ATHENA AND ARACHNE
PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

Read the following story and answer all the questions about it correctly.

Athena and Arachne

Long ago when Greek gods and goddesses roamed the Earth, there lived a young maiden by the name of Arachne. People knew her for her skillful weaving. The cloths she wove had such magnificent images that women came from all over to see them.

Those who saw her work said that Athena, the goddess of weaving, must have taught her. When Arachne heard this, she laughed and said she had taught herself. She also said, "Let Athena try to match her skills against mine. I'm sure I could win in a contest with her. If I lost, I would accept the penalty."

Athena was displeased when she heard of Arachne's claims. She decided to pay the maiden a visit. To give Arachne a chance to apologize, or say she was sorry, for her boasting, Athena disguised herself as an old lady and used a stick to walk.

Athena approached Arachne and spoke to her. "Your skill as a weaver is renowned, and I can see that you do your craft well. However, it would serve you to be more humble and not set yourself above the gods and goddesses. You should yield the goddess Athena's place to her and take back your boastful words. I'm sure Athena would pardon you if you made amends to her."

Arachne replied, "I don't need anyone's advice, telling me what to do. Athena is welcome to try and match my skills."

At those bold and foolish words, the old woman cast off her disguise and said, "It is I, Athena, and since it is a contest you want, I will give you a contest."

Arachne blushed when she realized that she was speaking to a goddess, but Arachne did not change her resolve.

The goddess and mortal took their places at their weaving frames, or looms. They wove thread in and out, and soon images appeared on the looms. Athena's images portrayed the power of the gods against various mortals, or people, who had displeased them. She meant her images as a warning to Arachne that her pride was both unwise and dangerous.

Arachne ignored the warning and wove images of scenes of the gods and goddesses doing foolish things. She showed the gods as feeble, or weak, and reckless. Arachne's work had no mistakes but was full of scorn for the gods and goddesses.

Incensed at Arachne's disrespect, Athena ripped up Arachne's cloth. Arachne cried out at seeing her work destroyed. In response, Athena said to Arachne, "You are foolish and vain, but I can see you love your craft, so I will take pity on you and not kill you. Instead, I will let you spin forever." With those words, Athena sprinkled a magic juice upon Arachne. Arachne's body shrank, her limbs changed, and her fingers turned into legs. Her belly grew round, and from it came a fine thread. Athena had turned Arachne into a spider to pursue her skill as a weaver by making and remaking spider webs.

PART A

Complete the following chart by drawing and dropping the correct words in each box according to the story.

Long ago when Greek gods and goddesses roamed the Earth.

Arachne defied Athena by telling that her weaving skills were better than the ones of the goddess.

Athena presents herself as an old lady to give Arachne a chance to apologize.

Greek goddess Athena

The goddess Athena punishes Arachne by turning her into a spider.

Athena reveals her identity and competes with Arachne.

CHARACTER
1.
SETTING
1.
PROBLEM
1.
EVENTS
1. 2.
SOLUTION
1.

PART B

Answer the following questions with clear and complete answers.

1. What do you think is the reason why Arachne challenges Athena?

2. Why do you think the goddess Athena was so upset with Arachne's challenge?

3. Why do you think at the end the goddess Athena punishes Arachne and doesn't forgive her?