

Answer the questions about “The Bamboo Cutter and the Moon Child.”

- 1. This story is a Japanese myth. It was meant to explain a natural feature that was visible at the time of its telling. What feature was that?
a. snow on the top of Mount Fuji
b. a lunar eclipse
c. smoke rising from the top of Mount Fuji
d. a meteor shower

- 2. What clues in the first paragraph of the story indicate that the child found by Taketori no Okina is no ordinary child? Choose **two**.
a. The child is lovely.
b. The child is found in the forest.
c. The child stands no more than three inches tall.
d. The child glows like the light of the moon.

- 3. How does Taketori no Okina’s decision to take the tiny child home advance the plot? **Sample answer:**
Taketori no Okina and his wife, filled with joy to have the child they always wanted, became very wealthy, which caused them to receive attention.

- 4a. Which two adjectives describe Taketori no Okina’s character? **Sample answer:**
kind gentle

- 4b. Cite two pieces of textual evidence that reveal aspects of Taketori no Okina’s character. **Sample answer:**
“The old man gently carried the lovely creature home.” “Taketori no Okina desperately sought the Emperor’s help.”

- 5. Why does Kaguya-hime assign impossible tasks to the five knights?
a. She wants to teach them a lesson.
b. She wants them to leave her alone.
c. She wants to marry someone else.
d. She truly desires the things she sends them after.

- 6. In the third paragraph, what does the word **counterfeit** mean?
Sample answer: Counterfeit means made to resemble something genuine in order to defraud.

- 7. How does the Emperor prove himself different from the five knights? **Sample answer:**
Though he loves Kaguya-hime as the knights proclaim to do, the Emperor respects Kaguya-hime’s wishes to be left in peace.

- 8. What theme below can be seen in the relationship of Kaguya-hime and the Emperor?
a. Never give up, even if a task seems impossible.
b. If you truly love someone, let them be free.
c. Fortune follows fame.
d. Be careful what you wish for.

- 9. Summarize the last two paragraphs of the story. **Sample answer:**
Kaguya-hime is sad that the moon people are going to take her back to the moon. Her father and the Emperor try to stop them, but to no avail. Kaguya-hime sends the Elixir of Life to the Emperor, but he has it burned on the top of Mount Fuji. The smoke could later still be seen rising from Mount Fuji’s summit.