Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 4

Answer Key

King Midas and the Golden Touch

A Greek myth, retold

Long ago, in the land of Phrygia, there lived a king named Midas. He had a grand palace, beautiful gardens, and a daughter he loved very much. But Midas loved one more thing: gold. Every night, he counted his gold coins again and again, and every night he wished he had more.

One day, Midas helped a lost old man find his way home. The old man was a friend of Dionysus, a powerful god. To thank Midas, Dionysus offered him one wish. Midas did not need to think for long. "I wish that everything I touch would turn to gold," he said. Dionysus warned him to choose more carefully, but Midas would not change his mind. The wish was granted.

At first, Midas was thrilled. He touched a twig, and it became gold. He touched a stone, and it shone. He ran through his garden, turning roses into glittering golden flowers. "I am the richest king in the world!" he shouted.

Then Midas sat down to eat. When he lifted a piece of bread, it turned to hard, cold gold. When he raised his cup, the water became gold before it touched his lips. Midas grew worried. Just then, his daughter ran into the room and threw her arms around him. In an instant, she became a golden statue.

Midas cried out in sorrow. He begged Dionysus to take the wish away. The god told him to wash his hands in the river Pactolus. Midas ran to the river and plunged his hands into the water. The golden touch washed away, and his daughter was a living girl once more. From that day on, Midas cared more about the people he loved than about any gold.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What did King Midas love besides his daughter?

Answer: b) Gold

2. Why did Dionysus offer Midas a wish?

Answer: b) Midas helped the god's lost friend

3. What was the first sign that Midas's wish was a problem?

Answer: a) His food and water turned to gold

4. How did Midas get rid of the golden touch?

Answer: b) He washed his hands in the river Pactolus

True or False

5. Dionysus warned Midas to choose his wish carefully.

Answer: True

6. Midas's daughter stayed a golden statue forever.

Answer: False

7. At the end, Midas cared more about people than about gold.

Answer: True

Myth Words We Still Use

Today, people say someone has "the Midas touch" when everything they try seems to succeed or make money. This is called an allusion, a reference to a famous story.

8. "My aunt has the Midas touch. Every business she starts does well." What does this mean?

Answer: b) Her aunt is very successful at what she tries

9. Why do you think people still use the phrase "the Midas touch" today?

Sample answer: Because the myth is well known, so the phrase quickly shows that someone turns things into success, the way Midas turned things into gold.

Think and Explain

10. What is the theme, or lesson, of this myth? Explain your answer using at least two details from the story.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers such as: greed can cause harm, or the people we love matter more than riches. Details may include Midas being unable to eat or drink, and his daughter turning to gold when she hugged him.