



CEC READING LIBRARY • GRADE 3 • R3 CHALLENGE

Lucky Hans

12 Chapters

Day 1-12

Q3 W28-W31

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: Seven Years of Work

VOCABULARY years, gold, home, happy

Hans was a young man who worked hard for seven years. He fed the animals, cut the wood, and fixed the roof of his master's house. At last, the seven years were over. "You have worked well, Hans," said his master. ★ **Hans got gold.** It was a lump as big as his head! He was so happy and excited to go home to Mother. He put the heavy gold on his shoulder and started walking. But the gold was very heavy, and the road was very long. His master gave him a pat on the back, and Hans bowed politely and said thank you.

THINK Why was Hans excited to go home?

Chapter 2: A Heavy Lump

VOCABULARY heavy, shoulders, tired, smiled

Hans carried the gold on his shoulder down the long, dusty road. ★ **Hans got a big lump of gold.** But it was terribly heavy! He moved it from one shoulder to the other, again and again. His shoulders ached, and his legs were getting tired. He thought about his mother waiting for him at home. "She will be so happy," he said. Even though it was hard, he smiled the whole way. Soon he would meet someone who would change everything. The sun was hot, and sweat ran down his forehead, but Hans just wiped his face and kept going.

THINK Why did Hans smile even though it was hard?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: Proud Hans

VOCABULARY proud, reward, earned, cheerful

Hans was proud of the gold he had earned from seven years of work. ★ **Hans got a lump of gold for his work.** It was a big reward, and he felt very proud. The road home was long, and the gold grew heavier with each step. But Hans was cheerful. He hummed a happy tune and thought about seeing Mother. Then he spotted a man riding a horse toward him. Clip-clop, clip-clop! This meeting would begin a surprising chain of trades. Birds sang in the trees, and a gentle breeze made the tall grass wave like green water.

THINK Why did the gold grow heavier?

Chapter 4: A Horse for Gold

VOCABULARY traded, horse, thrilled, easier

A man on a horse stopped and asked about the heavy gold. "It is too heavy to carry all the way home," said Hans. The man smiled. "I will give you my horse for your gold!" ★ **He traded it away.** Hans gave the gold for the horse. "Hop on!" said the man. "She is a fast horse!" Hans was thrilled, because riding was so much easier than walking. He did not realize the gold was worth much more. But Hans felt happy, and that was all that mattered. The horse's hooves went clip-clop, and the wind blew through Hans's hair as he laughed.

THINK Why did Hans not worry about the gold's value?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: From Horse to Cow

VOCABULARY fell, farmer, cow, milk

Hans rode the horse happily, but the horse ran faster and faster. Whoa! Hans fell off with a bump and landed in the soft grass. Just then, a farmer came by with a cow. "Would you like to trade?" asked the farmer. ★ **He traded the gold for a horse.** And now he traded the horse for the cow. "A cow is even better!" thought Hans. "I can get fresh milk every day!" Hans always saw the bright side of everything. A friendly butterfly danced over his head, as if it wanted to cheer him up.

THINK Why did Hans think the cow was better?

Chapter 6: A Happy Trader

VOCABULARY happily, journey, upset, smile

Hans started his journey with a huge lump of gold. ★ **He happily traded his heavy gold for a horse.** When the horse threw him off, he traded it for a cow. He patted the cow and said, "Hello, Milky!" Each time he traded, he found a new reason to smile. Most people would be upset about losing their gold. But Hans always looked at the positive side of things. "My shoulders are free," he laughed. "My heart is light!" The cow gave a loud "Moo!" which sounded to Hans like "Thank you!"

THINK Why was Hans not upset?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: Cow, Pig, Goose

VOCABULARY traded, pig, goose, foolish

Hans traded the cow for a pig on the road. "Oink, oink!" said the pig. Then someone offered a goose for his pig. "Honk, honk!" said the goose. ★ **He kept trading.** He swapped one thing for another, and he did it happily. Each trade made him feel like the luckiest person alive. Other people thought he was being foolish. But Hans smiled brighter with every single trade he made. The goose stretched its long neck and looked proudly at everyone who passed by.

THINK How did each trade make him feel?

Chapter 8: A Stone for a Goose

VOCABULARY goose, stone, swapping, worry

Hans held the goose and walked with a big smile. Soon he met a man who wanted the goose. "I will give you my grinding stone for it," said the man. The stone was round and gray, as big as a loaf of bread. Hans said yes! ★ **He traded again and again.** He did it without a single worry. From gold to horse to cow to pig to goose to stone, swapping was his favorite game. Each trade left him with something less valuable. But Hans never stopped smiling through it all. The goose waved goodbye with its wing, and Hans waved back.

THINK Why does the author list "gold to horse to cow..."?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Nothing Left

VOCABULARY well, nothing, laughed, lighter

Hans had traded from gold all the way down to a stone. Then he bent down to drink from a well. Plop! The heavy stone fell into the water and was gone. ★

He kept trading until he had nothing left. Most people would cry about losing everything. But Hans looked at the sky and laughed out loud. He felt lighter and happier than ever before. The sky was wide and blue, and a warm wind patted his cheeks.

THINK Why did Hans bend down at the well?

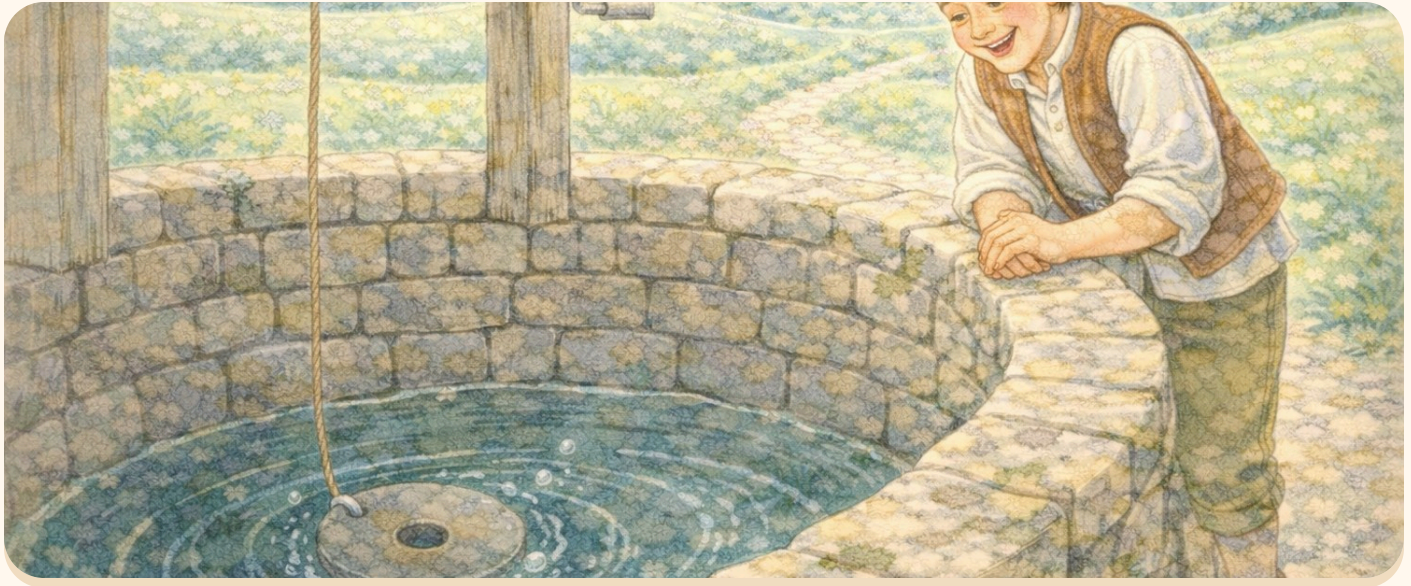
Chapter 10: Free as a Bird

VOCABULARY free, sky, sang, treasure

Hans had nothing left, but he was smiling brightly. He stretched his arms and looked up at the blue sky. ★ **Hans felt free.** He did not have anything heavy to carry. He danced and sang as he walked down the road, and even the birds seemed to sing along. No gold, no horse, no cow, but pure happiness! He realized that freedom was the greatest treasure. He spun around three times, laughing, until the whole world seemed to spin with him.

THINK Why did Hans feel free?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: Mother's Hug

VOCABULARY walked, sang, hugged, joyful

Hans walked home singing, without a care in the world. He sang his favorite song all the way. People stared at him, wondering why he was so joyful. ★ **Hans felt free and happy.** He had nothing to weigh him down. When he reached home, Mother hugged him at the door. He told her about every trade he had made on the road, from the gold to the stone. Mother listened and laughed. She just smiled, because her son was home safe. The neighbors came out to the road and clapped, because they were glad to see him.

THINK Why did Mother smile?

Chapter 12: A Light Heart Beats Gold

VOCABULARY things, happiness, heart, treasure

Hans had lost everything on his journey, but he had gained something more. He discovered that happiness does not come from things. ★ **Hans felt free — a light heart beats gold.** A free and happy heart is worth more than any treasure. Hans hugged his mother and said, "I do not need gold. I have you!" He learned that the best things in life are not things. Family and freedom are the greatest treasures of all. That evening, they ate warm soup by the fire, and Hans fell asleep with a big smile.

THINK What does "a light heart beats gold" mean?