

Activity 1 - Vocabulary used in the beginning of *Town Mouse and Country Mouse*

Town Mouse and Country Mouse

Country Mouse encountered Town Mouse in a field on the edge of town. "Nice to see you, Town Mouse," said Country Mouse. "Why don't you come over to my place sometime for a visit?"

A few days later, Town Mouse trotted over to Country Mouse's house but after a few days, he couldn't take it anymore.

"Listen, Country Mouse," he said, "you live like an ant."

Questions to Discuss

...*Town Mouse trotted over to Country Mouse's house...*

1. Why does the author use the word *trotted*? What does it tell you about the way that Town Mouse travelled and how he felt?
2. What do you think living 'like an ant' might mean? What can you tell about the type of person Town Mouse is to say such a thing?
3. How did you read the word 'encountered'? What root word helped you?

Activity 2 Comprehension questions on Town Mouse and Country Mouse

1. Where did the mice meet?
2. Why did Town Mouse not like staying with Country mouse?

...it was a daily, delicious feast.

3. What do you notice about these words?

They waited, breathless under the floorboards.

4. Find these words in the fable. Why are the mice breathless?

I can't take the strain of all this ducking and diving.

5. What do you think ducking and diving might mean?
6. What does Country Mouse think of Town Mouse's home at the end of the fable? Explain how you know.

...running helter-skelter across the carpet...

7. Find where these words appear in the text. What do you think *running helter-skelter* might mean? You may need to look up the words in a dictionary to help you.

Activity 3: Compare openings to the fable

Read this different version of the opening to this fable below. Compare it to the Micheal Morpugo version. Which version do you prefer? Give reasons for your choice.

Town Mouse decided one day that he would visit his cousin who lived way out in the countryside. Country Mouse greeted him warmly and sat him down to a great feast of corn and hazelnuts and berries. "Help yourself," she said. "You've come a long way and must be very hungry."

Town Mouse didn't much like this plain country food. He did not want to upset Country Mouse so he nibbled a little bit here and a little bit there and said how nice it was.

After lunch Country Mouse proudly showed Town Mouse over the fields and woods around her home. Town Mouse thought it very dull and ordinary but he did not say so. Instead, he talked all the while about how much fun it was to live in town, how exciting it was, and how you could eat any food you

wanted. As he talked, Country Mouse listened, thinking how wonderful it must be to live in the town.

Activity 4: Independent writing

The moral of the fable is that we should be satisfied with what we have rather than always want what other people have. Can you rewrite this well-known fable in your own words **or** maybe write another fable with the same message?