



Cause and effect

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read along with the student, helping as needed.

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**Cause and effect** are about how one thing can cause something else to happen.

The **cause** is *why* something happened.

The **effect** is *what* happened.

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Here is a story about Bear and Fox. Think about **cause** and **effect** as you read.

Bear and Fox Share the Field

Fox looked out over the field. The newly planted corn just beginning to push green leafy tips up out of the ground, in long, neat rows. Fox trotted off to pay a visit to Bear. On the way to Bear's den, Fox passed the apple tree, and picked up a freshly fallen apple to give to Bear. Bear was happy with the tasty treat, and agreed to Fox's suggestion that this year they should share the field. Fox would have the tops of the crop, and Bear would have the roots.

When the crop was grown, Fox feasted on the sweet corn, while Bear got only the roots. Bear wasn't very happy with this, but he didn't argue. It was what they had agreed.

The next spring, Fox looked out over the field where the newly planted turnips were just beginning to grow, in long, neat rows. Fox trotted off to pay a visit to Bear, again stopping by the apple tree. "I'll tell you what, Bear," said Fox. "Just to be fair, this year you can have the tops, and I will be satisfied with the roots."

Bear was happy with this arrangement, and spent many hours watching the new crop growing in the field. But when the crop was grown, Fox got all the sweet turnips, and Bear got only the bitter tops. Bear wasn't happy with this, but it was what they had agreed. However, Bear never agreed to share the field with Fox again, apple or no apple.

Circle the most likely **cause** of each of these things that happened.

effect	cause
1. Fox said that he would have the tops of the first crop, and Bear would have the roots. Why did Fox want the tops of the crop?	The crop was planted in long, neat rows.
	The crop was corn, and the top part was the best.

effect	cause
2. Bear was not happy that he only got the roots of the corn crop, but he did not argue. Why didn't Bear argue about getting only the roots?	Bear and Fox agreed that Fox would have the tops of the first crop, and Bear would have the roots.
	Bear was happy with the tasty apple that Fox gave him.

effect	cause
3. Fox said that he would have the roots of the second crop, and Bear would have the tops. Why did Fox want the roots of the second crop?	The second crop was turnips, and the roots were the best part.
	Bear said that Fox was not being fair.

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4. Here is an effect: Bear never agreed to share the field with Fox again. What might have been the cause?

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## Answer Key

1. The crop was corn, and the top part was the best.
2. Bear and Fox agreed that Fox would have the tops of the first crop, and Bear would have the roots.
3. The second crop was turnips, and the roots were the best part.
4. Accept any reasonable response, such as, Bear realized that Fox had been tricking him.