

Fiction Inferencing Assessment

Directions : Read the text below. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Hazelnut Child

Long ago, there lived a man and a woman who longed for a child. They wished and wished for a child of their own every night before going to sleep. One night they wished, "Oh please. We long for a child! Even if he were the size of a hazelnut, we would love and cherish him." The next morning, they arose and were gifted a child the size of a hazelnut, just as they had asked. The couple rejoiced and took care of their sweet boy.

When the hazelnut child turned fifteen, his father asked him, "What are you going to do next, my son? It is time for you to think of the future."

"I want to be a messenger," the child replied.

"My dear boy," his mother exclaimed. "This would be a very difficult job for you. For every step you take, a grown boy could take one hundred steps. Your journeys would be very long."

"Let me prove myself," the hazelnut child stated. "Give me a message!" So his mother told him to retrieve a comb from his aunt in the neighboring village. His parents stood at the door as he went on his way.

Not far from his house, the hazelnut child found a man on horseback heading toward his aunt's village. He crept onto the horse and settled into the saddle bag. He pinched the horse until it ran as fast as the wind. The horse did not stop until it had reached the village.

The hazelnut child leapt off the horse as soon as it slowed. They had arrived at the village. He found his aunt's home, and she happily sent him on his way with one of her combs.

Another horse galloped by, and the hazelnut child leaped once again to hitch a ride. He arrived home quickly and presented the comb to his parents. "You see!" he beamed. "A messenger is the job for me!"

The next day, the hazelnut child flew on the back of a stork to a glorious kingdom. There, he met the king. The king was so amazed by the hazelnut child- he had never seen a child so small who could ride storks like they were horses. He gifted the hazelnut child a diamond larger than the boy himself. The hazelnut child flew home on the stork and presented his parents with the king's gift. From then on, the hazelnut child and his parents had happiness and wealth.

1. What line from the story shows that the couple desperately wanted a child?

2. What evidence from the story proves that the hazelnut child was determined to prove that he can accomplish his goals even though he is small?

3. Read the line from the story:

The king was so amazed by the hazelnut child- he had never seen a child so small who could ride storks like they were horses.

What can you infer about the king based on this line?

- a. He is impressed by the hazelnut child.
- b. He dislikes the hazelnut child.
- c. He wants the hazelnut child to stay with him.
- d. He is very wealthy.

4. The hazelnut child improved his family's life by-

- a. Delivering messages
- b. Returning from the king with a diamond
- c. Riding horses and storks
- d. Retrieving his aunt's comb from her home