

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

Once upon a time, a town mouse took a trip to the countryside, where he met a country mouse. The country mouse invited the town mouse to his humble home for dinner.



They sat down to eat a dinner

of fresh peas and corn. The town mouse tried to be polite, but the country mouse realised that he didn't like the country food.

"I've tried it, but this food is boring!" the town mouse said. "You should come and sample the delicious food in town."

"OK then, I will," replied the country mouse.

They set off excitedly for the town, scurrying as quickly as they could.



Soon, they arrived at the town mouse's house and headed straight for the cupboard. Inside, there were jars of jam, chutney, rice, pasta and much more. The country mouse was amazed at what they had found.

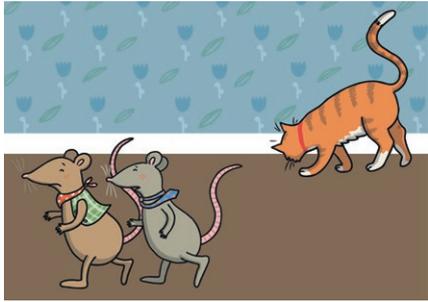
All of a sudden, the kitchen door swung open and the cook walked in. Terrified, the mice jumped out of the cupboard and raced across to the mouse hole.



Eventually, when the coast was clear, the mice ventured out to find more food. This time they went to the pantry and found a jar of prunes to eat.

"I've never eaten anything like it!" exclaimed the country mouse.

“Thank you, town mouse.”



The country mouse was munching through the prunes when the town mouse suddenly whispered “Quiet!” The cat had crept into the kitchen.

The mice tiptoed back to the hole. They went to the cellar. There was even more food. There were cheeses, meat, bags of fruit and even more!

The country mouse saw a tasty-looking piece of cheese in the corner. He ran towards it and was about to eat it.

“Stop!” yelled the town mouse. “It’s a mousetrap!”



With that, the country mouse grabbed his things and went on his way. “I think it’s time for me to go,” he explained. “There are too many shocks here! I’d rather eat my boring food in peace than eat delicious food whilst surrounded by danger!”

It is better to have a little and live in peace than have a lot and live in fear.

Questions

1. Find two words in the story that are used instead of the word 'said'.

2. What was the first thing that scared the country mouse?

3. Which foods did the country mouse try in the town?

4. The story uses the phrase 'when the coast was clear'. What does this mean?

5. Why did the town mouse stop the country mouse from taking the cheese?

6. The country mouse decided to go home at the end of the story. What would you have done? Explain your answer.
