Vasily's Thoughts

Part A

Use your knowledge of the story to help you write from the point of view of Vasily.

Can you imagine how Vasily felt the next day when he was woken by his father, having failed to catch the thief?

Fill in these thought bubbles to express the thoughts you think Vasily had running through his mind.

E.g.

I was so sure my plan to play my flute and stay awake would work.

Words to help you:
annoyed, frustrated, tired, difficult, impossible, nuts, treats, dancing, disappointed, painful, resentful, flute, Dmitry, father

Vasily's Thoughts

Part B

Use your knowledge of the story to help you write from the point of view of Vasily.

Imagine that Vasily emails a friend to tell him or her about what happened to him on the night he tried to catch the thief, describing his feelings at different points in the story. Write the email that Vasily might send.

To help you, here are the key points you could tell the friend about:

- why you were there in the orchard
- what happened to Dmitry the night before your night watch
- your plans to stay awake
- how the first part of the night went
- the point at which you think you must have fallen asleep
- how you were woken up
- how you felt when you were woken up
- how you feel now
- what you think will happen next

Failing to Catch the Thief!

To: myfriendalex@nextkingdom.ru

Subject: Failing to Catch the Thief!

Signature: Signature #2

Hi Alex,

Challenge Task

Can you write an email as if you are Ivan? Try to persuade the tsar, your father, to let you stay awake to catch the thief.

You may wish to do the following:

- state what you are asking for
- give your personal qualities to show that you would be successful if allowed to do this
- comment on where you think your brothers went wrong and how you would remedy these things
- the fairness point
- flatter the tsar to make him more likely to agree
- argue against any points you think your father will make (e.g. that you are young and foolish)

Let Me Catch the Thief!

To: tsarvislav@magnificentkingdom.ru

Subject: Let Me Catch the Thief!

Signature: Signature #1

Dearest Father,

Vasily's Thoughts **Answers**

Part A

Dancing and playing the flute really did help me stay awake.

At least Dmitry didn't succeed in staying awake.

I feel so disappointed in myself and now Father is disappointed in me too.

I was so very tired that I found it impossible to stay awake.

It was so painful when I was poked with the flute.

Part B

To: myfriendalex@nextkingdom.ru
Subject: Failing to Catch the Thief!

Hi Alex,

I don't know if you have heard but some of my father's golden apples have been going missing from his golden apple tree – you know the one he is crazy about in the orchard? He wanted us to try to catch the thief. He said that whoever caught the thief would get half of his kingdom. Well, as you can imagine, Dmitry was really keen to get his hands on all that power! He tried to stay awake first of all but he didn't manage it, sadly.

I was hoping he would catch the thief so that I didn't have to take a turn. Never mind though. I took my flute with me to help pass the time and to keep me awake. I also took some treats and nuts to munch on as I thought this might help too. I was pretty convinced I was going to stay awake, actually. I don't care about getting half of the kingdom, of course, but I would have liked to have succeeded at something, to have shown my father that I'm not completely useless.

I was doing very well and I'm sure I was still awake at two in the morning. I kept moving and played my flute around the orchard. At some point though, I guess I must have fallen asleep. I don't know when it was but the first sound I heard was my father shouting at me and (you won't believe this) he gave me a really sharp poke with my flute! It was so painful and was a horrible way to be woken up! I felt so disappointed in myself and my father was obviously really angry with me. I wish I could have caught the thief for him.

I still feel so down about it. I guess Ivan will have to have a turn now or maybe my father will let me try again. I thought I'd drop you an email, my old buddy, to see if you could cheer me up!

Thanks for listening and let's catch up properly soon,
Vasily

Challenge Task

To: tsarvislav@maginificentkingdom.ru

Subject: Let Me Catch the Thief!

Dearest Father,

I know you were angry earlier that Vasily didn't catch the thief so I thought it might be better to email you to ask if you would let me have a turn at trying to catch him.

I'm sure you'll agree that I have grown into a strong and intelligent young man and that I am more than capable of completing this task. I am quick on my feet, have swift reactions and my determination will ensure I stay awake to see who the thief is.

I think my brothers were ill-prepared for their night watching for the thief. I do appreciate that Vasily took snacks and a flute but I will make sure I am very well rested before I begin my night watch. I will also make sure I am very uncomfortable so that sleep just isn't an option for me.

I implore you, Father, to let me have my chance at doing this, just as my brothers have done. You have always treated us equally and have been a kind and fair father to us all. You have done so much for me. I want to do this for you, my wonderful, wise father.

I know some may say that I am young but I am not that young any more. I have grown up a great deal these past two years and I have shown through my studies that I am intelligent.

Thank you for considering my plea, Father. I really hope you will let me catch this dreadful thief for you.

Your loving son,

Ivan