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Folktales *(cont.)*

Passage #11

Do not use student guide pages with this passage.

Here are some words you will need to know as you listen to this folktale:

gore: stab

brambles: thorny bushes

The Panther and the Bull

One day, a very hungry panther sat in some bushes watching a fat bull grazing in a field.

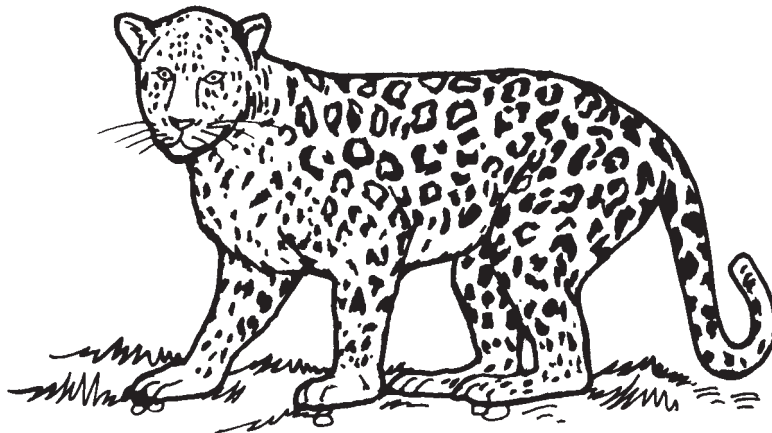
“If only he didn’t have those sharp horns,” thought the panther. “Then I could easily make a feast of him. As it is, he would gore me and then toss me through the air. I could end up dead.”

Then he had a clever idea. Quietly slipping up beside the bull, the panther said in a friendly tone, “Excuse me, Mr. Bull, but I just have to say what a handsome beast you are. I’ve been admiring you, and I must say that I especially like your big, powerful shoulders and strong legs. I am quite curious, though: why on earth do you tolerate those horns on your head? Carrying them around all the time must give you quite a headache; and if I may be so bold as to say so, they do spoil your otherwise perfect appearance.”

“Do you really think so?” asked the astonished bull. “Why, I never thought about it. But now that you mention it, these horns often do get in my way. Just last week I even got all tangled up in some brambles because of them. I was trapped for an hour. And they spoil my appearance? Hmmm.”

The panther slunk away and hid behind a nearby tree to see what would happen. The bull waited until the panther disappeared from sight, then began hitting his horns against a rock with all his might. After his right horn splintered, he smashed his left horn. Finally, the bull stood up proudly with his head smooth and bare.

“Now I’ve got you!” snarled the panther as he leapt from his hiding place. “Thank you for destroying your horns. They were the only things that prevented you from becoming my next meal.”



Folktales *(cont.)*

Passage #11 Questions

1. Which of the following statements represents the lesson taught in this folktale? Place a checkmark next to one and use it in your answer.

☐ Sometimes others say charming things just to get something from you.

☐ You should never trust a wild animal.

Explain how the story teaches this lesson. Use two details from the folktale to support your answer. (6 points)

2. What was the panther's purpose for telling the bull about his appearance? (3 points)

3. Why did the bull deliberately shatter his horns? (3 points)

4. What should the bull have done when the panther left him? (3 points)
