

The Legend of the Star-Stone

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a text and make inferences about the features of myths and legends.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your knowledge of myths and legends to answer the questions, ensuring you justify your opinions where requested.

Long ago, when the mountains were still young, the villagers of Oakhaven lived in constant shadow. A gargantuan, icy mist had settled over the valley, refusing to lift. According to local folklore, a fallen Star-Stone lay hidden atop the Crag of Echoes, possessing the power to summon the sun. Pip, a brave caterpillar with a penchant for ancient scrolls, discovered a riddle inscribed on a crumbling tablet: 'Only the heart that seeks not for gold, but for warmth, shall command the stone to glow.' While others sought the stone for its riches, Pip climbed the treacherous, frost-bitten paths, driven by a desire to see his friends thrive in the light. Upon reaching the summit, Pip did not demand the stone's power; instead, he whispered a poem of gratitude to the winter sky. Moved by his selfless spirit, the stone pulsed with a brilliant, golden radiance, instantly dissolving the mist. The village was saved, and the legend of the small traveller who brought back the morning was told for generations to come, reminding all that true courage is found in kindness, not in strength.

Word bank: mythical · legendary · supernatural · heroic · ancient · phenomenon

1. What does the legend say the Star-Stone has the power to do, and where is it located? (2 marks)

2. Why did the villagers struggle to live in Oakhaven before Pip's journey? (2 marks)

3. Why might the author have chosen a caterpillar as the hero of this legend instead of a larger, stronger animal? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the stone reacted to Pip's poem when it had remained silent for so long. (3 marks)

5. Do you think Pip is a hero? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Pip the caterpillar reaching the top of the Crag of Echoes. Focus on the contrast between the cold, icy mist and the warm, golden light radiating from the Star-Stone.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the hero in this legend with a typical hero found in other stories. Create your own mythic creature that could have been guarding the Star-Stone and write a paragraph describing its appearance and why it decided to let Pip pass.