Name: _____ Date: _____

Pandora and Hope

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 229 words

Long ago, the gods made a woman. Her name was Pandora. It means "all the gifts."

Every god gave her a wonderful gift. One gave her a lovely voice. One gave her a very curious mind.

Then Zeus gave her a tall clay jar. "Keep it safe," he said. "But never, ever open it."

Pandora carried the jar to her little house. She set it beside the wall. It had a heavy lid.

All day long, she looked at the jar. What could be inside? She wanted to know so much.

Sometimes she heard a rustle in the jar. Once a tiny voice said, "Let us out!"

One afternoon, she was home alone. "Just one peek," she said. She lifted the lid a little.

Out flew gray Troubles with wings like moths. Sickness, Sorrow and Worry buzzed past her. They flew out through the window.

Pandora clapped the lid on tight. But it was too late. The Troubles were out in the world.

Pandora sat down and cried. "I should not have opened it," she said.

Then she heard a soft sound inside the jar. She peeked through a small gap. Something golden was glowing there.

"Do not cry," said a warm little voice. "I am Hope. The Troubles left me behind."

Hope has stayed with everyone ever since. Troubles still come. When they do, Hope is there too.

Questions

1. What did Zeus tell Pandora?

A. Bring the jar to him
B. Never open the jar
C. Plant the jar

2. What did Pandora do while she was alone?

A. She sang a song
B. She broke the jar
C. She lifted the lid

3. Why did Pandora want to look in the jar?

A. She was very curious
B. She was hungry

C. She was angry

4. What was left in the jar?

A. Gold
B. Worry
C. Hope

5. In this story, what does "curious" mean?

A. Cross
B. Eager to know
C. Very sleepy

6. What does the story show about Hope?

A. It stays with us when troubles come
B. It flies far away
C. It is a kind of gold

Words to know

curious: eager to know
jar: a tall pot
troubles: bad things
sorrow: deep sadness
hope: good wishes

Answer key: Pandora and Hope

1. B. Never open the jar
2. C. She lifted the lid
3. A. She was very curious
4. C. Hope
5. B. Eager to know
6. A. It stays with us when troubles come