

A Fable by Aesop

Read the following fable and answer the questions that follow.

THE MISER AND HIS GOLD

A miser sold all that he had and bought a lump of gold, which he buried in a hole in the ground by the side of an old wall. He went to look at it daily. One of his workmen observed the miser's frequent visits to the spot and decided to watch his movements. The workman soon discovered the secret of the hidden treasure, and digging down, came to the lump of gold, and stole it. The miser, on his next visit, found the hole empty and began to tear his hair and to make loud lamentations. A neighbor, seeing him overcome with grief and learning the cause, said, "Pray do not grieve so; but go and take a stone, and place it in the hole, and fancy that the gold is still lying there. It will do you quite the same service; for when the gold was there, you had it not, as you did not make the slightest use of it."

1. Read the sentences below and number them according to the sequence of events in the text.

- The miser decided to turn all his money into a lump of gold.
- A man stole the miser's gold.
- The miser dug a hole and hid his treasure in it.
- The miser's neighbour told him to replace the gold with a stone.

Solution:

2. How did the miser get a lump of gold?

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3. Here is part of a conversation between two people who read "The Miser and his gold".

Speaker 1:

The neighbour was nasty: He could have recommended replacing the gold with something better than a stone.

Speaker 2:

No, he couldn't. The stone was important in the story.

What could speaker 2 say to support his point of view?

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