



Clever Katya— A Story from Russia

CURRICULUM IDEAS for parents and teachers

Math

- Research how much a dappled foal costs. Was it worth the arguing?
- Learn about Russian currency. Learn the exchange rate and convert familiar prices (such as candy and stickers) to Russian prices.

Reading

- Read other Russian folktales at www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/5873
- Find and read other folktales of wit and wisdom.

Writing

- Read the book up to the Tsar's first riddle. Stop and write your own answers to the riddle. Repeat with the second riddle. Read the story to see how Katya answered the riddles.
- Write about a time you were clever or wise.

Science

- Test for the fastest, fattest, softest, most precious things (not people) in your classroom or house.
- Would it have been possible for the foal to walk into town the day it was born?
- Are there hares in the river? Fish in trees? Study unusual animals. Visit www.factmonster.com/spot/unusualanimals1.html.

Geography

- Study Russia's varied geography. Where would you live in Russia if you would move there? Why?
- Where in Russia do you think this story would have happened?

Music

- Listen to Russian children's music. Visit www.rbcmp3.com/store/default.asp? From the sidebar, click "audio" then click on "music and fairytales for children." The listings are in Russian. Click any, and at the bottom of the page, select "click here to listen to this album."

Art

- Paint blown-out eggshells in Russian style (click on the Easter Eggs link at www.moscow-guide.ru/culture).
- Look at and study Russian Christian Orthodox icons.
- Visit www.hermitagemuseum.org for a tour of an art museum in St. Petersburg.

Culture

- Visit www.moscow-guide.ru/culture for information and links.

Treasure Bearer

- Role play situations in which a choice for good/bad must be made. Discuss how a wise person would respond and why.
- Keep a running log of wise characters—call it "Wise Cracks"—met in life or in reading, and why they are wise.
- Remind each other to "be wise" as they face decisions (even small ones).