

Read this selection to learn how the Donkey and the Monkey found out that they were better off than they thought and answer the questions that follow

The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole

by Aesop

One day a Donkey and a Monkey were talking together about how unhappy they were.

“My ears are so long that all the animals laugh at me,” said the Donkey. “I wish that I had beautiful horns upon my head like the Ox.”

“You look well enough,” said the Monkey. “But just look at me. Every time I turn my back, the other animals laugh at me.”

“Why do the other animals laugh at you?” asked the Donkey. “You look all right to me.”

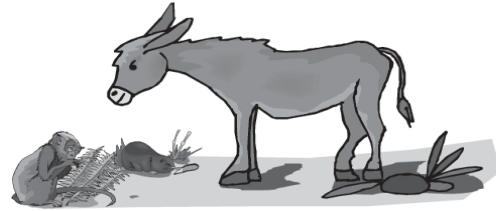
“They laugh at my funny-looking tail,” said the Monkey. “Now if I had a great big tail like the Fox, I would be a beautiful animal indeed.”

A Mole who had just come out of his hole in the ground had overheard the Donkey and the Monkey talking.

“Hold your tongues, both of you,” said the Mole. “You should be thankful for what you have. How would you like to be a Mole? The Moles have no horns at all. The Moles have no tail to speak of. The Moles are nearly blind. The Moles live in the dark under the ground most of the time.”

The Donkey and the Monkey said no more about the things they did not have.

We should be satisfied with what we have. There are always others not as well off as ourselves.



“The Donkey, the Monkey, and the Mole” by Aesop from *Aesop’s Stories for Pleasure Reading* by Edward W. Dolch.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. What lesson did the Mole want his friends to learn?</p> <p>A Good things come to those who wait.</p> <p>B Good things come in small packages.</p> <p>C If at first you do not succeed, try, try again.</p> <p>D Be grateful for who you are.</p> | <p>2. Which of the following best describes what the Donkey and the Monkey were unhappy about?</p> <p>A what they had to eat</p> <p>B how much work they had</p> <p>C where they lived</p> <p>D how they looked</p> |
|--|--|