

5th Grade ELA- Reteach Materials

Name _____

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 8.

Excerpt from *Gregor and the Sheep*

by Toby Rosenstrauch

- 1 In a valley in the highlands of Scotland, there once lived a young tenant farmer, Gregor, and his widowed mother. Although they worked hard, they could never accumulate enough money to buy the flock of sheep they longed to have, for their small parcel of land produced only modest amounts of oats and barley. To make matters worse, MacTavish, the owner of this and many other crops, always found reasons not to pay the farmers all they had earned. . . .

crofts = small farms

- 2 When he opened the door each morning and looked out, he saw MacTavish's house on top of a mountain, a magnificent stone mansion surrounded by red, pink, and violet rhododendrons. Gregor often climbed the slope and stood outside the iron gates, wondering what fine furnishings and delicious foods lay within. Neighbors claimed that MacTavish owned many houses and even kept a chest of gems under his bed. As Gregor, his mother, and their neighbors grew gaunt and pale with hard work and not

swindled = cheated or tricked

enough food, they railed against MacTavish, who had swindled all of them at one time or another.

- 3 One day, as Gregor listened to the bagpipe music that drifted from the open windows of MacTavish's mansion, he had an idea. That night, when his mother was asleep, he emptied the jug that held their money and counted it. After putting back a few coins for food, he put the rest in his pocket. The next morning, he hurried to the market, where he went from farmer to farmer, asking the prices of sheep for sale. Gregor found many handsome animals, but they were all too expensive. When he reached a stall with scrawny and sickly sheep, the owner beckoned to him. . . .
- 4 Gregor shook his head and began to walk away. The man grabbed his sleeve and whispered in his ear, "This one will make her owner rich!" Gregor examined the old

sheep with spindly legs and dirty, unkempt wool—the worst of the lot. “If she will make me rich,” said Gregor, “how is it that she has not done so for you?”

5 The man paused, thinking. “I have not had her long enough!”

6 “Nonsense,” said Gregor, but he gave the man his money and led the pitiful animal home.

7 When his mother saw what he had bought with their money, she burst into tears. “My foolish son, what have you done? Now we will starve, and no one will help us!”

8 “Do as I say, Mother, and we will be rich. I promise.”

9 She wanted to believe him. Wiping her eyes with her ragged sleeve, she asked what he wanted her to do.

10 “Go to market and tell everyone that your son has a sheep that will make whoever owns her rich,” said Gregor. . . .

11 One morning, a carriage arrived. Two servants opened the door and a stout, well-dressed gentleman emerged. His Tartan kilt was made of the finest wool, his ascot was pure silk, and his shoes had silver buckles. On his fat fingers were eight gold rings, and his pomaded hair glistened in the sun. It was MacTavish!

Tartan kilt = traditional clothing worn by Scottish Highlanders

ascot = a type of necktie

12 Gregor bowed as if to royalty. MacTavish looked at him sternly. “I have come to rid you of the unfortunate sheep that everyone is talking about,” said MacTavish,

sporrán = a small bag worn at the waist for holding personal items

opening his sporrán. “I can pay your price and I will have her, even though she has done nothing for you, I see.” MacTavish sneered at Gregor.

13 Gregor hugged Dear One. “I will not sell her to you!”

14 At that, MacTavish, whose servants were helping him into his carriage, turned and marched back. “I will pay anything,” he said. “Name the price.”

15 Gregor was ready. “That,” he said, pointing up to the mansion above them. “I will have the dwelling and everything in it—furniture, utensils, even the chest of gems under your bed.”

16 "Done," said MacTavish.

17 The next day, Gregor and his mother moved into the mansion that had once belonged to MacTavish, and MacTavish brought Dear One to the market so that all might see he could indeed own anything he wanted. Then MacTavish and the sheep rode away in his carriage to another of his houses in a valley beyond the mountains.

18 After months had passed and the sheep had done nothing to increase MacTavish's riches, he realized he had been swindled. Furious beyond speech, he returned to the mansion, but Gregor would not open the gates.

19 "I have been cheated!" shouted MacTavish.

20 "You have not been cheated," said Gregor. "I was the owner of the sheep, and she has made me rich, hasn't she?"

21 "Yes, but . . .," sputtered MacTavish.

22 "Then you got what you paid for." Gregor turned and walked away.

23 Soon afterward, Gregor sold the chest of gems and bought the huge flock of sheep he and his mother had always wanted. He shared the rest of his fortune with the other poor families of the valley who had been cheated by MacTavish.

The King of Laughter

The following story is based on an Irish folk tale.

- 1 John and his mother lived a simple life. They milked their three cows and sold the milk at market each day. They earned just enough money so that they never went hungry.
- 2 John was a good young man and took care of his mother. Yet, sometimes he did not listen to his good sense—and that almost always got him into trouble.
- 3 Then one day, a large dairy farm moved near his home. The farm could sell milk at market more cheaply than John and his mother. Soon, no one bought milk from John and his mother anymore.
- 4 "John, you'll have to sell our cows," his mother said. "Take them to town, and get the best price you can. We will need the money to survive."
- 5 "Yes, Mother," John told her. "I promise I will get the best price."
- 6 The next morning, as John got ready to leave, his mother talked to him again. You see, she knew her son very well.
- 7 "Be careful, son," said John's mother, "because there are always people who will try to cheat you."
- 8 "Do not worry, my dear mother. I will be careful," John replied as he set off for town.
- 9 Just outside of town, John saw a crowd of people gathered around a man. The tired old man reached into his pocket and pulled out a mouse. The mouse was holding a tiny harp. Then the old man pulled out a grasshopper, a small piano, and a bee. The man set the mouse, the harp, the grasshopper, and the piano on a small table. At once, the mouse began to strum the tiny harp, and the grasshopper joined in on the small piano. The bee flew around the table and buzzed in tune with the others.

10. Astonished by what they saw, people in the crowd began to dance and laugh. When the show was over, the people went on their way, still laughing and smiling about the old man's tiny band. But John did not follow the crowd. He had never seen anything so amazing. The old man noticed that John was still there.

11. "I am old and tired of this life," the old man said to John. "I will sell my band if you want to buy it."

12. "I would love to buy your band," John said eagerly. "I would love to see my mother laugh because she has such a trying life." Then John looked sad. "But I have no money, so I must be on my way," he said.

13. "Wait," said the old man. "I see you have three fine cows. I will take them in trade."

14. John thought for a minute. He knew this was not what he should do, but John was not listening to his good sense on this day. He traded the cows for the band. He put the players into his pocket and felt very pleased with himself as he walked home.

15. John's mother was waiting for him at the door. "What did you get?" she asked, already worried that he had done something foolish. John removed the little band from his pocket and showed her. When the band started to play, his mother's worry seemed to melt away. Suddenly, she began to laugh and dance. However, when the song was over, she came to her senses.

16. "John, how will we live? You've been cheated out of our precious cows!" his mother yelled. Feeling foolish, John gathered his little band and went outside to think. Just then, an old woman was passing by his house.

17. "Why are you sitting here?" she asked. "All the other young men from the village have gone to the king's castle. The king has vowed that whoever makes the princess laugh may marry her and become king."

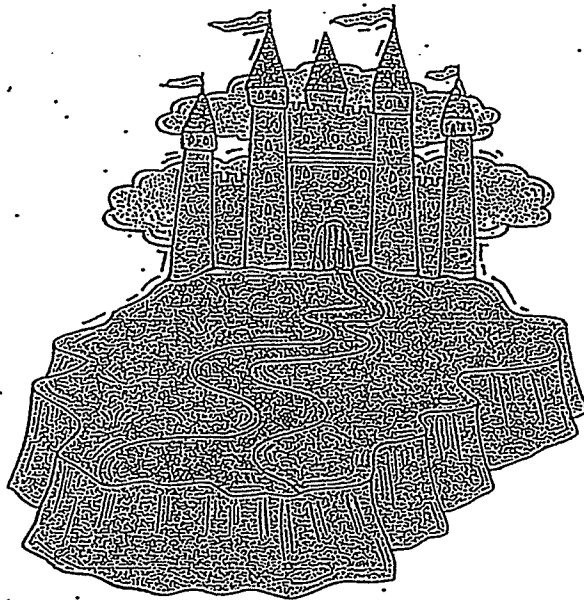
18. Without a second thought, John took his little band and headed toward the castle. As he approached, he saw several men chained to large rocks. They were trying to break the rocks apart with tiny hammers.

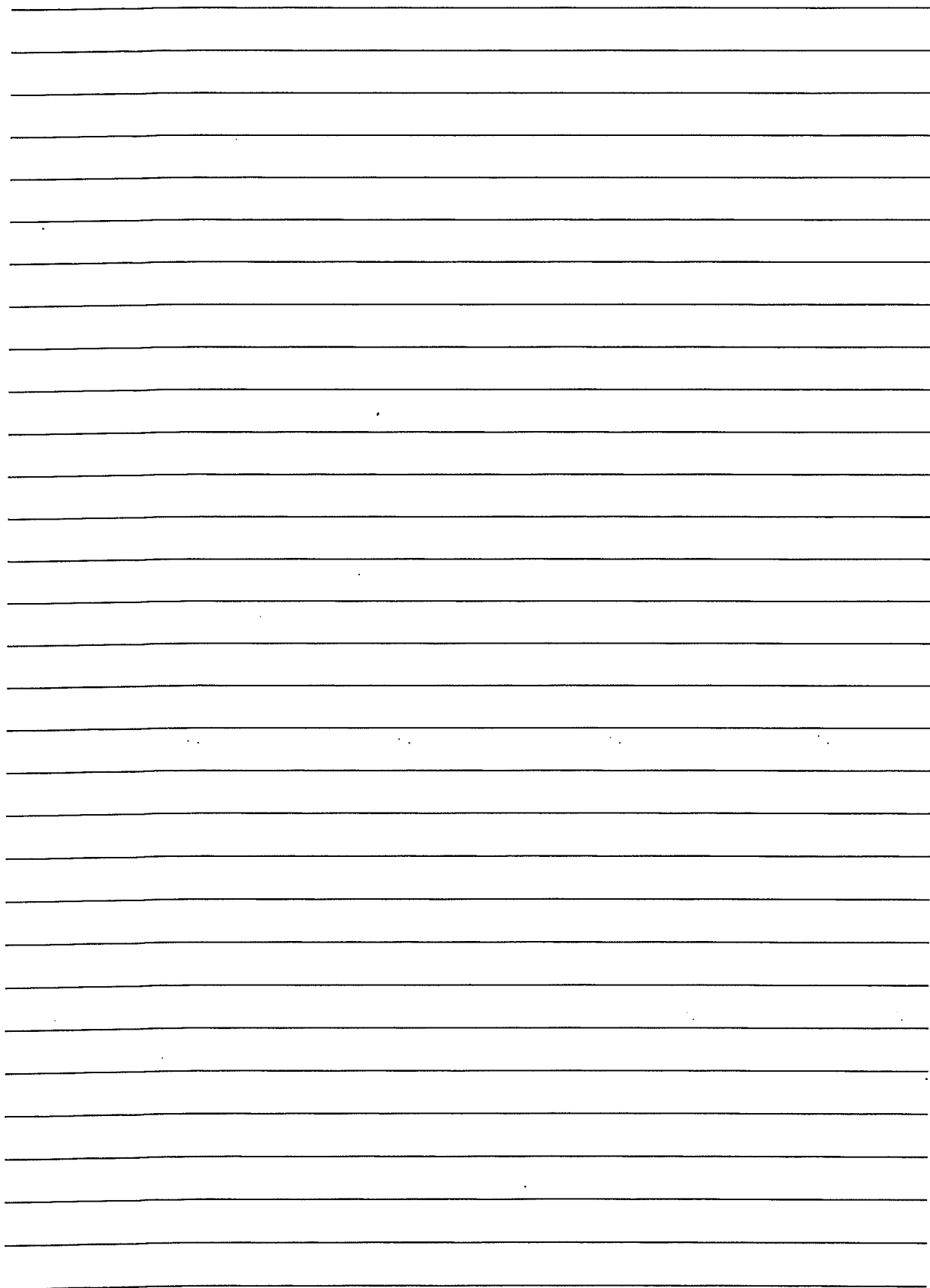
19 "What happened to these men?" John asked the gatekeeper.

20 "They tried to make the princess laugh, but they failed. Now they must spend their lives trying to break free from the rocks," replied the gatekeeper. "Have you come to try to make the princess laugh, too?"

21 "Yes," answered John, even though his good sense told him to run home. Once again, he was not listening. John entered the castle and saw the king and his daughter. Indeed, the princess looked very unhappy. Carefully, John took the small band from his pocket. Immediately, the tiny musicians struck up a tune.

22 At once, everyone in the room began to laugh and dance. The princess looked at John and his band. She smiled, giggled, and then let out a most delightful laugh. The king handed his crown to John, who married the princess that very afternoon. John sent for his mother and welcomed her into their new home. As the new king, he released all the men chained to the rocks. John became known as a kind king, and the princess was happy forevermore—and their castle was always full of beautiful music.





The alarm went off inside the school. Margaret knew what the sound meant. The droning noise was a tornado alarm. The scheduled after-school jazz band practice had been over for nearly thirty minutes, but Margaret and four of her friends had begged Mr. Potts to stay for a little longer. They were so close to having their new piece of music mastered. Mr. Potts had agreed; he was excited by their enthusiasm. However, after a few minutes, they all had begun to notice the sky was getting dark, and the wind had suddenly picked up speed outside the school. Mr. Potts had left his phone on the desk in his office. He told the girls to follow him to his office, and they would check to see whether any weather alerts were being issued. As they walked to his office, the alarms had started going off.

Margaret had practiced the tornado drill just as many times as the other students, but she had an experience that she hoped none of the others had. She once survived a tornado that directly hit her old school when she and her family lived in Texas. She took only seconds to respond to the alarm.

Not even waiting for Mr. Potts to react, Margaret told everyone to move quickly to an interior room to the left. This room was where the choir usually practiced. Margaret knew there were no windows in that room. She and Mr. Potts then directed everyone to get into the tornado position so they would be safe from any debris that might fly through the air. Margaret

joined Mr. Potts beside the other students. She kept encouraging everyone to not be afraid. She even talked about some fun things they had done that year in school. The alarm continued to blare, and the wind outside sounded ferocious, yet Margaret managed to encourage the other students, convincing them that everything would be fine.

When the alarm finally ended, Mr. Potts was able to check the local weather. A tornado had missed the school by less than half a mile. He then let the students call home to let everyone know they were okay. Mr. Potts told Margaret how proud he was of her and her quick thinking. "You knew exactly what to do, and you helped keep all the other students calm. You are a real hero, Margaret."

In 1912, the *Titanic* was one of the most majestic cruise liners to ever sail on any ocean. The ship was called "unsinkable," and many of the rich and famous from all over the world were on board the ship when it set sail. One American passenger on board the ill-fated ship was Margaret Tobin Brown. Margaret was born in 1867 in Missouri. She was not raised with money, but she and her husband would later become extremely wealthy from mining silver. Even before she became rich, Margaret was an activist who fought for the rights of others. Later, she became a philanthropist and used her wealth to help those in need.

Margaret was sailing back home to America because she'd received word that her grandson was seriously ill. The ship promised to be the fastest transport to get her back home. Sadly, the return trip would be nothing like she imagined. Once the *Titanic* hit an iceberg at night and began to sink, women and children were urged to board the lifeboats. Margaret Brown helped take charge of the lifeboat she entered. She knew the panic among the passengers had to be stopped if they were to survive. The situation of those on board the *Titanic* was unthinkable as there were not enough lifeboats for all of the passengers. That night, Margaret became a hero.

On the night when the *Titanic* began to sink, she did what she could to help. She organized the survivors on board the lifeboat. She directed them all to steer

toward the light of a ship she could see in the distance. This ship would later turn out to be the *Carpathia* and would rescue the survivors from the icy waters. Margaret realized that each person needed to take turns rowing the boat in order to stay warm. She'd also put on extra clothing when she left her stateroom. She shared the items she had and tried to help keep the other passengers from feeling the effects of the bitter cold.

Margaret would later be known in the newspapers by the nickname "Molly." She would eventually become famous as the "Unsinkable Molly Brown," even though she never called herself "Molly." What is true about Margaret Brown is her wish to help others and her ability to lead, no matter the circumstances.

