

Trading Places

by Clare Mishica

Once there was an old woman who lived by the sea with her two donkeys. The donkeys, Lou and Pete, spent much of their time in a barn, each snug in his own stall. But once a week the old woman loaded some bags on their backs to take to the village market. Lou and Pete carried the bags up a steep path, down a long, rocky road, and across a bridge into town.

Very early one market day, the donkey named Lou started to complain. "Every week I have to carry two big bags while you only have to carry two small ones. It's not fair."

"What can I do?" asked the donkey named Pete. "I want to be fair."

"We should trade places," said Lou. "Then I would have a chance to carry the little bags. That would be fair."

"Of course," said Pete, and he pushed open his stall door.

"Hurry, hurry!" said Lou as they switched stalls. "The sun is up, and the woman will be coming soon."

A few minutes later, the barn door creaked open, and the woman came in carrying four bags. As usual, she put the two large bags on the donkey in the first stall, and two small bags on the donkey in the second stall. But this time Pete was in the first stall and took the large bags. Lou sighed in relief as the woman came to him with the two small bags.

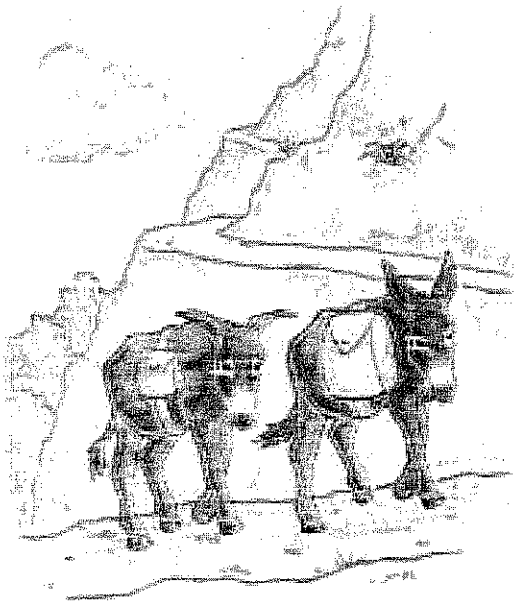
"Finally," he thought, "I won't have to work so hard."

"Come on, fellows," the woman said, tugging on their halters. "Off to market we go."

The donkeys started climbing the steep path. Soon, Lou began to realize that his walk was not so easy. In fact, the little bags weighed twenty times more than the big ones. By the time they had walked as far as the bridge, Lou felt like he must be carrying a mountain.

Finally, they reached the market, and the woman emptied her bags to sell her goods. The little bags were full of seashells, but the big bags only had sea sponges inside!

"Thanks for trading," said Pete. "I'm so glad you wanted to be fair." Lou didn't complain. He was too tired to say a word.



1 Draw a line to connect the event to when it happened.

First

Lou and Pete hurried to switch stalls.

Second

Lou was too tired to say a word.

Third

Very early one market day, the donkey named Lou started to complain.

Last

But this time, Pete was in the first stall and took the large bags.

Target 2 Standard RL-2 Model 1b DOK 2

2 Read the sentence from the story:

“Very early one market day, the donkey named Lou started to complain.”

What does the word complain mean?

- a. to grumble
- b. give orders
- c. ask questions

Target 3 Standard RL-2 Model 1b DOK 2

3 Which setting from the story tells most about Lou's problem?

a. A few minutes later, the barn door creaked open, and the woman came in carrying four bags.

b. Lou and Pete carried the bags up a steep path, down a long, rocky road and across a bridge into town.

c. Once there was an old woman who lived by the sea with her two donkeys.

Target 1 Standard RL-1 Model DOK 2

4 Which sentence BEST tells the main idea of the story?

a. Trading places to get what you want is a good idea.

b. Carrying small bags is better than carrying big bags.

c. Sometimes what you have is better than what you want.

Target 2 Standard RL-2 Model 1a DOK 2

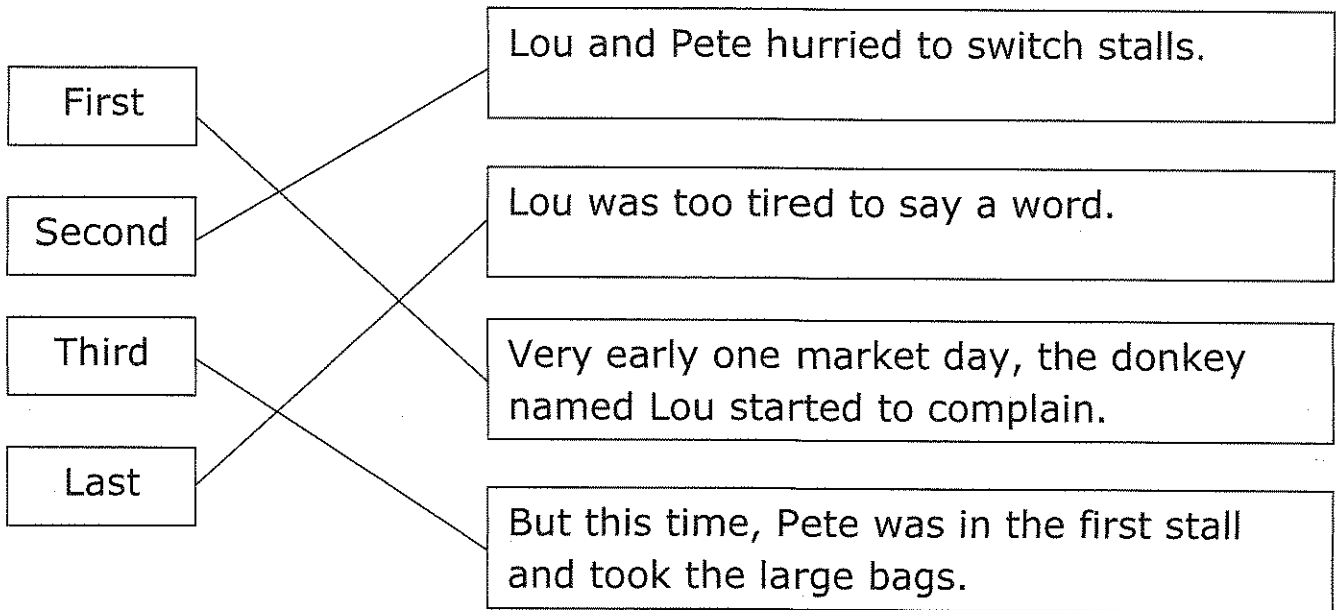
5 Read the sentences from the beginning of the story:

“Every week I have to carry two big bags while you only have to carry two small ones. It’s not fair.”

How does the author show that Lou changes his mind by the end of the story?

Target 4 Standard RL-3 Model 1b DOK 2

1 Draw a line to connect the event to when it happened.



Target 2 Standard RL-2 Model 1b DOK 2

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What does the word complain mean?

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Target 3 Standard RL-2 Model 1b DOK 2

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Target 1 Standard RL-1 Model DOK 2

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Target 2 Standard RL-2 Model 1a DOK 2

5 Read the sentences from the beginning of the story:

“Every week I have to carry two big bags while you only have to carry two small ones. It’s not fair.”

How does the author show that Lou changes his mind by the end of the story?

2-Point Reading Rubric	
The response:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives sufficient evidence of the ability to use details from the story to show that Lou changed his mind by the end of the story. • Includes at least 2 specific details that are clearly based on the text.
The response:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives limited evidence of the ability to use details from the story to show that Lou changed his mind by the end of the story. • Includes only 1 specific detail that is clearly based on the text.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A response gets no credit if it provides no evidence of the ability to use details from the story to show that Lou changed his mind by the end of the story.

Answers may include but are not limited to:

- A. Lou began to realize that his walk was not so easy.**
- B. The little bags weighed twenty times more than the big ones he usually carried.**
- C. Lou felt like he must be carrying a mountain.**
- D. The little bags were full of seashells but the big bags only had sea sponges inside.**
- E. At the end, Lou didn’t complain. He was too tired to say a word.**