it will hatch," the neighbour said, accepting the greenhorn's money and handing over the coconut to him.

The greenhorn ran all the way home and showed the mule egg to his wife and kids. Everyone was thrilled with his purchase, and they all took turns sitting on the coconut, waiting for it to hatch. They waited for a week.

Then they waited two.

By the third week, everyone's bottoms were sore from sitting on the hard coconut, and still there was

no sign of a mule.



"It must be a bad egg," the wife said at last. "Better throw it out and see if our neighbour will give us our money back."

As the disappointed family watched, the greenhorn took the coconut outside and threw it into the bushes. All at once, a giant jackrabbit burst out of the tall grass next to the bushes and hopped away.

"It's the baby mule!" shouted one of the kids. "Catch it, Pa! Catch it."



The greenhorn ran after that long-eared rabbit as fast as he could, shouting: "I'm your daddy, baby mule! Please come back!" But he was no match for the jackrabbit. It darted here and there, hopped and finally slid down a hole in the ground and disappeared. The greenhorn fell to the ground and lay panting in exhaustion. A few moments later, his wife and kids caught up with him and pulled him to his feet.

"Where's our mule?" asked his wife.

"The stupid thing got away," said the greenhorn. "And I'm not sorry it did. That's the speediest mule I ever laid eyes on, and I don't aim to plough that fast!"

(Retold by S.E. Schlosser)

Respond and Reflect

Complete the following sentences.

- 1. The family left the city and went to
- 2. The land that they bought had a grand old
- 3. For ploughing the fields, they thought of buying a
- 4. Their neighbour suggested them to _____ for a ____ in the local paper.
- 5. The neighbour charged ______ for the mule egg.
- 6. The neighbour made a fool of the city man by giving him _____ as a mule egg.
- 7. The family thought the _____ was their baby mule.

B. Answer the following questions briefly.

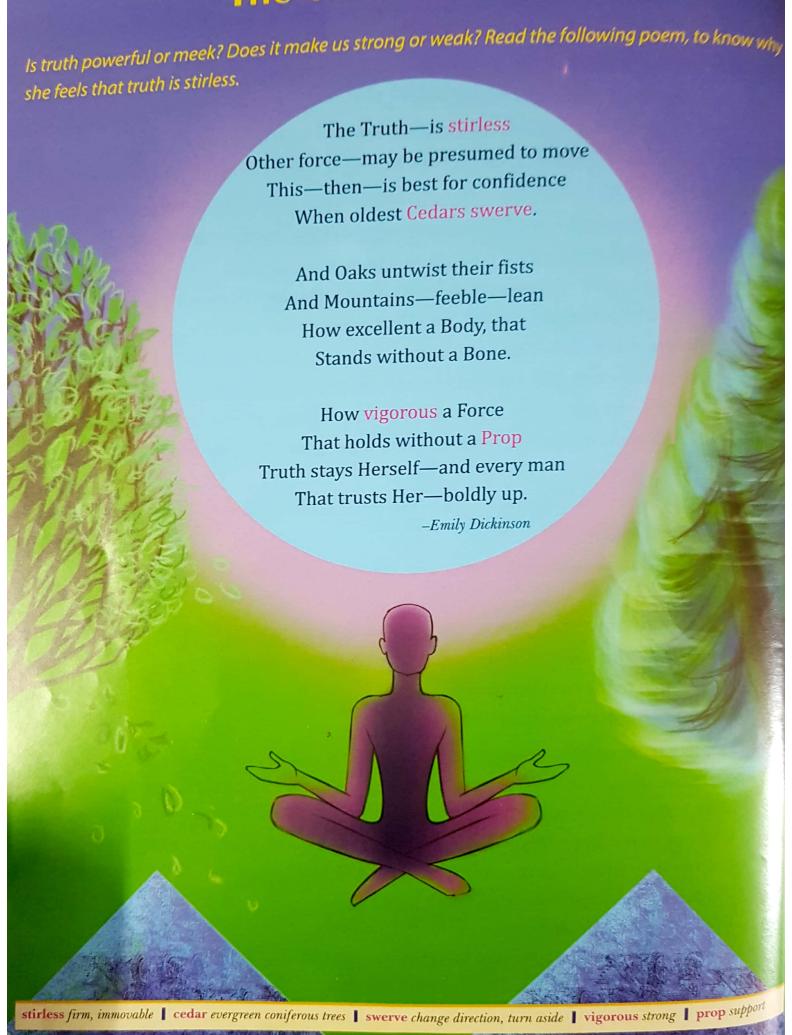
- 1. What did the city man do when he got real sick of working in the big city?
- 2. How did the family react on seeing the mule egg?
- 3. What happened when the man threw away the mule egg?
- 4. Why did the city man run after the jackrabbit?
- 5. When the jackrabbit escaped, the man said, "And I'm not sorry it did." Why did he say so?
- 6. The neighbour had concluded that the city man was a greenhorn. What might have made the neighbour think of the city man as a greenhorn?
- C. Do you think the family could adjust with this incident and successfully lead a farmer's life? Justify.

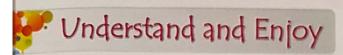
Learn New Words

Complete the following sentences.

9	greenhorn	splendid	wag	pitched	darted	
 Going for h 	nolidays was a		ide	a.		
2. Piyush		towardst	he door as:	soon as he he	ard the car hor	n.
3. In the office	ce, everyone lil	kes to hear Su	resh talk fo	rheisa		
4. Sachin wa	s batting as Do	rris		the ball.		
5. Rohan is	well-educated	but as he ha	s come fro	m a small to	wn, everyone	thinks he is a

The Truth—is Stirless





OMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions.

- Emily Dickinson has used different words/phrases to define the qualities of truth. Find them out and write in the space provided. One is done for you.
 - (a) Truth is best for confidence.

(b)	
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(c)	
(d)	

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- "What we think to be strong and immovable also move but truth does not change."
 Locate the lines which convey this meaning and write in the space provided.
- "Truth has no structure or body yet it has a strong hold, whereas great mountains or massive trees fall down." Locate the lines which convey this meaning and write in the space provided.

VOCABULARY AND APPRECIATION

Personification

Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human.

We can personify objects, concepts, birds and animals.

Objects: The lights blinked at a distance.

Your computer hates me.

Concepts: Time marches on.

It's not nice to play with justice.