

Fill in the Fable

This story is adapted from a Haitian fable about a dog and a cat who have different ideas about how to use their time. One of them works hard for a reward at the end of the summer, while the other one skips out on the work but still expects the reward! Which character do you think spends his summer most wisely?

DIRECTIONS

Before reading the story, ask other players to call out silly words to complete the blanks in the word bank on the right-side column. Then read the story aloud, filling in those blanks with players' words!

Tonton Chen ak Neve Chat (UNCLE DOG AND NEPHEW CAT)



One summer day, a ¹ _____ dog and a ² _____ cat went to the marketplace to buy a pot of butter. They agreed to save it for an end-of-summer feast. "This will taste great with the yams we will grow in our garden!" the dog said.

The cat ³ _____ in agreement.

The next morning the dog and cat went to their garden, where they began planting seeds for yams and ⁴ _____. But when the sun got hot, the cat said to the dog, "I forgot! A friend is having a baby and wants me to name the child. I need to leave!" While the dog worked, the ⁵ _____ cat ran to the house and ate some of the butter, then took a long nap in the shade. When he returned, the dog — still hard at work — asked, "So what is the child's name?" The cat answered, "Byen Komanse — Well Begun."

"Unusual name," said the dog.

Weeks later when it was time to pull weeds, the dog and cat returned to the garden. "Listen!" the cat said. "My cousin ⁶ _____ is calling me. I promised I would name his child as well."



WORD BANK

- A noun is a word for a person, place or thing. [Examples: bike; puppy.]
- An adjective describes something or someone [huge; slimy].
- A verb is an action word [jump; laugh]. In some blanks, you'll add the letters "ed" to the end of a verb.
- *Plural* means more than one. [The plural of "dog" is "dogs."]

¹ adjective

² adjective

³ verb + ed

⁴ plural noun

⁵ adjective

⁶ name of someone in room

⁷ adjective

⁸ plural noun

⁹ body part

¹⁰ noun



The dog didn't hear anyone but said goodbye and continued pulling the ⁷ _____ weeds. Meanwhile the cat feasted on more butter and took another nap. When he returned, the dog asked, "What is this child's name?"

"Mwatye Fini — Half Gone."

The same thing happened when they went to harvest the plants at the end of summer. "What is this third child's name?" the dog asked the cat.

"Tout Fini — All Gone!"

The next morning the dog and cat made a fire and cooked the ⁸ _____ and yams that the dog had worked so hard to grow. But when the dog went to get the butter, it was gone! Then he remembered the names the cat had told him: Well Begun, Half Gone and All Gone!

The dog threw back his head and barked at the cat, who scratched the dog's ⁹ _____ and climbed a ¹⁰ _____ out of reach. As the hungry cat watched the dog eat yams, his stomach growled and made him regret his decision to nap away the summer.

