

Myth

- A **Myth** is a traditional story, especially one concerning the _____ of a people or explaining some _____ or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events.
- **Myth** usually features ruling _____, _____, deities, and heroes having god-like-qualities, but status lower than gods.
- **Myths** exist in every society, as they are basic elements of human culture. The main function of myths is to teach _____ and explain _____.

Question 4 in Questions Section:

PART A: Which of the following best describes the theme of the text?

- It's unwise for a person to make claims they can't support.
- Pride and overconfidence can lead to a person's demise.
- No matter how skilled a person is, their talents can't compete with gods.
- It's important to maintain a good attitude, even when you lose.

HINT: To figure out the theme of this myth, answer the following questions...

What happened to Arachne at the end of the story?

Why did this happen to her?

Question 5 in Questions Section:

PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “‘Surely Athena herself must have taught her,’ people would murmur to one another. ‘Who else could know the secret of such marvelous skill?’” (Paragraph 2)
- b. “‘Rest content with your fame of being the best spinner and weaver that mortal eyes have ever beheld.’” (Paragraph 4)
- c. “The excited crowd in the doorway began to see that the skill of both in truth was very nearly equal, but that, however the cloth might turn out, the goddess was the quicker of the two.” (Paragraph 7)
- d. “‘Live on and spin, both you and your descendants. When men look at you they may remember that it is not wise to strive with Athena.’” (Paragraph 9)

HINT: Which choice shows the consequences of the main characters’ actions?

- **Characterization** in literature is the process authors use to _____ characters and create images of the characters for the readers.
- With **direct characterization**, the author _____ us what he or she wants us to know about the character.
- With **indirect characterization**, the author _____ us things about the character to help us have an understanding of the character's personality and effect on other characters.

Question 8 in Questions Section:

PART A: How is Arachne affected when she hears that people believe Athena taught her how to weave?

- a. It insults Arachne and drives her to challenge Athena.
- b. It flatters Arachne and causes her to become too prideful.
- c. It angers Arachne, as her father is the one who taught her.
- d. It causes Arachne to become overconfident in her own abilities.

HINT:

Evidence	Inference
<p>“...she was immensely proud of the skill that had brought so many to look on her.” (paragraph 3)</p> <p>“Praise was all she lived for, and it displeased her greatly that people should think anyone, even a goddess, could teach her anything.” (paragraph 3)</p>	<p>What inference can you make about how Arachne is affected based on the evidence?</p>

Question 9 in Questions Section:

PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- “‘Surely Athena herself must have taught her,’ people would murmur to one another. ‘Who else could know the secret of such marvelous skill?’” (Paragraph 2)
- “Arachne was used to being wondered at, and she was immensely proud of the skill that had brought so many to look on her.” (Paragraph 3)
- “‘If Athena herself were to come down and compete with me, she could do no better than I.’” (Paragraph 3)
- “‘Rest content with your fame of being the best spinner and weaver that mortal eyes have ever beheld.’” (Paragraph 4)

HINT: Which choice represents the challenge made to Athena?

- **Foreshadowing** is when certain details or situations _____ at something _____ that is going to happen.
- A lot of times it is easier for the reader to see the _____ time he or she reads the passage, because the reader knows the _____ of the story.

Question 12 in Questions Section:

Identify two pieces of evidence that demonstrate how the author foreshadows Arachne's fate through her characterization.

Answer Box:

HINT: To figure out the evidence that demonstrates how the author foreshadows Arachne's fate through her characterization, answer the following questions...

What is Arachne's fate (how does she end up in the story)?

Which details hint at what will happen to her?

What is Arachne good at? What is a spider good at?

Another name for a spider is an arachnid- how could her name foreshadow her fate?

Review of Literary Devices:

- **plot/structure** - a literary term used to describe the _____ that make up a story, or the main part of a story
- **character**- any _____, a figure, an inanimate object, or animal in a story
- **setting**- an _____ or _____ in which an event or story takes place
- **theme**- a main idea or an underlying _____ of a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly
- **symbol**- an object, action or event _____ another, to give an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant
- **mood**- a literary element that evokes certain _____ or _____ in readers through words and descriptions

Question 5 in Questions Section:

How does the beginning of this passage develop the little boy’s character in the story?

- a. Rather than being immature, the little boy is shown to be clever.
- b. Rather than focusing on the kidnapping, the little boy attempts to find the fun in the situation.
- c. Rather than feeling sorry for himself, the little boy focuses on survival.
- d. Rather than being fearful, the little boy is established as being a handful.

HINT:

Evidence	Inference
“The kid was in the street, throwing rocks at a kitten on the opposite fence.”	What inference can you make about the boy based on the evidence?
“The boy catches Bill neatly in the eye with a piece of brick.”	
“That boy put up a fight like a welter-weight cinnamon bear...”	

Question 6 in Questions Section:

PART A: What does the word “prominent” in the paragraph most likely mean?

We selected for our victim the only child of a **prominent** citizen named Ebenezer Dorset. The father was respectable and tight, a mortgage fancier and a stern, upright collection-plate passer and forecloser. The kid was a boy of ten, with bas-relief freckles, and hair the colour of the cover of the magazine you buy at the news-stand when you want to catch a train. Bill and me figured that Ebenezer would melt down for a ransom of two thousand dollars to a cent. But wait till I tell you.

- a. Large
- b. Charitable
- c. Distinguished
- d. Friendly

HINT: To figure out the meaning of the word “prominent”, answer the following questions...

How is the word “prominent” being used? Who is it describing?

Are there any other words used to describe the same character?

Question 7 in Questions Section:

PART B: Which of the following phrases best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "The father was respectable"
- b. "a mortgage fancier"
- c. "stern, upright"
- d. "collection-plate passer"

Question 9 in Questions Section:

PART A: Which of the following best describes a theme of the text?

- a. There may be unintended consequences of committing a crime.
- b. Children can be more challenging than adults.
- c. Greed will only lead to tragedy.
- d. Parents should be more involved in their children's lives.

HINT: To figure out the theme of the passage, answer the following questions...

What was the kidnappers' plan at the beginning of the text?

Did the plan work? How was the outcome different than they planned?