

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

Traditional Tales: Firebird

Reading Questions and Answers

After reading just the first paragraph of Chapter 3, p.19: How do you think Ivan feels when he is brought in front of Tsar Dolmat?

- Example answer: I think he will be very anxious about what will happen to him. The fact that the tsar takes a long time before he says anything probably makes Ivan even more nervous.

p.19: Thinking carefully about what you know about Ivan's personality, tell me how you think he will behave in front of the tsar. What will he say? What will his body language be like?

- Example answer: Ivan has been caught red-handed trying to steal something so he won't try to deny what he has done. Ivan has spoken his mind before in front of his father so I think he will stand up for himself and try to put his point of view forward. I think he will appear confident in his body language even if he is nervous. After all, he was able to act confidently in front of the wolf when the wolf ate his horse.

After reading up to the end of the first paragraph on p.20: Think about other traditional tales you have read where a hero goes off in search of something. Are there any familiar themes/characters/settings to the story we are reading?

- Example answer: I have read other stories where a hero goes in search of a mythical creature or item and ends up in lots of danger along the way, e.g. Jason and the Golden Fleece. The palaces and gardens featured in this story are also settings you find in traditional tales. Wolves as large and powerful as the grey wolf don't really exist. I have read stories with very powerful animals like Pegasus or dragons.

p.20: Using what you know of the structure of these types of stories, can this help you predict what favour Tsar Dolmat might ask Ivan to do for him?

- Example answer: I think he might send him on another

mission as this happens in other quest stories I have read and it follows the pattern started already in this story.

p.20: How do you think the wolf will respond to Ivan when he sees him again? Use what you know about the wolf to help you to answer.

- Example answer: I think the wolf will be angry with Ivan for not listening to his instructions but we know the wolf is fond of Ivan so this will make him more likely to continue to help him.

After reading to the end of p.21: What do you think Ivan will do when he gets inside the stables? Explain why you think this.

- I predict that Ivan will touch the bridle because he disobeyed the wolf before and I think he will do it again.

After reading to the end of p.23: When Ivan is released from Tsar Alfron's palace, the wolf says, "From now on, we are doing things my way!" How do you think he says this and what do you think he means by it?

- Example answer: I think the wolf says this assertively and in a disappointed tone as he is unhappy that Ivan has not followed instructions again and he says, "You have been an utter fool." I think he means he will not trust Ivan to complete the next task and he will go with him to get Princess Helena.

At the end of Chapter 3: Based on what you know about the characters, how do you think the story will develop next? Use evidence from the text to provide support for your answer.

- Example answer: I think Ivan will succeed in completing his quest as he has shown determination and resilience up until now. The wolf is very knowledgeable and powerful so he will help him succeed, I think.

Deeper Reading

Do you think Ivan's personality and behaviour will change from Chapter 4 onwards? Give reasons for your answer.

- Example answer: I think Ivan may have learnt from his mistakes now that the wolf is taking control so he might follow instructions more from now on.

