

Directions

Read the selection. Then write a response to the question that follows.

WHY THE BEAR IS STUMPY-TAILED
By Sir George Webbe Dasent

bruin—bear bade--commanded

One day the Bear met the Fox, who came slinking along with a string of fish he had stolen.

"Whence did you get these from?" asked the Bear.

"Oh! My Lord Bruin, I've been out fishing and caught them," said the Fox.

So the Bear had a mind to learn to fish too, and bade the Fox tell him how he was to set about it.

"Oh! It's an easy craft for you", answered the Fox, "and soon learned. You've only got to go upon the ice, and cut a hole and stick your tail down into it; and so you must go on holding it there as long as you can. You're not to mind if your tail smarts a little; that's when the fish bite. The longer you hold it there the more fish you'll get; and then all at once out with it, with a cross pull sideways, and with a strong pull too."

Yes; the Bear did as the Fox had said, and held his tail a long, long [time] down in the hole, till it was fast frozen in. Then he pulled it out with a cross pull, and it snapped short off. That's why Bruin goes about with a stumpy tail this very day.

Writing Prompt

Folktales were told to explain the world and things in it.

Write your own narrative story to explain something common in the world and how it came to be that way.

Remember:

- To orient the reader by establishing a situation, narrator, and characters.
- To use dialogue, description and pace.
- To use a variety of transition words.
- To use concrete words and phrases and sensory details.
- To provide a conclusion that follows from narrated events.

Grade 5 Common Core Standards

Reading Literature: 5.1-6

Writing 5.3 a-e