Name: _____ Date: _____

The Sailor and the Snake

Reading level 6 · 167 words

A sailor was on a big ship. Then a big storm came.

The waves were tall. The ship broke. The sailor held on to a plank.

The sea carried him to an island. He lay on the sand, wet and tired.

Nobody was there. He found figs and grapes, and he ate and ate.

Then the ground began to shake. Out of the trees came a giant snake!

It was as long as a ship. Its skin shone like gold.

The sailor was so scared. He could not say a single word.

But the snake was kind. It carried him, very gently, to its home.

"Do not be afraid," said the snake. "You will be safe here."

"A ship will come for you," it said. "You will go home."

And one day, a ship came! The sailor knew the men on board.

The snake gave him many gifts. The sailor said, "Thank you, kind friend!"

The sailor sailed home. He told the king about the kind snake.

Questions

1. What did the sailor hold on to in the storm?

A. A plank
B. A rope
C. A fish

2. What did the sailor find to eat on the island?

A. Bread and soup
B. Figs and grapes
C. Nothing at all

3. How did the snake treat the sailor?

A. It chased him
B. It would not speak
C. It was kind to him

4. Why did the sailor stop being scared?

A. The snake was gentle and said he would be safe

B. He ran away

C. He fell asleep

5. The snake carried him "gently." What does gently mean?

A. Very fast

B. In a soft way

C. With a loud noise

Words to know

plank: a flat piece of wood

island: land in the sea

gently: in a soft way

gift: a present

Answer key: The Sailor and the Snake

1. A. A plank
2. B. Figs and grapes
3. C. It was kind to him
4. A. The snake was gentle and said he would be safe
5. B. In a soft way