



Read the text and choose the right options to complete the sentences.

### Viy

"Viy" is a horror story by the famous Russian writer Nikolai Gogol. The title refers to the name of a demon central to the plot. The story concerns three students from the Bratsk Monastery at Kiev. Three students from the seminary were hiking home for the summer. Unfortunately, they lost their way in the dark. Being hungry and afraid of wolves, they asked for lodging at the first farmyard on their way. An old woman at first refused to take them in, saying that she was afraid of "such big fellows." They swore that they would behave themselves. The old woman invited them in, saying "What fine young gentlemen the devil has brought us!" She gave them all separate places to sleep. Khoma was given a place in the sheep pen.

In the middle of the night, Khoma was awakened by the old woman. She reached out her arms toward him and he found himself strangely powerless to move away from her. She leapt onto his back with the swiftness of a cat and began to ride him, beating him on his side with a broom. To his amazement and horror, Khoma carried the old woman out into the wide plain. The sun replaced the moon, and he saw a beautiful water nymph. Realizing that he was in the power of a witch, Khoma began to recite all the prayers he knew against evil spirits. The old woman's power seemed to fade, and he, as quick as lightning, stopped carrying her and jumped onto her back instead. As she started to carry him, he picked up a piece of wood from the roadside and began to beat her with it. The moon came back into its former place and she fell exhausted onto the ground. As Khoma looked at her, he saw she had transformed into a lovely young woman. Khoma, shaken by his experience with the old woman, ran all the way back to Kiev, forgetting his companions. He thought no more about his extraordinary adventure.

Meanwhile, rumours were circulating that the daughter of one of the richest Cossack commanders had returned one day from a walk, severely injured, hardly able to crawl home to her father's house, and was lying at the point of death, expressing the wish that one of the Kiev seminarists, the philosopher Khoma Brut, should read the prayers and the psalms over her for three nights after her death. He refused to go but several Cossacks brought him by force to the village where the girl lived.

When he saw the corpse, he understood it was the witch he had overcome earlier. Khoma didn't wish to say prayers over her body at night. On the first night, as he began to say prayers, the witch sat up in her coffin. She began to walk around trying to approach Khoma, but he drew a circle of protection around himself that she could not cross. Then she went into her coffin and flew about the church in it, trying to frighten him out of the circle. Dawn arrived, and Khoma had survived the first night. The next night, the same thing happened.

In the morning, Khoma was more dead than alive, he was pale and leaning against a wall. He tried to escape the next day but was captured and brought back to finish. On the third night, the witch's corpse was even more terrifying, and she called the demons and monsters around her to bring Viy into the church. Khoma realized that he shouldn't look at the creature, but he did and saw a horrible iron face staring at him. Viy pointed in his direction, and the monsters leapt upon him. Khoma died of horror. However, the monsters missed the first crowing of the rooster and were unable to escape the church when a new day began.

The story ends with Khoma's other two friends commenting on his death, agreeing that he only came to his end, because he showed fear of the demons.

1. "Viy" is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. story about Gogol's experience
  2. detective story
  3. fairytale
  4. film script
2. The old woman greeted the students on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. God
  2. the fairy
  3. the demon
  4. her husband

- 3. At night, the old woman used Khoma as a \_\_\_\_\_.**
1. cat
  2. stick
  3. bird
  4. horse
- 4. Khoma carried the witch to the plain and there \_\_\_\_\_.**
1. he had to obey all her orders
  2. his friends helped him
  3. he fell down dead
  4. he took away her power
- 5. At the end of the ride the witch turned into \_\_\_\_\_.**
1. the devil
  2. an old man
  3. a beautiful girl
  4. a monster
- 6. Khoma came to the church to pray for the girl because \_\_\_\_\_.**
1. he wanted to
  2. he felt guilty
  3. her father asked
  4. he was made to
- 7. Khoma managed to stay alive during the first night because he \_\_\_\_\_ .**
1. read prayers
  2. was accompanied by his friends
  3. drew a magical circle
  4. recognized the girl
- 8. Khoma died because \_\_\_\_\_.**
1. the monsters were strong
  2. there were many creatures to fight
  3. he was frightened
  4. he forgot the prayer