The Legend of the Sun-Stone

Learning objective: To retrieve information, make inferences and express personal opinions about a mythical narrative.

Read the story carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

Long ago, before the first maps were drawn, the people of the Whispering Valley lived in darkness. The sun had hidden itself behind the jagged peaks of the Iron Mountains, refusing to warm the earth. Pip the caterpillar's ancestors told tales of a giant, glowing Sun-Stone that once rested in the valley's center, providing endless light. They believed the stone had been stolen by a grumpy mountain giant who feared the bright rays. One brave traveller, armed only with a silver whistle and a pocketful of curiosity, climbed the perilous slopes. Upon reaching the summit, the traveller did not fight the giant. Instead, they played a gentle, rhythmic melody on the whistle. The giant, who had never heard music, wept tears of joy. Touched by the beautiful song, the giant returned the stone to the valley. As the Sun-Stone was placed back upon its pedestal, the valley bloomed with vibrant flowers and golden light. To this day, the villagers say that if you listen closely to the wind near the Iron Mountains, you can still hear the faint, melodic echo of the traveller's song.

Word bank: myth · legend · ancient · heroic · mysterious · glistening

1. Why did the people of the Whispering Valley live in darkness? (2 marks)

2. What did the traveller use to get the Sun-Stone back from the giant? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the giant was so moved by the traveller's music? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'the valley bloomed with vibrant flowers' tell us about the return of the sun? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the traveller was a hero? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the moment the traveller plays the silver whistle for the mountain giant, showing the Sun-Stone nearby.

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining what other item might have helped the traveller on their journey and why.