

## Poem-5 | A Legend of the Northland

## Worksheet-1



## Multiple Choice Questions

- Who was Saint Peter?**
  - A traveller
  - God itself
  - Disciple of Christ
  - A beggar
- What was the selfish woman changed into? (A Legend of the Northland)**
  - Into an eagle
  - Into a woodpecker
  - Into a fox
  - Into a crow
- Which bird did the St.'s curse change the woman into? (A Legend of the Northland)**
  - A parrot
  - A sparrow
  - A crow
  - A woodpecker
- According to the poem, A legend of the Northland who came to the door of a cottage?**
  - Children
  - A woman
  - A girl
  - Saint Peter
- Find out the words which represent simile figure of speech into the given stanza:**  
**She had a scarlet cap on her head,**  
**And that was left the same;**  
**But all the rest of her clothes were burned**  
**Black as a coal in the flame.**
  - Left the same
  - On her head
  - Black as a coal
  - A scarlet cap
- And the nights are so long in winter,**  
**That they cannot sleep them through.**  
**Which figure of speech is used in the above-mentioned lines?**
  - Personification
  - Simile
  - Alliteration
  - Hyperbole
- How will you compare the winter days and nights in Northland?**
  - The days are too long and the nights are too short.
  - The days and nights are of twelve hours each.
  - There are no days; it is always night there.
  - The days are too short and the nights are too Long.

8. **What did Saint Peter do during his travels around the world? (A Legend of the Northland)**
- (a) He looked after the poor and the rich
  - (b) He met little women
  - (c) He preached the people
  - (d) He begged for food
9. **What was the little woman doing when Saint Peter came to the door of her cottage?**
- (a) Cooking
  - (b) Baking cakes
  - (c) Sleeping
  - (d) Telling stories
10. **Where are the nights longer in winters according to the poem A legend of the Northland?**
- (a) Eastlands
  - (b) Westlands
  - (c) Northlands
  - (d) Netherlands

### Fill in the blanks :

11. The poem is written by \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Saint Peter was feeling tired and hungry because he had been \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### True / False

13. The little woman refused to give Saint Peter even the smallest cake.
14. The woman's cap turned into the red feathers of a woodpecker.

### Very Short Type Questions

15. Why did Saint Peter feel that the woman should not be a human being?
16. Why was Saint Peter annoyed with the little woman?

### Short Type Questions

17. What did the little woman feel about the cakes when she ate them herself?
18. What did Saint Peter ask the old lady for? What was the lady's reaction?

## Essay Type Questions

19. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.
- And he said, you are far too selfish  
To dwell in a human form,  
To have both food and shelter,  
And fire to keep you warm.  
Now, you shall build as the birds do,  
And shall get your scanty food  
By boring, and boring and boring.
- a. Fill in the blank with one word.  
He punished the old woman and turned her into a \_\_\_\_\_ bird.
- b. What does the speaker's alignment with those who are greedy, suggest? (1)
- c. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude in the given stanza? (1)
- Indifferent
  - Fearful
  - Enraged
  - Respectful
- d. Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. (2)
20. Why did the saint punish the woman? What was the punishment? Write your answer in the context of Poem A Legend of the Northland.

## HOTS

21. **Assertion (A)** : The poet chose to share the story despite skepticism about its authenticity.  
**Reason (R)** : The poet believed the story conveyed a significant lesson that everyone should grasp.
- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
(c) A is true, but R is false.  
(d) A is false, but R is true.

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## Answer &amp; Solution



1. (c)  
Saint Peter was a disciple of Jesus Christ and preached all over the world.
2. (b) Into a woodpecker
3. (d) A woodpecker
4. (d)  
Stanza 4 and 5 clearly mention that Saint Peter came to the door of a cottage.
5. (c)  
Black as coal shows the comparison.
6. (c)  
Alliteration is the repetition of beginning consonant sounds. It is used here in the repeated 't' sound in 'that they'.
7. (d) The days are too short and the nights are too long
8. (c) He preached to the people
9. (b)  
When Saint Peter came to the door of her cottage she was making cakes and baking them on the hearth.
10. (c)  
As per the first stanza of this poem in Northland the nights are too long in winters.
11. Phoebe Cary
12. fasting, travelling
13. True
14. True
15. Saint Peter believed that God had blessed human beings with a number of comforts and expected them to share them with the poor and the needy. However, when the greedy woman was reluctant to part with her share of cakes, he felt that she did not deserve to enjoy human life. He pronounced that she would no longer enjoy the comforts and blessings of human life.
16. Saint Peter was annoyed with the little woman because he was upset at the utter lack of human kindness in her. She had a large store of cakes but was so greedy that she would not part even with the thinnest one. She did not have the heart to feed a Saint who was feeling faint with hunger and fatigue.
17. The woman made a small cake for the Saint but when she laid it to bake, it seemed too big to her to give away. So she kneaded a smaller cake but it too seemed as big as the earlier one. Then she took a small bit of dough and rolled it as thin as a wafer but could not part even with that because of her greed. She was surprised that her cakes seemed very small when eating, but too large to share.

18. Saint Peter asked the old lady for a piece of cake. The lady behaved in a miserly way and kept changing the size of the cake. At last, she did not give him anything to eat.

19. i. woodpecker

ii. The speaker's alignment with those who are greedy suggests that he viewed the person he was addressing as self-centered and believed that such people should face hardship and work for their basic necessities like birds and animals do.

iii. Enraged

iv. In these lines, the poet employs language effectively to convey a sense of criticism and punishment. He uses repetition of the word 'boring', which highlights or emphasizes the monotony and difficulty of the task.

The poet uses imagery to describe the subject's new way of life, comparing it to how birds build nests and find food by "boring."

Overall, the poet's use of language in these lines effectively conveys a sense of judgment and retribution, painting a vivid picture of the subject's transformation and the difficulty of their new existence.

20. Saint Peter had eaten nothing all day. He came to the door of a cottage. He saw a woman making cakes. He asked her for a single cake. The woman was very selfish. She refused to give even a small cake to Saint Peter. The saint was very angry. He cursed the woman. He said that she was too selfish to live in a human form. He said that she would now live as a bird. She would have to bore the hardwood for her food. At once, the woman went up through the chimney. When she came out at the top, she was turned into a woodpecker. Now she had to keep boring the trees for her little food. Till this day, the little woman is found in the dense trees of forests in the form of a woodpecker boring the hardwood all day for her scanty food.

21. (a)

The text explicitly states, "Despite the poet's skepticism regarding the story's authenticity, she chose to share it because she believed it conveyed a significant lesson that everyone should grasp." This directly supports both the assertion and the reason, with the reason explaining why the poet shared the story.