


"Boy Who Vanished" – Take-Home Flyer

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|  Stories to Grow by | We read a story in class from: Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series for Level 3 |
| Parents! Discover Whootie Owl's <i>FREE</i> Fairytales: www.storiestogrowby.org ! | "The Maiden and the Boy Who Vanished" (Russia) |

Ask your child about the story we read in class from Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series entitled:
"The Maiden and the Boy Who Vanished"

Whootie Owl's Test Prep Storytime Series builds an understanding of story elements - **plot, setting, characters, and theme.**

Bonus! The stories also offer gentle, character-building messages.

→The character-building messages in this story are:

"Kindness and Respect"



Please help your child with this homework assignment:

K Talk about a time when your child—or someone your child knows—acted with kindness or respect. Your child should write about what happened below:

✓ **Parents!** This assignment is due:

Child: **Parent:**

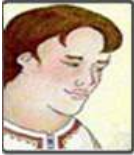
About the Characters

Using adjectives (*describing words*), describe these characters from the story "The Maiden and the Boy Who Vanished."

Challenge: Try to find three adjectives for each character.



Nobleman:



Nobleman's son (the Boy who Vanished):



Widow's youngest daughter:

Which character in the story was your favorite?

My favorite character in the story was:

(circle one) →

NOBLEMAN
BOY WHO VANISHED
NURSE
WIDOW
OLDEST DAUGHTER
MIDDLE DAUGHTER
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER

Why was that character your favorite?

Getting to Know a Character

In the beginning of a story, you meet a character. Most of the time, you learn the character's name and if the character is a boy or girl. You may also find out something about the character's friends or family.


By the end of a story, you know more about the character *as a person*. You know how the character thinks and feels based on the choices the character made in the story.



THE BOY WHO VANISHED

What did you know about the Boy Who Vanished at the beginning of the story (before he vanished)?

What did you learn about him by the end of the story?

 **Look at it this way:** *If you knew the Boy Who Vanished in real life, would you want him as a friend? Why or why not?*

Getting to Know a Character


This time, consider what you know about the Widow's Youngest Daughter. What did you think about her at the beginning of the story? By the end of the story, what did you learn about her?



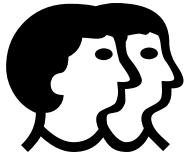
**THE WIDOW'S
YOUNGEST
DAUGHTER**

What did you know about the Widow's Youngest Daughter at the beginning of the story?

What did you learn about her by the end?

 **Look at it this way:** *If you knew her in real life, would you want her as a friend? Why or why not?*

Activity: Interview the Characters



Divide into teams of two. One of you will start as the **Reporter** and the other will be **Character**. The Reporter will interview the Character. The Character will play two roles – the Boy Who Vanished and the Widow's Youngest Daughter. It doesn't matter if you start as the **Reporter** or the **Character**. After the Reporter interviews both characters, you will switch.

Reporter (*the one who asks the questions*): If you are the Reporter, prepare two interview questions for the Boy Who Vanished, and two different questions for the Widow's Youngest Daughter. You can use the sample interview questions shown in the boxes on the top of the next two pages. You can also create your own questions!

□ Ask the Boy Who Vanished (*the other person in your team*) your two questions. Listen carefully. On the next two pages, write in one or two sentences what the "Character" says. Then ask the Widow's Youngest Daughter (*also the other person in your team!*) your two questions, too.

Character (*the one who answers the questions*): Try to think the way that character would think. When the Reporter asks you a question, answer in words you think the character would use. Give as short an answer as you can!

SUMMARY

★ If you start as the **Reporter**, ask each Character two questions and write down the answers. Then switch.

★ If you start as the **Character**, first play the role of the Boy Who Vanished, and next the role of the Widow's Youngest Daughter. Then switch.

INTERVIEW THE BOY WHO VANISHED



Sample Questions for Interviewing
The Boy Who Vanished:

- ✓ Why did you want to be invited to sit down and eat?
- ✓ What did you like best about the youngest daughter?
- ✓ What was the best part about the magical world under the earth?

Reporter: Write your two questions below. You can use the Sample Interview Questions in the box above, or create your own questions.

(1) _____

(2) _____

Ask the **Boy Who Vanished** your questions. Listen carefully. Then write down what the Character says *in one or two sentences*.

Character's answer to the **first** Interview Question:

Character's answer to the **second** Interview Question:

INTERVIEW THE WIDOW'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER

Sample Questions for Interviewing
the Widow's Youngest Daughter:

- ✓ Why did you invite the Boy Who Vanished to eat with you?
- ✓ Why didn't you say what your sisters told you to say?
- ✓ What was the best part about the magical world under the earth?



Reporter: Write your two Interview Questions below. You can use the Sample Interview Questions in the box above, or create your own questions.

(1) _____

(2) _____

Ask the **Widow's Youngest Daughter** your two questions. Listen carefully. Then write down what the Character says *in one or two sentences*.

*Character's answer to the **first** Interview Question:*

*Character's answer to the **second** Interview Question:*

About the Setting of the Story

What do we know about the **setting** of the story?

- ✓ We know that the story takes place in **Russia**



Russia is a country that is located partly in Europe and partly in Asia.

Words can give you **clues** about the **setting** of a story. Read each sentence below. Write what you can imagine about the story.

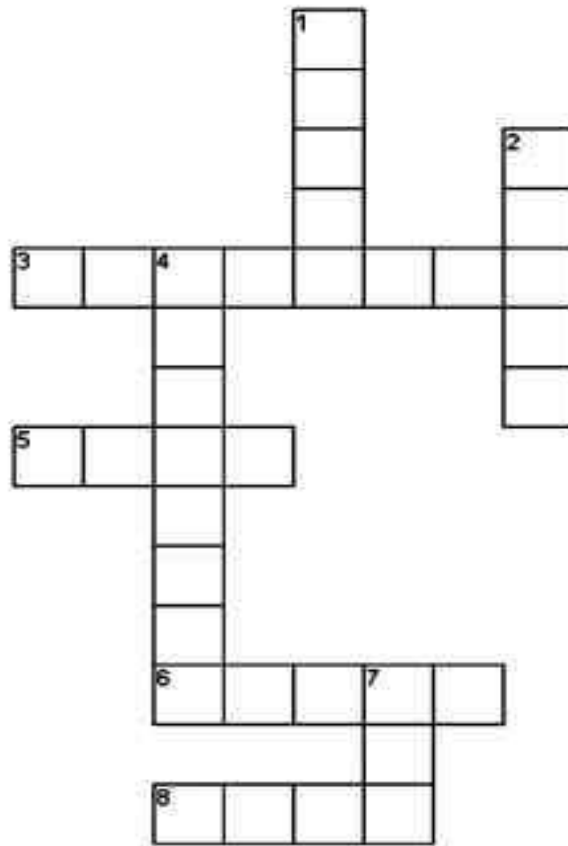
- **“Close to the castle there lived a widow, a miller by trade, who was very poor.”**

Imagine you are a miller. Your job is to mill (grind) wheat into grain and then sell it. Why would it be hard for you to earn enough money?

- **“She first lit the fire and put on the saucepans.”**

Imagine your food had to be cooked over a fire. Name one thing that would be different about your mealtimes from the way that you eat now.

Crossword Puzzle



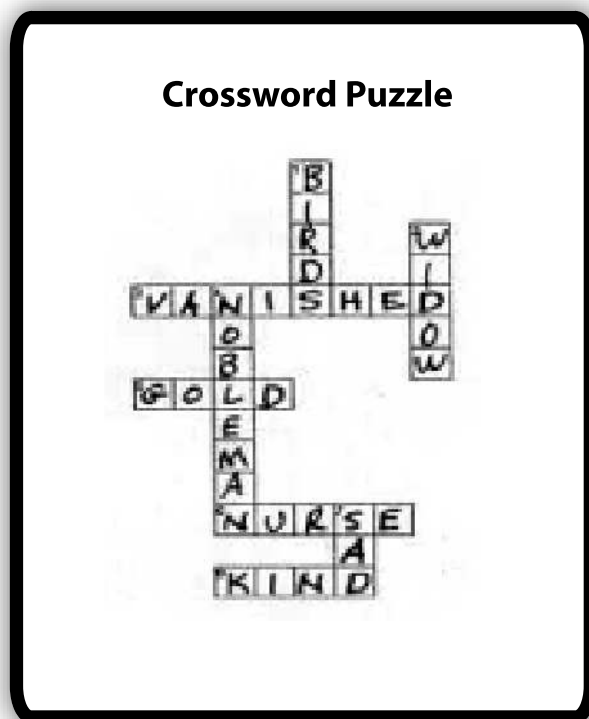
Across

3. A word that means disappeared (begins with "v").
5. One branch was made of silver and the other of _____.
6. She dropped the boy before his 12th birthday.
8. How the youngest daughter treated the boy.

Down

1. They landed on the boy's shoulders in the world below the floor.
2. The mother of the three daughters.
4. The father of the boy who vanished.
7. The expression on the stranger's face when he was told the table was set for one person alone.

Answer - Crossword Puzzle
The Maiden & the Boy Who Vanished




Solving a Conflict


Main characters often have a **conflict**.

➡ A **conflict** is a problem that can be solved in more than one way. The choice a character makes tells the reader a lot about what is most important to that character.

1. What conflict did the Widow's Youngest Daughter have?

 **Clue:** *What did her sisters tell her she should say if the stranger asked his questions? Why didn't she want to say it when she first met the stranger?*

2. What choice did the Widow's Youngest Daughter make?

 **Clue:** *What did she say to the stranger?*

3. What did you learn about what is most important to the Widow's Youngest Daughter by the choice that she made?

Beginning of the Story

At the **beginning of the story**, we are introduced to the rich Nobleman and are told about his strange dream about his son.

Draw a picture that takes place at the beginning of the story. The background of the picture should be the **setting** where the story takes place. Show the **characters** who appear.

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw a scene from the beginning of the story. The box is currently blank.

Middle of the Story

In the **middle of the story**, the three sisters each try to stay the night in the haunted room in the castle.

Draw a picture that takes place in the middle of the story.



By the time we reach the middle of the story, we usually know what problem the main character is facing. This story has two main characters: the BOY WHO VANISHED and the WIDOW'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

What problem does the BOY WHO VANISHED face?

What problem does the WIDOW'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER face?

End of the Story

At the **end of the story**, the Nobleman's Son returns home, and he marries the Widow's Youngest Daughter.

Draw a picture that takes place at the end of the story.




By the time we reach the end of the story, we usually know something important about the main character or characters that we didn't know at the beginning of the story.

What did you learn about the NOBLEMAN'S SON?

What did you learn about the WIDOW'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER?

Main Idea

Most stories have a **main idea** or **theme**. What would you say is the **main idea** of the story about Boots?

 **Clue:** *What was different about what Boots did when the three brothers heard all the sounds in the woods?*

Try to name three places in the story that proves what you think is the **main idea**. Be as specific as you can!

I can prove that the main idea is what I described above, because on page _____, _____

Also, on page _____, _____

One more proof is that on page _____, _____

Write Your Own Story

About a Magical World Under the Earth

In many fairytales and folk tales, the main character or characters will go to a **magical world under the earth**. Sometimes they will go in search of a magical object, or to find someone who is lost. Sometimes they want to prove themselves by accomplishing a special task. And sometimes they go for adventure, or just to dance and have a good time.

⇒ **Think...** *In your story, why will your characters go to a magical world? What will they hope to do there?*

The Characters

On the top of the next page, describe one **main character**. If you have two or more characters, choose one and describe that main character.



Character Clues:

These questions can give you a deeper feeling for your character:

- ✓ *Do you like the character? Why or why not?*
- ✓ *Is the character someone you would want as a friend?*
- ✓ *Is the character a leader or to follower?*
- ✓ *Does the character like animals? sports? clothes? books? games?*

Write about the main character in the lines below:

.....

.....


.....


.....

.....

.....

Describe some of the **other characters** in your story.

 You may have more than one main character in your story. Other characters also can be friends, parents, brothers or sisters, neighbors, animals, magical creatures, or anyone else you want to put in your story.

 **Another Clue:** Think about people you already know— many writers do this to help them get started.

Write about some of the other characters:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

The Setting

A **setting** is *where* and *when* a story takes place.

Where does your story begin?
(in a city? a farm? in your own neighborhood? your home?)

.....

When does your story begin?
(in a certain year? what time of day? morning, afternoon, or night)

.....

Describe your magical world under the earth:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

The Plot

What would you say is the **main problem** in your story?

.....
.....
.....
.....

How will the **main problem** be solved at the end of your story?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Quiz – Characters & Setting

The Maiden & the Boy Who Vanished

The Characters

- 1. What is the most important thing to know about the Nobleman's Son?**
 - A. He vanished soon after he was born.
 - B. He wanted the maiden to invite him to eat with her.
 - C. He liked it when the birds flew around him.
 - D. At the end of the story, he sat up in bed.
- 2. What is the most important thing to know about the widow's Youngest Daughter?**
 - A. She thought it wasn't fair that her two older sisters could stay with the nobleman's son before she had a turn.
 - B. She would to say whatever her sisters told her to say.
 - C. She broke two branches of bronze from trees in the world below.
 - D. She thought the stranger looked sad, so she invited him to eat with her.

Setting Questions

- 3. Where does the story take place?**
 - A. China
 - B. Russia
 - C. Mexico
 - D. Canada
- 4. How would you BEST describe the new world below the floor?**
 - A. magical
 - B. scary
 - C. dark
 - D. crowded

Quiz – Plot & Main Idea

The Maiden & the Boy Who Vanished

The Plot

5. What is the **MAIN problem** in the story?

- A. The nobleman's son must be invited to stay and eat before he can return home.
- B. The nurse felt bad that she dropped the nobleman's son.
- C. The widow was poor and needed money to help pay her bills.
- D. Each of the two older daughters wanted to earn the 300 gold pieces.

6. Which event happened **LAST**?

- A. Birds flocked around the nobleman's son, perching on his head and shoulders.
- B. The nobleman's son and the youngest daughter ate supper together.
- C. The clock struck midnight.
- D. When the nobleman's son threw two branches out of the window, a palace made of silver and gold appeared.

The Main Idea

7. What was the **MAIN message** of this story?

- A. It is best to speak kindly to other people.
- B. The nurse should have been more careful not to drop the nobleman's son.
- C. You don't need to be scared of ghosts.
- D. Try to earn money whenever you can.

8. How was the **MAIN message** of the story made clear?

- A. The nobleman searched everywhere for his lost son.
- B. After the nobleman's son was invited to stay and eat with the youngest daughter, he could finally return home.
- C. All of the servants were glad that the nurse didn't get in trouble.
- D. The widow earned 900 gold pieces.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Circle the correct answer

Question 1

Long, long ago there lived a very rich nobleman who had a wonderful baby boy. The night before his son was born, the father had a dream. He dreamed that the only way his child would live to be a man would be if the child's feet never touched the ground until he was 12 years old.

Which of the following events caused the nobleman to worry?

- A.** His baby was born with very unusual feet.
- B.** He had a strange dream the night before his son was born.
- C.** He had a child who refused to walk.
- D.** He had a back bad and could not carry his son himself.

Question 2

One day, everyone was getting ready for the feast. All of a sudden a terrible noise, followed by the most horrible yells, shook the castle. In her terror, the nurse dropped the child and ran to the window. At that very instant the noises stopped. On turning around to take up the boy, imagine her alarm when she found him no longer there! With a cry, she realized that she had disobeyed her master's orders. The child's feet had touched the floor, and the boy was gone!

Which two words found in this passage are NOT related?

- A.** terror...alarm
- B.** noise...castle
- C.** terrible...horrible
- D.** yell...cry

Reading Comprehension Questions, *continued*

Question 3

Now close to the castle there lived a widow, a miller by trade. The widow had three daughters and they were all very poor. Indeed, it was hard for them to earn enough money to live day to day. When they heard the stories of the haunted castle and the promised reward of 300 gold pieces, the oldest daughter resolved to try. She said to her mother, "As we are so very poor, mother, surely we have nothing to lose. If you'll let me, I would like to try to earn these 300 gold pieces by staying in the room for one night."

In the selection, the oldest daughter "resolved to try." What does that expression mean?

- A.** She decided to try.
- B.** She decided not to try.
- C.** She had already tried.
- D.** She changed her mind about trying.

Question 4

He gave the orders that she should have everything she wanted. Indeed, enough food was given to her for three suppers. Armed with the food, some dry firewood and a candle, she entered the room. She first lit the fire and put on her saucepans. Then she laid the table and made the bed. This took up the early part of the evening. The time passed so fast that she was surprised to hear the clock strike 12.

What time was it when the clock struck 12?

- A.** noon
- B.** 12:12 at night
- C.** 3:12 in the afternoon
- D.** midnight

Reading Comprehension Questions, *continued*

Question 5

At the stroke of 12, footsteps, as if someone were walking, shook the room and terrible groans filled the air. The frightened girl ran from one corner to the other, but could see no one. The footsteps and the groans only got louder.

In this passage, you can suppose that the maiden is feeling

- A.** happy.
- B.** scared.
- C.** tired.
- D.** in pain.

Question 6

Suddenly a young man appeared and walked up to the oldest daughter. He asked, "For whom is this food cooked?"

Surprised, she said, "For myself."

The gentle face of the stranger looked sad. Then he asked, "And the table, for whom is it laid?"

After a moment, she said, "For myself."

The young man looked down, waved his arms, and vanished.

From what you know of the story, why is the stranger sad?

- A.** He is hoping the oldest daughter will invite him to dinner.
- B.** He does not like the food she has prepared.
- C.** He does not approve of the way she has set the table.
- D.** He wants to cook the meal himself.

Sequence of Events

Circle the correct answer

The Story Timeline:

Box 1 The nobleman has a strange dream the night before his son is born.

Box 2 The nurse drops the boy before his 12th birthday and the child vanishes.

Box 3

Box 4 The widow's youngest daughter follows the stranger to a new world under the earth.

Box 5

Question A

Which of these events belongs in Box 3?

- 1) The maiden and the young man come to a forest where the trees are solid gold.
- 2) The boy is always carefully watched; never do his feet touch the ground.
- 3) The widow's youngest daughter invites the stranger to eat.
- 4) On the day of the feast, a sudden, terrible noise shakes the castle.

Question B

Which of these events belongs in Box 5?

- 1) The youngest daughter looks into the sad eyes of the stranger.
- 2) The nobleman promises 300 gold pieces to anyone who will stay one night.
- 3) The oldest daughter tells the stranger that she cooked the food for herself.
- 4) The young man throws two branches out the window and they turn into a palace made of silver and gold.

Answer Key - Multiple-Choice Questions

The Maiden & the Boy Who Vanished

Characters & Setting:

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. A

Plot & Main Idea:

5. A
6. D
7. A

Reading Comprehension Questions:

- Question 1 – B
- Question 2 – B
- Question 3 – A
- Question 4 – D
- Question 5 – B
- Question 6 – A

Sequence of Events:

- Question A –3
- Question B –4

