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A Hero for Nero

Pages 80-84

Bible Verse

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord. *Ephesians 6:10*

Introducing the Story

Howard Briggs admired bravery more than anything else. He thought he *was* brave for a nine-year-old, but his mother said he had the wrong idea about bravery. What do you think it means to be brave? If you are afraid of something, does that mean you are not brave?

Study Words

bear (ber) : to be able to stand something. (p. 84)

coward (kaú' ərd) : a person without courage or who is easily frightened. (p. 81)

misdeeds (mis dēdz') : wrong things that are done. (p. 81)

Silent Reading

Review these and previous Study Words with your students by letting them illustrate the words on the board or act out the action words while others guess which word is being portrayed. Have them read the story silently and then fill in the worksheet.

Bible Verse

Howard was being strong and brave when he confessed that his disobedience had caused the broken vase. It would have been easy to let Mother believe it was Nero who had done it. Nero could never have told on Howard.

God will help us to be strong and brave enough to confess the wrong things we have done. He will help us to be brave enough to refuse to do wrong things even when others are doing them and begging us to join them.

Listen to each student say the verse from memory for the test.


Oral Reading

Read the story. Ask the students which words were difficult for Howard to say. "I did it," or "It was all my fault," or similar words give the general idea of what Howard could hardly bring himself to say after he had done something wrong.

Ask the class what the following phrases mean:

- ♦ admired bravery (*thought there was nothing better than bravery*)
- ♦ in he padded (*walked in quietly*)
- ♦ precious, precious vase (*very special vase*)
- ♦ true hero (*doing what was right, telling the truth*)
- ♦ real coward (*not brave*)

Worksheet 15
pages 80-84



A Hero for Nero

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord." – Ephesians 6:10

A Write each Study Word beside its definition.

bear coward misdeeds

- misdeeds wrong things that are done
- bear to be able to stand something
- coward a person without courage or who is easily frightened

B Choose a word from the box that is a synonym of the underlined word. Write it in the box below the underlined word. Use each word only once.

carriage quavered shawl hedge errands trousers

- Carl's voice shook as he recalled how closely he had come to wrecking his bike.

quavered
- Two black horses pulled the buggy down the road.

carriage
- We like to keep our bushes neatly trimmed.

hedge
- Mike enjoyed doing jobs for his elderly neighbors.

errands
- The button on Eric's pants needs to be sewed on.

trousers
- My sister likes to wear her new cape everywhere.

shawl

29

Worksheet 15



C Circle the bold word that completes each sentence.

10. A word that means the same as *bravery* is **courage**, fear.
 11. The opposite of *bravery* is **courage**, **fear**.



D Scan the story for the answer to each question. Write the answer in the first blank and the page number on which you found the answer in the second blank.

12. How **old** was Howard? nine page 80
 13. What color was Mother's favorite vase? blue page 81
 14. On what did Nero love to sleep? sofa page 82



E Write the answer to each question.

15. What were the 4 things that Howard was not afraid of?
the dark bad-tasting medicine
stray dogs doing new things
 16. What thing did Howard fear? being punished
 17. Why was the blue vase so precious to Mother?
It was given to her by her grandmother.
 18. What did Mother say true bravery is?
Bravery is doing what you ought to do, even when you
are afraid.



F Number the sentences in chronological order.

19. 3 Mother found Nero and the broken vase
4 Howard bravely told his mother what he had done.
1 Howard missed catching his ball, and it broke Mother's vase.
2 Nero padded into the living room and jumped up on the sofa.



G Cross out the word that does not belong in each category.

20. raft barge ~~canoe~~ sailboat
 21. coat sweater vest ~~trousers~~ jacket

30

Also read the following sentences, calling on students to reword them without losing their meanings:

- Howard was terribly frightened.
(Howard was very afraid.)
- He was too big a coward. (He was too scared.)
- "I couldn't bear to see Nero punished." ("I could not stand to see Nero get punished.")
- "He could never have told on you."
(Nero could not tell that you had broken the vase.)

After the Story

Which would have been easier: to let Mother punish Nero or to tell her what really happened? If Howard had let Mother continue to think Nero broke her vase, how would he have felt? Could he have apologized to Nero? What do you think Mother would have done if she found out the truth? Did Howard choose to do the right thing?

Extra Classroom Exercise: A Different Plural

To make the plural of most words, you add *s* or *es*. A few words that end in *f* have a different way of showing more than one. For example, to make the word *loaf* mean more than one, change it to *loaves*.

Write these words on the board and have the students change them to their plural forms: *half*, *leaf*, *wolf*, *calf*.

Some students greatly enjoy oral reading class because they are good readers, but other students who struggle with reading may dread their turn to read aloud. One way to give weaker readers more practice is by assigning them small portions frequently. This is a good way to give students practice without overwhelming them.

Struggling readers need practice, but they may also need remedial work. See page x of this Teacher's Guide for ideas on building fluency.