Lesson from Cobb’s New Juvenile Reader

Children in the mid-1800s used books called readers, like the example below, to learn spelling, do recitations, or read out loud, and learn moral lessons. A moral is something learned that teaches a person how to behave.
Read “Reading Lesson XI ‘About Little Charles’” on the left page above and answer the following questions.

1. What is one of the lessons or morals that the speaker is teaching Little Charles?

Come when an adult calls you; treat books gently and well; you will be rewarded for good behavior and punished for bad behavior—good behavior means you get to play.

2. How does a bad boy treat his books?

A bad boy rips his books.

3. If Little Charles is a good boy, what does he get to do?

He gets to pick a toy to play with and go play.

4. What does the speaker say is important when flying a kite?

Do not pull on the string too hard or it will break.

5. Little Charles can choose to play with a spinning top, ball, or kite. What would you choose to play with and why? What do you like to do at recess?

6. Pretend you have written this list for Little Charles. Think of a lesson or moral to add and write it below. Why is it important for Little Charles to know this?

1. Cobb’s New Juvenile Reader, No. 1, 1843