Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

The Tail of the Sphinx

Worksheet · Grades 9+



Comprehension Questions

1. What does the Dog wish to achieve regarding his emotions?
2. How does the Tail respond to the Dog's aspirations?
3. What are the qualifications that the Tail mentions the Sphinx has for being impassive?
4. What is the underlying message of the story regarding self-acceptance?
5. Can you identify any humorous elements in the story? Describe them briefly.

Vocabulary Exercise

Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right.

Word	Definition
Taciturn	A. To move back or in to avoid danger
Mercurial	B. An expression or indication of emotion
Impassive	C. Reserved or uncommunicative
Tuck	D. Subject to rapid changes in mood
Bristle	E. Not showing or feeling emotion

Writing Reflection

Reflect on the story and answer the following questions:

1. What do you think the Dog could learn from his Tail about expressing emotions?

2. Can you relate to the Dog's desire to hide his emotions? Why or why not?

3. Write about a time when you felt like you wanted to be 'impassive' like the Sphinx. How did that situation turn out?

Feel free to share your answers with a friend or discuss them in class!