

TOPIC 6. FOLK TALES

READING

Task 1. Read the passage and choose the correct answers.

Once upon a time, in an underwater kingdom, there was a mermaid princess. On her 18th birthday, the mermaid was allowed to come up to the surface. While she was enjoying the new view, she saw and rescued a handsome prince from drowning. The little mermaid returned to her kingdom but she still longed for the surface. Desperately, she sought out the Sea Witch who gave her a human form in exchange for her voice. She must also win the prince's love, otherwise she would die. When the mermaid met the prince, he didn't recognise her at all. Unfortunately, the prince didn't know that she once saved him and was in love with someone else. The only way to stay alive now was to kill the prince. Not able to do such a cruel act, the mermaid returned to the sea and waited for her death. However, thanks to her selflessness, she was returned into an immortal spirit.

1. What happened on the mermaid princess's birthday?

- A. She first came up to the surface. B. She first met the prince.
C. A and B are correct. D. A and B are incorrect.

2. What can be inferred from the fact that the mermaid still longed for the surface?

- A. She missed the prince.
B. She wanted to enjoy the view of the surface again.
C. She preferred leaving her underwater kingdom.
D. She waited for her next birthday.

3. What did the little mermaid do to meet the prince?

- A. She gave up her voice to receive a human form.

B. She accepted the risk of death.

C. A and B are correct.

D. A and B are incorrect.

4. Why does the writer say the mermaid princess was selfless?

- A. Because she exchanged her voice for the human body.
B. Because she loved the prince.
C. Because she finally returned to the sea.
D. Because she didn't kill the prince.

5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?

- A. The mermaid first saw the surface on her 18th birthday.
- B. The mermaid couldn't live another life after her death.
- C. The Sea Witch helped the princess become human.
- D. The prince didn't realise the mermaid when they met again.

Task 2. Read this fable, and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each gap.

Wisdom

A farmer was ploughing his field. Sometimes, he shouted at and beat the buffalo that was (1) _____ the plough. A tiger happened to stroll along the edge of the field.

"Buffalo, you are so big. (2) _____ do you let this weak man beat you?", he asked.

The buffalo answered, "The man is small (3) _____ his wisdom is big."

The tiger did not understand what wisdom was (4) _____ he shouted at the man. "Hey you, man, what is wisdom? Let me see it."

"Wisdom? Oh, my wisdom (5) _____ at home", replied the man, looking at the tiger's teeth and claws.

"Go home (6) _____ get it. Bring it here so that I can see it", the tiger ordered.

"Oh, no! I am afraid that you will eat my buffalo (7) _____ I am gone. (8) _____ you agree to be tied with rope. I will run home and fetch my wisdom."

The tiger agreed. (9) _____ fastening the tiger, the farmer beat its back.

"(10) _____ is my wisdom. This is my wisdom", he explained.

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|-----|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. | A.pull | B.pulling | C.pulled | D.to pull |
| 2. | A.What | B.How | C.When | D.Why |
| 3. | A.and | B.but | C.so | D.or |
| 4. | A.and | B.but | C.although | D.so |
| 5. | A.is | B.are | C.was | D.were |
| 6. | A.but | B.and | C.so | D.yet |
| 7. | A.why | B.while | C.although | D.if |
| 8. | A.While | B.Because | C.Although | D.If |
| 9. | A.Before | B.After | C.Because | D. But |
| 10. | A.Here | B.There | C.She | D.That |

Task 3. Read this legend, then answer the following questions..

Kitchen Gods

Once upon a time, there was a childless couple. The wife was faithful and loved the husband passionately while the husband was treated his wife badly. One day he beat the poor wife with a stick and dismissed her from home. The woman had come to another place. She then got married with a kind man, and they lived in harmony.

One afternoon when her husband had gone for hunting, a beggar came and asked for some food. The woman was kind; filled the poor beggar's bag and recognized that the beggar was her former husband. The man also recognized his wife then. She felt sorry for the man when hearing that from the day he dismissed her, he was deeply sad and regretful. So he decided to go away to find her until he spent all money and became a beggar.

After being offered a big meal, the man was drunk so the woman had to drag him out and hid him in a stack of straw because it was time for her recent husband to come back from the forest.

After a while, there was a knock at the door, the hunter appeared with a deer on his back. He then happily asked the woman to go to the market to prepare for the dinner. When the woman came back, she found that the stack of straw, where her drunk former husband was sleeping, had been burned with a deer roasted. She cried painfully, and then jumped into the fire. The hunter didn't know what had happened and what to do but jumped into the fire to die beside his wife.

At that moment, God was in the heaven, he was moved by the story so he turned three of them into three parts of the earthen tripod so that they could live side forever and conferred them with the title of Kitchen God to oversee all the cooking of people. Every year, they all together came back to the heaven on the 23rd of the 12th lunar month to report to God.

1. Why did the wife have to leave for another place?

2. What did the former husband do after dismissing his wife from home?

3. Why did the wife jump into the fire?

4. What did the hunter do then?

5. Why did God turn them into three parts of the earthen tripod?
