

Name: _____ Date: _____

Aha! Your Global Passport to 3rd Grade World Literature Analysis

Beyond simple plot recall—students analyze cultural symbols and evaluate character motivations across indigenous folktales and classic global fables.

1. In many West African 'Anansi' stories, the spider uses his brain to outsmart much larger animals. What does this teach us about the theme of these stories?

- A. Size is the only thing that matters in a fight.
- B. Intelligence and wit can be more powerful than physical strength.
- C. Spiders are the natural kings of the jungle.
- D. Trickery is always a bad thing and should never be used.

2. True or False: In French fables like those by Jean de La Fontaine, animals are often used to represent human personality traits and provide a moral lesson.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Hans Christian Andersen, an author from Denmark, wrote 'The Little Match Girl.' This story is considered more complex than a typical fairy tale because it lacks a _____.

- A. Main character
- B. Setting or location
- C. Traditional happy ending
- D. Moral lesson

4. If you were comparing a Haiku from Japan to a Limerick from Ireland, what is the most significant structural difference you would notice?

- A. Haikus must always rhyme, while Limericks never do.
- B. Limericks are meant to be sad, while Haikus are always funny.
- C. Haikus focus on syllable counts (5-7-5), while Limericks follow a specific rhyme scheme (AABBA).
- D. Haikus are actually long novels, while Limericks are short plays.

5. In the Panchatantra stories from ancient India, characters are often animals. The primary purpose of these stories was to teach young people _____.

- A. How to hunt for food
- B. Wisdom and leadership skills
- C. The scientific names of animals
- D. How to write in Sanskrit

6. True or False: Every culture in the world uses the exact same symbols (like a dragon or a raven) to mean the same thing in their literature.

- A. True

Name: _____ Date: _____

B. False

7. Scandinavian myths often feature 'Thor' and 'Loki.' When Loki causes trouble through deception, he is acting as what type of character?

- A. A catalyst who forces the hero to change
- B. A boring background character with no purpose
- C. A narrator who tells the story to the reader
- D. A symbol of peace and quiet

8. Traditional Indigenous stories from Australia (Dreamtime stories) are unique because they are often used to explain how the _____ was created.

- A. Internet
- B. First book
- C. Specific landscape or stars
- D. Modern city

9. If you read a story from Mexico that features a character performing impossible feats in a very realistic town, you are likely reading a style called:

- A. Historical Bio-Poetry
- B. Magical Realism
- C. Science Fiction Manual
- D. Academic Essay

10. True or False: Ancient Mesopotamian stories like the 'Epic of Gilgamesh' are important because they show that humans have been asking the same big questions about life and friendship for thousands of years.

- A. True
- B. False