

Native Americans The Star Maiden: A Native American Legend

One night, a young boy was sleeping under the stars. In a deep sleep, the boy dreamed about the silver stars in the night sky. There was one star in his dream that was brighter than all the others. Suddenly, this star began to move across the sky, floating closer and closer to Earth. It landed on a tree just above the boy's head.

In his dream, the star was **transformed**¹ into a beautiful young woman with long hair and glowing eyes. She was still shining like a star. The star maiden reached out to the boy and said, "I have seen your world. It has called out to me. Everything is so beautiful: the clear blue water, the pretty flowers and your people. I want to live in this world. If you speak to your wisest chiefs, perhaps I can change my form and live among your people. Ask them what form I should take."

When the boy woke up, he ran to his village and found his chief. A meeting was called and all the wisest chiefs listened carefully to the boy's story. One chief stood up and said, "Of course we will welcome this beautiful star into our village. Tell her that she may take on any form she wants. She can be anything that makes her happy. Go now and tell her this."

That very night, the boy went back to the tree where he slept the night before, and waited. As he looked up, the bright star descended from the heavens. The star **maiden**² appeared. Startled and excited, the boy told the woman what the chiefs had said. He led the star maiden back to the village.

¹ **transformed**: changed

² **maiden**: young girl

The next day, the star maiden turned herself into a gorgeous wild flower. This didn't make her happy though. Animals came close to crushing her in their path. The ground shook all around her and she was sad.

The next day, the star maiden turned into a lovely red rose. But the garden she lived in was far away from the village. She missed the people who she wanted to be around the most.

That night it seemed she gave up. She rose back up into the sky and the people in the village were afraid she was leaving for good because she couldn't be happy among them.

They watched as the star maiden floated over their lake. She looked down into the water and saw her reflection and the reflection of her sister stars. "Come my sisters!" the star maiden called out. "Come with me and make these beautiful waters our home."

The people smiled, and satisfied, they went to sleep. The next morning they went back to the lake and saw something magical. The lake was covered with hundreds of floating flower stars like the villagers had never seen. The star maiden and her sisters became water lilies.

So, every time you see a water lily, remember the star maiden and how she came down from heaven to live among us.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What does the star do first in the boy's dream?
 - a. It lands on a tree.
 - b. It turns into a woman.
 - c. It talks to the boy.
 - d. It reaches out to the boy.

2. Which best describes what type of story this is?
 - a. non-fiction
 - b. biography
 - c. science fiction
 - d. legend

3. From what point of view is this story told?
 - a. first person
 - b. second person
 - c. third person limited
 - d. third person omniscient

4. This story explains how the Earth came to have
 - a. people
 - b. stars
 - c. visitors
 - d. water lilies

5. What is the story mostly about?
 - a. a boy who slept in a tree
 - b. how a star maiden became a water lily
 - c. where stars come from
 - d. where wildflowers and roses come from

6. What are two adjectives that might be used to describe the star maiden? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

7. Why did the star maiden almost give up?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The star maiden wanted to live on earth _____ could not decide what form she should take.

- a. because
- b. but
- c. so
- d. by

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

One night, a star came down to Earth because she wanted to live here.

What? a star

(did) What? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** transformed: changed

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 660

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: This passage tells a Native American legend of how water lilies were created.

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- b. how a star maiden became a water lily**
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6. What are two adjectives that might be used to describe the star maiden? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Suggested answer: The star maiden could be described as gentle and kind. Other adjectives could include beautiful, adventurous, magical.

7. Why did the star maiden almost give up?

Suggested answer: The star maiden almost gave up because she didn't like being a wild flower because she was almost stepped on. She also didn't like being a rose because she was too far away from the village

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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What? a star

(did) What? **came down to Earth**

When? **one night**

Why? **because she wanted to live here**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** transformed: changed

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.