

## Unit 3/Week 4

Title: The Country Mouse and the City Mouse

Suggested Time: 3 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.3.1, RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.3.4, RL.3.7;  
RF.3.4; W.3.1, W.3.3, W.3.4; SL.3.1, SL.3.2; L.3.1, L.3.2, L.3.4

### Teacher Instructions

*Refer to the Introduction for further details.*

#### **Before Teaching**

1. Read the Big Ideas and Key Understandings and the Synopsis. Please do **not** read this to the students. This is a description for teachers, about the big ideas and key understanding that students should take away **after** completing this task.

##### Big Ideas and Key Understandings

A simple life in peace and safety is preferable to a life of luxury tortured by fear.

##### Synopsis

Country Mouse invites her friend, City Mouse to visit her in the country. City Mouse does not enjoy the country and convinces Country Mouse to return to the city with her. Once in the city, Country Mouse enjoys the fine surroundings and foods until a noisy party burst into the room and the mice must scurry and hide. The mice peeked around the corner, but the barking of dogs drove the mice back into the corner “in greater terror than before”. Country Mouse decides to return to her home in the country as she prefers her poor food in “peace and quiet” to the richest feast where “Fear and Danger lie waiting”.

2. Read entire main selection text, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.
3. Re-read the main selection text while noting the stopping points for the Text Dependent Questions and teaching Vocabulary.

#### **During Teaching**

1. Students read the entire main selection text independently.

2. Teacher reads the main selection text aloud with students following along. (Depending on how complex the text is and the amount of support needed by students, the teacher may choose to reverse the order of steps 1 and 2.)
3. Students and teacher re-read the text while stopping to respond to and discuss the questions and returning to the text. A variety of methods can be used to structure the reading and discussion (i.e.: whole class discussion, think-pair-share, independent written response, group work, etc.)

### Text Dependent Questions

Text-dependent Questions	Evidence-based Answers
How does the author describe Country Mouse on page 198?	Country Mouse is honest, plain, and sensible because she does not eat anything to make enough to eat. She also gives her guest everything from her cupboard even though it is not much. She
On page 198, the author writes, “Country Mouse opened her heart and hearth in honor of her old friend.” What does the author mean?	The author means that Country Mouse is welcoming to City Mouse. She makes City Mouse feel as comfortable as can and offers City Mouse everything that she
What does City Mouse think about the country? (Pg. 199)	City Mouse dislikes the country. She says the country is empty.
Describe City Mouse using details from the story and illustration on page 199.	<p>City Mouse is arrogant and condescending. She insults Country Mouse’s life, “How can you live your life here, with nothing but woods ...? My way of life is better than Country Mouse’s.”</p> <p>The illustration shows City Mouse wearing a fancy dress, choosing to not sit on the dirt. She looks proud with an umbrella, fan and expensive shoes.</p>
Using the text and the illustrations on pages 199 -200, explain how the country and city are different.	<p>Country: woods, meadows, mountains, brook, chirping, bugs, small pieces of food like scraps</p> <p>City: streets filled with people and carriages, houses, velvet couches, ivory carving, banquet, fancy dishes</p>

<p>The word <i>dish</i> has more than one meaning. On page 200, the author writes, “She ran to and fro to supply all her guest’s wants, serving dish upon dish and dainty upon dainty.” How does the illustration on page 201 help you understand the meaning of <i>dish</i>?</p> <p>Teacher Note: Some students may struggle with this question. If so, it may be helpful to give them an example such as a “dish of oysters” (or one of the foods served in the story) to illustrate the definition if they cannot come to it on their own.</p>	<p>A dish is a kind of food. The illustration on page 201 shows a few plates on the rug with different dishes including little cookies, chocolate cake, and pie).</p>
<p>At the beginning of the second paragraph on page 200, what does Country Mouse think about the city?</p>	<p>Country Mouse liked the city. The author writes, “...Country Mouse, “...enjoyed herself, delighted with the city affairs.”</p>
<p>“The frightened friends scurried for the first corner they could find.” Use clues from page 201 to define what “scurried” means.</p>	<p>Based on the sentence we know that when someone is scared they will move quickly. To scurry means to run with short, quick steps.</p>
<p>How does Country Mouse feel about the city by the end of the story? What caused Country Mouse to feel this way? (Pg. 201)</p>	<p>Country Mouse did not want to be in the city. She said, “Oh, my dear, this fine mode of living is not for me, but I prefer my poor barley in peace and quietness to the richest feast where Fear and Danger lie in wait. This is the way because while they were eating a large feast, a group of people suddenly burst into the room causing a commotion. They ran for the first corner they could find. Then when they were safe and peeked around the corner, the mice drove them back into the corner. Country Mouse would rather live simply and in peace than run for her life.”</p>

**Vocabulary**

	<b>KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING</b>	<b>WORDS WORTH KNOWING</b> General teaching suggestions are provided
<b>TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION</b> not enough contextual clues provided in the text	Page 198- plain, sensible, morsel, quantity, quality Page 199 - dullness, long (for) Page 200 - splendid, contempt, forsaken, dainty	Page 198- lest, parings Page 199 - endure, teeming Page 200 - polished, crimson, banquet, m Page 201 - (at) length, mode, bade
<b>STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING</b> sufficient context clues are provided in the text	Page 198 - larder, honor, forth, wanting, Page 198- hearth Page 199- condescending Page 200 - dish, overpowered, Page 201 - scurried, stole, prefer, "lie waiting"	Page 198 - larder Page 199 - exclaimed Page 200 - delighted, hostess, remains, s

**Culminating Task**

- Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write
- *Write a paragraph about the lesson or moral of the fable "The Country Mouse and the City Mouse". State in your own words the moral or lesson of the story and describe which character mostly feels this way. Introduce your topic, support your answer with details from the story, and finish with a concluding statement.*

Answer: In this fable, the moral is, “A simple life in peace and safety is preferable to a life of luxury tortured by fear.” It means that the Country Mouse would rather live in country where it is quiet and simple instead of the nice and luxurious life in the city where it is dangerous. Country Mouse feels that she would rather be back in the country. At first she enjoyed the food in the city, but when the people and dogs frightened her away, she decided it was not worth it. She says in the story, “Oh, my dear, this fine mode of living may do for you, but I prefer my poor barley in peace and quiet to dining at the richest feast where Fear and Danger lie waiting.” In other words, it’s better to live without extra luxuries if they come with danger and to live simply when that comes with safety and peace.

### Additional Tasks

- Read another version of “The Country Mouse and the City Mouse”. Compare and contrast with the version in this basal.
- Create your own fable. Decide on the moral you want the reader to learn and then write a fable to teach it. .
- Re-read assigned portions of the story for fluency practice in repeated, partner reading activities.

### Note to Teacher

- Another version of this fable “The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse” can be retrieved from <http://aesopfables.com/>
- The language/vocabulary in this story may challenge some students. Attention may especially need to be paid to words that students may recognize for a different meaning or spelling than used in this fable (fine, length, long, heart, wanting, forth, rich, stole, lie, etc).



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**“The Country Mouse and the City Mouse”**

1. How does the author describe Country Mouse on page 198?
2. On page 198, the author writes, “Country Mouse opened her heart and hearth in honor of her old friend.” What does the author mean?
3. What does City Mouse think about the country? (Pg. 199)
4. Describe City Mouse using details from the story and illustration on page 199.
5. Using the text and the illustrations on pages 199 -200, explain how the country and city are different.

6. The word *dish* has more than one meaning. On page 200, the author writes, “She ran to and fro to supply all her guest’s wants, serving dish upon dish and dainty upon dainty.” How does the illustration on page 201 help you understand the meaning of *dish*?
  
7. At the beginning of the second paragraph on page 200, what does Country Mouse think about the city?
  
8. “The frightened friends scurried for the first corner they could find.” Use clues from page 201 to define what “scurried” means.
  
9. How did Country Mouse feel about the city by the end of the story? What caused Country Mouse to feel this way? (Pg. 201)