

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Belling the Cat an Aesop fable

The Mice once called a meeting to decide on a plan to free themselves of their enemy, the Cat. At least they wished to find some way of knowing when she was coming, so they might have time to run away. Indeed, something had to be done, for they lived in such constant fear of her claws that they hardly dared stir from their dens by night or day.

Many plans were discussed, but none of them was thought good enough. At last a very young Mouse got up and said:

"I have a proposal that seems very simple, but I know it will be successful.



All we have to do is to hang a bell about the Cat's neck. When we hear the bell ringing we will know immediately that our enemy is coming."

All the Mice were much surprised that they had not thought of such a plan before. But in the midst of the rejoicing over their good fortune, an old Mouse arose and said:

"I will say that the plan of the young Mouse is very good. But let me ask one question: Who will bell the Cat?"

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1. What is the moral (lesson) of the story?

- a) Cats and mice do not get along.
- b) It is not good to live in constant fear.
- c) It easier to say something than to do it.

2. Highlight a sentence from the passage that helped you figure out the moral.

3. Read the following sentence from the passage. "I have a proposal that seems very simple, but I know it will be successful." What does *proposal* mean?

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4. Have you ever come up with a plan that was to hard to carry out? What happened?

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