

Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo by Rudyard Kipling

Directions: Read the following passage and choose the best answer to the questions that follow.

A long time ago, the Kangaroo looked very different than he does now. He was grey and woolly, with four short legs. He was very boastful, and wanted nothing more than to be the most important and well-loved animal in Australia.

One day, his pride really got the better of him. The old Kangaroo went to the Little God Nia, who was known for granting wishes.

"Make me different from all the other animals," demanded the old Kangaroo, "it must be done by 5 o'clock this afternoon."

Up jumped Nia from his seat on the rocks and he shouted, "Go away!"

So the old Kangaroo went to the Middle God Nialu, and commanded, "Make me different from all the other animals, and make me very popular too! It must be done by 5 o'clock this afternoon." Up jumped Nialu from his seat in the bushes and he shouted, "Go away!"

So the old Kangaroo went to the Big God Nialuwa and stated, "You must make me different from all the other animals, and very popular, and very wonderfully run-after. It must be done by 5 o'clock this afternoon."

Nialuwa was tired of the old Kangaroo's shenanigans, and so he proceeded to grant his wishes. Nialuwa called the yellow dog Dingo and said, "See that Kangaroo?" The Dingo nodded. "Well, he wishes to be different from all the other animals, and very wonderfully run-after. Make him so! You have until 5 o'clock this afternoon."



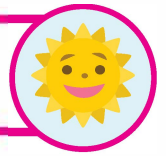
And with that, the Dingo began to chase the grey and woolly Kangaroo for miles and miles. The old Kangaroo ran and ran on his four legs, through the desert, through the mountains, through the salt-pans, the reed-beds and the blue gums... he had to! Soon they came

to a river, and the Kangaroo didn't know how to cross. He began to hop through the river. Then he hopped through the forest, and soon his back legs began to get stronger. He tucked up his front legs, hopped on his hind legs and stuck out his tail for balance as he hopped away from the Dingo.

Eventually the sun began to set. The tired old Kangaroo hopped and hopped, and suddenly realized that the Dingo was no longer chasing him. It was 5 o'clock in the afternoon! And low and behold, the old Kangaroo was now different from all the other animals, not to mention, he'd been run-after all day.



The Sing Song of Old Man Kangaroo Comprehension



1. In what order did Kangaroo visit the three gods?
 - A. Nialuwa, Nia, Nialu
 - B. Nia, Nialu, Nialuwa
 - D. Nialuwa, Nialu, Nia
 - C. Kangaroo hadn't visited any gods.

2. Why had Nialuwa grown tired of Kangaroo's shenanigans?
 - A. Kangaroo didn't know how to cross the river on four legs.
 - B. Kangaroo had demanded to be different by 5 o'clock in the afternoon.
 - C. Kangaroo came to Nialuwa after making demands of Nia and Nialu.
 - D. Nialuwa had just woken up from a year-long nap.

3. Why had Nailu jumped up from his seat?
 - A. He was finished granting wishes.
 - B. The bushes were crawling with ants.
 - C. Nialu realized he had someplace else to go.
 - D. Nialu was upset with Kangaroo and his bad attitude.

4. How had Kangaroo's legs begun to get stronger?
 - A. Nilalu sent him on an errand.
 - B. Dingo had chased him all day.
 - D. Kangaroo went for a swim in a magic lake.
 - C. Dingo cast a spell on Kangaroo.

5. Why had Nialuwa asked Dingo to look at Kangaroo?
 - A. Nialuwa was about to assign him a task.
 - B. Kangaroo was holding Dingo's lunch.
 - C. Nialuwa wanted him to see what a kangaroo looked like.
 - D. Kangaroo was holding up a sign for Dingo to read.

6. Why had Kangaroo stuck out his tail?
 - A. For good luck
 - B. To smack Dingo as he ran
 - C. For balance
 - D. To trip Nia