

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Grimbletoes and the Milk Pail

Golly-Grue and Grimbletoes were two dwarves who lived deep in the forest. Golly-Grue had long, white braids. Grimbletoes had a long, white beard. The two had been together more years than people could count, and they loved each other very much.

One bright, summer day, Grimbletoes went out to the pasture to milk the cow. He got two full pails of milk. He lifted them onto a pole to carry over his shoulders. Grimbletoes whistled as he walked through the woods and smiled as the sun shone on his face.



“Golly-Grue can make lots of butter and cream from this milk,” he said. “I can take the extra milk to market and sell it.” Grimbletoes whistled as he thought of all the things he could buy with the money. Maybe he could get that new rake he’d been wanting. Maybe he could get Golly-Grue a new set of mixing bowls.

Grimbletoes kept walking through the forest. “Maybe I could get those nice, new boots,” he said. He was still thinking about what he could buy once he sold the butter and cream. “Maybe I could get Golly-Grue a pretty new hat.”

A slight breeze brought the scent of leaves and flowers. Grimbletoes paused to enjoy the smell. A fox laid at the base of a tree and watched Grimbletoes. It, too, was enjoying the warm day.



“Good afternoon, friend Fox,” Grimbletoes said. He set his buckets on the ground and stretched his shoulders.

The fox watched with one eye, while the other eye stayed closed.

“This really is a beautiful day,” Grimbletoes said. “I can’t wait to get this milk home for Golly-Grue to make into butter and cream.”

The fox kept his eyes closed.

“I can take the butter and cream to market,” Grimbletoes said. He leaned back against the tree and closed his eyes. The sun shone warmly on his face. “We can use the money for cloth for new curtains.” He tugged his beard. “We can get a new wheelbarrow.”



A few moments later, Grimbletoes fell sound asleep while thinking of all the things he could buy after they had sold all the butter and cream. The fox rose from its resting place and tiptoed over to the milk. He lapped it up as quickly and quietly as he could. When he’d taken all he wanted, he dashed off into the woods.

A while later, Grimbletoes jumped to his feet. He had not meant to fall asleep. He looked around for his buckets and found one almost empty. “Dog leaves and horse flowers!” he cried. “Now there won’t be enough for market. I should never have stopped.”

A sad Grimbletoes carried his one bucket of milk back to his house. There would be no extra butter or cream. There would be no new rake or cloth. There would be no new wheelbarrow. There would be no new boots.

“Where have you been?” Golly-Grue asked when Grimbletoes placed the milk pail on the table.

He told her his tale.

Golly-Grue laughed. “Well, maybe next time you’ll remember not to count your chickens before they are hatched.”

Grimbletoes sighed. “Maybe I will.”



Questions:

1. What did Grimbletoes carry through the woods?
 - a. Grimbletoes carried an iphone through the woods
 - b. Grimbletoes carried two pails of milk through the woods.
 - c. Grimbletoes carried a box of candy through the woods.
 - d. Grimbletoes carried a baby giraffe through the woods.

2. What animal pretended to sleep in the woods?
 - a. A rooster pretended to be asleep.
 - b. A hummingbird pretended to be asleep.
 - c. A squirrel pretended to be asleep.
 - d. A fox pretended to be asleep.

3. What is Golly-Grue going to make from the milk?
- a. Milkshakes
 - b. Milk and cookies
 - c. Butter and cream
 - d. Milk chocolate
4. Match the item that Grimbletoes wanted to buy to what you can do with it.

a. Hat

You wear them
on your feet.

b. Rake

You carry heavy
loads in the
yard with it.

c. Wheelbarrow

You wear it on
your head.

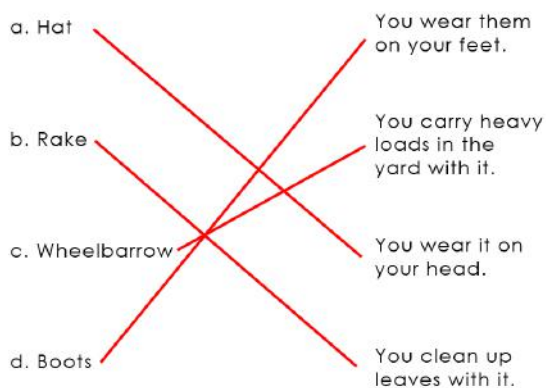
d. Boots

You clean up
leaves with it.

5. Why did Golly-Grue tell Grimbletoes not to count his chickens before they were hatched? What does that mean?

Answers:

1. What did Grimbletoes carry through the woods?
b. Grimbletoes carried two pails of milk through the woods.
2. What animal pretended to sleep in the woods?
d. A fox pretended to be asleep.
3. What is Golly-Grue going to make from the milk?
c. Butter and cream
4. Match the item that Grimbletoes wanted to buy to what you can do with it.



5. Why did Golly-Grue tell Grimbletoes not to count his chickens before they were hatched? What does that mean?
Do not depend on something that has yet to happen.