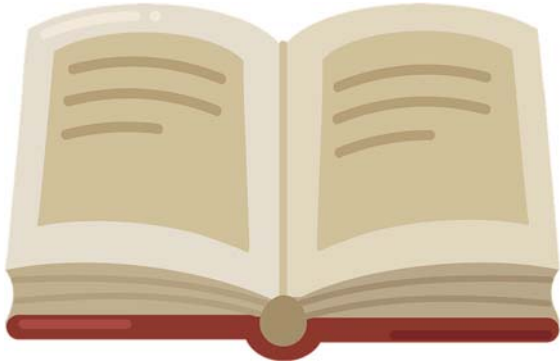


Name _____



Merchant's Lesson

Directions: Read the fable carefully. Think about what lesson or message the author wants readers to learn (this is the **theme**). Write the theme in your own words. Then, explain how the events in the story reveal that theme.

The Greedy Merchant

Long ago, in a busy marketplace, there was a merchant who loved money more than honesty. When he sold cloth, he secretly cut the fabric shorter than what he promised. Customers began to notice, but the merchant denied their complaints. At first, he grew richer with his tricks. But soon, people stopped buying from him altogether. His once-crowded shop became empty, and even his friends turned away. With no one left to trust him, the merchant lost all his wealth and sat alone in his silent stall.

1. What is the theme of this fable?

2. How do the events in the story reveal the theme?