

Task: Write an explanatory essay in which you determine the theme of the two fables and analyze how the theme is developed over the course of the texts, including its relationship to the characters, setting, or plot. Use details from the text to support your response.

(LAFS.W.8.1.2, LAFS.RL.8.1.2, LAFS.W.8.3.9, LAFS.RL.8.1.1)

A Chinese Fable

A young man wanted to get a fox skin to please his new bride. He searched until he caught a fox by the tail. With great happiness at his success, he said to the fox, “My bride wants a fox coat. Can you give me your skin?” The fox recognized trouble and thought quickly about how to save himself. “I will be happy to do that, but I can’t help you when you hold my tail so tightly. Please let go, and I’ll immediately give you my skin.” The man let go, and the fox ran away laughing.

A Greek Fable

A wolf caught a young goat returning from the pasture. The goat knew that he couldn’t escape, but he thought that he could fool the wolf. The goat said, “I know that you’ll eat me, my friend, but I’d like just one favor from you. Would you play a tune so that I can dance once last time?” The wolf took out his pipes and played. Some dogs heard the music and became curious. They saw the wolf and began to chase him. The wolf knew that he’d been fooled. He said to the goat, “I got what I deserved; I’m a hunter, not a musician.”

Progression of Anchor Standard: RL1.2

4-Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

5-Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

6-Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

7-Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

8-Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

9/10-Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

11/12- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text