

## EXTENDED READING COMPREHENSION:



# The King of Elfland's Daughter Questions

Answer the following questions about the excerpt adapted from *The King of Elfland's Daughter*.

1. Why does the lord of Erl send his son Alveric on a journey beyond the fairylands to Elfland?
  - a. The mention of Princess Lirazel reminds him of the beautiful witch who lured him in the gardens of Erl.
  - b. He wants Alveric to prove his worth by completing the long, treacherous journey.
  - c. He wants Alveric to marry Princess Lirazel, thus satisfying the people's desire for a magic ruler.
  - d. He wants Alveric to convince Princess Lirazel to use her magic to forge him a powerful sword.
  
2. Why does Alveric think of the witch after his father commands him to go on his journey?
  - a. The mention of Princess Lirazel reminds Alveric of the beautiful witch who lured him in the gardens of Erl.
  - b. Alveric knows the witch will be able to forge a more powerful, magical sword, which he'll need on his journey.
  - c. Alveric wants the witch, who has become his friend, to accompany him for protection on his long journey.
  - d. The thought of going on such a long journey into magical lands makes him fearful of the witch's dark magic.



3. How did Alveric come to be in the witch's good graces? Summarize the events of the initial meeting between Alveric and the witch.
 

Alveric had met the witch when she was in a beautiful false form. The witch was grateful that he didn't cringe when she turned back into her real form, so she told him that she would make him a powerful sword if he ever needed it.

4. **Part A.** The word **runes** is used throughout the passage. In your own words, define the word as it is used in the text.
 

Runes are magical chants, songs, or actions that can be used to cast spells.

**Part B.** Provide two context clues from the text that help you understand the meaning of the word **runes**.

- a. Paragraph 7 says that thunderbolts could carry the magic from the witch's runes, and she steps back and blasts them with outstretched hands.
- b. Paragraph 9 describes the second of the witch's runes as a song that she "croons" to infuse magic into the sword.

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Keep going! Answer the following questions about the text.

5. **Part A.** Which adjective best describes the beginning of the witch's spell based on the information in paragraphs 7 and 8?

- a. intense
- b. gentle
- c. cruel
- d. ambitious

**Part B.** Cite specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

The author uses words like "blasted" and "frightful" to describe this part of the spell. The witch turned the ordinary fire into something that "wanderers feared." The personification "the flames danced wild" emphasizes the spell's intensity. The witch stands and backs away from the fire and mutters louder and louder until she is shouting.

6. **Part A.** Which adjective best describes the last part of the witch's spell based on the information in paragraph 9?

- a. terrifying
- c. wistful
- b. reckless
- d. sacred

**Part B.** Cite specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

The author uses the word "crooned" to describe how the witch sings softly to the cooling sword as he sits on the ground beside it. He describes the song as "full of long-gone dewy mornings and evenings" that are tinged with regrets and seem like the ghosts of better times.

7. What conclusion can you make about the witch based on her behavior after she gave Alveric the magic sword? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

The witch puts what is good for Alveric above her own desires. She could be dangerous to Alveric because she has the power and desire to keep him with her, but she chooses not to do so. The text says she looks at Alveric as though she would have kept him, but she turns away and disappears, not responding to his calls. He eventually leaves, which the text says was "best for him."

8. Consider the author's use of figurative language in the following sentence from the passage. Name the type of figurative language, such as personification, simile, or metaphor, and what it means in the context of the story.

**Paragraph 7:** *On the grass beside her, Alveric laid those strangers to Earth. From wonderful spaces they came to the witch's magical garden, shaken by thunder from paths that we cannot tread.*

Personification. The author personifies the thunderbolts, comparing them to alien beings. This emphasizes the unfamiliarity and wonder of the thunderbolts.