

Name: _____

Date: _____

Current Unit _____

Team: _____

Perfectly Happy

Cast of Characters

Hans

Miller

Butcher

Rider

Musician

Woman

Mother

scene 1

*Set in a mill office. The **Miller** and **Hans** are talking.*

Miller: Hans, you have done a good job. You have worked for me for seven years.

Hans: Thank you, sir.

Miller: Now I will give you your payment. *(Hands a large bag to **Hans**)*

Hans: *(Looks amazed)* You are so generous, sir! *(Looks inside bag)* This is all gold! Thank you!

Miller: Well, Hans, you have worked hard. Good luck in the future. Have a good trip back to your mother.

*(The two shake hands. **Hans** leaves the mill.)*

Scene 2

Set along the road between the mill and Hans's mother's house.

Hans: This gold is so heavy! *(Stops and puts the bag down, holding his back)* I think I've only walked three miles so far. I have so much further to go.

*(A man on a horse comes along the road behind **Hans**)*

Rider: Hello there. You look tired.

Hans: I am tired! This bag of gold is heavy. I hate carrying it.

Rider: That bag is filled with gold? It must be very tiring to carry it.

Hans: If only I had a horse to ride. I would be perfectly happy.

Rider: *(Smiles in a crafty way)* We could trade. You could have the horse. I could carry the gold.

Hans: What a wonderful suggestion! Thank you, kind sir. Let's do it.

*(**Hans** and the **Rider** trade. **Hans** takes the horse, and the rider laughs with glee as he rides off with the gold)*

Hans: So I have traded my gold for a horse. This is much better. I am perfectly happy!

(Hans rides around the stage one time)

Hans: This horse is very bouncy. It's not very comfortable.

(The Woman comes down the road, pulling her cow behind her)

Woman: Hello! It's a fine day for a ride.

Hans: If you say so. I don't think it's very fine at all. I am stuck riding this terrible horse. And to think that I traded a bag of gold for it!

Woman: You traded a bag of gold for the horse? It must be a wonderful horse. I would think that it would be wonderful to ride a horse down the road.

Hans: You'd be wrong. If only I could pull a cow behind me, I'd be perfectly happy.

Woman: This cow? You would like to pull this old cow behind you instead of riding such a fine horse?

Hans: Yes indeed.

Woman: I have an idea. Let's trade. You take the cow, and I take the horse.

Hans: Wonderful!

(The Woman and Hans trade. The Woman exits)

Hans: *(Happily)* I traded my gold for a horse. I traded my horse for a cow. Now I am perfectly happy.

(Hans sets off again, leading the cow around the stage)

Hans: Pulling this cow isn't as fun as I thought it would be. And I'm getting thirsty.

(A butcher enters, carrying a pig under his arm)

Butcher: Good day! And where are you off to?

Hans: I am going home.

Butcher: You look thirsty. Here, have some water.

(The butcher hands Hans a jug of water. Hans takes a drink)

Hans: You are so lucky. You have only to carry the pig. Here I am with this worthless cow. I traded a horse for the cow. I traded a bag of gold for the horse. If only I had a pig like you, I would be perfectly happy.

Butcher: I have an idea. Let's trade. You could have the pig. I could have the cow.

Hans: Okay! That sounds like a great idea. Goodbye, cow!

(Hans and the Butcher trade. The butcher leads the cow away. Hans picks up the pig)

Hans: I traded a bag of gold for a horse. I traded a horse for a cow. I traded a cow for a pig. Now I am perfectly happy!

(Hans walks around a bit)

Hans: This pig is slippery. And – ewww. It smells bad.

(A *musician* enters, playing a flute.)

Hans: Hello there! That is some beautiful music.

Musician: Hello to you. That is quite a fine pig you have there.

Hans: This pig is too heavy. I wish that I had a flute, like you. A flute would be easy to carry. People would like to hear the music. If only I had a flute, I would be perfectly happy.

Musician: (*says jokingly*) Well, let me know if you would like to trade.

Hans: That is a wonderful idea! Let's trade!

Musician: You can't be serious. Wait – really? You want to trade the pig for this flute?

Hans: Of course! I traded my gold for a horse. I traded the horse for a cow. I traded the cow for a pig. Now I will trade the pig for a flute. I can be perfectly happy.

(*The Musician and Hans trade. The Musician runs offstage quickly as if he is worried that Hans will change his mind. Hans walks away, playing a tune on the flute.*)

Scene 3

Hans arrives home.

Mother: Hans! You're home! It is wonderful to see you again after seven long years.

(*Hans and Mother hug*)

Hans: The miller said that I was a good worker. Maybe I can even open a new mill near here. And look! I have brought you this! (*Shows Mother the flute*)

Mother: The miller gave you that? Only that? After seven long years?

Hans: Well...

Mother: I'm going to march down there and give that miller a piece of my mind! Seven years of work and all he gives you is one measly flute.

Hans: Well, you see, I wanted to be perfectly happy, so...

Mother: That miller! He'll hear what I think about how cheap he is. (*Marches out of the house*)

Hans: Mother! Mother, wait! Listen! Oh, if only I had that bag of gold again. Then I would be perfectly happy!

(*Runs off stage after Mother*)

Reading a Drama

Quick Reminder: A drama is a play. Dramas are written for a performance. When you read a drama, look for these elements:

➤ **Cast of characters**

Most dramas have a section at the beginning that lists the characters. In some scripts, this section also tells who the characters are and how they relate to one another.

➤ **Stage directions**

Stage directions are often written in italics or parentheses. These directions tell actors how they should perform a line or what action is happening.

➤ **Dialogue**

Dialogue is the backbone of a script. The dialogue shows what a character is saying.

➤ **Acts and Scenes**

Longer dramas include acts. Acts are broken into scenes based on the characters and the setting.

Read the drama "Perfectly Happy". Then, answer the questions below in complete sentences.

Don't forget to steal and spit!

1. Find the cast of characters. How many characters are there? What are their names?

2. Highlight or underline the different scenes. How many scenes do you see?

3. Find an example of dialogue that Hans says. Quote the dialogue on the lines below.

4.

Suppose that you are a director planning on directing this drama. What kind of scenery would you create? What costumes?

Director's Notes

Scenery:

Costumes:

Casting Notes: