

The Characters

Choose one of the following characters from the story *Sunlight & Moonlight*:



Sunlight



Moonlight



Queen



Hermit



Princess



Demon-Bear

Name a time in the story when you got to know the character better.

- ◆ It could be when the character responded in a certain way, or acted in a certain way, or made an important decision.



*I got to know _____
better when on page _____, _____*

- ◆ Choose another character from *Sunlight & Moonlight*. Name a time when you got to know **that** character better, too.



*I got to know _____
better when on page _____, _____*

The Setting

A **setting** is *when* and *where* a story takes place.

(The word "setting" can describe where *everything* in a story takes place—such as **Tibet** for the story *Sunlight & Moonlight*—or it can refer to *specific scenes*.)

◆ *A setting seems real when it's described so well that you—as the reader—feel as if you were **actually there**.*

Choose one of the following **settings** from the story *Sunlight & Moonlight*:

Sunlight & Moonlight's
palace home

the
desert

hermit's
cave

Khan's
palace

cave of the
demon-bears

Draw a picture of how you imagine that **setting**:

Pretend for a moment you are the author of *Sunlight & Moonlight*.

On a separate sheet of paper, describe the setting you drew above. Describe it with enough **detail** so your readers will feel as if they are **actually there** and will imagine the setting **exactly** as you do.



The Main Idea

A **main idea** of a story is its **single most important idea**.

Another word used to describe a main idea is a **theme**. The moment you finish a story can be the best time to understand what was its **main idea** or **theme**. That's when you know how the story ended. You know the choices the characters made.

It's helpful to ask: "*What was the author trying to show me?*"

- ✓ Sometimes the **main idea** of a story is about **actions** such as **perseverance, courage, or creative thinking**.
- ✓ Other times the **main idea** of a story is about **feelings** such as **love, friendship, or kindness**.

What do you think was the **main idea** of the story *Sunlight & Moonlight*?



Did it have to do with the importance of **friendship? love? helping one another?** Or was it about something else? Write what you think was the story's main idea.



Discuss the Story...



What was the author's purpose in *Sunlight & Moonlight*?



I think the author was trying to show that...

◆ Classroom Discussion ◆

What do your classmates think?

You and your classmates will share your ideas of what was the author's purpose. Listen to what your classmates have to say, too!

After the discussion, do you think the author's purpose was the same as what you wrote at the top of this page? Or did you change your mind?

I feel the same way

I changed my mind

(Psst...it's okay to change your mind!)



This is what I think now, after our discussion.

Hidden Message

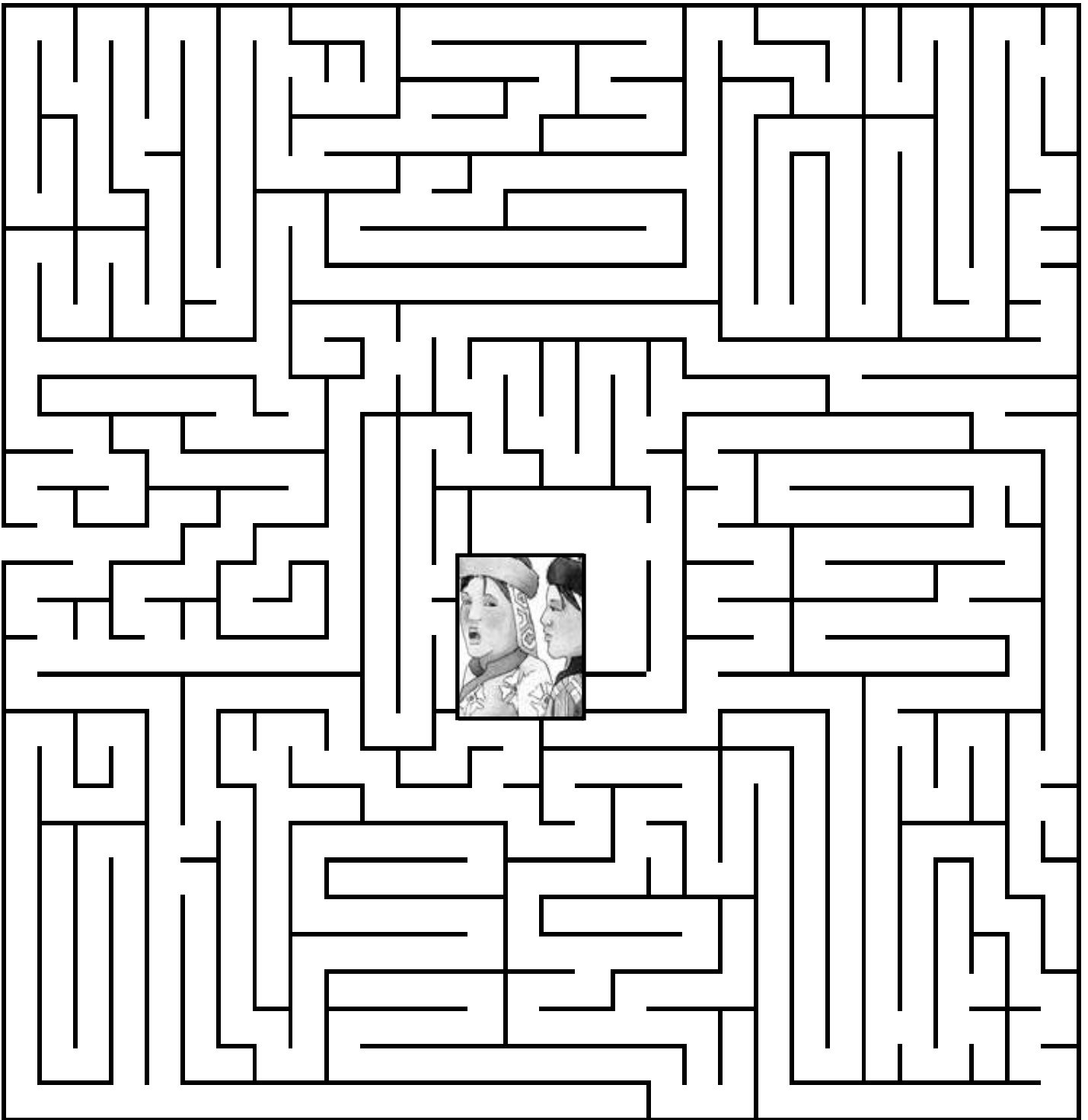
Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number. Read the hidden message.

NOS	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	13 5 20
HKNA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	15 23 11
GATO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	3 14
DORO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	12 9 4 24
TESRED	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	6 17 25 22
LIFFC	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	9 7
RYMRA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	1 8 2
TEME	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	18 10
EB	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	21 16

→
**Here is
the
message**

1	<input type="text"/>	2	<input type="text"/>	3	<input type="text"/>	4	<input type="text"/>	5	<input type="text"/>	6	<input type="text"/>	7	<input type="text"/>	8	<input type="text"/>	9	<input type="text"/>	10	<input type="text"/>	11	<input type="text"/>	12	<input type="text"/>	13	,
14	<input type="text"/>	15	<input type="text"/>	16	<input type="text"/>	12	<input type="text"/>	17	<input type="text"/>	18	<input type="text"/>	19	<input type="text"/>	20	-	21	<input type="text"/>	22	<input type="text"/>	23	<input type="text"/>	24	<input type="text"/>	25	

Escape from the Castle



Hidden Answer

Question: What should anyone puzzle over puzzles?

To Discover the Answer: Find the words listed below in the box of letters. The words may be listed forwards, backwards, or diagonally so look carefully! When you are done, the answer will be revealed! *(Don't worry if there are extra letters at the end of the message—that's normal!)*

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

CONUMDRUM

DEVICE

RIDDLES

CREATIVE

ENIGMA

SECRET

CRYPTOGRAM

MAZE

THINKING

Other Stories

with a Theme of Love & Friendship

Story Title: Janet and Tam Lin (*Scotland*)

Book: Wise Women: Folk Tales and Fairy Tales from Around the World

Author: Suzanne I. Barchers

Publisher: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1990

Page(s): 165-166

Synopsis: In the woods one day, Janet meets Tam Lin. They fall in love, but he is under an enchantment from the fairies and will be sacrificed soon on Samhein Eve (Halloween). Janet begs to find out how she can release him from the deadly spell. He sighs—the only way is both difficult and dangerous. On the day of his sacrifice she must grab onto him and hold on, no matter what happens. On Samhein Eve she waits for the fairy procession, then springs out and throws her arms around Tam Lin. Instantly, he transforms into a huge wolf with drooling fangs, then he changes into a hot glowing metal statue, then into a freezing cold statue, and finally into a huge bat struggling to get free. Somehow through the searing heat and cold and her own fear, she hangs on. At last she hears the fairies screech and sees a brilliant flash. Tam Lin regains mortal form and touches Janet's face in thanks.

Story Title: Damon and Pythias (*Italy*)

Book: The Book of Virtues

Author: William J. Bennett

Publisher: Simon and Shuster, 1993

Page(s): 306-308

Synopsis: Damon and Pythias are the best of friends. Pythias is arrested for having spoken out against the ruler of Syracuse, who promptly sentences Pythias to death for treason. When the young man asks to be released for a few days to say goodbye to his wife and children and settle his affairs, the ruler laughs— why should he be so foolish as to let the prisoner go? Damon offers to be the prisoner in his friend's stead until Pythias returns. The ruler agrees, adding that if Pythias does not return, then Damon will be executed in his place. So Damon is jailed and Pythias returns home. Days pass, but Pythias does not return. On the day of execution, Damon is led from prison to the executioner. Still, he does not seem worried. Suddenly Pythias stumbles in, pale and exhausted. He had suffered a shipwreck and bandits and made it just in time. The ruler is impressed with the true friendship shown between the two men and grants both of them their freedom.

Other Stories

with a Theme of Love & Friendship

Story Title: Brothers (*Israel*)

Book: Brothers

Author: Florence B. Freedman

Publisher: Harper & Row Publishers, 1985

Web site: www.storiestogrowby.com/stories/brothers.html

Synopsis: When their father dies, Dan and Joel share his land. As the years pass, Joel marries and has a family while Dan stays single. One year no rains fall and the wheat dries up. At night, Joel worries. Is it fair that they should share the land equally when his brother will have no sons to care for him in his old age? Joel scoops up grain from the barn and secretly takes it to his brother's barn. Meanwhile, Dan, too, is lies awake, worried. Is it fair that they should share the land equally when his brother has so many more mouths to feed? He, too, scoops up grain from his barn and secretly takes it to Joel's barn. In the morning, both brothers are amazed to see the wheat supply unchanged in their barns. Two more nights pass like this. On the third night they meet halfway. The brothers embrace.

Story Title: Savitri and Satyavan (*India*)

Book: Seasons of Splendour: Tales, Myths, and Legends of India

Author: Madhur Jaffrey

Publisher: Pavilion Books, London, 1985

Pages: 10-15

Synopsis: Princess Savitri travels far and wide to find an honest and decent man to marry. She marries Satyavan, a poor woodcutter who takes care of his old blind parents. On her wedding day, she learns her groom is fated to die in one year. Yet when the inevitable happens, she follows the King of the Underworld and pesters him until her husband is returned to her.

Story Title: The Girl and the Puma (*Argentina*)

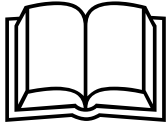
Book: Folk Tales of South America

Author: Shirlee P. Newman

Publisher: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., New York, 1962

Synopsis: (*Legend*) Maldonado, a 15-year-old Spanish girl, lives in a settlement surrounded by hostile Native Americans. Food is running out. The captain of the settlement refuses to allow anyone to leave. Nevertheless, Maldonado sneaks away to search for food. Finding shelter in a cave, she hears a puma in distress—the animal is giving birth. Maldonado helps the puma and, later, the newborn cubs. Before long, the girl is discovered by Native Americans who are hunting in the woods; they take her back to their village and are kind to her. Not long after that, the Spanish captain takes over the Native American village and Maldonado is returned home. To punish her for disobeying orders, the captain orders her tied to a tree and left. After three days, her family and friends sorrowfully seek her to bury her remains. Much to their surprise Maldonado is still alive, still tied to the tree, having been protected and fed by her friend, the puma.

Prepare to Write a Story Review



What is a story review? In a **story review**, an author explains what worked well in a story and what did not.

Good practice for writing a story review of *Sunlight & Moonlight* is to compare the story to another story you know.

- What story do you know that's similar to *Sunlight & Moonlight*?
Below are some story elements from *Sunlight & Moonlight*:

Characters:

- boys
- princesses
- kings

(other characters?)

- _____
- _____

Settings:

- country of Tibet
- the desert
- the cave

(other settings?)

- _____
- _____

Themes:

- friendship
- helping
- love

(other themes?)

- _____
- _____

- ◆ One story that's similar: _____
How it's like *Sunlight & Moonlight*: _____
- ◆ Can you name a **second** story that's similar in some way?
Story title: _____
How it's like *Sunlight & Moonlight*: _____
- ◆ **Challenge:** Can you name a **third** one?
Story title: _____
How it's like *Sunlight & Moonlight*: _____

Choose one story to compare in depth to *Sunlight & Moonlight*.
Write the name of the story here:

Try the same thing with **The Other Story You Know**.

Name one of the characters in *The Other Story You Know*:

Describe the character:

*Is it a girl? a boy? a human? a magical creature?
Is the character kind? bossy? brave? nervous? funny?*

Name one time in *The Other Story You Know* when you got to know the character better.



*I got to know _____
better when on page _____, _____*

Challenge! Can you name another time in the story when you got to know the **same** character better?



*I also got to know _____
better when on page _____, _____*

Try the same thing with **The Other Story You Know**.

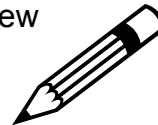
Choose one of the settings from that story: _____.

Draw a picture of how you imagine the **setting**:




Pretend for a moment you are the author of *The Other Story You Know*.

On a separate sheet of paper, describe the setting you drew above with enough **detail** so your readers will imagine it **exactly** as you do.



◆ **Compare** ◆


Consider the two settings you drew on these two pages.
Which one was more interesting?

 *I thought the setting of _____
was more interesting because _____

_____*

Try the same thing with **The Other Story You Know**.

What was the **main idea** of *The Other Story You Know*? What message was the author trying to get across?

 *As far as I can tell, the main idea was _____*

◆ Compare ◆

How clear to you was the main idea of *Sunlight & Moonlight* and *The Other Story You Know*? Rate each one on **THE MAIN IDEA RATING CHART**, below. Circle a **high number** if the main idea of the story was very clear to you. Circle a **low number** if it was hard to understand.

For "*Sunlight & Moonlight*" ⇨ circle a number from 1 to 10 in **RED**.

For "*The Other Story You Know*" ⇨ circle a number from 1 to 10 in **BLUE**.

~THE MAIN IDEA RATING CHART~

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

↓
The main idea of the story was hard to understand.

↓
The main idea of the story was easy to understand.

Challenge:

Choose one of the two stories. On a separate sheet of paper, suggest one way the author could have made the **main idea** more clear to readers like you.



State the Plot

...in fewer & fewer words

A **plot** is what happens in a story. The characters often face some sort of problem and at the end of the story, the problem is usually solved. How all this unfolds is the story's **plot**.

Try this: Summarize the plot of *Sunlight & Moonlight* in the lines below. Use no more than **50 words**.

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

Now describe the same plot, but this time use no more than **20 words**:

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

Challenge! Can you describe the plot with no more than **10 words**?

.....
.....

Try the same thing with ***The Other Story You Know***.

Describe the plot of *The Other Story You Know* in the lines below, using no more than **50 words**.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Now describe the same plot using no more than **20 words**:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Challenge! Can you describe the plot with no more than **10 words**?

.....

.....

Write a Story Review

When you write a story review, you're the one who says::

- why you think a story is good
- what could make the story better
- who you think will most enjoy the story

FIRST, rate *Sunlight & Moonlight* on **THE STORY RATING CHART** below.
Circle a number between **#1** (low) and **#10** (high) to rate *Sunlight & Moonlight*.


~THE STORY RATING CHART~

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
↓									↓
The worst story I ever read:									The best story I ever read:
.....								
.....								

NOW, answer two questions:


- (1) Why was *Sunlight & Moonlight* **better** than your **#1** choice for worst story?
(If *Sunlight & Moonlight* was your #1 worst story, describe why.)


- ☞ ● was it more fun to read? more exciting?
- were the characters easier to relate to?
- did the story leave you with a better idea or a stronger feeling?

 I thought "*Sunlight & Moonlight*" was better than my #1 choice for worst story for the following reasons:

Use an extra sheet of paper if you want.

(2) Why was "Sunlight & Moonlight" **worse** than your **#10** choice for best story?
(If *Sunlight & Moonlight* was your **#10** best story, describe why.)

-  ● was it less interesting? less exciting?
- were the characters harder to relate to? not as funny?
- did the story leave you with a fuzzy idea of what it was all about?


 *I thought "Sunlight & Moonlight" was not as good as my #10 choice for best story for the following reasons:*

* **Support both opinions!** Uh-oh!





IT'S SIMPLE: GIVE EXAMPLES

State your first opinion—that is, why you think *Sunlight & Moonlight* was a good story. Look at what you wrote on the bottom of on page 1 for ideas.

 *"Sunlight & Moonlight" was a good story because:*

Now support your opinion by giving one of the following examples:

-  ● a specific example from the story, or
- why the story reminds you of:
 - ✓ something that happened in your own life, or
 - ✓ another book or story that you know

 *This example proves that "Sunlight & Moonlight" was a good story:*

TRY ANOTHER ONE. State your second opinion—how you think *Sunlight & Moonlight* could be changed to **make the story better**. Look at what you wrote at the top of page 2 for ideas.



"Sunlight & Moonlight" could be a better story if:

Now support your opinion with a specific suggestion!



- I would cut the part where _____.
- I would add more in the part where _____.
- I would make (name of character) more _____ by (describe how).
- I would change (a part of the story) by (describe how).



This change would make "Sunlight and Moonlight" a better story:

GREAT! You just gave examples to support both opinions—why you think *Sunlight & Moonlight* was a good story, and how the story could be improved, too!

Now it's time to finish your review. Who would most enjoy the story?



- What age of reader is most likely to enjoy the story?
- What other kind of stories would readers enjoy if they liked "Sunlight & Moonlight"? (adventure? fantasy?) What specific books can you recommend?



You would enjoy "Sunlight & Moonlight" if you liked...

Reading Comprehension Questions

Circle the correct answer

Question 1

Long ago in Tibet, there lived a handsome prince named Sunlight. Sunlight lived in a splendid palace with his father the Khan, the ruler of the land. Sunlight's mother had died when he was a baby. Years later, when the boy grew into a young man, Sunlight's father married again. After that, Sunlight lived in the palace with his stepmother, the queen, along with her son, a lad named Moonlight.

Which sentence can be supported with evidence from the passage?

- A.** In Tibet, the palaces are more splendid than in other lands.
- B.** When he was a boy, Sunlight did not have a mother.
- C.** The new queen changed the name of her son to Moonlight so his name would be similar to Sunlight's.
- D.** At first, Sunlight was not happy that another boy was moving into the palace.

Question 2

"It is your son," whispered the wicked woman. "Sunlight has worked an evil charm upon me. I shall die this very night if I do not drink the blood from his heart!"

"The queen," the Khan thought to himself, "must be out of her mind; I have to humor her. Already I've given my kingly word which must not be broken. I will have a goat killed instead, and its heart given to her. When she is well again, she will be as glad as I that I deceived her in this way!"

What is the best title for this passage?

- A.** "Recipes for Dinner with Heart's Blood"
- B.** "Evil Charms and How to Avoid Them"
- C.** "The Innocent Goat: In the Wrong Place at the Wrong Time"
- D.** "The Queen's Evil Plan"

Reading Comprehension Questions, *continued*

Circle the correct answer

Question 3

Moonlight, however, was like one struck dumb with surprise and fear. He had indeed heard part of the conversation between the Khan and his mother, the queen. The two had been talking loudly as he had approached their door. As soon as he had recovered from the shock of his discovery, he ran to find Sunlight.

What is meant when it is said that Moonlight was "like one struck dumb with surprise and fear"?

- A.** Moonlight was so surprised and afraid he could not speak.
- B.** Moonlight was known to be not as smart as Sunlight.
- C.** When the Khan rushed by the boy, he accidentally struck Moonlight in the face.
- D.** Moonlight was afraid the Khan would strike him for overhearing the conversation with the queen.

Question 4

Not until the captain had gone far over the desert on their way to the Khan's palace did he remember that he had been told there were *two* boys living with the hermit. He stopped abruptly. Wheeling his horse around, he gave orders that the troop should return at once to the old man's cave. Sunlight's heart sank.

Why did Sunlight's heart sink?

- A.** He knew that the delay would only make the journey in the hot sun longer.
- B.** He was afraid that if his brother came along with him, the princess might fall in love with him instead.
- C.** He was afraid that the captain was going to take him back home, where the queen would try to kill him again.
- D.** He had hoped that at least his brother would escape capture by the soldiers.

Reading Comprehension Questions, *continued*

Circle the correct answer

Question 5

The princess quickly inquired who the lad might be. She learned he was a strange young man condemned, because of the prophecy, to be thrown to the demon-bears the very next day. She rushed to her father, the Khan.

Kneeling before him, she begged him to spare the life of this fair young stranger.

Why did the princess beg her father to save the life of the stranger?

- A.** She would rather save the life of a strange young man than to follow a prophecy.
- B.** She wanted the prophecy to come true because then her father would lose his throne and she might become queen.
- C.** She thought the strange young man might have a handsome brother who would be a good match for her sister.
- D.** She wanted to meet the demon-bears.

Question 6

Once freed, the princess went back to her father, who was overcome with sorrow and regret now that his anger had cooled.

Why does her father feel sorrow and regret?

- A.** He is sorry that Sunlight's brother, Moonlight, wasn't captured and may still pose a threat to his throne.
- B.** He is sorry he didn't get to see the cave of the demon-bears himself.
- C.** He is the sort of person who quickly gets angry, then feels sorry later for what he said.
- D.** He is sorry that his daughter escaped from the punishment he had ordered for her.

Sequence of Events

Circle the correct answer

Story Timeline:

Box 1 The queen tells her husband the only cure for her illness will be if she drinks the blood from Sunlight's heart.

Box 2 The two lads slip quietly from the palace and venture out into the desert.

Box 3

Box 4 The demon-bears are impressed with how much Sunlight and the princess care for each other.

Box 5

Question A

Which of these events belongs in Box 3?

- 1) Moonlight overhears what the Khan promises his mother.
- 2) When Sunlight becomes a young man, his father marries again.
- 3) Soldiers pound on the red door of the hermit's cave.
- 4) Once freed, the princess returns to her father, and he is sorry he sent her to the demon-bears.

Question B

Which of these events belongs in Box 5?

- 1) Pointing to the princess, the Khan cries, "Take her away!"
- 2) Sunlight and the princess catch a glimpse of each other.
- 3) The Khan gives his crown of his own free will to Sunlight.
- 4) Sunlight tells the soldier that his own dear brother was buried that day.

Answer Key - Multiple-Choice Questions

Sunlight & Moonlight

Reading Comprehension Questions:

Question 1 – **B**

Question 2 – **D**

Question 3 – **A**

Question 4 – **D**

Question 5 – **A**

Question 6 – **C**

Sequence of Events:

Question A – **3**

Question B – **3**

More Questions about the Story

A. 3

B. 1

C. 4

D. 2

Open Response Questions, *continued*

As you write, be sure to:

- Use your own idea.
- Write neatly and clearly.
- Use only the space provided.

Whootie Owl's Tip:

How to **ACE** these questions!

Answer the question that's asked—
read it careful

use **C**olorful words

give **E**xamples



Question 2

The princess' father changed his mind at the end when he decided to give his throne to the boy. Tell about a time when you changed your mind about something important. Why did you change your mind? Are you glad that you did or are you sorry?
