**S1 Robert Henryson: Aesop’s Fables: *The Two Mice***

Name…………………….. Class……………. Date………….

After you have read the story, answer these questions. For the questions marked \* you should take the words from the original Scots version.

1. In your own words, describe the different lives of the two sisters:

The Town Mouse ………………………………………………………………

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# The Country Mouse …………………………………………………………….

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2\*. Look at the first three stanzas; write down the word used for "she” ………

3\*. Write down all the words in these three stanzas which begin with "quh..”;

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How would we spell this today? ........

4\*. Look at stanza 29; write down three separate words which show that the mouse's home was a very simple place:

 .................. .................... ...........…..

5\*. Pick out from stanza 31 a single word which you think would have been spoken in a sarcastic manner.

……….......................

6\*. Can you find another sarcastic phrase, from stanza 35?

 ..…………………………………..

7\*. Copy out the line which shows why the Spenser did not interfere with them:

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8\*. Copy out the line in stanza 48 which sums up what the cat did to the mouse:

………………………………………………..

9\*. From stanza 51 pick out two separate words which show how glad the mouse is to be away:

 ..................... ...................

Moralitas

10\*. Look at the last line of each of the four stanzas; write down the three words which are exactly the same each time:

 .......................

11. In your own words, what do you think the moral of this story is?

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Things to do:

1. Make a list of an the kinds of food which are mentioned in the poem; you should look at stanzas 2, 30, 32, 38, 39, 41, 46, 50 and 52.

2. Henryson deliberately tries to make the mice seem partly human, like cartoon characters are (e.g. Tom and Jerry.) Which of these foods would not actually be eaten by real mice?

3. Henryson was using the foods that were familiar in his day; what foods do we eat now that he would not have known about? Why would he not have known?

4. There are many other details where Henryson is writing as if the mice were human (above all, the mice can *talk!*); find three other examples.

5. Imagine that some weeks have passed, and the Town Mouse is feeling a bit guilty about what happened to her sister. Write a letter in which she tries to encourage her sister to come to visit her again. (You should use as many words and phrases as you can from the original poem to help you.)

6. Write the Country Mouse's reply. (Two people may choose to do 5&6.)

7. The Country Mouse keeps a diary; when she gets back to her own home she writes an account of her stay with her sister. Write this diary entry, and try to make it seem frightening when she is frightened. (Use words from the poem.)

8. Each of the two sisters is worried about the other, and each writes to the agony aunt of *Peip!* magazine to get advice. Pick one of the sisters, write her letter and the agony aunt's reply. (Use words from the poem.)