

Horses and a Life Lesson

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

This is an old story from China. It's a story about how people _____ to good or bad events.

Long ago, a boy and his father lived on a _____ farm. They had one horse. One day, the horse ran _____ . An old _____ said to the father, "I feel _____ about this bad news."

The father _____ , thought for a moment and _____ , "How do you know this isn't good news?"

One month later, the horse _____ to the farm with another horse. The new horse was big and _____ . Villagers stopped by to have a look. The old woman said, "You have two _____ . You must be so glad."

The father listened _____ and asked, "Can you be sure this isn't a bad thing?"

Later that week, the son was _____ the new horse. He fell off and _____ his leg. The boy recovered, but his leg was not _____ .

People _____ by the farm with gifts and good _____ , but the father wasn't sad. He said, "Are you sure this isn't good news?"

Some people thought the father was _____ . One year later, there was a _____ in China. Young men from every _____ were forced to become soldiers. The father's son didn't _____ the army because of his bad leg.

The war ended _____ . Many men from the village were killed. The son lived for a _____ time with his two horses.

This story teaches us a _____ . When good or bad things occur, we shouldn't feel _____ happy or unhappy. We should _____ the things we cannot change and live the _____ life we can.

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

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|-------------|--------------|
| 1. respond | a. delighted |
| 2. strange | b. reply |
| 3. terrible | c. curious |
| 4. glad | d. enormous |
| 5. big | e. awful |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. The old man felt bad when the horse ran away. T or F
2. The son fell off the new horse. T or F
3. The son was conscripted into the army. T or F
4. The story takes place in rural China. T or F
5. The new horse was larger than the original one. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

VOERDRECE _____

LIEGLVA _____

DTEILNSE _____

SMIAALN _____

ACTEPC _____

ETMNOM _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. Where does the story take place?
 2. Why did other people think the father was strange?
 3. Retell the story about the horse.
 4. What are the pros and cons of the father's attitude?
 5. What message does the story teach?
 6. Do you agree with the message?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. time / son / The / for / his / with / a / two / long / horses / lived

2. the / horse / away / day / ran / One

3. occur / we / things / When / shouldn't / or / or / bad / unhappy / overly / happy / good / feel

4. from / every / village / become / were / soldiers / forced / to / men / Young

5. how / events / to / or / respond / people / a / It's / bad / good / about / story
