1. Read “King Midas’s Golden Touch” worksheets 59-60.
2. Answer questions 1-5 on worksheet 61.
King Midas's Golden Touch
adapted from a Greek myth

Long ago, there was a Greek king named Midas. The king was a kind man who ruled his kingdom fairly and was loved by all, especially by his daughter. The king loved her as well, with all of his heart.

King Midas and his daughter often took walks in the royal garden, enjoying the beautiful flowers and birds. Sometimes the princess asked advice from her father. One day, she complained about one of the servants who waited on her.

"I do not trust her, Papa," the princess said, as she paused to admire a yellow butterfly.

"Why not? Has she done something I should know about? I shall dismiss her immediately," the king replied.

"To be fair, she has not done anything yet, but there is something about her that I do not like. It is her face. It is not the face of an honest woman."

The king stopped and sat on a bench, motioning for his daughter to sit beside him. "Let me tell you a story, child, that will help you put your situation in perspective."

The princess settled onto the bench and listened.

"There was a farmer who hired two young men to help him at harvest time. The men received free room and board. One of the men was handsome and smiled easily and always said what the farmer wanted to hear. The other was ordinary-looking and shy and only spoke when necessary. When the harvest proved less fruitful than anticipated, the farmer was forced to let one of the men go. He chose to keep the handsome man. Soon, he discovered that it was the other who had done the bulk of the work. The handsome man was lazy and useless. Do you understand the moral of this lesson?"

The daughter was thoughtful for a moment, then nodded.
"I do, Papa."

The king smiled at the princess, and the two resumed their peaceful walk in the garden.
Although the king was good at giving advice, he was not always good at taking it himself. He was also occasionally known to make foolish decisions. One day, King Midas did a favor for an elderly man who just happened to be a friend of the god Dionysus.

When Dionysus heard about King Midas's kindness, he rewarded the king by granting him one wish. Quickly King Midas said, "I wish for everything I touch to turn to gold."

"Your wish is granted," replied Dionysus and went on his way.

At first King Midas was delighted with his new power. When he touched the twig of an oak, it turned to gold. When he picked up a stone, it turned to gold. He fingered an apple in his garden and it, too, turned to gold.

"I am a lucky man, indeed! I shall be richer than any king who ever lived," the king said merrily as he danced around the garden.

Then the unthinkable happened. His beloved daughter ran to him, shouting, "Papa, Papa! How I missed you today."

Instantly, the king realized the drawback to his golden touch. "Stay back!" he cried. But before he could stop her, the princess took hold of his hands and kissed him, and he watched in horror as his beautiful, lively daughter turned instantly to hard, glittering gold.

Devastated, King Midas begged Dionysus to turn everything back to the way it had been.

Dionysus took pity on the king and granted his request. "If you go to the river and wash yourself," he told the king, "you will wash away your golden touch."

King Midas hurried to the river. When he jumped in the flowing waters, his gold-creating power passed into them. At home, he found that all he had touched had returned to its original state, including his daughter. He embraced her warmly and vowed never to make such a foolish mistake again.
Answer the following questions.

1. What is the theme of the story King Midas tells his daughter?
   A. Trust your instincts.
   B. Honesty is the best policy.
   C. Appearances can be deceiving.
   D. Don’t hire strangers to work for you.

2. Which detail does NOT belong in a summary of the farmer story?
   A. A farmer hires two men.
   B. A farmer has to let one of the men go.
   C. The men receive free room and board.
   D. The handsome man is lazy and useless.

3. How does the author demonstrate the theme of “King Midas’s Golden Touch”?
   A. by showing how happy the king is when he turns things into gold
   B. by describing the relationship between the king and his daughter
   C. by stating the theme directly in the passage
   D. by showing the harmful effects of the king’s wish

4. Which of the following BEST summarizes “King Midas’s Golden Touch”?
   A. A king helps an elderly man who is a friend of the god Dionysius. As a reward, Dionysius gives the king the power to turn everything into gold.
   B. A king gets his wish to turn everything he touches into gold, but when he accidentally turns his daughter into gold, he gives up his power to get his daughter back.
   C. King Midas and his daughter take walks in the garden. One day, he tells her a story about a farmer. Then, the king accidentally turns his daughter into gold.
   D. There once was a Greek king who was very popular and loved his daughter dearly. After he turns her into gold, he washes away his power in the river.

5. Write the lesson that King Midas learns at the end of the passage.