



RL.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RL.3.3

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

RL.3.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

Read this passage and then answer the questions that follow.

The Princess on the Mountaintop

- 1 Once upon a time, there was a kind, beautiful princess who lived atop a steep mountain. Gallant young princes would travel from all over the land to ask for her hand in marriage. Yet the princess's castle could not be reached because it was high on a mountaintop. There was no path or roads to get to it. So the princess waited patiently while the princes came and went.
- 2 A wise old man lived in a shack at the bottom of the mountain. Eager young men often knocked on his door. They asked him how to reach the peak of the mountain. The wise old man would hand them a magical bean and tell them a riddle:

When I'm hot, I rise.

When I'm cold, I fall.

What fills me up most

Is nothing at all.



- 3 The old man then said that the bean must be planted at night and the answer to the riddle must be spoken out loud by morning. Only the correct answer would get the young man to the top.
- 4 One day, three young men approached with fanciful dreams of marrying the princess. The old man gave them each a bean, told them the riddle, and sent them on their way. Two of the men planted their beans and went home to sleep. But the third man stayed up all night to ponder the riddle and came up with an answer.
- 5 In the morning, the beans had sprouted into three different things. The first man's bean turned into a rope, but it was far too short to reach the top of the mountain. The second man's bean turned into a horse, but the horse could not find a path to walk up. The third man's bean turned into a hot air balloon, and he rode it to the top to meet his bride.

Name _____ Date _____

1. This question has two parts. Answer Part A first. Then answer Part B.

Part A Which of the following words best describes the third man?

- A lazy
- B clever
- C selfish
- D honest

Part B What sentence from the passage supports your answer to Part A?

- A Eager young men often knocked on his door.
- B But the third man stayed up all night to ponder the riddle and came up with an answer.
- C Only the correct answer would get the young man to the top.
- D In the morning, the beans had sprouted into three different things.



Question 1

To describe a character, look at what the character says and does.

The first two men plant the bean and then leave. What does the third man do? Which of the answer choices best describes the character?



Name _____ Date _____

**Question 2**

Some words have multiple meanings. When you find a word with multiple meanings, look carefully at how the word is used in the text. In this case, **peak** is being used to describe part of a mountain.

**Question 3**

This question is asking *why* the old wise old man is giving out beans. Reread paragraph 2 to look for the answer to this question or to check your answer.

2. Read the sentence from the passage.

They asked him how to reach the peak of the mountain.

What does the word peak mean in this sentence?

- A a clear path
- B a hidden cave
- C a pointed top
- D a smooth side

3. Why did the wise man give out magical beans?

- A They were the only way to reach the princess.
- B They were a test to see who could answer the riddle.
- C They were the prize for a correct answer to the riddle.
- D They were food for the hungry men who came from far away.

