

Name: _____

RI 4.8

Date: _____

Excerpt from ***The Loch Ness Monster***

By Jacqueline Laks Gorman

Lexile Level: 790 | F&P: Level Q | DRA: 40 (236 Words)



The Beast in Loch Ness

Some people say something strange lives in the middle of Loch Ness. They say it has a large body, a small head, and a long neck. They say it has humps, flippers, and small front legs. People call it "Nessie."

Loch Ness is a lake in Scotland. The lake is very deep, almost 1,000 feet (305 meters) in some places. The water is dark, foggy, and very cold, but it never freezes. This lake has fish and plants, but no other animal life.

Long ago, the lake was attached to the sea. Maybe a prehistoric beast somehow got caught in the lake. Maybe the beast's relatives still live in the lake today...

What Could Nessie Be?

If Nessie is real, what kind of animal is it? One guess is that Nessie is a plesiosaur. Plesiosaurs were huge reptiles that lived in the sea. These reptiles became extinct 70 million years ago, but maybe some plesiosaurs somehow survived in Loch Ness.

Other ideas are that Nessie is a giant salamander, a huge eel, or a giant sea slug, but

these animals all look very different from Nessie. Some people think Nessie might be a giant turtle, or some kind of mammal, like a whale, porpoise, or sea cow. There are reasons that make these ideas unlikely as well.

Maybe Nessie is a completely new animal that scientists do not yet know about.

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Standard RI.4.8

I can explain how an author supports a point using textual evidence.

1

The author explains that “some people say something strange lives in the middle of Loch Ness.” List a detail that describes the creature.

DOK 1

2

What point is the author trying to make in the text excerpt below?

DOK 1

Other ideas are that Nessie is a giant salamander, a huge eel, or a giant sea slug, but these animals all look very different from Nessie. Some people think Nessie might be a giant turtle, or some kind of mammal, like a whale, porpoise, or sea cow. There are reasons that make these ideas unlikely as well.

- a. Nessie is most likely a common animal.
- b. Many people think Nessie is an animal that has yet to be discovered, but there are many reasons this cannot be true.
- c. A Loch Ness Monster is fake and does not exist.
- d. People have many ideas about the type of animal that Nessie is, but all of these theories have been proven wrong.

3

DOK 2

Part 1

Which statement **best** describes the point the author is trying to convey about Nessie's relation to a prehistoric creature?

- a. It is most likely true that Nessie is a descendant of a prehistoric being.
- b. Although there is a possibility that Nessie has prehistoric roots, it is unlikely since these creatures have been extinct for some time.
- c. It is impossible for Nessie to exist since plesiosaurs are extinct.
- d. Since the lake was once a part of the sea, it is probable that a once native sea creature has adapted to life in a lake.

Part 2

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part 1?

- a. "Long ago, the lake was attached to the sea."
- b. "Maybe a prehistoric beast somehow got caught in the lake."
- c. "One guess is that Nessie is a plesiosaur. Plesiosaurs were huge reptiles that lived in the sea."
- d. "These reptiles became extinct 70 million years ago, but maybe some plesiosaurs somehow survived in Loch Ness."

4

DOK 2

The author provides reasons why a beast in Loch Ness is a possibility. List **two** details from the text that suggest that Nessie is real.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

5

DOK 3

Choose a point the author makes in the passage, “The Loch Ness Monster”. Create a graphic organizer that explains the main points the author makes and **three** pieces of evidence or reasons given by the author to explain this point.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Name: _____

Date: _____

RL4.9

“The Farmer’s Luck”

Taoist Parable

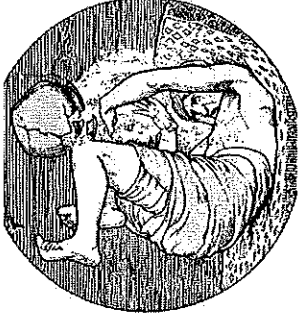
Lexile 700 | F&P: O | DRA: 34 | Word Count 475

- 1 One day in late summer, an old farmer was working in his field with his old sick horse. The farmer felt compassion for the horse and desired to lift its burden. So he left his horse loose to go the mountains and live out the rest of its life.
- 2 Soon after, neighbors from the nearby village visited, offering their condolences and said, "What a shame. Now your only horse is gone. How unfortunate you are! You must be very sad. How will you live, work the land, and prosper?" The farmer replied: "Who knows? We shall see."
- 3 Two days later the old horse came back now rejuvenated after meandering in the mountainsides while eating the wild grasses. He came back with twelve new younger and healthy horses which followed the old horse into the corral. Word got out in the village of the old farmer's good fortune and it wasn't long before people stopped by to congratulate the farmer on his good luck. "How fortunate you are!" they exclaimed. You must be very happy!" Again, the farmer softly said, "Who knows? We shall see."
- 4 At daybreak on the next morning, the farmer's only son set off to attempt to train the new wild horses, but the farmer's son was thrown to the ground and broke his leg. One by one, villagers arrived during the day to bemoan the farmer's latest misfortune. "Oh, what a tragedy! Your son won't be able to help you farm with a broken leg. You'll have to do all the work yourself. How will you survive? You must be very sad," they said. Calmly going about his usual business, the farmer answered, "Who knows? We shall see."
- 5 Several days later a war broke out. The Emperor's men arrived in the village demanding that young men come with them to be conscripted into the Emperor's army. As it happened the farmer's son was deemed unfit because of his broken leg. "What very good fortune you have," the villagers exclaimed as their own young sons were marched away. "You must be very happy." "Who knows? We shall see," replied the old farmer as he headed off to work his field alone.
- 6 As time went on the broken leg healed, but the son was left with a slight limp. Again the neighbors came to pay their condolences. "Oh what bad luck. Too bad for you!" But the old farmer simply replied; "Who knows? We shall see."
- 7 As it turned, out the other young village boys had died in the war and the old farmer and his son were the only able bodied men capable of working the village lands. The old farmer became wealthy and was very generous to the villagers. They said: "Oh how fortunate we are, you must be very happy," to which the old farmer replied, "Who knows? We shall see!"

"The Broken Pot"

Traditional Indian Folktale

Lexile 850 | F&P: S | DRA 40 | Word Count 351



There lived in a certain place a Brahman, whose name was Svabhavakripaṇa, which means "a born miser." He had collected a quantity of rice by begging, and after having dined off it, he filled a pot with what was left over. He hung the pot on a peg on the wall, placed his couch beneath, and looking intently at it all the night, he thought, "Ah, that pot is indeed brimful of rice. Now, if there should be a famine, I should certainly make a hundred rupees by it. With this I shall buy a couple of goats. They will have young ones every six months, and thus I shall have a whole herd of goats. Then, with the goats, I shall buy cows. As soon as they have calved, I shall sell the calves. Then, with the calves, I shall buy buffaloes; with the buffaloes, mares. When the mares have foaled, I shall have plenty of horses; and when I sell them, plenty of gold. With that gold I shall get a house with four wings. And then a Brahman will come to my house, and will give me his beautiful daughter, with a large dowry. She will have a son, and I shall call him Somasarman. When he is old enough to be danced on his father's knee, I shall sit with a book at the back of the stable, and while I am reading, the boy will see me, jump from his mother's lap, and run towards me to be danced on my knee. He will come too near the horse's hoof, and, full of anger, I shall call to my wife, 'Take the baby; take him!' But she, distracted by some domestic work, does not hear me. Then I get up, and give her such a kick with my foot." While he thought this, he gave a kick with his foot, and broke the pot. All the rice fell over him, and made him quite white.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Standard RL.4.9

I can compare similar themes and patterns of events in multiple stories from different cultures.

1
DOK 1

Complete the chart by placing a checkmark to show in which passage each key detail can be found.

Key Detail	"The Farmer's Luck"	"The Broken Pot"
Left his sick horse in the mountains to live out the rest of its days.		
Makes money and buys a herd of goats.		

2
DOK 1

Read the following excerpt taken from paragraph 5 in "The Farmer's Luck".

Several days later a war broke out. The Emperor's men arrived in the village demanding that young men come with them to be conscripted into the Emperor's army. As it happened the farmer's son was deemed unfit because of his broken leg. "What very good fortune you have," the villagers exclaimed as their own young sons were marched away. "You must be very happy." "Who knows? We shall see," replied the old farmer as he headed off to work his field alone.

Underline the section of text that shows why the farmer's son was not able to join the Emperor's Army.

Read the events in the column titled, “Text”. Then add two short notes in each row to summarize what is happening in the events in the “Text” column. Add the summaries to the column titled, “My Notes”.

Text	My Notes
<p align="center">“The Farmer’s Luck”</p> <p>“ . . . You must be very sad. How will you live, work the land, and prosper?” The farmer replied: “Who knows? We shall see. . .”</p> <p>“ . . . Two days later the old horse came back now rejuvenated . . . “How fortunate you are!” they exclaimed. You must be very happy!” Again, the farmer softly said, “Who knows? We shall see. . .”</p> <p>“ . . . As time went on the broken leg healed, but the son was left with a slight limp. Again the neighbors came to pay their condolences. “Oh what bad luck. Too bad for you”! But the old farmer simply replied; “Who knows? We shall see. . .”</p>	<p>1. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p align="center">“The Broken Pot”</p> <p>“ . . . Ah, that pot is indeed brimful of rice. Now, if there should be a famine, I should certainly make a hundred rupees by it. With this I shall buy a couple of goats. . . “</p> <p>“ . . .I shall have plenty of horses; and when I sell them, plenty of gold. With that gold I shall get a house with four wings. . . “</p> <p>“ . . .He will come too near the horse's hoof, and, full of anger, I shall call to my wife, ‘Take the baby; take him!’ . . .”</p> <p>“ . . .he gave a kick with his foot, and broke the pot. All the rice fell over him, and made him quite white. . .”</p>	<p>1. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Part 1

DOK 2

What is the common theme that the stories share?

- a. Do the right thing even when it may be a difficult thing to do so and may cause others to dislike you.
- b. Do not underestimate the ability of others because sometimes they can surprise you.
- c. Be careful what you wish for because sometimes your wishes don't turn out the way you want.
- d. You will never know what will happen next, so don't count on something that has not yet happened.

Part 2

Which piece of textual evidence from **each** passage best represents your answer for Part 1?

- a. "... the old farmer simply replied; "Who knows? We shall see." ("The Farmer's Luck")
"He who makes foolish plans for the future will be white all over. . ." ("The Broken Pot")
- b. "The old farmer became wealthy and was very generous to the villagers." ("The Farmer's Luck")
"Now, if there should be a famine, I should certainly make a hundred rupees by it." ("The Broken Pot")
- c. "What very good fortune you have," the villagers exclaimed as their own young sons were marched away." ("The Farmer's Luck")
"While he thought this, he gave a kick with his foot, and broke the pot." ("The Broken Pot")
- d. "How fortunate you are!" they exclaimed. You must be very happy!" ("The Farmer's Luck")
"All the rice fell over him, and made him quite white." ("The Broken Pot")

5

DOK 3

How do the different stories approach the common theme and lesson learned? Give your explanation in at least one to two paragraphs. Provide at least **one** piece of evidence from each text to support your reasons.

[illegible]



- Prepare ahead of time.
- When you talk too much, you may reveal too much.
- Things are not always what they seem.
- Work together to achieve a goal.

[illegible]

Scoring Rubric

RL.4.9 Assessment #1:

“The Farmer’s Luck” and “The Broken Pot”

Student Name: _____		Date of Administration: _____	
Teacher Name: _____			

Question/ Level	Key / Rubric	Points									
#1 DOK 1	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Key Detail</th> <th>“The Farmer’s Luck”</th> <th>“The Broken Pot”</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Left his sick horse in the mountains to live out the rest of its days.</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Makes money and buys a herd of goats.</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Key Detail	“The Farmer’s Luck”	“The Broken Pot”	Left his sick horse in the mountains to live out the rest of its days.	✓		Makes money and buys a herd of goats.		✓	0 1
Key Detail	“The Farmer’s Luck”	“The Broken Pot”									
Left his sick horse in the mountains to live out the rest of its days.	✓										
Makes money and buys a herd of goats.		✓									
#2 DOK 1	<p>Several days later a war broke out. The Emperor's men arrived in the village demanding that young men come with them to be conscripted into the Emperor's army. As it happened the farmer's son was deemed unfit because of his broken leg. "What very good fortune you have," the villagers exclaimed as their own young sons were marched away. "You must be very happy." "Who knows? We shall see," replied the old farmer as he headed off to work his field alone.</p>	0 1									
#3 DOK 2	<p>My Notes</p> <p>“The Farmer’s Luck”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Something happens to the farmer and his neighbor asks him if he is sad. He says he doesn’t know. 2. More bad events happen but the farmer keeps saying “Who knows”. <p>“The Broken Pot”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Brahman is excited about collecting so much rice and begins to dream about selling the rice to make money and then gold. 2. He dreams he is kicking his wife because she is busy, but actually breaks the pot of rice and is “quite white” or embarrassed at breaking the pot. <p>SCORING +1.5 point: for each note that summarizes the events in the “Text” excerpt column (up to 2 points)</p>	0 .5 1 1.5 2									

Name: _____

Excerpt from *Maniac Magee*

by Jerry Spinelli

Lexile: 630 | F&P: Level M | DRA: 28 (278 words)

And that's how he came to be called Maniac. The town was buzzing. The schools were buzzing. Hallways. Lunchrooms. Streets. Playgrounds. West End. East End. Buzzing about the new kid in town. The stranger kid. Scraggly. Carrying a book. Flap-soled sneakers. The kid who intercepted Brian Denehy's pass to Hands Down and punted it back longer than Denehy himself ever threw it. The kid who rescued Arnold Jones from Finsterwald's backyard. The kid who tattooed Giant John McNab's fastball for half a dozen home runs, then circled the sacks on a bunted frog. Nobody knows who said it first, but somebody must have: "Kid's gotta be a maniac."

And somebody else: "Yeah."

And that was it. Nobody (except Amanda Beale) had any other name for him, so pretty soon, when they wanted to talk about the new kid, that's what they called him: Maniac.

The legend had a name. But not an address. At least, not an official one, with numbers. What he did have was the deer shed at the Elmwood Park Zoo, which is where he slept his first few nights in town. What the deer ate, especially the carrots, apples, and day-old hamburger buns, he ate.

He started reading Amanda Beale's book his second day in town and finished it that afternoon. Ordinarily, he would have returned it immediately, but he was so fascinated by the story of the Children's Crusade that he kept it and read it the next day. And the next.

When he wasn't reading, he was wandering. When most people wander, they walk. Maniac Magee ran. Around town, around the nearby townships, always carrying the book, keeping it in perfect condition.

Date: _____

Excerpt from *The Stories Julian Tells*

by Ann Cameron

Lexile: 570 | F&P: Level L & M | DRA: 28 (280 words)

We ran through the back yard with the kite, passed the garden and the fig tree, and went into the open field beyond our yard. The kite started to rise. The tail jerked heavily like a long white snake. In a minute the kite passed the roof of my house and was climbing toward the sun.

We stood in the open field, looking up at it. I was wishing I would get my wishes.

"I know it's going to work!" Gloria said.

"How do you know?"

"When we take the kite down," Gloria told me, "there shouldn't be one wish in the tail. When the wind takes your wishes, that's when you know it's going to work."

The kite stayed up for a long time. We both held the string. The kite looked like a tiny black spot in the sun, and my neck got stiff from looking at it.

"Shall we pull it in?" I asked.

"All right," Gloria said.

We drew the string in more and more until, like a tired bird, the kite fell at our feet.

We looked at the tail. All our wishes were gone. Probably they were still flying higher and higher in the wind.

Maybe I would see the catalog cats and get to be a good soccer player and have a ride in an airplane and the tallest fig tree in town. And Gloria would be my best friend.

"Gloria," I said, "did you wish we would be friends?"

"You're not supposed to ask me that!" Gloria said.

"I'm sorry," I answered. But inside I was smiling. I guessed one thing Gloria wished for. I was pretty sure we would be friends.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Standard RL.4.6

I can compare and contrast point of view narration between different stories.

1 Use the Character Bank to complete the sentence.

DOK 1

Character Bank	
Unknown	His friend
Maniac	Amanda Beale

The speaker in the excerpt from *Maniac Magee* is _____.

2 In the excerpt from *The Stories Julian Tells*, who is speaking as the narrator?

DOK 1

- a. The speaker is Gloria.
- b. The speaker is unknown.
- c. The speaker is the kite.
- d. The speaker is none of the above.

3

Compare the differences between the two excerpts. Complete the following chart by placing an “X” in the correct box that describes the characteristics of each narration.

DOK 2

Characteristics of Narration	Excerpt from <i>Maniac Magee</i>	Excerpt from <i>The Stories Julian Tells</i>
1. includes dialogue between the characters		
2. lists short details and anecdotes to describe the main character		
3. develops the main character’s thoughts and feelings		
4. shows an outsider’s perspective and opinion of the main character		

4

Part 1

DOK 2

What is the narrator’s opinion of Maniac in *Maniac Magee*?

- The narrator admires Maniac’s accomplishments and wants to showcase his personality.
- The narrator pities Maniac and feels sorry about his living conditions.
- The narrator feels overwhelmed by Maniac’s unbelievable actions and talent.
- The narrator respects Maniac’s appreciation for the book but dislikes his wildness.

Part 2

What evidence from the text **best** supports this claim?


- a. “What the deer ate, especially the carrots, apples, and day-old hamburger buns, he ate.”
- b. “The legend had a name.”
- c. “When he wasn’t reading, he was wandering.”
- d. “The stranger kid. Scraggly. Carrying a book. Flap-soled sneakers.”


5

DOK 3

Part 1

How do the different narrators in each of the excerpts develop the main character of each story? Complete the two charts below by describing how the reader learns about the main character from the narrator.

<u>Narrator in “Maniac Magee”</u>		<u>Main Character’s Development</u>
• _____		
• _____		

<u>Narrator in “The Stories Julian Tells”</u>		<u>Main Character’s Development</u>
• _____		
• _____		

Part 2

How would each story change if the point of view of the narrator changed? Write 2-3 sentences to describe the effect of the change in narration.



Bonus

Describe someone you know who is either like Maniac Magee or the narrator in *The Stories Julian Tells*. Include details that show how they are like either of these characters.



Scoring Rubric

RL.4.6 Assessment #1:

Excerpts from *Maniac Magee* and from *The Stories Julian Tells*

Student Name: _____ Date of Administration: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Question / Level	Key / Rubric	Points															
#1 DOK 1	Answer: unknown	0 1															
#2 DOK 1	d. The speaker is none of the above.	0 1															
#3 DOK 2	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Characteristics of Narration</th><th>Excerpt from <i>Maniac Magee</i></th><th>Excerpt from <i>The Stories Julian Tells</i></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. includes dialogue between the characters</td><td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>2. lists short details and anecdotes to describe the main character</td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>3. develops the main character's thoughts and feelings</td><td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>4. shows an outsider's perspective and opinion of the main character</td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>SCORING: +.5 point: for each correct answer choice</p>	Characteristics of Narration	Excerpt from <i>Maniac Magee</i>	Excerpt from <i>The Stories Julian Tells</i>	1. includes dialogue between the characters		X	2. lists short details and anecdotes to describe the main character	X		3. develops the main character's thoughts and feelings		X	4. shows an outsider's perspective and opinion of the main character	X		0 1 2
Characteristics of Narration	Excerpt from <i>Maniac Magee</i>	Excerpt from <i>The Stories Julian Tells</i>															
1. includes dialogue between the characters		X															
2. lists short details and anecdotes to describe the main character	X																
3. develops the main character's thoughts and feelings		X															
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