

The Smuggler

Part 1 → A clever smuggler led a donkey carrying straw to the border between two lands. There, an inspector eyed the pair with suspicion.

“I must search these!” the inspector said. “You have hidden a treasure you wish to sell in our town’s market. You must pay a border fee!”

“Search as you wish,” retorted the man. “If you find something other than straw, I will pay the tariff.”

Part 2 → The inspector dismantled the straw bundles until there was straw everywhere. Yet not one valuable thing did he find.

“I am certain that you are concealing something,” said the inspector. “Yet so carefully have you covered it, I have not discovered it. Go!” The inspector watched the pair leave with a scowl.

Part 3 → The next day, the man reappeared, his donkey burdened with straw. Once again, the inspector pulled apart the bundles until there was straw everywhere.

Part 4 → Again, the inspector found nothing. Each day, for ten years, the man came to the border with a donkey. Each day, for ten years, the inspector rummaged through his bundles, but found nothing.

Finally, the day for the inspector’s retirement came. Even then, he could not stop musing about the wily smuggler. One day as he walked through the marketplace, he muttered, “Perhaps I should have examined the donkey’s teeth—or searched the hairs on its tail!”

Suddenly, he saw a familiar face. “You came to the border every day with a donkey laden with straw. Come here!” he exclaimed.

Part 5 → At the man’s advance, the old inspector said, “Admit it! You were smuggling something across the border, weren’t you?” The man nodded and grinned slyly.

“So tell me what it was!” the inspector demanded.

“Donkeys,” said the man.

Use with pages 318, 319.



Make Predictions

When you make predictions, you make logical guesses about what might happen next in a story. You should base a prediction on story events and your own experience. Then keep reading to see if your prediction is right.


Use this chart to make predictions as you read.

Passage: _____

Story Clues	What I Know	Prediction	Was I Right?

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Resource Links

 RDI Book 1: p. 411
SAM Keyword: Predictions

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