

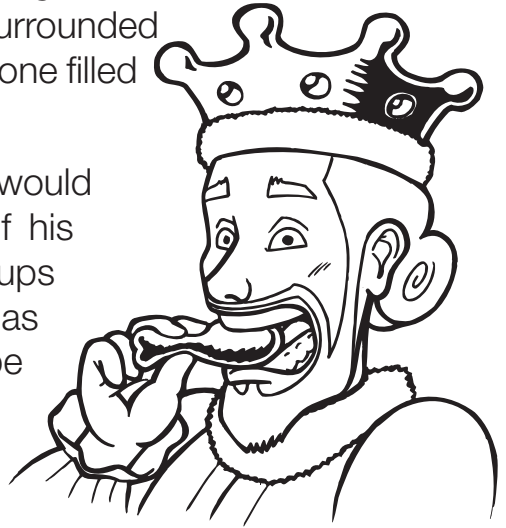
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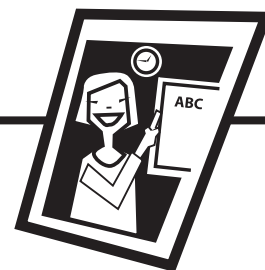
When we read, we often decide what we think might be true based on information in the text. This is called inferring.

Read the myth.

The story of King Midas

1. King Midas was a very rich king who ruled the kingdom of Phygia. He lived in a huge castle with his lovely, fair-haired daughter, Marigold. His castle was filled with beautiful and expensive things. It was surrounded by magnificent flower gardens, the biggest being one filled with sweet-smelling roses.
2. Midas also enjoyed collecting gold. Every day he would count his huge pile of gold again and again. If his daughter picked a bunch of dandelions or buttercups he would say that he wished the flowers were as golden as they looked. Then they would really be worth keeping.
3. One day, while Midas was outside in his rose garden counting his coins, he saw an old man resting behind a bush. He realised the man was Silenus, the faithful servant of the god, Dionysus. Midas thought it would be a good idea if he looked after him, so he took extra special care of him for a week before taking him back to Dionysus. Of course, Dionysus rewarded Midas for his kindness by granting him one wish. Midas thought for one second and wished that everything he touched would turn to gold. Dionysus frowned and asked if he was sure. When Midas replied that he was sure, Dionysus finally agreed.
4. Midas ran around the castle touching the walls, the furniture, and his precious roses. They all turned to gold. Then he sat down and began to eat a meal, but found he couldn't eat it as it had turned to gold as well. Suddenly, Marigold ran into the room. She grabbed her father's arm saying that his roses had turned an ugly yellow colour and didn't smell sweet any more. Midas began to tell her what he thought about them, but to his horror, she too had to turned to gold.
5. Midas was so upset that he went back to Dionysus and begged him to get rid of his golden touch. He said he was sorry he had made such a wish. Dionysus looked at him carefully and then agreed. He told him to bathe in the river water to wash off his greed and the wish. Midas gladly did this and then collected water in jugs to pour over everything that had turned to gold.
6. From that day on, the only thing Midas enjoys that is gold, is his daughter's hair.





Learn how to work out what is most likely to be true.

- The answers are not usually in the text, but there is information to give you clues to think about. (This could be underlined.)
- Find the answer that makes the most sense and is helped by details from the text.
- Consider all possible answers before making a decision.

1. *Why do you think King Midas's daughter was called Marigold?*

- (a) She was named after her mother, who was called Marigold.
- (b) Midas liked flowers and a marigold is a flower.
- (c) Her name starts with M and Midas starts with M.
- (d) Midas loved gold and the word 'gold' is part of her name.

Choosing the best answer.

- (a) The text doesn't say that her mother's name was Marigold. This is not the best answer.
- (b) This is a possible answer as the sentence is true. But you must check all possible answers.
- (c) There is nothing in the text to make you think this sentence is true, but it could be. It may not be the best answer.
- (d) The text says how much Midas likes gold and counts it again and again. Midas would like to call his daughter after gold. This would be a better answer than (b) or (c).

2. *Which flowers do you think Midas liked best?*

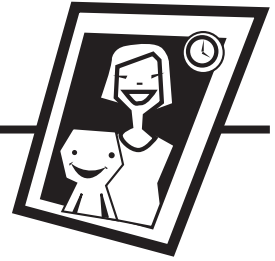
- (a) marigolds
- (b) roses
- (c) buttercups
- (d) dandelions

Choosing the best answer.

- (a) His daughter's name was Marigold, but the text doesn't say anything about marigold flowers. It could be a good answer.
- (b) The text says the biggest garden was his rose garden and that Midas counted his money in his precious rose garden and that he turned his precious roses into gold. This is a better answer than (a).
- (c) Buttercups are a gold colour, but Midas said they would be only worth keeping if they were golden. They may not be his favourite flowers.
- (d) Midas also said that dandelions would not be worth keeping unless they were golden. This is not a good answer.

Inferring

Practice page



Use similar strategies to those on page 65 to help you decide what you think is most likely to be true, based on information from the text. (Clues are given to help you.)

1. Why do you think Midas took extra special care of Silenus for a week?
- (a) Because Silenus was tired.
 - (b) Because he was the god, Dionysus's, servant.
 - (c) Midas liked having visitors.
 - (d) He had a feeling Dionysus would reward him.

The best answer is .

2. (a) How do you think Midas felt when he was first granted his wish?
- (i) the same
 - (ii) upset
 - (iii) overjoyed
 - (iv) worried

The best answer is .

- (b) Explain why you decided to choose this answer.

3. (a) Do you think Midas was a deep and thoughtful thinker?

Yes No

- (b) Explain why you decided to choose this answer.

4. Explain how you think Marigold felt when she discovered the roses had turned to gold.

Think!

Read Paragraph 3 carefully to help you decide on the answer.

Think!

You will need to read the beginning of Paragraph 4 to find the answer.

Think!

The best clue to help you is in Paragraph 3.

Think!

Read Paragraph 4 to help you decide the answer.



On your own

Think about the strategies you have been using and work out these answers.

1. *What do you think Midas first thought about his roses turning to gold?*

- (a) He liked them better the way they were before.
- (b) He liked their smell.
- (c) He was pleased they were gold.
- (d) He was sad they were gold.

The best answer is .

2. *Dionysus looked carefully at Midas before agreeing to get rid of his golden touch. Why do you think he did this?*

- (a) He thought Midas looked funny.
- (b) He wanted to be sure Midas was certain.
- (c) He had to look carefully because he didn't have his glasses on.
- (d) He was looking to see if he had turned to gold.

The best answer is .

3. *Give a reason to explain why Dionysus frowned when Midas first asked for his wish.*

4. *Do you think that Midas eventually loved his daughter more than gold?*

Yes No

Explain why you think this.
