

Part 3

Questions 19 to 26 are based on the following story.

Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer A, B, C or D. For each question, mark your answer on the answer sheet.

King Fergus and Queen Elinor ruled the Kingdom of Dun Broch in Scotland. They had triplet sons and a daughter, the beautiful Princess Merida. All four children were mischievous. Queen Elinor tried to teach Merida how to behave like a real princess but Merida liked to slip away from the palace to practise with her bow and arrow. She was a skilled archer. Merida was a rebellious and headstrong girl who did not fit the stereotypical princess role.

One night, the queen announced that three clans were coming to visit. Each would present a suitor to compete for Merida's hand in marriage. Merida was horrified. "I won't go through with it!" she shouted. To her dismay, the suitors arrived as planned. Merida sat waiting on her throne for the archery contest to begin. She knew she could handle a bow and arrow far better than the suitors could.

Once the suitors had taken their shots, Merida marched onto the field. The queen yelled for her to stop but Merida didn't listen. She fired her arrows and hit each target dead centre. She had won! Now she wouldn't have to marry anyone. Queen Elinor was furious at Merida for ruining the contest. She warned that things needed to be set right. "Marriage is what YOU want!" Merida shouted. Then she slashed the tapestry that depicted her family and ran away.

Merida fled into the woods where mysterious blue Will O' the Wisps, the spiritual, ethereal beings that represent past lives, led her to a cottage. Inside, she found a witch. Merida begged her to change her mother. The witch gave Merida a spell cake. Back at the castle, Merida presented the cake to her mother. She watched closely as Queen Elinor took a bite. At first, nothing happened. But then, she began to feel sick. Merida helped her get into bed.

The next thing Merida knew, a huge, furry shape was rising from the sheets! The witch's cake had turned Elinor into a bear. Worried her mother was in danger, Merida sneaked her out of the castle. Merida and Elinor-Bear first went to the witch's cottage and only found a message. "Fate be change, look inside; mend the bond torn by pride!" She would need time to figure out its meaning, but for now, she needed to teach her mother to fish!

Merida realised that to mend the bond and break the spell, she must repair the tapestry she had torn. After sneaking into the castle, Merida and her mother were discovered by King Fergus. The King drew his sword. "It's not what you think," Merida cried. The King wouldn't listen. He slashed at the bear, who struck back, knocking him to the ground. The noise drew the visiting lords and their sons. Terrified, Elinor-Bear raced from the castle.

Merida grabbed a needle and thread and the tapestry then jumped on her horse. She took her little brothers too. They had eaten the spell cake and turned into bear cubs! Merida frantically sewed the tapestry. They followed a trail of Will O' the Wisps to where Elinor was captured to save their mother. When Merida arrived, she wrapped the mended tapestry over her mother. "I want you back, Mum! I love you!" Merida cried.

Merida fought Fergus to keep him from killing Elinor until he was convinced when the three bear cubs helped stop him, and he realised they were his sons. King Fergus was shocked to realise the bear was his beloved wife. Merida felt a hand brush her hair. The spell had been broken! Elinor was human once again. The triplets were no longer bears. The Queen smiled at Merida. From then on, Merida could be a princess and be herself.

(Adapted from www.bedtimeshortstories.com/princess-merida-disney-story)

- 19 In paragraph 1, why was Merida not a typical princess?
- A Because she was attractive.
 - B Because she had three brothers.
 - C Because she was good at archery.
 - D Because she was disobedient and stubborn.
- 20 In paragraph 2, why did the three clans come to visit?
- A To scare Merida.
 - B To give Merida a bow and arrow.
 - C To compete to be Merida's husband.
 - D To take part in an archery competition with Merida.
- 21 From paragraph 3, why did the Queen yell at Merida?
- A Merida shot the suitor.
 - B Merida won the competition.
 - C Merida cut the tapestry and fled.
 - D Merida strode onto the field and launched her arrow.
- 22 In paragraph 4, who are Will O' the Wisps?
- A Reincarnated mystical beings.
 - B The ones who made the Queen sick.
 - C The witches who changed the Queen.
 - D The people who gave Merida the spell cake.
- 23 By referring to paragraph 6, what drew the attention of the visiting lords and sons?
- A King Fergus was furious with them.
 - B The appearance of the bears shocked them.
 - C The sound Merida made while sewing the tapestry.
 - D The commotion when the King attacked the Queen-Bear.
- 24 The phrase "mend the bond torn by pride" means
- A Merida had to cast a spell on her mother.
 - B Merida had to mend the damaged tapestry.
 - C Merida had to eat the cake to cure her mother.
 - D Merida needed to be a bear to save her mother.
- 25 At the end of the story, why do you think the Queen smiled at Merida?
- A Merida cast a spell on the King to save the Queen and the triplets.
 - B Merida bravely fought the King to save her and the triplets.
 - C Merida became a bear to save her and the triplets.
 - D The Queen and the triplets were humans again.
- 26 How did the incident change Merida at the end of the story?
- A She became a witch.
 - B She gave up archery.
 - C She married one of the suitors.
 - D She reconciled with the Queen.