



# Study Guide:

## “Good Fortune”



## *"Good Fortune"*

### **Synopsis:**

Benny Fortune is a boy who lives at home with his mother and sister, Gwen, who is getting ready for her wedding. Benny does not want to go to the rehearsal dinner, and insults her dress. He also gives his mother, June, a hard time about going for a haircut and a new pair of shoes for the wedding. She insists that he get in the car and they go.

At Awesome Wally's barber shop, Wally tries to be friendly and give Benny a good haircut, but Benny is taking his frustration out on the barber. He treats Wally rudely and disrespectfully. Wally accidentally nicks Benny with a razor, further irritating the boy. Benny storms out, leaving a sad Wally alone in his shop.

Next, June takes Benny to the shoe store, but Benny is once again rude to a clerk named Rachel. At first, Rachel is super nice to Benny, but after he says some things that aren't nice, she turns colder to him as she sells him the shoes. He then looks out the store window and sees a boy named Jack, the local bully. He sneaks out the back door with June, to avoid running into Jack.

Outside, some local kids sing about "Apple Jack", the nickname given to Jack because of his love of apples. Jack makes all the kids bring him apples every day. Some kids walk around carrying an apple, just in case they run into Apple Jack. If he's not satisfied with the apple, he will demand 2 more the next day. No one ever confronts Jack about his bullying.

At home that night, the family eats Chinese food. Benny reads his fortune cookie, which says, "Be kind to others, and the rewards will be great." Benny decides to test his fortune, hoping he will be rewarded in some way. He starts by being nice to his mother that evening. June is perplexed by the change.

The next day, Benny goes to the park and runs into Skeeter, a boy who he normally ignores. But today is different, and Benny asks Skeeter to play. Skeeter confides that he is having trouble with a school science project, and Benny offers to help him. They agree to meet later at the library.

On the way home from the park, Benny bumps into the barber, Awesome Wally, trimming the hedges in front of his house. Benny apologizes for the way he acted in the barber shop, and offers to help Wally with his yard work. Wally accepts the offer, and asks Benny to rake up the apples from his apple tree. Benny works hard and Wally is grateful.

Later at the library, Skeeter gets help from the librarian, Rachel, who happens to be the same Rachel who works in the shoe store. She is super nice to Skeeter, but when Benny arrives, Rachel remembers him from the shoe store, and treats him very icily, not even wanting to help him at all. When Benny realizes who she is, he apologizes for his behavior the previous day. He even offers to walk her dog, since she doesn't have time to go home. Rachel is touched by his generosity and kindness, and tell him she misjudged him.

Later that day, while walking Rachel's dog, Benny sees Apple Jack in action. He tells Jack that he is being a bully about the apples, and needs to stop. Jack never thought of himself as a bully, but now realizes that Benny may be right. He agrees to stop taking other people's apples. Rachel enters, and thanks Benny for walking the dog, but Benny wonders if he will ever be rewarded for his kindness.

At home that night, Benny continues to be nice to his mother and sister. When he finally tells them he is behaving so kindly because of a fortune cookie, he also mentions that he never got a reward, as he expected. It is only now that he realizes his actions affect the people he meets, and the way they treat him back. His sister points out to him that that might just be the best reward of all.

**Questions:**

Q: Why is Benny giving his Mom and sister such a hard time in the beginning?

*A: He does not want to go to his sister's wedding.*

Q. At the barber shop, how does Benny treat Wally?

*A. Very rudely (not nice)*

Q: What is Wally's favorite word?

*A: Awesome.*

Q. Rachel has jobs at 2 different places. Where does she work?

*A: A shoe store and a library.*

Q: What is Benny's favorite part of the chinese food?

*A: the fortune cookie.*

Q: What does Benny's fortune say?

*A: "Be kind to others and the rewards will be great"*

Q: What is Skeeter's science project about?

*A. How planes fly.*

Q: What is Jack's nickname?

*A: Apple Jack.*

Q: What is the reward that Benny finally gets?

*A: People are nicer to him.*

**Suggestion:**

If you like, have the children draw their favorite scene from the show. You may mail them to us at: Sadecky's Puppets, 313 5th Ave., Tarentum, PA 15084.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

***“The New Kid” Student Worksheet***

*Write one or two words that describe each of the following characters:*

1. Benny
2. Wally
3. Rachel
4. Apple Jack
5. Skeeter

*Which character above might say this? (write the number)*

\_\_\_\_\_ I like airplanes, and always wondered how they fly.

\_\_\_\_\_ I hope you all have an awesome day!

\_\_\_\_\_ It's hard working two jobs.

\_\_\_\_\_ I love the fruit that hangs on a tree.

\_\_\_\_\_ My behavior affects the way people treat me.

# Word Search Puzzle

## CHARACTER MATTERS

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | V | Y | V | H | O | P | L | K | L | W | O | G | Y | C |
| E | S | G | R | Z | O | I | X | M | S | C | E | Y | P | O |
| S | N | B | X | I | A | H | E | O | R | I | P | M | P | O |
| P | V | O | T | R | U | S | T | W | O | R | T | H | Y | P |
| E | N | Y | I | K | I | N | D | N | E | S | S | S | G | E |
| C | T | D | Y | T | S | E | N | O | H | W | X | V | N | R |
| T | C | I | O | Y | A | Z | P | U | H | R | O | O | I | A |
| Y | T | I | L | I | B | I | S | N | O | P | S | E | R | T |
| M | A | L | Y | O | C | T | C | S | V | E | C | M | A | I |
| D | U | Q | I | D | P | I | Q | E | E | E | A | S | C | O |
| B | G | Y | W | E | P | C | V | P | R | N | A | D | B | N |
| S | U | O | E | T | R | U | O | C | N | P | R | L | B | I |
| A | P | Y | Y | R | J | T | P | E | V | Q | P | I | T | D |
| O | P | S | K | X | L | V | R | G | U | R | S | A | A | X |
| G | M | Z | H | X | I | S | I | Y | R | T | B | C | S | F |

APPRECIATION  
CITIZENSHIP  
FAIRNESS  
MANNERS  
RESPONSIBILITY  
BULLY  
COOPERATION  
HONESTY  
POLITE  
TRUSTWORTHY  
CARING  
COURTEOUS  
KINDNESS  
RESPECT

## **ABOUT SADECKY'S PUPPETS**

Sadecky's Puppets was founded by brothers Jay and Michael Sadecky, who had an early interest in the art of puppetry. As children they developed and performed skits for family and relatives. Some homemade puppets were made in the mid 1960's as a scouting project. By the year 1970 the Sadecky's were doing shows for private parties and holiday events. In pursuit of other interests, the puppets were put away until 1981 when Jay decided to revive the idea. He asked Michael to design and build a stage and construct some puppets for 5 seasonal productions. In 1982 Jay & Michael became full-time partners and for the next 5 years produced and rehearsed shows at home, until acquiring an office and workshop in Tarentum, Pennsylvania in 1986. Their sister Kathy and additional puppeteers were hired to perform shows (using 2 stages) simultaneously at different locations. Professional puppet makers and scenic artists began to aid in production design. The sales staff started marketing to nearby states and soon after that Sadecky's Puppets became the touring company that it is today. Our puppeteer troupes now travel to 14 different states, performing over 400 shows per year!

The productions deal with many different topics, including character education, storybook classics and holiday themes. We've created our storylines based on annual client surveys and also written reviews received from educators and audience members after each school performance. In this way, the viewer evaluates our performances, and the teachers have the opportunity to tell us what they would like to see in the future.

Having children of their own, both Jay and Mike recognize the importance of the nurturing and character building of today's children. Written into each script are issues such as respect, peer pressure and honesty. We hope that in this way the students will not only be entertained, but they will also learn valuable life lessons.