

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Small Shoes, Big Journeys: 2nd Grade Tales from Faraway Lands Quiz

Challenge your students to compare folk heroes and identify global story patterns in this medium-difficulty analysis of international myths and legends.

1. In the French story 'Puss in Boots,' how does the clever cat help his master?

Answer: B) He uses tricks to make his master look like a rich marquis

Puss in Boots is a classic trickster character from European folklore who uses his wits rather than magic or strength to help his owner.

2. The story of 'Anansi the Spider' comes from West African traditions.

Answer: A) True

Anansi is one of the most important characters in West African and Caribbean folklore, known for his wisdom and mischief.

3. In many Brazilian legends, the ____ is a mischievous boy with one leg who protects the forest.

Answer: C) Saci-pererê

The Saci-pererê is a famous figure in Brazilian mythology used to explain things that go wrong in the woods.

4. If you are reading a story about a 'Baba Yaga' who lives in a house on chicken legs, what part of the world is the story from?

Answer: B) Russia/Eastern Europe

Baba Yaga is a famous supernatural figure in Slavic folklore who can be either a villain or a wise helper.

5. In the Vietnamese story 'The Legend of the Rice Cake,' the prince wins the contest by finding the most expensive gold in the world.

Answer: B) False

The prince wins because he creates something simple and meaningful out of rice to honor his ancestors and the land.

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6. Many world fables, like those from India's 'Panchatantra,' use ____ as characters to teach lessons to humans.

Answer: A) Animals

The Panchatantra is a collection of ancient Indian animal fables that teach 'Nitishastra' (the wise conduct of life).

7. In the Irish tale of 'The Salmon of Knowledge,' how does Finnegan learn all the world's secrets?

Answer: B) He burns his thumb on a fish and tastes it

According to the legend, Finnegan burnt his thumb while cooking the Salmon of Knowledge and sucked on it, gaining the fish's wisdom.

8. The 'Peach Boy' (Momotaro) is a famous hero from Japanese literature who was found inside a giant peach.

Answer: A) True

Momotaro is a popular hero of Japanese folklore whose name literally means 'Peach Boy'.

9. In the Australian Aboriginal 'Dreamtime' stories, the ____ is a giant spirit that created the rivers and mountains.

Answer: B) Rainbow Serpent

The Rainbow Serpent is a major creator being in many Indigenous Australian oral traditions.

10. What common 'lesson' or theme do we see in both the German 'Town Musicians of Bremen' and the South African 'The Lion's Share'?

Answer: B) Small or weak animals can succeed by working together

Comparing world literature shows that many different cultures value teamwork and bravery in the face of larger challenges.