

THE WISE MEN AND THE ELEPHANT - GUIDE



◆ **Domain:**

Appreciation of literature and culture

◆ **Benchmark:**

Recognize the use of basic literary techniques, such as metaphor, and apply them to writing

◆ **Description:**

Students will read the Indian folktale “The Wise Men and the Elephant,” answer questions about it and write a report based on observation of the behaviors described in the story.

◆ **Rationale for choice of topic:**

This folktale is read all over the world. It is authentic and lessons can be learned about differences of opinion and mutual cooperation. The many comparisons of the parts of an elephant to other objects lends itself to assessing awareness of metaphors.

◆ **Suggestions for implementation (prior to and/or during):**

Teachers may want to introduce the students to metaphors and model their use.

◆ **Suggested time allotment:**

Double lesson

◆ **Prerequisites:**

- Ability to write a report based on observations
- Familiarity with the genre of a folktale
- Familiarity with metaphors, similes and other literary techniques

Name: _____

Class: _____



THE WISE MEN AND THE ELEPHANT -
TASK - PART 1

In this task you will be asked to read the old Indian folktale 'The Wise Men and the Elephant,' answer questions and write a report:

Read the old Indian tale "The Wise Men and the Elephant."

Answer the following questions (according to the story and your own ideas):

1) Why did the wise men argue?

2) In what ways is the elephant like a:

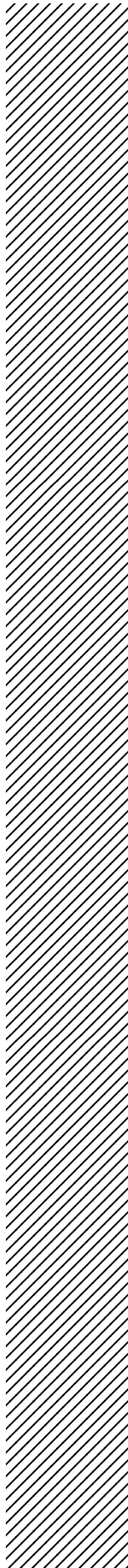
- a. fan _____
- b. tree _____
- c. rope _____
- d. spear _____
- e. high wall _____
- f. snake _____

3) How could the six wise men have discovered what an elephant really looks like?

4) Choose two of the following and compare them with something else so that we know what it looks or feels like:

a. My room is like... because...

b. When I am angry, I feel like... because...



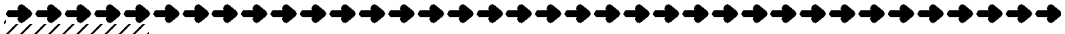
c. A hot day in summer is like... because...

d. The sea is like... because...

e. The noise during the break at school is like... because...

Name: _____

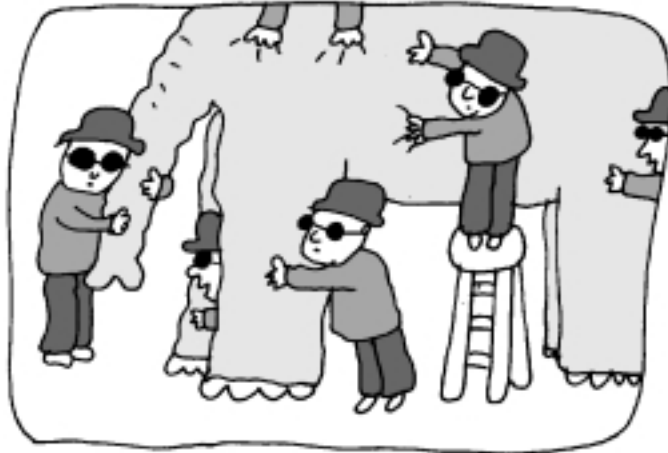
Class: _____



THE WISE MEN AND THE ELEPHANT - TASK - PART 2


The king of India sends an *observer* to observe the six wise men and report back to him. The observer must record the men's discussion and behavior when they tried to figure out what an elephant is like. The report should include a description of what the wise men said, what they did and an explanation for both.

Prepare a report for the king of India in which you write your observations of the discussion and behavior of the six wise men. **Include** information about what they said and what they did. Also, **include** your own explanation of what you think happened. (At least 80 words.)



Note:

Read the checklist before you start working and **fill it in** when you finish.

observer -  - צופה

THE WISE MEN AND THE ELEPHANT - CHECKLIST

What to check	✓
I read the story carefully.	
I answered all the questions.	
I understood all the vocabulary.	
I understood what a metaphor is.	
I understood the message of the story.	
I included all the relevant information in my report.	
My explanation was logical.	
My report was clear.	
I checked my spelling.	
I checked my grammar.	
I checked my punctuation.	

The Wise Men and the Elephant

Once upon a time, there were six wise men who lived together in a small town in India. The six wise men were blind. However, despite this, they were very arrogant and believed that they knew everything and could solve any problem.

One day, the king of India decided to test their wisdom. He brought an elephant to the town and ordered the wise men to figure out what an elephant is like. He also sent an observer to see how they solved the problem. The observer was instructed to report back to the king.

The six wise men discussed how to solve the problem, if they could at all. "I know," said the first man. "We will feel him!" "Good idea," said the others. "Then we'll know what an elephant is like." So the six men approached the elephant.

The first one touched the elephant's big, flat ear. He felt it move slowly back and forth. "The elephant is like a fan," the first man cried. The second man felt the elephant's legs. "No. He's like a tree," he cried. "You're both wrong," said the third man. "The elephant is like a rope." This man was feeling the elephant's tail.

Just then the fourth man pricked his hand on the elephant's sharp tusk. "The elephant is like a spear," he cried. "No, no," cried the fifth man. "He's like a high wall." As he spoke, he was feeling the elephant's side. The sixth man was holding the elephant's trunk. "You are all wrong," he said. "The elephant is like a snake."

"No, no, like a rope."

"A snake!"

"A wall!"

"You're wrong!"

"I'm right!"

The six blind men shouted at each other for an hour. And they never found out what an elephant was like. Can they thus be described as wise?

THE WISE MEN AND THE ELEPHANT

Blank writing area with horizontal lines for student response.

Dimension Assessed by \	Content	Discourse & Organization	Vocabulary	Language Usage & Conventions
Teacher				
Self				
Peer				

THE WISE MEN AND THE ELEPHANT - RUBRIC

Dimension	Content	Discourse & Organization	Vocabulary	Language Usage and Conventions
Criteria Grade Level	<i>Reliability of description</i> <i>Explanation</i>	<i>Clarity</i> <i>Flow</i>	<i>Appropriacy to topic</i> <i>Range</i>	<i>Grammar, spelling and punctuation</i>
On Target 5	Description matches events and includes all details. Explanation covers all events and shows complete understanding of dilemma.	Whole message is completely clear. Logical flow of ideas throughout whole text.	Vocabulary is appropriate to topic and genre. Vocabulary is rich and varied.	Generally tenses are correct, both in form and use. Mostly correct spelling. Correct punctuation throughout.
4				
On Your Way 3	Description matches events, but lacks some details. Explanation covers events and shows a degree of understanding of dilemma.	Most of message is clear. Flow of ideas in some parts of text.	Vocabulary is usually appropriate to topic and genre. Range of vocabulary is adequate.	Some mistakes in use and/or form of tenses. Spelling mistakes detract from meaning or reader's understanding. Aware of need to punctuate by making some use of punctuation marks.
2				
Starting Out 1	Events are not described in a way that reader can get a clear picture of what happened. Either no explanation is offered, or it does not match events and dilemma.	No attention paid to clarity. Lacks flow of ideas in text.	Vocabulary is inappropriate to topic and/or genre. Vocabulary is poor and limited.	No sense of understanding use of tenses; mistakes in form detract from reader's understanding. Poor spelling makes it impossible to understand. No sense of understanding use of punctuation.

The Wise Men and the Elephant

دولة إسرائيل
وزارة التعليم
قسم التفتيش في اللغة الإنجليزية

الاسم: سناء إيلا إدريسي
الصف: الثامن د

إستمارة للطالب الذي يؤدي وظيفة

الآن قد اتهيتم العمل في وظيفة الإنجليزية، يهنا أن نطلع على التجربة التي مررتم بها لكي نحسن مستوى هذه الوظيفة. لذلك نرجوكم ان تخصصوا بضعة دقائق من وقتكم للإجابة على الأسئلة المرفقة بهذا (عليكم الإجابة بالعربية).
نشكركم مسبقا على تعاونكم هذا.

* هل قابلتم خلال دراستكم في الصفوف الإعدادية (في جميع المواضيع الدراسية) وظائف من هذا النوع؟ نعم (لا) (أحيطوا بدائرة على الجواب الصحيح).

• ماذا احببتم بشكل خاص في الوظيفة وماذا لم تحبوا؟ فصلوا.

إن ما احببته في الوظيفة أسئلة التلاميذ لأنها تعلم الطالب
من القيمة عن أشياء يعرفها عن قضاة لا شيء، صوته.
لا يوجد هناك شيء في ذهني.

• ماذا كانت الصعوبات في تنفيذ الوظيفة؟ فصلوا (إذا كانت هناك عدة أسئلة في الوظيفة. لا تنسوا
أن تذكروا رقم السؤال الذي تعنوه).

في خلال الوظيفة لم احاجه شيء، صعب بتاتا.

• ماذا كنتم ستغيرون في الوظيفة؟ فصلوا.

لا شيء.

• ماذا كنتم ستغيرون في Checklist؟ فصلوا.

لا شيء، لأنهم اسئلة أو البهل تدهن ان الطالب
فهم المسمى أو القصة، ادرا

• هل لديكم ملاحظات/ توضيحات/ أفكار تريدون أن تشاركونها بها؟ فصلوا.

لا يوجد أي ملاحظات أو توصيات

The Wise Men and the Elephant

دولة إسرائيل
وزارة التعليم
قسم التفتيش في اللغة الإنجليزية

لقاء عام

إستمارة للطالب الذي يؤدي وظيفة

الآن قد انهيتكم العمل في وظيفة الإنجليزية. يهنا أن نطلع على التجربة التي مررتم بها لكي نحسن مستوى هذه الوظيفة. لذلك نرجوكم ان تخصصوا بضعة دقائق من وقتكم للإجابة على الأسئلة المرفقة بهذا (عليكم الإجابة بالعربية).
نشكركم مسبقا على تعاونكم هذا.

* هل قابلتم خلال دراستكم في الصفوف الإعدادية (في جميع المواضيع الدراسية) وظائف من هذا النوع؟ (نعم/لا) (أحيطوا بدائرة على الجواب الصحيح).

* ماذا احببتم بشكل خاص في الوظيفة وماذا لم تحبوا؟ فصلوا.

افضل احببنا بكل عامرنا في الوظيفة بان كل شخص يعمل عند رايه
مثل الحكماء الذين عملوا عند انفسهم
لم اصب في هذا النص بان احبهم لم يعمل لهم ما هذا الشيء

* ماذا كانت الصعوبات في تنفيذ الوظيفة؟ فصلوا (إذا كانت هناك عدة أسئلة في الوظيفة. لا تتنوا أن تذكروا رقم السؤال الذي تعنوه).

تمكن من ذلك صعوبات في تنفيذ الوظيفة

* ماذا كنتم ستغيرون في الوظيفة؟ فصلوا.

لا شيء سعي في الوظيفة

* ماذا كنتم ستغيرون في Checklist؟ فصلوا.

لا يوجد لدي أي شيء

* هل لديكم ملاحظات/ توضيحات/ أفكار تريدون أن تشاركوننا بها؟ فصلوا.

لا