

Name _____

Merchant's Lesson Answer Key

Possible Theme Statements:

- Dishonesty leads to loss.
- Greed can destroy a person's success.
- Trust is more valuable than money.

How the Events Reveal the Theme:

- The merchant tricked his customers by cutting fabric shorter than promised.
- At first, he grew richer, but his dishonesty made people stop buying from him.
- His wealth and friends disappeared, showing that dishonesty and greed eventually cause ruin.

Teacher Guide:

- This exercise helps students distinguish between the **theme** (a universal lesson or message) and the **events** that support it.
- Accept any well-worded version of the theme as long as it fits the story's message.
- Encourage students to connect the theme to modern life by asking: *"Can you think of a time when dishonesty hurt someone's reputation?"*