Name: _____ Date: _____

Atalanta Runs

Reading level 6 · 164 words

Atalanta grew up in the woods of Greece. A mother bear kept her warm. Then some men took her in.

Atalanta could run faster than the wind. The deer stopped to stare at her. No one could catch her.

She made a rule. "Race me," she said. "If you win, I will be your best friend."

Boys came from far away. They ran with her. Each one lost and went home.

Then Hippomenes came. He was not so fast, but he was smart. He asked a goddess for help.

She gave him three golden apples. They shone like little suns. "Roll them," she said.

The race began. She ran far ahead. He rolled an apple in front of her.

She saw the gold and stopped. She picked up the apple. He ran on.

She caught up. He rolled the next apple, then the last one. Each time, she stopped.

Hippomenes ran over the line first. Atalanta laughed and said, "Well run!" They were friends.

Questions

1. What kept baby Atalanta warm?

A. A mother bear
B. A big dog
C. A wool coat

2. What was Atalanta's rule?

A. Bring her gold
B. Race her, and if you win, be her friend
C. Run to the sea

3. What did the goddess give Hippomenes?

A. A fast horse
B. A pair of shoes
C. Three golden apples

4. Why did Atalanta stop in the race?

A. She saw the shining apples
B. She was tired
C. She lost her way

5. Who ran over the line first?

A. Atalanta
B. Hippomenes
C. The bear

6. In this story, what does "smart" mean?

A. Very fast
B. Very tall
C. Good at thinking

Words to know

goddess: a woman god
race: a contest
shone: gave off light
smart: good at thinking

Answer key: Atalanta Runs

1. A. A mother bear
2. B. Race her, and if you win, be her friend
3. C. Three golden apples
4. A. She saw the shining apples
5. B. Hippomenes
6. C. Good at thinking