

MYTHOLOGY



Print Partner Title / First Line	Skill
A Man and His Wife	Identifying and Retelling the Main Idea
The King with the Golden Touch	Determining Cause and Effect
A History of Myths	Determining Meanings of Synonyms and Antonyms
The Hippopotamus and the Tortoise	Understanding Metaphorical and Symbolic Words
Olympic History	Determining the Meaning of Synonyms and Antonyms

- Print Partners are bundled by theme only. Grade level bundles are available.
- Each Print Partner is a stand-alone worksheet. Pagination on the bottom of each page denotes numbering designed for individual worksheets.

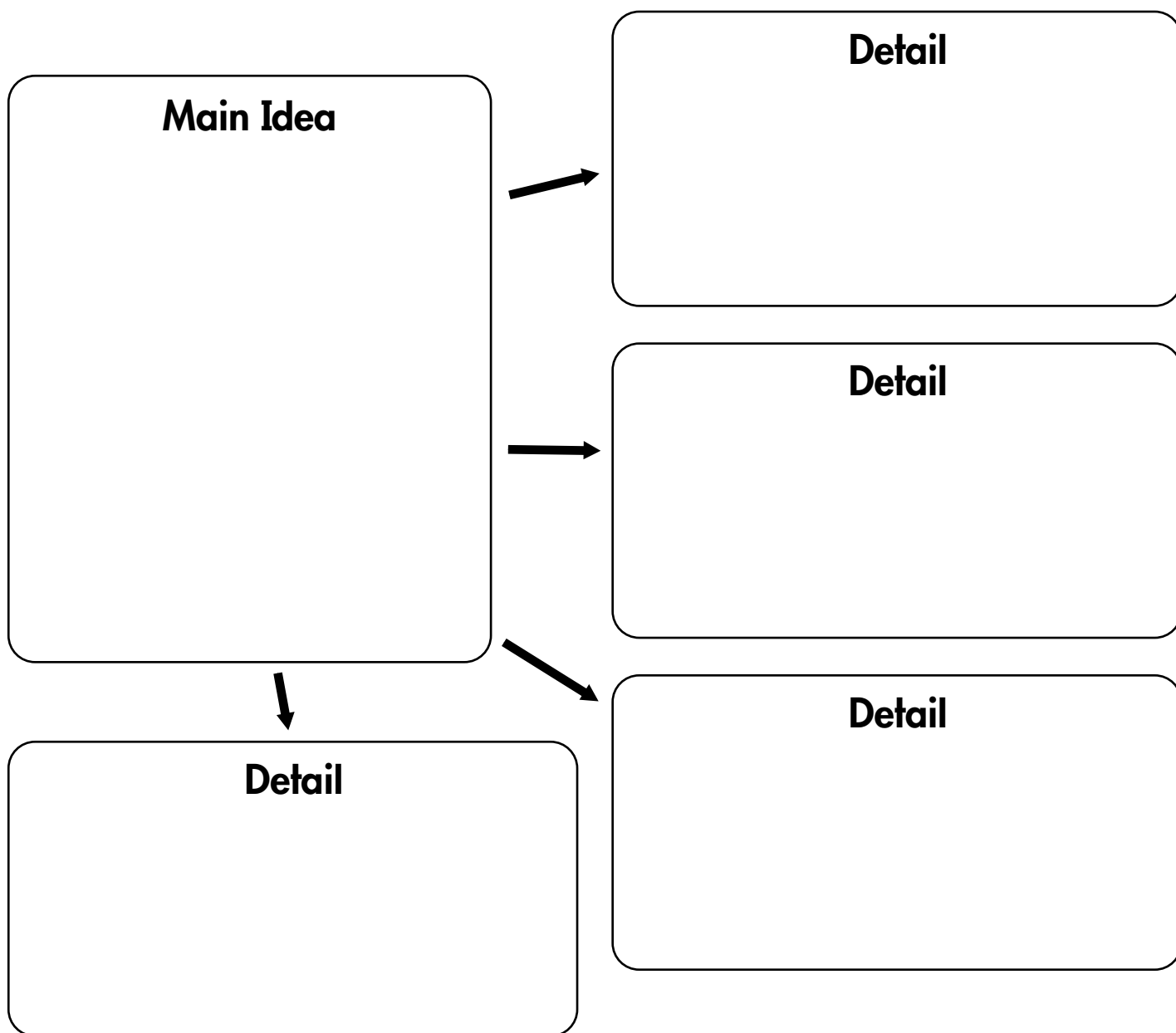


Identifying and Retelling the Main Idea

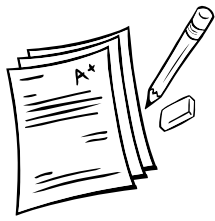
Directions: Read the myth below. Then write the main idea of the myth in the middle of the circle. At the end of each arrow, write a detail from the myth that supports the main idea.

A Man and His Wife

The god Zeus and his son Hermes visited a small, valley town. They disguised themselves as common beggars by wearing old, ripped clothing. The gods went to many houses in the town. They asked each family for food. They also asked for a warm place to sleep. But the people refused to help. Finally, the two gods came to a small hut. A man and his wife lived in the hut. Although they were old and poor, the couple welcomed the disguised gods. They fed Zeus and Hermes a hot meal and treated them with kindness. The grateful gods asked the man and his wife to follow them to a nearby hill. Suddenly, the day grew dark as night. The selfish people of the town ran away in fright. Then the poor couple's hut turned into a beautiful temple. The man and his wife lived happily in the temple for the rest of their days.



Directions: Retell the myth in your own words. Write in complete sentences.



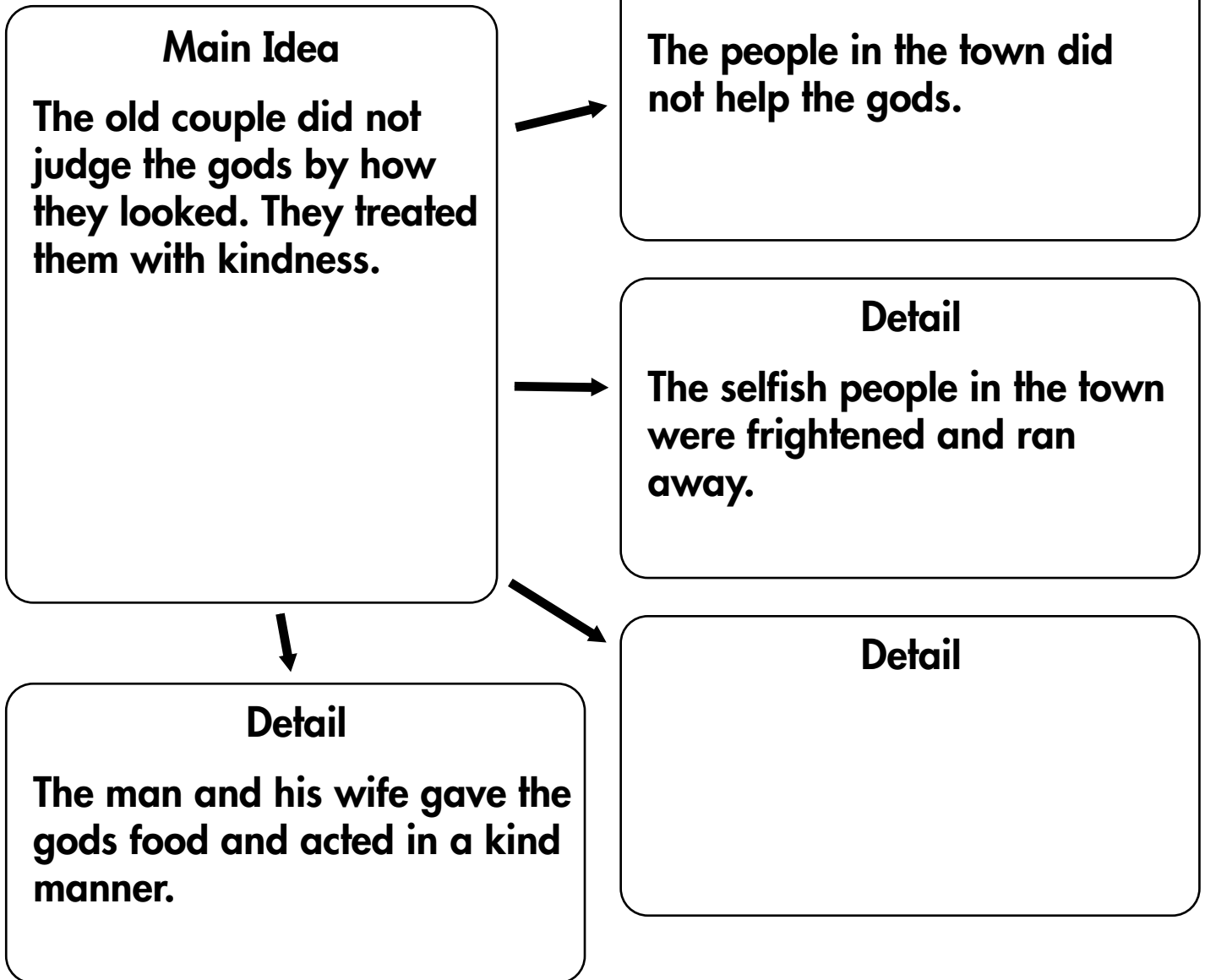
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Responses should be similar to the following:



Directions: Retell the myth in your own words. Write in complete sentences.

Answers will vary. Possible response: Two gods come to a town in a valley. They dress as beggars to see how the townspeople will treat them. Only one couple offers help. The gods reward that couple with a beautiful temple. The couple lives happily ever after.



Determining Cause and Effect

Directions: Read the myth below. Then complete the activities that follow.

The King with the Golden Touch

King Midas was a very rich and greedy king. Nothing made the king happier than counting all his gold coins. One day, the god Dionysus gave King Midas one wish. Midas made a selfish wish. He wished that everything he touched would turn to gold. King Midas touched a chair, and it turned to gold. He touched a flower, and it turned to gold. He even turned his servants and his children to gold! The king ran around his kingdom turning everything to gold. Because of his golden touch, the king became awfully lonely and sad. He had no one to talk to or to love. The king begged Dionysus to take away his wish. Dionysus agreed. King Midas spent the next several weeks turning everything in his kingdom back to normal.



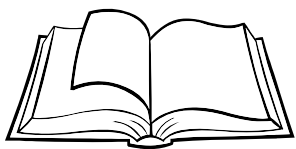
1. Summarize the main action in the passage.

2. Underline the words or phrases that describe the causes of the main action.

3. List the effects of the main action.

4. What do you think King Midas learned?





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1. Summarize the main action in the passage. **Answers will vary.**

Possible response: Everything King Midas touched turned to gold.

2. Underline the words or phrases that describe the causes of the main action.

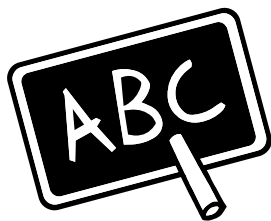
3. List the effects of the main action. **Answers will vary.**

Possible responses: A chair turned to gold. The king's children turned to gold. The king became lonely and sad. The king had no one to talk to or love.

4. What do you think King Midas learned? **Answers will vary.**

Possible response: King Midas learned that his family was more important than gold.





Determining Meanings of Synonyms and Antonyms

Directions: Read the article. Then complete the table that follows.

A History of Myths

Science and technology answer many questions about life and our planet. We know why the sun sets each day. We know why the seasons change. We know how many diseases are spread and what causes natural disasters. But thousands of years ago, people did not have the knowledge needed to explain these events. Instead, they made up stories to describe the world around them. Today these stories are known as myths.

Mythology is a collection of stories that belong to a group of people. The myths explain why things happen or how things came to be for a particular culture. Some myths tell about the causes of earthquakes and violent storms. Other myths describe why people make mistakes or what makes a person a hero. These stories were passed from one generation to the next. Over time, the stories became accepted as truth.

Each culture has its own set of myths. The myths are based on the beliefs and experiences of its people. Many American Indian myths involve animals. One myth tells the story of the White Buffalo Woman. This spirit brought buffalo to the plains to save the tribes from starving. Another myth describes how a crow dragged daylight across the sky.

Chinese myths tell many stories about the earth, the heavens, and early emperors. One myth explains how a foolish old man wanted to move the mountains he lived behind so he would not have to walk around them. Eventually, a god ordered his sons to carry the mountains on their backs. They ended up creating two Chinese mountain ranges. Another Chinese myth, called “The Ten Chinese Suns,” describes how a goddess and her emperor husband had ten suns as children. Each child was dragged across the sky during the ancient ten-day week.

The Greeks provided many myths about supernatural beings. In Greek mythology, the Greek god Zeus ruled the heavens, and Zeus's brothers, sisters, and children controlled many earthly events. Zeus's brother, for example, is the god of the sea. Zeus's daughter is the goddess of love. Each of these gods and goddesses were similar to ordinary men and women, but they were much more powerful, beautiful, and heroic.

Unfortunately, the Greek gods and goddesses also had many faults that humans have. They were often extremely proud, jealous, and unforgiving. Having these qualities and interfering with human lives affected events in their lives. One Greek myth describes how the sea god created a flood to punish the selfish people who lived in the nearby town. Another Greek myth explains how the echo was made when the goddess Hera became outraged at a girl who spoke too much, and she made the girl repeat only the words of others.

Today we have contemporary myths. The story of the Loch Ness Monster is one popular, modern myth. People in Scotland saw strange movements in Loch Ness Lake. To explain the odd sightings, people said a monster lived there. Others said the monster was actually a dinosaur. As the story grew, it became well-known throughout the world. As a result, today many people believe the Loch Ness monster is a fact rather than a work of fiction.

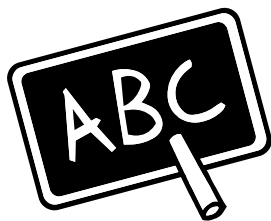
It is human nature to be curious about the world and why things happen. Science and technology answer a lot of these questions, but not all questions have answers. Sometimes a good myth helps to explain the unknown and create some peace of mind.

Directions: Follow the steps below to complete the table. Two sentences have been done for you.

1. Read the words in the first column.
2. Find and circle each word in the passage.

3. Use the context clues to think of a synonym and antonym.
4. Write a sentence for each synonym and antonym.
5. Underline the synonym or antonym in the sentence.

Word	Synonym	Antonym
beautiful	Ms. Fukuda looked <u>attractive</u> in her new hat.	
created		
fact		
love		We <u>hate</u> to leave our friends at the end of the day.
popular		
powerful		
strange		
truth		



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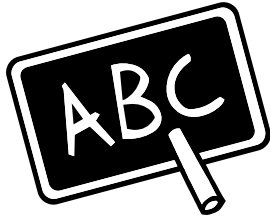
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Possible responses:

Word	Synonym	Antonym
beautiful	Ms. Fukuda looked <u>attractive</u> in her new hat.	ugly
created	made	destroyed
fact	truth	opinion
love	adore	We <u>hate</u> to leave our friends at the end of the day.
popular	well-liked	disliked
powerful	strong	weak
strange	odd	normal
truth	fact	false



Understanding Metaphorical and Symbolic Words

Directions: Read the myth. Then complete the activity that follows.

The Hippopotamus and the Tortoise

Adapted from a Traditional African Myth

Many years ago, a hippopotamus named Isantim ruled the land with a heavy hand. Every morning he waddled down to the river's edge with his wife. He made the other animals wait a very long time, while he took his time bathing and drinking water. But at night the hippo held a great feast where all the animals danced and ate to their heart's content.

During one feast, the hippo asked the animals if anyone knew his name. The animals stood silently. Only the hippo's wife knew his name. The hippo became a volcano and exploded with rage.

"How could you come to my feasts and eat all my delicious food without even knowing my name?" he boomed. "If you do not know my name by tomorrow night, none of you will have your dinner!"

"But," asked the tortoise, "what will be our reward if we learn your name?"

"Then my family and I will leave the land during the day and live our lives in the water," replied the hippo with a thundering, confident laugh.

The next day the tortoise went to the water's edge and buried herself into the sand so only the tip of her shell stuck out. When the hippo king and his wife went to bathe, the wife stumbled on the sharp edge of the shell. Immediately, the wife dissolved into a puddle of tears. She wailed, "Isantim, I cut my foot!"

After hearing the wife's words, the tortoise's smile was a ray of

sunshine in her dark hiding place.

That night the Hippo refused to start the feast until one of the animals said his name. Slowly, the tortoise ambled up to the hippo. She hollered in a clear, sunny voice, “Your name is Isantim!”

The animals rose from their seats and cheered, but the hippo’s face became a black cloud. Defeated, he and his family walked toward their new home in the water.

Today, the hippopotamus stays away from the land during the day, and only comes out of the water at night to feast on the grass.

Directions: Follow the steps below for determining the meaning of the metaphors.

1. Circle two metaphors in the passage.
2. Write each metaphor under “Metaphor.”
3. Next, write what each metaphor is comparing under “Compares.”
4. Then write the meaning of each metaphor under “My Interpretation.”

Metaphor	Compares	My Interpretation
	to	
	to	

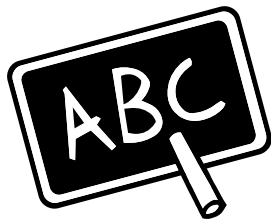
Directions: Follow the steps below for determining the meaning of some symbolic words.

1. Underline two examples of symbolic words in the passage.
2. Write each example under “Symbolic Words.”
3. Next, write what each example symbolizes under “What It Represents.”
4. Then write the meaning of each example under “My Interpretation.”

Symbolic Words	What It Represents	My Interpretation

Directions: Read the question. Then write your answer using complete sentences on the lines below.

What is the main conflict of this myth? How is it resolved?



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Possible responses:

Metaphor	Compares	My Interpretation
the hippo became a volcano	a hippo	The metaphor means the hippo was so mad he couldn’t keep his anger inside of him.
	to	
	a volcano	
the tortoise’s smile was a ray of sunshine	the tortoise’s smile	The metaphor means the tortoise’s smile was bright and big.
	to	
	a ray of sunshine	

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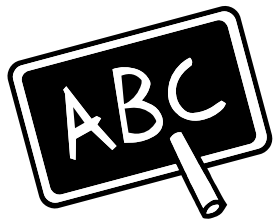
Possible responses:

Symbolic Words	What It Represents	My Interpretation
dissolved into a puddle of tears	sadness; pain	These words mean the wife started crying and was very upset.
sunny voice	happiness	These words mean the tortoise was happy and it showed when she spoke.

Directions: Read the question. Then write your answer using complete sentences on the lines below.

What is the main conflict of this myth? How is it resolved?

The main conflict is the hippo is angry because the other animals do
not know his name. He tells the animals they will not get dinner if they
do not find out his name. The resolution is the tortoise overhears the
wife call out the hippo’s name and tells the other animals.



Determining the Meaning of Synonyms and Antonyms

Directions: Read the passages. Then read each question and circle the correct answer.

Olympic History

Many people love watching the Olympic Games. The world's top athletes train for many years to compete in this international sporting event. It has become an important part of our world's culture.

The Olympics started in ancient Greece almost 3,000 years ago. People gathered in the Greek town of Olympia to participate in and observe the summer games. The Olympics were held as a religious and athletic festival. The games honored the gods, especially the Greek god Zeus. The athletes competed for personal glory. They also tried to impress the gods with their strength. People in ancient Greece truly admired the Olympic winners. The winners received a crown of olive leaves and were known as heroes.

Many different legends explain how the Olympic Games started. One legend states that a Greek king organized the games to honor the gods. He named the games after Mount Olympus, the place where the gods lived. Another legend states that Zeus himself started the games. He used the contests to celebrate his victory over the god Cronus. A third legend explains that Zeus's son Heracles started the games to honor his father after Heracles defeated King Augeus.

Written history, however, tells us the rest of the story. In the fourth century, a Roman emperor banned the games. No one participated in the Olympics again until a Frenchman named Pierre Fredy, the Baron de Coubertin, revived the summer games in 1896. Years later, in 1924, the winter games were established.

People still love to watch the great displays of athleticism. Today, top athletes compete in the winter and summer Olympics every four years. The games are held on an alternating schedule, so the summer Olympics and winter Olympics are never held in the same year. This allows fans to watch one of the games every two years.

Heracles and the Augean Stables

Adapted from Classic Greek Mythology

Heracles completed several tasks for the gods in order to prove his strength. During one of these tasks, the gods sent Heracles to clean King Augeus's stables. In return, the king agreed to give Heracles a herd of cattle.

Heracles immediately set out to complete his task. But he soon discovered that the job was an impossible hill to climb. The filthy stables had not been cleaned in years. Heracles became blue as he examined the sky-high mounds of dirt. Then he saw a nearby river and thought of a brilliant idea.

Heracles immediately built a dam across the mouth of the river. Then he dug deep channels in the soggy earth to change the river's flow. Finally, Heracles broke the dam, sending the raging waters down the channels and through the king's stables. The rivers swept away all the dirt and trash. Within minutes, the stables sparkled—they had never been so clean.

King Augeus, however, became angry when he saw the stables. He did not want to give Heracles the cattle and refused to keep his promise. Heracles mustered the might of a lion to wage a long war against the king. With a great burst of glory, Heracles eventually defeated King Augeus. But, more importantly, Heracles proved his strength and completed all of his tasks for the gods.

1. What is a synonym for **strength**?
 - A. weakness
 - B. exhaustion
 - C. power
 - D. joy

2. Which detail shows that the passage “Olympic History” is nonfiction?
 - A. Pierre Fredy revived the Olympics after the games were banned in the fourth century.
 - B. Zeus used the games to celebrate his victory over Cronus.
 - C. Heracles started the games after defeating King Augeus.
 - D. The gods lived on Mount Olympus.

3. How do you know the passage, “Heracles and the Augean” is a work of fiction?
 - A. The story includes statements of fact about the character.
 - B. The story includes information about how to clean a stable.
 - C. The story includes characters, a problem, and a solution.
 - D. The story includes the steps for building a stable.

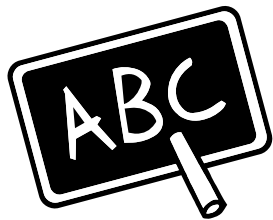
4. Which of the following is a metaphor?
 - A. filthy stables
 - B. sky-high mounds of dirt
 - C. the job was an impossible hill to climb
 - D. Heracles mustered the might of a lion

5. What does the color blue symbolize in the passage “Heracles and the Augean”?
 - A. happiness and joy
 - B. sadness and defeat
 - C. strength and power
 - D. weakness and anger

6. Which is the main idea of the passage “Olympic History”?
- A. Many people love watching the Olympic games.
 - B. The Olympic games honored the Greek gods.
 - C. Top athletes compete in the Olympics every four years.
 - D. No one knows exactly how the Olympics started.

Directions: Read the question. Then write your answer using complete sentences on the lines below.

7. How does Heracles solve the problem of cleaning the dirty stables? Use examples from the text to support your answer.



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Directions: Read the question. Then write your answer using complete sentences on the lines below.

7. How does Heracles solve the problem of cleaning the dirty stables? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Heracles uses the river to clean out the stables. First, he built a dam across the river. Then he dug channels to change the flow of the river. Finally, he broke the dam and sent the water through the stables. The water took the garbage away.