

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

# The Dog and His Reflection

## A Retelling of Aesop's Fable

by Neal Levin

The Roberts family sat down for dinner, but all Rascal got was a bowl of dry dog food.

The lamb chops smelled delicious. Rascal stood on his hind legs and begged for something juicy.

"Here's a bone," Mr. Roberts said. He opened the front door and tossed the bone into the yard. Rascal scampered after it.



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barked loudly. The other dog barked back. While the other dog was barking, Rascal snatched the bigger bone and scurried away.

The bigger bone was tastier, but most of the meat had been eaten. Rascal knew the best bones in town came from the butcher shop. He ran down the block to the back of the butcher shop. The butcher's dog was chewing on a steak bone.

Rascal snarled and showed his teeth. The butcher's dog snarled back. Rascal barked loudly. The butcher's dog barked back. Rascal snatched the steak bone and scurried away.

He ran and ran so the butcher's dog wouldn't catch up to him. Finally he came to a stream.

As he crossed the narrow bridge, Rascal looked down and saw his reflection in the water. But he didn't know it was his reflection. He thought it was another dog. And this dog had the biggest steak bone of all!



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1. In the beginning of the story, what is troubling Rascal?
  - a. He is hungry.
  - b. His family isn't paying attention to him.
  - c. His family doesn't feed him any table scraps.
  - d. He would rather eat the family's food than his dry food.



2. Why isn't Rascal happy with the bone that Mr. Roberts gave him?



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4. At the end of the story, does Rascal get what he really wants? Why or why not?

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5. Which lesson does this fable teach?
  - a. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
  - b. Be content with what you already have.
  - c. Hard work will pay off in the end.
  - d. Be the change you want to see in the world.

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Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. de\_\_i\_\_i\_\_u\_\_

**hint:** mouthwatering; tasty

\_\_\_\_\_

2. s\_\_a\_\_\_\_er\_\_d

\_\_\_\_\_



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5. s\_\_a\_\_l\_\_\_\_

**hint:** growled and showed its teeth

\_\_\_\_\_

6. n\_\_\_\_ro\_\_

**hint:** slender; not wide

\_\_\_\_\_

7. b\_\_t\_\_\_\_e\_\_

**hint:** someone who sells meat

\_\_\_\_\_

8. re\_\_\_\_e\_\_\_\_io\_\_

**hint:** an image that is cast when a surface  
throws back light

\_\_\_\_\_

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In the story "The Dog and His Reflection," Rascal's greed causes him to chase something bigger and better to eat, until he makes a mistake and loses the best bone he has.



On the lines below, answer the following questions:

Is it wrong to want something new? Why or why not?

When does wanting new things turn into greed?

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## ANSWER KEY

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1. In the beginning of the story, what is troubling Rascal? **d**
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  - b. His family isn't paying attention to him.



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- c. Hard work will pay off in the end.
- d. Be the change you want to see in the world.

## ANSWER KEY

# The Dog and His Reflection

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Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. de l i c i o s

**hint:** mouthwatering; tasty

delicious

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