



ELA/Literacy
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Grade 4
Narrative Task
Wife's Point of View
1232

Today you will read the story “There’s Plenty of Fish in the Trees” from *Ivan: Stories of Old Russia*. As you read, pay close attention to point of view and the events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story

Read the story “There’s Plenty of Fish in the Trees.” Then answer the questions.

There’s Plenty of Fish in the Trees

from *Ivan: Stories of Old Russia*

by Marcus Crouch

- 1** Not all Ivans were silly. Here is a story of one who had his head on the right way round.
- 2** Ivan had a wife who could never keep quiet. Tell her a secret and be sure all her gossips would know it before dinner. He did his best to cure her of her habit, but in vain; her tongue just went on flapping like washing on the line.
- 3** One day Ivan was working in the fields and his spade hit something hard. He felt around with his hands and found that he had struck a chest full of gold coins. He took it home and showed it to his wife.
- 4** “Our fortune’s made,” he said, “But we must be very careful. If the Master hears about it he will surely claim the treasure for himself. After all, it was buried on his land.”
- 5** They thought carefully about where they should hide the gold, and the wife said they should dig a hole in the floor. This is what they did, and Ivan smoothed the surface so that no signs of the treasure were to be seen.
- 6** “Now, my love, whatever you do, say no word of this to one living soul,” said Ivan. “If a whisper of this reaches the Master’s ears we shall be poor again, and he will have me whipped into the bargain.”
- 7** “Trust me,” said his wife. “You know I always keep your secrets safe.”

- 8** Ivan knew no such thing. He waited until his wife was fast asleep; then he got up, dug up the gold and buried it in the barn, under a great heap of dung.
- 9** Next morning he said to his wife: "Tomorrow we must go into the woods to catch fish."
- 10** "Fish in the woods?" she said. "I never knew that is where you catch them."
- 11** "Why, of course; it's much the best place." And Ivan kept his face very serious indeed.
- 12** While his wife was at the market, he took some fish that he had caught a day or two earlier, together with a dead hare and a basket full of stale cakes from the baker's, and he took them into the woods. When he came home he was empty-handed.
- 13** After they had eaten next morning Ivan took his wife by the hand and they walked to the woods together. Very soon she found a pike dangling from a tree. Next she found a perch and two roaches. She was even more surprised when she came upon a tree which was growing cakes.
- 14** "Look, husband," she said. "Cakes on a tree!"
- 15** "Of course," he said, "everyone knows that's where they grow."
- 16** Now Ivan went down to the river and pulled in his line. On the hook there was a hare.
- 17** "Goodness me!" said the wife. "Just fancy, hare in the river."
- 18** "Quite a good one, too," said Ivan calmly. "Usually they are only half that size."
- 19** He unhooked the hare and put it in his bag. Then they went home with the day's catch. They ate a good dinner that night.
- 20** By now the wife's wagging tongue had made sure that all the village knew about Ivan's treasure. Very soon the news reached the ears of

the Master in his big house. He sent for Ivan. The man went to the house, and he took his good wife with him.

- 21** "What is this I hear?" said the Master gravely. "Have you found treasure on my land and not reported it to me?"
- 22** "It's just idle gossip," said Ivan. "There's not a word of truth in it."
- 23** "But your own wife says it is true."
- 24** "Oh, she's a crazy woman," said Ivan. "You can never believe a word she says."
- 25** "That's not true," said the wife. "You know very well that you brought the treasure home."
- 26** "When was that?"
- 27** "Why, it was the day before we caught fish in the woods."
- 28** "What is this?" said the Master. "Fish in the woods?"
- 29** "Yes, Master," said the wife eagerly. "And the very same day we picked cakes off the trees. There were lots of them. Then on the way home my man fished a fat hare out of the river."
- 30** "Take her home," said the Master to Ivan. "You are right. She *is* a crazy woman."
- 31** Still, the Master was no fool. He sent his men to the cottage when Ivan was out. They dug up the floor and searched high and low, but no treasure could they find. Ivan spent it coin by coin in the market, and it kept them in comfort for many years.

"There's Plenty of Fish in the Trees" from *IVAN: STORIES OF OLD RUSSIA* by Marcus Crouch (OUP, 1989), text copyright © 1989 by Marcus Crouch, reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press.

- 5.** What would the story be like if it were told from the wife’s point of view?
Consider how descriptions of the setting and events might change based on the point of view of the person telling the story.
Retell the story from the wife’s point of view. Include specific details about the setting and events that occur in the story to support this point of view.

Anchor Set

A1 – A8

No Annotations Included

Wife's P.O.V

Some people think I can't stop talking. Well it's most likely because i'm social to everybody. Ivan keeps on talking to me about stop gossiping but, that can't be true. The Master thinks i'm crazy. I'm not sure why when I saw what I seen. So here's the story.

Ivan said he'll be back working from the fields plowing and mining for some recources to use for trading.

"Our fortune's made," he said as I eagerly held them, " But we must be very careful. If the Master hears about it he will surely claim the treasure for himself. After all, it is buried in his land." I thought about what he said and securely put it in my mind. But how am I supposed to keep it in me when we struck gold? Carefully we put our minds together and found a place to hide the treasure so, the Master wouldn't find it. Ivan and I dug a hole in the floor and flattened the surface so it wouldn't look like a dent in the floor.

"Now my love, whatever you do, say no word of this to one living soul you know." Ivan whispered, " If a whisper of this reaches the Master's ears we shall be poor again, and he will have me whipped into the bargain."

" Trust me," I said in a trustworthy voice, " You know I always keep your secrets safe."

I do keep it safe sometimes but, it's just so hard to keep it all in. I had to let it out at some point. After the discussion I slept until it was morning and found Ivan out of bed already.

" Tommorrow we must go to the woods to get fish." Ivan said to me.
"Fish in the woods?" I asked. " I never knew that is where you could catch fish."
Sometimes I never understood how life works.

"Why of course; it's much the best place." While Ivan made his face in a serious face and a relaxing tone.

We both sat down together and ate some breakfast. I couldn't understand why we would catch fish in the woods. After eating Ivan took me to the woods and walked clutching hands. Then I found the most strange thing happening, I saw a pike hanging on a tree. The strangest thing I've ever seen in my life, but I was wrong. I then found a perched of two roaches. I was even more excited when I saw cakes from a tree.

"Look, husband," I exclaimed, " Cakes on a tree!"

" Of course," he said, " everyone know that's where they grow.

After seeing the amazing things in life, Ivan pulled the line for fishing. The extordinary thing happened! A hare was connected to the hook, what an amazing sight to see!

"Goodnes me!" I said with an excited tone, " Just fancy, hare in the river."

"Quite a good one too." Ivan said like nothing happened that's good, " Usually they are only half of this size."

He unhooked the hare and shoved it in his bag. The Ivan and I went home with our brilliant catch. That night we ate a amazing dinner.

As moning approached I got ready to go the market. On the way I told everybody about the night Ivan and I shared and our gold we found. I then went home with the food and found the Master at the front door.

" What is this I hear?" boomed the Master. " Have you found great treasure on my land and never reported it to me?"

I looked over at Ivan waiting for him to reply to the question.

"No just idle gossip," said Ivan calmly, "There's not a word of truth in it."

"But your own wife says it is true, so it has to be!"

"Oh she's a crazy woman," Ivan exclaimed, "You can never believe a word she says."

"That's not true," I said with curiosity on why he said that, "You know very well of the night I spent with you and the treasure you brought home."

"When was that?" Ivan asked.

"Why it was the day we caught fish in the woods," I said, "Believe me."

"What is this?" the Master said unbelieving everything, "Fish in the woods?"

"Yes, Master," I said eagerly, "And the very same day we picked cakes off the trees. There were lots of them growing on it. Then on the way home, Ivan fish a fat hare out of the river."

"Take this woman home," the Master said, "You are right. She is a crazy lady."

On the night and every night I always wondered what happened at that time. But I forgot about it so it never came to mind on what occurred.

Score

Anchor Paper 1

Written Expression

Score Point 3

If the story was told from the wife's point of view, it would make her gossip sound good. This is how it would go:

I'm Ivan's wife. My husband says I gossip too much, but I just want people to know the truth.

One day, while Ivan was working, he found a chest of gold. He told me not to tell our Master. I suggested that we dig a hole in the floor and cover it up with the planks of our house floor, and that's exactly what we did. Then, Ivan told me not to tell anyone. Why would I? I'm smart enough! "Trust me. I always keep your secrets safe," I said.

Continued

The next morning, Ivan said that we should go catch some fish in the woods. I told him that that was crazy, but he said that it was the best place to catch them.

When we got there I immediately saw something weird. There were cakes on a tree! When Ivan cast out his line, he caught a rabbit! We later ate it for dinner.

But all of a sudden guilt ran over me. I couldn't help it. I just had to tell the Master. When the Master brought me and Ivan over, Ivan said it wasn't true. Then he said that I was crazy! I tried to tell him that we brought the chest home, but he didn't believe

Continued

me. He questioned when he found it. I told Ivan that we found it the day before we caught the fish in the woods. The Master was surprised. I told him that it was the same day we picked the cakes off of the trees and we fished there. Then the Master said that I was crazy. He tried to find it at our house but he couldn't find it. Ivan spent it coin by coin and it kept us in comfort for many years.

In the wife's point of view, she doesn't know that Ivan hid the gold and that he set up the crazy woods, so I left those parts out. The events and plot change.

Score

Anchor Paper 2

Written Expression

Score Point 3

I had a husband named Ivan. He always said that I will never keep my mouth shut. I think that's not true, I keep all his secrets safe. One day he was working in the fields and found treasure. He came and showed me. He asked me where to hide it. We both thought about it and I told him to dig up a hole in the floor. So he did. The next day, he said we were going to catch fish in the woods. I told him, "you can't catch fish in the woods." Ivan told me, it was the best place. So we went and it was true, we found fish and even cakes on trees! The next day I told the master that

Continued
Ivan had found treasure. The master came to our house with his wife. I told him where we buried the treasure. Ivan said I was crazy! I told the master that we caught "fish in the woods" and that we got cakes off trees. The master asked, "Cakes on trees?" He said I was crazy and told Ivan to take me home.

Score

Anchor Paper 3

Written Expression

Score Point 2

I have a husband, he can't keep quiet about anything. He says I talk too much but I don't. One day my husband, Ivan was working in the fields. Ivan came home with a chest of gold that he had found when he was working in the fields. Ivan told me all about how we must keep quiet, I told him, 'I would never tell secrets.' Ivan gave me a funny look. Then he told me we must hide it or else the master would take it. I told him to dig a hole in the floor. I started telling everybody in the village, I made sure everybody knew. The next day we went fishing in the woods, we found all sorts of fish in the trees. Then we found cakes in trees! We went home and had a big dinner. Ivan and I got sent to the Master's house. I told the Master about the gold, Ivan said 'You can't believe anything she says, she is crazy.' I said 'No I am not.' Then I told him about the fish and cakes in the woods. Then the master said that Ivan was right, I was crazy. We kept the treasure and it kept us comfortable for many years.

Score

Anchor Paper 4

Written Expression

Score Point 2

One day my husband,Ivan was digging a hole. He found treasure! I told him to burry it where nobody could find it. I also told him to not tell master or we will be poor again. One morning, we walked the woods together. "look, there are cakes on trees" I say.The master found out about the treasure. Master thought I was crazy.

Score

Anchor Paper 5

Written Expression

Score Point 1

From the wife's point of view she would have also probably told the master where the treasure is buried, but she didn't. She told that she + her husband had gold, but she never told where. Ivan is smart + cautious about what he does and when he should do it. The master is greedy, selfish, and he treats his subjects very poorly. The wife could never keep a word to her self. The wife sounds like she is trying hard get the master to believe her and not Ivan.

Score

Anchor Paper 6

Written Expression

Score Point 1

The master men would look for
the gold, and everyone would go
to the woods and get fish and
cake.

Score

Anchor Paper 7

Written Expression

Score Point 0

the story would be in first person view if it was in the wife's point of view

Score

Anchor Paper 8

Written Expression

Score Point 0

Practice Set P101 - P105

No Annotations Included

Plenty of Fish in the Trees The Wife's perspective

One day my husband Ivan found some gold. We hid it, then Ivan told me to not tell anybody because if the Master found out he would take the gold. I like to talk a little bit though so I may have told a couple of my friends and they told the king.

Then the next day Ivan told me we were going to go fishing in the woods. I found trees that grew fish and trees that grow cakes! We also caught hares in the river! Ivan told me everyone knows about the forest though.

Then we went Home and the Master came and said, "What is this gossip I hear about gold here".

Ivan said, "That is not true."

Then the Master replied, "But your own wife said that it is true."

Then Ivan said that I am crazy! How could he say that!

I said, "He brought home the gold the day before we went fishing in the woods."

Then the master said I really am crazy!

I think if the story was told in the wife's point of view the husband would tell the secrets, and the wife would have found the treasure and the cake trees, and the husband would have the master thinking he was crazy, and the wife would go fishing in the woods, with the fat hare on the hook. That is what I think of the wife's point of view.

The story would be a lot different if it was from the wife's point of view. I think it would be not as good of a story because it wouldn't include details like saying that she was a blabbermouth and saying that Ivan hid the treasure. Ivan says that I am a blabbermouth. I have to admit, though, sometimes I am, but, at least I try to control it. Ivan is my husband. I think he had his head the right way around.

One day, when I was doing the dishes in the kitchen, Ivan out working on the fields, he ran in saying, "Our fortune's made, but we must be careful. If the Master hears about it he will surely claim the treasure to himself. After all, it was buried on his land." He had just found treasure! The first thing I thought about was, *I have to tell Betsy, or Susan! or everyone!* But, sadly, that's not what my husband had wanted. We dug a hole in the floor and put it there (it was my idea.). He then made me promise not to tell anyone. But I couldn't help myself.

When I woke up the next morning, after I had already told almost all of my friends about the treasure, my husband and I decided to go fishing in the woods. But first, I went to the market. When I came back, Ivan looked very suspicious.

The next morning was wonderful. I learned lots of new things. Who knew that you could go fishing in the woods, find pikes dangling from the tree, roaches and a perch dangling from the tree, and cakes growing on a tree? There were also hares in the river!

After eating a good dinner with all the food and things in the forest, from me telling everybody about the treasure, the Master called us into his big house. In way, the talk was good, because he didn't believe that Ivan had found treasure, but in a way, it was also bad, because Master didn't believe me about what we found in the forest that day and my own husband called me crazy.

Thier weren't any cake in the trees, Neather
rabbits in the pond.

It would be different from the wifes point of veiw.

First of all the wife would tell it in a crazy way because of all of the things she thought that happened in the forest. She would go telling people that cakes grow on trees and that his husband caught a hare at the river.

Secondly she talks way too much so she would have told everyone about the gold that they found on the master's land. If the master would have found out he would have taken the gold for himself and Ivan and his wife would have been poor agian.

Practice Set

(Order of Scores: Written Expression, Conventions)

Paper	Score
P101	2,2
P102	1,1
P103	3,3
P104	0,0
P105	1,2