

The Real Thief
Theme 3
4th Grade Challenge Reading

Name _____

Date _____

Before Reading

Consider what you know about trials and evidence. Are the accused always guilty? How would it feel to be accused and know you were innocent? How would it feel to be guilty and watch someone else be accused? Might the accuser feel guilty?

Discuss these questions with your group.



Vocabulary:

Unpretentious – modest, not showy

Restitution – returning to the rightful owner; compensation for loss

Circumstantial – not of primary importance; incidental

Vindicated – cleared of blame

Scrutinize – examine closely

Innocent – free of blame

Assuage – make less burdensome

Confess – admit guilt

Conscience – inner sense of right and wrong

Using some of these words Write at least three sentences that you think might appear in this book.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

During Reading



Reading segment	Unanswered questions about Gawain's feelings	Unanswered questions about King Basil's feelings and motivation	Unanswered questions about Derek's feelings and motivation	Unanswered questions about the citizens of the kingdom
Pages 1-21				
Pages 23-41				
Pages 43-58				

Complete the following paragraph.

In my opinion the really guilty party in this story is _____
because



After Reading

Discuss with your group:

What do you think the author wants us to learn from this story?

How is each of the characters different at the end of the story ?

Would you have chosen to end the story with Gawain forgiving both Derek and the King? Discuss why you would have made this choice.

Read each of the summaries. In your opinion, which is the most complete? Which captures the author's intent most clearly?

Summary A

Honorable goose Gawain has only his king's best interests at heart, but as guard of the royal treasury, he is accused of theft after jewels and money disappear from the vault. His old friends turn against him on the basis of circumstantial evidence, and Gawain barely escapes imprisonment by flying through a courtroom window. Meanwhile the real thief, a humble mouse named Derek, who cannot live with his guilt any better than he could endure the envy that prompted him to steal in the first place, secretly returns the treasures, clearing Gawain and tracing down the goose in hiding. The two exchange tales of suffering and return to the penitent king and subjects.

Summary B

This story centers on Gawain, the goose, who is chief guard of the royal treasury - a job he undertakes chiefly out of love for King Basil, the bear. When various items disappear from the treasury, Basil doesn't want to suspect Gawain, but the king and the indignant townspeople are finally convinced that Gawain is the culprit. After his trial and conviction, Gawain escapes but is too depressed by the loss of his friends and his honor to travel far. Eventually he is discovered by a mouse named Derek, the real thief (though hardly a hardboiled criminal -- he just became infatuated with the power of gold and rubies to beautify his humble home.) Although he has not publicly admitted his guilt, remorseful Derek has indirectly proven Gawain's innocence by continuing to steal and then returning everything after the goose's disappearance. All ends well with the kingdom restored to happiness, Gawain to his honor, and Derek to his friendship.

Summary C

If you like mysteries, The Real Thief is a book you need to read. This book is about a goose named Gawain who was chosen as chief Guard of the King's Royal Treasury. Gawain was chosen because of his trustworthy character therefore, he was the only one to have a key to the Treasury, other than the king himself. One day under Gawain's watch, some rubies were stolen. On another day, gold was stolen. Still on another day some silver was stolen. This went on until the world famous Kalikak Diamond was stolen. Gawain was suspected and taken to court and found guilty. He escapes, but has to live far away without friends. Derek the mouse is the real thief. He was overcome with greed and just kept stealing and stealing. Now Derek feels guilty and he finally seeks out Gawain and tells him the

truth. Eventually, they return to the kingdom and Gawain forgives Derek for allowing him to be blamed and the king for not trusting him.

In my opinion, Summary ____ is the most complete for several reasons.
