

Lesson 31

Real-Life Connections

 **Introduction** When reading, you can connect the words on the page to your own life or to the wider world. Connecting words with real-life events can make their meaning clearer.

- What do you think of when you read the word *friendly*? You might remember a time when a friendly classmate smiled at you.

A friendly classmate smiled and said, "Hi."

- When you think about the word *friendly*, you might also remember what friendly people and animals in your town or city have done.

A friendly lady in town gives neighbors vegetables from her garden.

Friendly dogs wag their tails and want to be patted.

Guided Practice

Circle the correct words to complete each sentence. Then work with a partner to think of more ways to complete each sentence.

HINT To help think of more ways to complete each sentence, ask your partner questions like these.

- When were you helpful?
- What do you do when you are curious about something?

1 A helpful person might _____.

do chores break a glass trip and fall

2 If a person is curious, she might _____.

go to sleep read a book wrap a gift

3 It would be selfish to _____.

take all the toys give presents help others

4 A student could interrupt a class by _____.

writing a story doing math talking loudly



Independent Practice

For numbers 1–5, choose the correct answer to each question.

- 1** How might a **patient** person act?
 - A** tell a friend to hurry up
 - B** run to be first in line
 - C** refuse to wait for someone
 - D** teach a baby something new
- 2** What might a **stubborn** person say?
 - A** "I like this new food after all."
 - B** "I won't eat that even if it's good for me."
 - C** "I agree with you about that."
 - D** "I'll stay home because you need my help."
- 3** What might a **generous** person do?
 - A** help a friend with homework
 - B** eat candy without sharing
 - C** disobey his parents
 - D** scare a friend's dog
- 4** How might someone cause **confusion**?
 - A** by solving a problem
 - B** by telling the truth
 - C** by giving poor directions
 - D** by speaking clearly
- 5** What is a **rude** thing to do?
 - A** invite a friend to a party
 - B** talk while others are talking
 - C** offer to wash the dishes
 - D** help a neighbor plant a garden

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- trotted/trotting
- stall

Zel

the Gentle Donkey

A FOLKTALE FROM HAITI

- 1 Long ago, there was a gentle donkey named Zel. Everyone in town loved Zel because she was so pleasant and kind. But Zel's owner, Madame Charity, was angry and mean. She was so mean that she threw rocks at birds for singing too loud. She yelled at little boys when they laughed. But she was the meanest of all to poor Zel.
- 2 Every Saturday, Madame Charity sold sugar and rice at a market. Whoever arrived earliest sold the most. But Madame Charity always woke up late. Then she got angry and yelled at Zel, who had done nothing wrong.
- 3 In a huff, Madame Charity would then load heavy bags of rice and sugar onto Zel's back. Last, she climbed on top of it. "Hurry, Zel!" she yelled. "Get me to market as fast as you can!" Although Zel always trotted as fast as she could, it was never fast enough for Madame Charity.



4 One day, Zel's friend Touloulou the crab visited. "Did you have a good day at the market?" asked Touloulou.

5 "Madame Charity was mad at me all day. I work as hard as I can, but she is always mean to me."

6 "Madame Charity is always late. She won't blame herself, so she blames you," said Touloulou.

7 "Yes," said Zel. "And because everyone is afraid of her angry tongue, she never sells much at the market."

8 "I will help you," said Touloulou.

9 The next Saturday, Madame Charity woke up at 9 a.m. "Oh, no! I'm late again!" she yelled. As she tossed her heavy bags onto Zel's back, Touloulou the crab grabbed onto the hem of her long skirt. Madame Charity climbed on Zel's back. Touloulou held tightly to her skirt.

10 Zel started trotting. Madame Charity remembered how late she was. She opened her mouth to speak angrily, but Touloulou pinched her ankle.

11 “Ouch!” Madame Charity rubbed her ankle. She forgot how late she was. But soon she remembered. “Faster, Zel! Faster!” she yelled.

12 Again Touloulou pinched Madame Charity’s ankle.

13 “Ouch!” shouted Madame Charity.

14 When they got to the market, Madame Charity saw that someone had taken the stall she liked to use. In a fit of rage, Madame Charity opened her mouth to yell. For the third time, Touloulou pinched her ankle. Madame Charity screamed.

15 “What’s wrong?” people asked.

16 “Hurrying to get to market, I must have hurt my ankle. It’s very painful. Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!”

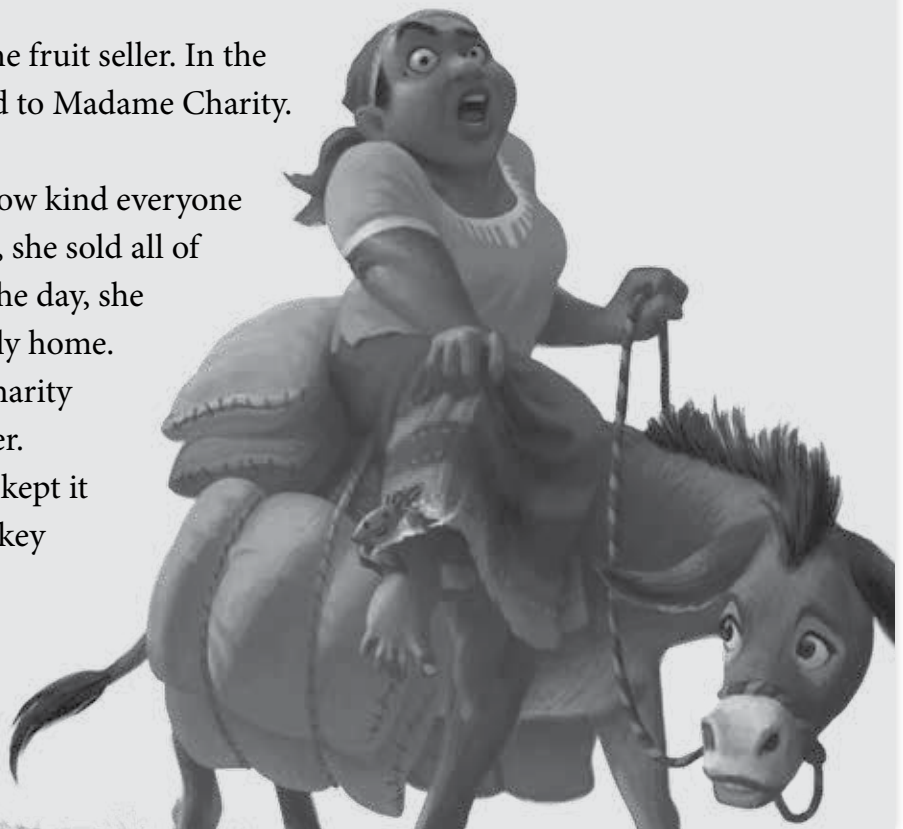
17 The fish seller said, “Madame Charity, you should get up earlier. Then you will not have to rush. Next week, I will wake you at 6 a.m.”

18 “Thank you,” said Madame Charity. She was surprised at the man’s kindness.

19 “Let me fix your ankle,” said the fruit seller. In the past, the fruit seller had not talked to Madame Charity. Today he felt sorry for her.

20 When Madame Charity saw how kind everyone was, she smiled. For the first time, she sold all of her rice and sugar. At the end of the day, she saddled Zel gently and rode quietly home.

21 From that day on, Madame Charity tried not to raise her voice in anger. Sometimes she got angry, but she kept it to herself. And Zel the gentle donkey was happy at last.



Think Use what you learned from reading the selection to respond to these questions.

- 1 Which detail in the first part of the story explains why Madame Charity is cruel to Zel?
 - A Zel does not walk to the market as fast as she is able to.
 - B Madame Charity is always angry and mean.
 - C Madame Charity does not have enough sugar and rice to sell.
 - D Everyone in town loves Zel because she is pleasant and kind.

- 2 Describe how Touloulou helps Zel.

- 3 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What is the central message of this story?

- A Honesty is the best policy.
- B Kindness gets better results than anger.
- C Things are not always as they appear.
- D Beware of strangers.

Part B

Which sentence from the story is **most** important to the central message of the story?

- A "Madame Charity, you should get up earlier."
- B "Then she got angry and yelled at Zel. . . ."
- C "From that day on, Madame Charity tried not to raise her voice in anger."
- D "Today he felt sorry for her."

- 4** What is the meaning of the word *market* as it is used in this sentence from the story?

Every Saturday, Madame Charity sold sugar and rice at a market.

- A** a store where food and spices are bought
- B** a place where people buy and sell things
- C** a street fair where people gather
- D** a bank where money is exchanged



Write A central message of “Zel, the Gentle Donkey” is that being kind to others can cause good things to happen. Explain how the actions of the characters in the story show this central message.

- 5 Plan Your Response** Make a list of things from the story that tell about the kindness of some of the characters.

- 6 Write an Extended Response** Review the central message of “Zel, the Gentle Donkey.” Explain how the characters in the story help deliver this message. Use details from the story to support your answer.



Learning Target

Explain why understanding the central message of a story will help you understand the text you read.

[illegible]