THE REAL THIEF

Synopsis

A story about the problems that can happen between friends that causes hurt, and only a very big, forgiving heart can set it right again. Gawain is the King's trusted friend and guard of the treasure. When some of the treasure is found to be missing, Gawain becomes the suspect as he has the only key other than the King. The once honored Gawain is now the talk of the town. Although he is innocent, he is eventually found guilty. Gawain escapes and goes away where he can't be found to live by himself. The one who has stolen the treasure feels horrible and starts returning it bit by bit. Now that the town knows it wasn't Gawain they feel awful for their lack of trust in their friend. The townspeople search for Gawain but are unable to find him to tell him they are sorry and they want him to come back. Derck continues the search and finds Gawain. He apologizes for taking the treasure and causing Gawain to be arrested and convicted. Gawain returns to the town and forgives them for wrongly accusing him. Gawain as usual takes the honorable path.

NOTICE

This book has no chapters or sections, so it has been divided into 5 sections by page numbers. If your book does not have 58 pages the sections could be slightly different.
1. What kind of animal book is this?
   a. Animal that act likes animals.
   b. Animals that act like animals but talk like people.
   c. Animals that act and live like people.

2. What is Gawain’s job?

3. How many rubies did Gawain first discover were missing?

4. Why did the King suspect Gawain of taking the rubies?

5. How do you think Gawain felt when he was thrown in jail?
   Explain why you think that.
1. Why didn’t Gawain have a lawyer at the trial?

2. At the beginning of the trial how did the animals of the town feel about Gawain?
   a. They were jealous and hoped he would be found guilty.
   b. They were sure he was innocent.
   c. It had been a long time since there had been a trial and they were excited.

3. Why does the town change their opinion of Gawain as the trial goes on?

4. Have you or anyone you know ever been accused of something you didn’t do? How did it make you feel? (Even if you haven’t how do you think it would make you feel?)

5. What do you think could have happened to the missing treasures?
1. Who does the real thief turn out to be?

2. Why doesn't the real thief tell the truth and save Gawain?

3. How did Derek get into the treasure house?

4. Why doesn't Derek consider what he is doing as wrong?

5. What is your opinion of Derek? Explain why you said that.
1. Why hadn't Derek considered himself a thief?
   
a. Thieves were rough looking, dangerous people who deserved to be in jail.
   b. Derek thought maybe good fortune had smiled on him and he deserved it.
   c. No one else in his family had been a thief so it hadn't occurred to him.

2. Do you think Derek would have told the truth if Gawain had not flown out the window? Explain why you think that.

3. What did Derek do that proved to the town that Gawain was not a thief?

4. Have you ever wished you could turn back the clock and do something differently? What was it and what would you have done differently?

5. Why was the town still unhappy after the treasure had been returned?
1. Name 2 things Gawain does to keep hidden?

2. Gawain said if he could have “shared his unhappiness with a friend he would have felt happier.” What do you do when you are unhappy to feel better?

3. Why doesn’t Gawain want Derek to tell the town what he had done?
   a. He says they should always wonder because they lacked faith in him.
   b. Gawain thinks that everyone has already suffered enough.
   c. He doesn’t want Derek to be punished.

4. How do you think the animals felt when they saw Gawain return?

5. If you had been Gawain, what would you have said to your old friends who asked your forgiveness? Explain why you would have said that.

6. If this book had a message to tell you what do you think it would be? Write it in one sentence.
THE REAL THIEF
Answer Key

LESSON 1
1. C
2. Gawain’s job is chief guard of the King’s Royal Treasury.
3. 29 rubies were missing at first.
4. The King suspected Gawain because only the two of them had keys to the treasury.
5. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2
1. Gawain thought since he was innocent he didn’t need a lawyer.
2. B
3. At first the town thinks Gawain is innocent but when there seems to be no other explanation for the missing treasure they change their mind and think it must be him.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.

LESSON 3
1. The real thief is Derek the mouse.
2. He doesn’t tell the truth because he thinks that since Gawain is innocent he will get off.
3. Derek got into the treasure house through a crack in the floor.
4. Derek doesn’t think he is doing anything wrong, he thinks he is just borrowing the items, not taking them.
5. Answers will vary. Derek is a coward, or afraid are ideas that may come up.

LESSON 4
1. A
2. Answers will vary.
3. First Derek stole more jewels and then he started to replace them.
4. Answers will vary.
5. The town was still unhappy after the treasure was returned because they felt bad about what they had done to Gawain.
LESSON 5

1. Gawain tied rushes to his feet to wipe out any sign of footprints and he planted bushes in front of the entrance to his home so it couldn’t be spotted. He also avoided making a fire.
2. Answers will vary.
3. A
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.