



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 8

Answer Key

The Weaver of Stars

In the age before the sky had any pattern to it, the stars were scattered carelessly across the darkness, and travelers, farmers, and sailors alike often lost their way with no fixed points to guide them. In a village at the edge of a great forest lived a weaver named Isolde, known throughout the land for cloth so fine that people said it seemed woven from moonlight itself.

One night, an old traveler appeared at Isolde's door, cloaked and weary, asking for shelter from the cold. Isolde, though she had little to spare, gave the stranger her own bed and warmed what remained of her supper over the fire. In the morning, the traveler revealed herself to be an ancient spirit of the sky, testing the kindness of mortals below. As thanks, she offered Isolde a single wish.

Isolde did not ask for wealth or fame, though both were within the spirit's power to grant. Instead, she asked that no traveler ever again lose their way in the dark as so many had before her. The spirit considered this request for a long moment, then smiled and led Isolde outside beneath the scattered stars. Together, using threads pulled from Isolde's own loom, they wove the stars into fixed patterns across the sky, patterns that would never drift or fade: a hunter, a bear, a great winding river of light.

From that night forward, sailors could steer by the hunter's belt, and travelers could find true north by following the patterns Isolde had woven. The spirit offered to make Isolde immortal, to let her watch over her constellations forever, but Isolde chose instead to return to her loom and her ordinary life among the villagers she loved. It is said that on the clearest nights, if you look closely enough, you can still see a faint, silvery thread connecting each constellation, the last trace of the mortal weaver who first gave the sky its shape.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What problem existed in the world before the events of this myth?

Answer: a) The stars were scattered with no fixed pattern, causing travelers to lose their way

2. Who was the traveler who appeared at Isolde's door?

Answer: b) An ancient spirit of the sky testing mortal kindness

3. What did Isolde wish for, instead of wealth or fame?

Answer: b) That no traveler would ever lose their way in the dark again

4. What did Isolde choose at the end of the myth, when offered immortality?

Answer: b) She chose to return to her ordinary life among the villagers

True or False

5. Isolde was known for weaving especially fine cloth.

Answer: True

6. The traveler asked Isolde for gold in exchange for shelter.

Answer: False

7. Isolde accepted the spirit's offer of immortality.

Answer: False

Fill in the Blank

8. Isolde's cloth was said to seem woven from _____ itself.

Answer: moonlight

9. The spirit and Isolde wove the stars using threads pulled from Isolde's own _____.

Answer: loom

Think and Explain

10. This myth explains the origin of constellations, but it also carries a symbolic message about human values. What do you think Isolde's choice, at the end of the story, symbolizes? Use evidence from the text to support your interpretation.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers noting that Isolde's choice to return to ordinary life instead of accepting immortality may symbolize that genuine connection to community and everyday life is more valuable than fame or permanence, supported by her earlier choice to wish for others' safety rather than personal reward.

11. Compare this myth to other origin myths or hero stories you may have encountered. What common pattern or archetype does Isolde's journey follow, and how does recognizing that pattern deepen your understanding of the story?

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers noting patterns such as an ordinary person being tested by a disguised, powerful figure, being offered a reward, and choosing selflessness over personal gain, a common archetype across many cultures' myths and hero stories, which suggests the story is reinforcing a widely shared value around kindness and humility.