

Read the stories below then answer the questions that follow.

The Cloud-eating Giant

Soppo lived quietly and just how he liked, fearing nothing and no one, coming and going as he pleased. However, despite all that he wasn't happy: he didn't have even one single friend. What's more, every time he visited a country, there were nothing but problems: with him eating so many clouds the rains for the crops would disappear and, with his stomach aches and crying, everything would then get flooded, not to mention all the woods and farms he would eat his way through... In the end, whenever he was spotted, everyone would flee in terror, and Soppo never got to spend any time with anyone at all.

One night, seeing him crying, various stars came down and asked him why he was so sad. On hearing his story they commented:

"Poor giant. He doesn't know how to make friends. Yet the Earth is the most special planet of all, and it's full of all kinds of friends."

"But, where can I find friends? How do I do that?" replied the giant.

"By giving people a hand or doing something for them. That is what makes friendship. You didn't know that?" replied the stars, amused.

"Gee," sighed Soppo "that never occurred to me. What did you guys do to make friends?"

"Well, we learned to show people the way at night time, and serve as guides to many sailors. They're great friends. They tell us stories and keep us company every night."

So the giant and the stars kept chatting for a while, and over the following days Soppo thought about nothing else but ways to find friends. But he couldn't think of any way to manage it. Several days later he went to ask for help from the moon. Being old and wise the moon answered:

"You won't know how to help someone until you know them well. What do you know about these people you want to become your friends?"

Soppo thought for a while, because really he knew hardly anything about human beings. They were so small that he'd never worried much about them.

So he thought to himself he would find out about them, and he spent long days observing their little lives. This is how he discovered why everyone ran off when seeing him, and he realised he was causing droughts by eating all the clouds, and that his weeping flooded them out, and he learned a thousand other things that filled him with pity and joy.

Answer the questions by choosing the letter of the correct answer.

1 What could be the reason for Soppo's initial inability to make friends?

- A. He was too large.
- B. He was ignorant of how to make friends.
- C. He ate too many clouds.
- D. He was not a human being.

2 Based on the story, how does Soppo's behaviour show the possible negative effects of ignorance and lack of self-awareness?

- A. His cloud eating caused drought.
- B. His crying caused floods.
- C. Both A and B.
- D. Neither A and B

3 What is the role of the stars and the moon in Soppo's journey to self-discovery?

- A. They hindered his progress.
- B. They were neutral observers.
- C. They provided guidance and wisdom.
- D. They were merely figments of Soppo's imagination.

4 What does Soppo's transformation imply about the importance of empathy and understanding others in building relationships?

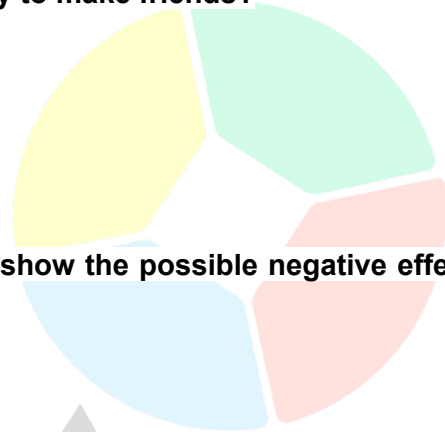
- A. It's less important than personal needs.
- B. It's more important than personal interests.
- C. It's irrelevant.
- D. It can be achieved without trying.

5 The story's underlying message can be interpreted as:

- A. The need for friendship outweighs the need for personal happiness.
- B. Actions have unintended consequences that can impact others.
- C. Size determines the importance of an individual in society.
- D. Star and moon are the ultimate guides for friendship.

6 In the context of the story, what does the phrase "giving people a hand" mean?

- A. Literally giving people Soppo's hand.
- B. Providing help or assistance.
- C. Handing over authority or power.
- D. Teaching people how to give.



7 Which of the following correctly identifies the use of the word "observing" in the context of "he spent long days observing their little lives"?

- A. Soppo was criticising people's lives.
- B. Soppo was overlooking people's lives.
- C. Soppo was closely watching and understanding people's lives.
- D. Soppo was ignoring people's lives.

8 In the sentence "But he couldn't think of any way to manage it.", what does the pronoun "it" refer to?

- A. The concept of friendship.
- B. The stars' advice.
- C. Soppo's desire to make friends.
- D. Finding a solution to Soppo's problem.

Adalina, the fairy without wings

Adalina was no ordinary fairy. No one knew why, but she had no wings. And, what's more, she was a Princess, daughter of the Great Fairy Queen. As she was so tiny, like a flower, life was just a series of problems for her. Not only couldn't she fly, but she hardly had any magical powers, since fairy magic comes from their delicate crystal wings.

So, from an early age, Adalina had depended on the help of others for many things. She grew up thanking people, smiling and being friendly, so naturally all the creatures in the forest were delighted to help her.

But when she reached the age to become Queen, many fairies doubted she could be a good Queen with such a disability. They argued and protested so much that Adalina had to agree to take a test in which she would have to demonstrate to everyone the wonders she could work.

The little fairy became extremely sad. What could she do? She was hardly magic at all, and couldn't even travel far with those little legs of hers. But while Adalina sat on a stone next to the river, trying to think of something that would surprise the other fairies, the news of the test was spreading among the friendly forest animals. Before long, hundreds of creatures were by her side, ready to help her however she needed.

"Thank you so much, little friends. I feel much better with you by my side," she said with the sweetest of smiles, "but I don't know whether you'll be able to help me."

"Of course we will!" answered the squirrel,

"Tell us, what will you do to surprise those foolish fairies?"

"Wow.... if only I could, I would love to capture the first ray of sunshine before it touches the Earth, and keep it in a dewdrop, so that when it is needed it could be used as a lantern for all who live in the forest.

Or... I'd also like to paint a rainbow in the night sky, under the pale moonlight, so that the nocturnal creatures could see its beauty... But I don't have any magic or any wings to keep it in..."

"Well, you must have your magic kept somewhere else then! Look!" an old tortoise shouted excitedly, as it flew through the air, leaving a trail of green behind it.

It was true. When Adalina had been telling her friends of her deepest wishes, a wave of magic had washed over them, and there they all were, flying through the air, making a magic rainbow, and capturing not just one but hundreds of rays of sunshine within fine drops of water that filled the sky with tiny brilliant lamps. For the whole day and night you could see squirrels, mice, frogs, birds and fish leaping through the sky, filling it with light and colour, in a spectacle never seen before and that filled the forest dwellers with delight.

Answer the questions by choosing the letter of the correct answer.

9 What can we infer about the character of Adalina from the way she faces her disability?

- A. She is kind and grateful.
- B. She is bitter and resentful.
- C. She is dismissive and indifferent.
- D. She is aggressive and rebellious.

10 How does the story portray the concept of leadership?

- A. Leadership requires magical abilities.
- B. Leadership is about physical prowess.
- C. Leadership is determined by birthright.
- D. Leadership is about the ability to inspire and earn the support of others.

11 What does Adalina's story teach us about the importance of community and support networks?

- A. They are not necessary for success.
- B. They are important in overcoming challenges.
- C. They only matter in times of crisis.
- D. They get in the way of individual growth and independence.

12 Based on the story, what does Adalina's disability symbolise?

- A. Weakness and helplessness.
- B. A barrier to leadership.
- C. A unique aspect that doesn't affect her ability to lead or inspire.
- D. A physical characteristic.

13 How does the story challenge the common beliefs about magic?

- A. It suggests that magic is always evil.
- B. It asserts that magic is only for fairies.
- C. It portrays magic as a natural force within every being.
- D. It hints that magic comes from believing in oneself and the support of others

14 In the sentence "She grew up thanking people, smiling and being friendly," what does the phrase "thanking people, smiling and being friendly" signify?

- A. It is a list of unrelated actions.
- B. It is a list of actions that define Adalina's character.
- C. It is an instruction for others to follow.
- D. It is a rhetorical question.

15 In the phrase "before it touches the Earth," what is the function of "it"?

- A. Refers to the first ray of sunshine.
- B. Refers to Adalina.
- C. Refers to the Earth.
- D. Refers to the magic.

16 In the sentence "I don't know whether you'll be able to help me," what does the phrase "be able to" convey?

- A. Adalina's uncertainty about the animals' intentions.
- B. Adalina's belief that the animals won't help.
- C. Adalina's doubt about the animals' ability or capacity to help.
- D. Adalina's wish for the animals to leave.

The Happy Trumpet

There was once a land in which the sound of a magic trumpet could be heard everywhere. The music ensured that there would be happiness and joy for all.

However, one day, the trumpet disappeared, and everyone in that land ended up feeling sad. No one did anything, except for a little girl who went off, determined to find the trumpet. She asked everywhere, and then someone took her to see the wise old man of the mountains. The man told her that the trumpet was in the Well of Shadows, and he gave her a violin which might turn out to be useful.

When the girl arrived at the Well, she found some musicians next to it. They were playing sad tunes, and she went over to play with them. However, on hearing such sad music, the girl realised that no one, including the trumpet, would want to come out of the well to be greeted by that kind of atmosphere. So she started to play the cheeriest, happiest music she could. She didn't give up, and even managed to cheer up the other musicians.

Together they improved the atmosphere around the well so much that the trumpet came out, more joyful than ever. And, once again, happiness returned to that land. Thanks to this, the girl realised the value of offering joy to others, it being the best remedy for those who are sad. And from that day onwards, in that land, anyone who saw someone looking sad would send them their happiest smiles, along with a little music.

Answer the questions by choosing the letter of the correct answer.

17 What does the trumpet symbolise in the story?

- A. Wealth and prosperity
- B. Power and authority
- C. Happiness and joy
- D. Strength and resilience

18 How does the story depict the impact of collective effort?

- A. Collective efforts can bring about a positive change.
- B. Collective efforts are not important.
- C. Collective efforts always fail.
- D. Collective efforts are seen as a threat.

19 What can we infer about the girl's character from her actions in the story?

- A. She is timid and reserved.
- B. She is pessimistic and gloomy.
- C. She is proactive and resilient.
- D. She is hostile and unsympathetic.

20 Based on the story, what role does the mood or atmosphere play in affecting individuals and their actions?

- A. It has a minimal role in influencing individuals and their actions.
- B. It does not affect individuals and their actions.
- C. It has a significant role in influencing individuals and their actions.
- D. It only affects the individuals who are sensitive to it.

21 How does the story relate to the concept of “feeling what others feel”?

- A. The story dismisses the idea of feeling what others feel.
- B. The story highlights the role of feeling what others feel in spreading negativity.
- C. The story suggests that feeling what others feel only affects certain people.
- D. The story exemplifies how feeling what others feel can spread positivity and happiness.



22 In the sentence "The music ensured that there would be happiness and joy for all," what does the word "ensured" mean?

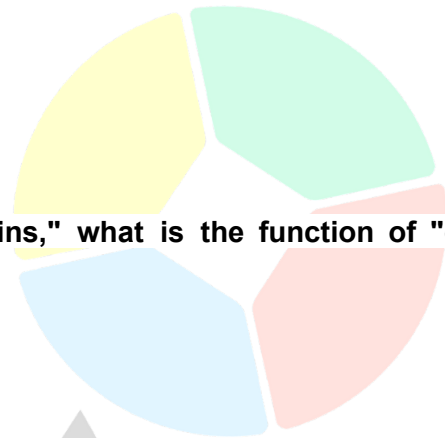
- A. Hindered
- B. Guaranteed
- C. Dissipated
- D. Negated

23 In the phrase "the wise old man of the mountains," what is the function of "of the mountains"?

- A. It is a possessive phrase.
- B. It is a prepositional phrase indicating the man's location.
- C. It is an adverbial phrase showing time.
- D. It is an adjective describing the man.

24 In the sentence "She didn't give up, and even managed to cheer up the other musicians," what does the phrase "cheer up" mean?

- A. To upset someone
- B. To confuse someone
- C. To make someone happier
- D. To make someone tired



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