Name: _____ Date: _____

The Girl Who Wove

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 209 words

Arachne was a girl in the land of Lydia. She could weave better than anyone. Her cloth looked alive.

She wove a rose, and the bees came to it. She wove a river, and it seemed to ripple.

People whispered, "Athena must have taught her." Athena was the Greek goddess of weaving.

"Nobody taught me!" said Arachne. "I am better than Athena. Let her come and try."

The next day, an old woman came to the door. "Do not boast," she said. "Say sorry to the goddess."

"I will not," said Arachne. "Why does Athena not come here herself? Is she afraid?"

The old woman stood up tall. She was Athena! Her gown shone like light.

"Then let us weave," said Arachne. She was not afraid. They set up two looms side by side.

Athena wove a hill and an olive tree. It was beautiful. Arachne wove the gods acting silly.

Athena looked at every thread. She found no mistake at all. But the cloth was unkind.

Athena touched Arachne's forehead. Arachne grew tiny and round. She had eight thin legs.

She was a little brown spider. She swung from a silver thread.

"Live and weave," said Athena. "You will never have to stop." Spiders weave their webs still.

Questions

1. Where did Arachne live?

A. In a cave
B. In Lydia
C. On a boat

2. What did the old woman tell Arachne to do?

A. Sell her cloth
B. Stop weaving
C. Say sorry to the goddess

3. Who was the old woman?

A. Athena
B. Arachne's mother
C. A spider

4. Why did Arachne get into trouble?

A. She lost her thread
B. She was late
C. She bragged about being better than a goddess

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

A. Hide
B. Brag
C. Whisper

6. What does the story show about weaving and spiders?

A. Spiders still weave webs today
B. Looms are very old
C. Roses grow near rivers

Words to know

Lydia: an old land
weave: make cloth from thread
boast: brag
olive: a small green fruit
thread: a thin line of yarn

Answer key: The Girl Who Wove

1. B. In Lydia
2. C. Say sorry to the goddess
3. A. Athena
4. C. She bragged about being better than a goddess
5. B. Brag
6. A. Spiders still weave webs today