

Strong Magic

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Long, long ago there was a boy who had no mother or father. He lived with his tribe, and was often very naughty. "That boy," they would mutter angrily. "He's a lazy good-for-nothing who never does as he's told. He won't work and he's up to all sorts of tricks."

When the dry season came there was no water in the streams, rivers and ponds, and the people had to walk a long way to the boreholes for drinking water. The boy didn't like walking. He stayed in the camp and, when the water-carriers came back, he would beg them for a drink. They always gave him one, but soon the time came when they were really angry with the lazy boy. "Go and get your own water," they shouted and they hid their water bowls.

One morning, when the men went off hunting and the women and children went to dig for roots to eat, the boy was left alone in the camp. He played around for a while, but began to feel really thirsty. He looked in the usual places for the water bowls, but they weren't there. Eventually he found them hidden under a bush, and had a good, long drink.

Then he thought of a naughty trick. "I'll hide those water bowls where those mean people won't be able to find them. Then I can have a drink whenever I like," he said to himself.

One by one, he carried the full bowls of water to a small gum tree. Quickly, he climbed up the tree and hid the bowls among the leaves. He was just putting the last one on a branch when, by some strong, strange magic, the tree started to grow up and up.



Questions

Remember to write the answers to the questions in your green notebooks.

1.

What kind of story is this?

- 1) ☐ a folk tale
- 2) ☐ a modern story
- 3) ☐ a true story

2.

"Long, long ago there was a boy **who had no mother or father.**"

Choose another phrase the writer could have used instead of the bold words.

- 1) ☐ an orphan
- 2) ☐ a sibling
- 3) ☐ a family
- 4) ☐ a single child

3.

Connect the numbers 1 to 4 to show the order of the main ideas in the text.

what happened one day

1

what the boy was like

4

what the boy decided to do

2

what happened in the dry season

3

4.

Why was water important to the tribe?

- 1) ☐ They had to walk a long way to get it.
- 2) ☐ It was magical.
- 3) ☐ It came from the streams, rivers and ponds.
- 4) ☐ It had powers.

5.

Why was the boy left alone in the third paragraph? Choose two.

- 1) ☐ The men had gone hunting.
- 2) ☐ They had gone to collect water.
- 3) ☐ The women had gone to dig for roots.
- 4) ☐ The children had gone to play.

6.

Do you think the water-carriers were clever?

Explain your answer.



7.

What trick did the boy think of?

- 1) ☐ He went and hid.
- 2) ☐ He hid the water bowls.
- 3) ☐ He climbed a tree.
- 4) ☐ He emptied the water bowls.

8.

"those mean people"

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to "mean" in this sentence.

- 1) ☐ lazy
- 2) ☐ poor
- 3) ☐ selfish
- 4) ☐ ugly

9.

What important things do we know about the boy from the story? Choose the best summary.

- 1) ☐ He had no mother or father and lived with his tribe.
- 2) ☐ He didn't like walking and he begged the water carriers for a drink.
- 3) ☐ He hid the full water bowls in the leaves of a gum tree.
- 4) ☐ He was lazy, never did as he was told and liked playing tricks.

10.

What important things do we know about the boy from the story? Choose the best summary.

- 1) ☐ He had no mother or father and lived with his tribe.
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- 3) ☐ He hid the full water bowls in the leaves of a gum tree.
- 4) ☐ He was lazy, never did as he was told and liked playing tricks.