

Name: _____

The Most Wonderful Answer of All

by Neal Levin

Once there was a magical fairy who had the gift of granting wishes. Every half moon she granted one wish to one elf.

Lately, however, it was hard to decide whose wish to grant. It wasn't that there were so many elves who deserved to have a wish come true. It was that there were so many who didn't deserve it at all.



Preview

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"Good day, good friend. I seem to have lost my way," she said in a raspy voice.

"Could you please help me get home?"

"Why me?" The elf blew steam from his mug. "There are lots of other elves around."

"Okay," said the beggar. "I'll find someone else."

She soon came upon a second elf polishing stones.

"Good day, good friend." The beggar sighed. "I'm a little bit lost. I don't suppose you could help guide me home?"

"Why now?" said the elf. "I'm busy. Can't you see?"

"Never mind." The beggar shook her head.

The third elf she came upon was napping under a mushroom. The beggar tapped his shoulder with her cane. "Good day, good friend. I seem to be lost. Could

you help me find my way home?"

"Why bother?" The elf yawned. "I'd rather take a nap." He rolled over and went back to sleep.

The beggar sighed. Then she sat down to think.



Soon she heard a trumpet toot. She looked up to find an elf riding a pony. He wore a paper crown and a purple cape like a prince.

"Silly elf," the beggar muttered. "He thinks he's someone special."

"What's troubling you, my



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A horizontal banner with a blue background. On the left, a cartoon superhero with brown hair, a red suit, and a red cape is flying. The cape has a blue shield with the letters 'M.S.' on it. On the right, the word 'Preview' is written in large, bold, red letters. Below it, in smaller black text, it says 'Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.'

"But there's something you should know," the prince said, as he helped the beggar up on his pony. "I'm not really a prince. I'm an ordinary elf with extraordinary dreams. That's why I dress this way."

"Well, there's something you should know, too. I'm not really a lost and lonely beggar. I'm really a magical fairy."

The elf turned around, and sure enough, a fairy was sitting behind him. Her cane had become a magic wand and she waved it over his head.

"You are a prince," she said. "In more ways than one."

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1. Why has it become difficult for the fairy to grant wishes?
 - a. There are so many elves who deserve to have a wish granted.
 - b. There are no elves who deserve to have a wish granted.
 - c. She broke her magic wand.
 - d. She lost her magic wand.



2. What does the fairy decide to do about her problem?



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4. When the fairy meets the last elf, what does she believe about him at first?
How does he turn out to be different from the other elves?

5. Which lesson does this fable teach?
 - a. Always show appreciation for a gift.
 - b. Never give up during hard times.
 - c. Being kind has its rewards.
 - d. Being yourself is the best thing you can be.

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Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. w _ _ r _ _ _ y

hint: good; righteous; deserving of praise

2. d _ _ _ n e _ _

hint: put on a piece of clothing

A cartoon illustration of a superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit with a red cape and a shield-shaped emblem on his chest containing the letters 'S.T.S.'. He is flying through a blue sky with white clouds.

Preview
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hint: making the surface of something shiny and smooth by rubbing it

6. m _ _ _ h _ _ o _ _ m

hint: a type of fungus

7. e _ _ t _ _ _ o _ _ _ i n _ _ r _ _

hint: incredible; unbelievable

8. _ _ e _ _ l

hint: a piece of cloth that hides the face

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At the end of the story, "The Most Wonderful Answer of All," the fairy tells the last elf she meets, "You are a prince, in more ways than one."



On the lines below, explain what the fairy meant when she said this. What do you think is more important: how a person looks on the outside, or who he or she is on the inside? Explain why.



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The complex block features a superhero character on the left, flying through a blue sky with white clouds. The character has brown hair, a wide smile, and is wearing a blue suit with a red cape. A shield-shaped logo on his chest contains the letters 'ALS'. To the right of the character, the word 'Preview' is written in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font. Below it, the text 'Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

ANSWER KEY

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1. Why has it become difficult for the fairy to grant wishes? **b**
- a. There are so many elves who deserve to have a wish granted.
 - b. There are no elves who deserve to have a wish granted.**
 - c. She broke her magic wand.



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- c. Being kind has its rewards.**
- d. Being yourself is the best thing you can be.

ANSWER KEY

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Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. w o r t h y

worthy

hint: good; righteous; deserving of praise

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