

Name _____

The Monkey and the Crocodile

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Trust is a central theme in the story, as it forms the foundation of Rama and Ganga's friendship. Rama trusted Ganga not to harm him, and Ganga trusted Rama to help him in his time of need. This trust ultimately led to the successful resolution of the conflict. In real life, trust is essential in building strong relationships, and this story illustrates how it can overcome even the most challenging situations.
2. The moral lesson of the story is that true friendship can withstand challenges and deceit. This lesson can be applied to real-life situations by emphasizing the importance of trust, loyalty, and selflessness in friendships. It encourages people to stand by their friends in times of trouble and not to let jealousy or selfishness destroy valuable relationships.
3. Rama displayed cunningness in outsmarting Makara's plan to eat his heart, while Makara used cunningness to deceive her husband. Ganga, on the other hand, displayed trust and kindness. The most cunning character in the story could be argued to be Rama, as he used his intelligence to save himself and his friend.
4. The theme of sacrifice is evident in Rama's willingness to sacrifice himself for Ganga by pretending to offer his heart. This demonstrates the depth of their friendship, as Rama was willing to go to great lengths to protect his friend. It highlights the idea that true friendship often involves selflessness and sacrifice.

