

Lesson 58: Prose Paraphrase & Retelling — The Cunning Cat**PLL PART TWO****Prose Narrative • Story Retelling**

"One cold day, an old cat rolled herself up like a ball, and lay down on a mat before the fire. 'If I roll myself up like a ball,' thought she, 'the little mice will think I am asleep; and when they come out to nibble the crumbs on the floor, I will catch them.' Presently some little mice peeped out of their holes. Thinking the old cat was asleep, they began to nibble the crumbs and lick their paws. Suddenly the cat sprang up and caught them all with her sharp claws."

Oral & Written Retelling: Read carefully, study the sequence, and retell the tale in your own words.

1 CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Number the events from **1** to **4** to show the exact order of the story:

[____] Mice peep out and eat crumbs happily.

[____] Old cat rolls into a ball by the warm hearth fire.

[____] Cat plans her trick to deceive the little mice.

[____] Cat suddenly leaps and catches them in her claws.

2 WRITE THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Retell the story of "*The Cunning Cat*" in complete, sequential sentences using your own fresh language:

1. Beginning (Setting & Trick):

2. Middle (The Mice Venture Out):

3. Climax & Ending (The Surprise):

3 THE LESSON OF THE FABLE

What valuable lesson does this fable teach young animals or children about being watchful?

Moral Lesson: Be watchful because appearances can be _____

Lesson 58 Teacher Key: Prose Paraphrase & Narrative Retelling

ANSWER KEY & RUBRIC

Pedagogical Framework • Charlotte Mason Method

Pedagogical Purpose: Transposing poetic meter into narrative prose, internalizing sequential causality (Beginning → Middle → Climax → Resolution), and fostering original expression without mechanical copying.

1 SECTION 1: EVENT SEQUENCING SOLUTIONS

Chronological Sequence:

- **Step 1:** Old cat rolls into a ball by the warm hearth fire.
- **Step 2:** Cat plans her trick to deceive the little mice.
- **Step 3:** Mice peep out and eat crumbs happily.
- **Step 4:** Cat suddenly leaps and catches them in her claws.

2 SECTION 2: MODEL NARRATIVE RETELLINGS (STUDENT BENCHMARKS)

Exemplary Model Retelling:

1. *Beginning:* On a chilly winter day, a crafty cat curled up near the fireplace and pretended to sleep so she could trick the mice.
2. *Middle:* Soon, tiny mice tiptoed out of their dark holes to snack on tasty breadcrumbs across the floor.
3. *Climax & Ending:* Suddenly, the cat sprang into the air and trapped all the mice in her sharp claws.

3 SECTION 3: MORAL LESSON SOLUTIONS

Acceptable Moral Insights: “deceiving / misleading / dangerous.” or “We must always stay alert and never trust an enemy who pretends to be asleep.”

4 DIAGNOSTIC SCORING RUBRIC (4 PERFORMANCE LEVELS)

Evaluation Domain	4 • Exemplary	3 • Proficient	2 • Developing / Emerging
Narrative Sequencing & Plot	Numbers events 1–4 flawlessly; retains exact chronological progression with clear cause-and-effect.	Sequences events accurately; minor transposition between steps 1 and 2.	Confuses story order; narrative skips essential plot stages.
Original Voice & Vocabulary	Retells the fable in vivid original language without verbatim copying; rich descriptive verbs.	Retells fable clearly in student's own words with appropriate vocabulary.	Relies heavily on copying words directly from the prompt text.
Sentence Structure & Grammar	All sentences are complete, grammatically sound, with correct capitalization and ending punctuation.	Complete sentences with minor punctuation slips (e.g. missing period).	Run-on sentences or fragments; frequent capitalization errors.
Comprehension of Moral	Articulates a thoughtful moral or safety lesson reflecting the theme of deception.	Identifies basic lesson (be careful around cats).	Unable to formulate a moral or states an unrelated idea.