

## The Emperor's New Clothes

A long time ago there lived an emperor who was famed for his love of clothes. Being obsessed with fashion and finding new, ever-more elegant clothes, he neglected his kingdom and his duties. The emperor was obsessed. Indeed most of his time was spent either trying on new outfits or showing them off to the kingdom.

News of the emperor's obsession reached the ears of two scoundrels, who devised a scheme to take advantage of it. Presenting themselves at the gates of the emperor's palace, they brazenly declared that they were two tailors who made the finest clothes to be found anywhere.

"Our clothes have the most vivid colours imaginable and the cloth we use is so light that you do not even feel that you are wearing it," one told the emperor.

"In addition, it has a unique feature: it appears to be invisible to anyone who is too stupid or too incompetent to appreciate its quality," proclaimed the other.

On hearing this, the Emperor decided to employ the two 'tailors' to create a suit of clothes for him. He was delighted that not only would he be exceptionally well-dressed, he could also find out which of the people who worked for him were stupid or incompetent. Agreeing to pay the two men a large sum and to provide them with all the materials they needed, he sent them off to begin.

After the men had been working for a while, the emperor was curious to know how the clothes were coming along. Although he was quite confident that he would be able to see them just fine, he sent his prime minister instead (just to be safe). The prime minister was known for his wisdom and had served the emperor well for many years.

On entering the room where the two scoundrels were working, the prime minister became greatly alarmed, for he could see no clothes at all. However not wanting to be found out as being stupid or incompetent, when the thieves invited him to take a closer look he declared that the clothes were indeed the finest that he had ever seen. Returning to the emperor, he informed him that the tailors needed more silk and gold thread and that the clothes would be splendid when finished.

Finally the day came for the emperor to try on his new clothes. The two 'tailors' were brought to fit the clothes on the emperor. When they presented the clothes to the emperor, describing in detail what each garment looked like and how it was made, he was astonished that he could see no clothes at all! He looked around at his servants and courtiers to see their reactions, but they were all admiring the clothes and complimenting the 'tailors'. Managing to compose himself, the emperor declared his pleasure with the clothes. Carrying on the charade, the men instructed the emperor to remove his clothes, so that he could try on the ones that they had made for him. As they pretended to dress the emperor, the two scoundrels continued to talk about how well the clothes fitted and to make adjustments so that they were perfect. Standing there with nothing on, the emperor felt very foolish, but he dared not admit it.

Word had spread about the amazing qualities of the emperor's new clothes; therefore the whole kingdom was dying to see them. A procession was arranged, so that everyone would have the chance to see the extraordinary fabric. Waiting for the procession, the emperor felt extremely anxious about parading in front of his subjects. However, he could not change his mind, for the people would think he was stupid or incompetent because he could not see his fine clothes. Consequently the emperor's servants pretended to pick up the long train of his imaginary clothes, and the procession got underway.

As the emperor's procession moved through the town, the people were all astonished at what they saw. Since they too had heard that only stupid or incompetent people could not see the clothes, no one was willing to admit what their eyes were showing them. Trying to convince the other people that they could in fact see the clothes, each person commented loudly on the beauty of the fabric, or how vivid the colours were and so on.

All of a sudden, a small child was heard to say, "The Emperor is naked. He has no clothes on at all!" At first the boy's father scolded him, but gradually people began to whisper to each other that the boy was right: the emperor was naked. All together the people began to repeat this; furthermore the emperor began to hear them saying it. Although he suspected that they were right, he decided that the best thing to do was to carry on, so he tried to hide his embarrassment and look as proud as could until the procession was complete.

Date

## Understand a fable

- 1) What did the emperor spend most of his time doing?
- 2) Name one thing that meant the king was pleased to employ the two men.
- 3) Who did the emperor first send to see the clothes?
- 4) Why was the prime minister 'greatly alarmed'?
- 5) When the men came to show the emperor the clothes, why did he look around at his servants and courtiers?
- 6) What was arranged so that the people could see the emperor in his new clothes?
- 7) What did the emperor's servants pretend to pick up?
- 8) Who said, "The Emperor is naked. He has no clothes on at all!"?
- 9) What does the word 'astonished' mean? (2<sup>nd</sup> last paragraph)
- 10) How can you tell when one paragraph ends and a new one begins?
- 11) Find and copy some speech.
- 12) Do you feel sorry for the emperor? Why / why not? (use because in your answer)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Understand a fable

- 1) The emperor spent most of his time \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The king was pleased to employ the two men because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The person the emperor first sent to see the clothes was his  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) The prime minister was greatly alarmed because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) The emperor looked at his servants and courtiers \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) A \_\_\_\_\_ was arranged for people.
- 7) The emperor's servants pretended to pick up \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) A \_\_\_\_\_ said "The emperor is naked."
- 9) Astonished means \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) I can tell when a paragraph ends because \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12) I do / do not feel sorry for the emperor because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Answers - Lower ability

- 1) Trying on new outfits or showing them to the kingdom (AF2)
- 2) He would be exceptionally well-dressed / He could find out which of the people who worked for him were stupid or incompetent (AF2)
- 3) His prime minister (AF2)
- 4) He could not see the clothes (AF2)
- 5) To see their reactions (AF2)
- 6) A procession (AF2)
- 7) The train of his clothes (AF2)
- 8) A small child (AF2)
- 9) Surprised (or any synonym for surprised) (AF3)
- 10) The author left a blank line between each paragraph (AF4)
- 11) Any of the direct speech from the story (AF2 + AF5)
- 12) Yes, because he was tricked / embarrassed

No, because he cared too much about clothes / he was foolish (AF6)

Brackets at the end refer to the AF focus, as given in the APP reading levels grids

## **Answers - Middle ability**

Same answers as for lower ability, but should be writing in full sentences independently without being given a writing frame / fill in the blanks sheet

Date

## Understand a fable

- 1) Why did the emperor neglect his kingdom?
- 2) Why did the emperor send his prime minister to see the 'tailors', instead of going himself?
- 3) How do you think the thieves felt when they tricked the prime minister?
- 4) What does the word 'complimenting' mean? (top paragraph on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page)
- 5) Why did the emperor continue with the procession after hearing the people all saying that he had no clothes on?
- 6) Why did each person comment 'loudly' on the beauty of the fabric, the vivid colours and so on? (2<sup>nd</sup> last paragraph)
- 7) What do you think the emperor would have done after the procession finished? Why? (use 'because' in your answer)
- 8) Put these events in chronological order (the order that they happened in the story):
  - a. the emperor took part in a procession
  - b. the 'tailors' arrived at the palace
  - c. the emperor tried on his new 'clothes'
  - d. the people started to say that the emperor was naked
- 9) Find and copy a sentence that contains a colon.
- 10) What does the word scolded mean? (last paragraph)
- 11) What lesson might the story be trying to teach us?
- 12) Give one similarity between this story and Puss in Boots.

## Answers - Higher ability

- 1) He was obsessed with clothes (AF2)
- 2) He wanted to see if the prime minister would be able to see them / he was afraid that he would not be able to see them himself (AF3)
- 3) Satisfied / happy etc (AF3)
- 4) Saying nice things about something / someone (AF3 + AF5)
- 5) There was nothing else he could do / it was less embarrassing to just carry on than it would have been to stop (AF3)
- 6) So that other people would hear them / because they did not want other people thinking that they could not see the clothes (AF3)
- 7) Tried to find the thieves and punish them / resign / run away (AF3)
- 8) Put these events in chronological order (the order that they happened in the story):
  - a. the 'tailors' arrived at the palace
  - b. the emperor tried on his new 'clothes'
  - c. the emperor took part in a procession
  - d. the people started to say that the emperor was naked (AF4)
- 9) Any sentence that contains a colon. (AF2 + AF5)
- 10) Told off (AF3 + AF5)
- 11) To think for ourselves / if something is too good to be true, it probably is / not to be obsessed with how we look (AF6)
- 12) Any similarity with Puss in Boots e.g. both involve royalty / both set a long time ago etc (AF7)

Brackets at the end refer to the AF focus, as given in the APP reading levels grids



Date

## Understand a fable

- 1) Why did the king let the two men into the palace?
- 2) Suggest **two** things that the emperor might have done after the procession finished? Why? (use 'because' in your answer)
- 3) What is a procession?
- 4) Suggest some speech that someone watching the procession might have said, before they all admitted the king was naked.
- 5) What do you think the thieves might have done during the procession?
- 6) What does the word 'charade' mean? (top paragraph on 2<sup>nd</sup> page)
- 7) Why was the small child the only one at first who would say that the emperor had no clothes on?
- 8) Summarise the story in 5 to 6 sentences.
- 9) Why has the word 'tailors' been placed in inverted commas?
- 10) Find and copy a sentence with a colon **and** explain why the colon has been used in the sentence.
- 11) Suggest **two** lessons that the story might be trying to teach us.
- 12) Should we feel sorry for the emperor? Give a balanced answer (say why we should feel sorry for him and why we should not)

## Answers - Gifted and Talented

- 1) Because they claimed to be tailors who could make a special cloth (AF2 + AF3)
- 2) Any two from Tried to find the thieves and punish them / resign / run away (AF3)
- 3) A group of people showing something off (AF3)
- 4) Any complimentary words (AF3)
- 5) Watched and laughed / got away (AF3)
- 6) Ridiculous situation (AF3)
- 7) The child was not worried about what people would think of what he said / he did not know or believe about the fabric's 'special quality' (AF3)
- 8) Summarise the story in 5 to 6 sentences (AF4)
- 9) Because they were not really tailors, only pretending to be them (AF5)
- 10) Any sentence with a colon **and** an explanation of why it was used (AF5)
- 11) Any two from To think for ourselves / if something is too good to be true, it probably is / not to be obsessed with how we look (AF6)
- 12) Yes, because he was tricked / embarrassed  
  
No, because he cared too much about clothes / he was foolish (AF6)