

5th grade English exam - III bimester

Reading Section

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read these parts of the book JASON AND THE GOLDEN FLEECE, and then answer the questions:

Chiron had taught Jason the story of the Golden Fleece, which was said to be hidden in a faraway land, guarded by a dragon that never slept. Jason was determined to find it, but he needed some help!

Jason had a magnificent ship built, which he called the Argo. Jason then found fifty of the most talented, and strongest heroes in the land. They called themselves the Argonauts.





Finally, the Argo set sail. They sailed and sailed, until they reached a distant land, where the king greeted Jason and the Argonauts. But the king was in no mood for festivities or celebrating the arrival of his new guests.

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The king was very weak because every night harpies came to his dining hall. These birds with human faces caused a racket and stole all the food! He could never get anything to eat, and he was growing thinner every day.



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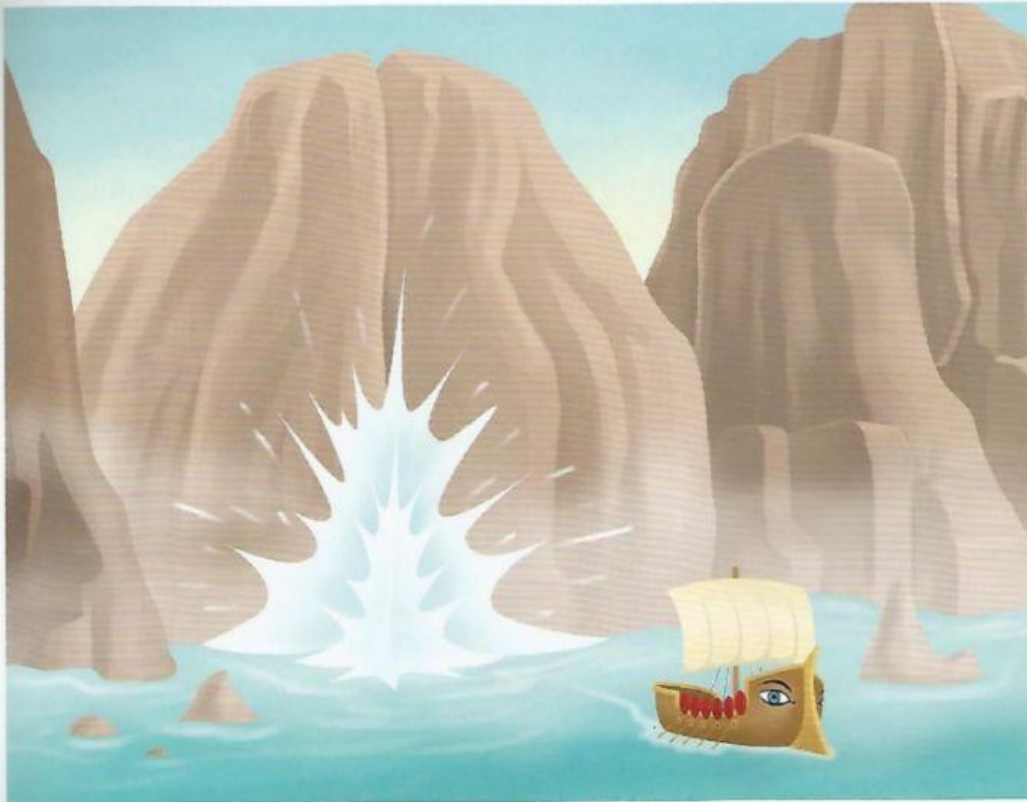
Fortunately, two of the talented Argonauts were descendants of the North Wind, and had the power to fly! So that night, when the harpies came, the flying Argonauts chased them away! The king was overjoyed.

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"Thank you for your help," said the king to Jason. "I have heard that you are in search of the Golden Fleece. Be warned, you will soon have to sail between two mighty rocks. They will crash together when you pass between them! Instead, take this swift bird and let it fly before you—the rocks will try to close on it, and if you follow quickly, they will not have time to shut again!"



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Jason thanked the king for his advice, and did just what he said. He sent the bird through first, and the bird flew faster than any ship, and made it through unharmed. The Argonauts followed, rowing as hard as they could when the rocks reopened. They made it safely to the other side before the rocks came crashing together again!

Questions:

1.- In few words, what is the story of the Golden Fleece? _____

2.- What was the name of Jason's ship? _____

3.- Who were the Argonauts?_____

4.- What is a "harpie"?_____

5.- What do the harpies do in the night?_____

6.- What is a racket? (in the context of the story)_____

7.- In the story two talented Argonauts (Calais and Zetes) were descendants of Boreas, what name does the story use for Boreas?_____

8.- What did Calais and Zetes do with the harpies?_____

9.- What does the swift bird do in order to help Jason and the Argonauts?_____

10.- In the story, what do the mighty rocks do?_____
