



Read each myth or legend carefully. Use details from the passage to answer the questions in complete sentences.

Gaius Mucius Scaevola's Courage



Long ago, the city of Rome faced great danger. Powerful King Lars Porsena attacked its walls, making Romans hungry and scared. A brave young soldier, Gaius Mucius, decided he must save his city. He planned to sneak into the enemy camp and kill King Porsena.



Mucius quietly slipped into the Etruscan camp. He saw a man in rich robes giving orders. Believing this was King Porsena, Mucius struck with his dagger. But he had killed the king's scribe by mistake!

Soldiers captured Mucius and brought him to the real King Porsena. The king was furious. Gaius Mucius, to show Roman courage, bravely put his right hand into a burning fire. He held it there until it was gone.



King Porsena was amazed by Mucius's bravery. He knew Romans could not be defeated. He freed Mucius and made peace with Rome. Gaius Mucius was called "Scaevola," meaning "left-handed," for his sacrifice. This myth teaches about courage and loyalty.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in this myth, and what is their role?

- (A) Lars Porsena, a powerful Etruscan king.



- B Gaius Mucius, a brave Roman soldier.
- C Jupiter, the king of the Roman gods.
- D Venus, the Roman goddess of love.

(2) In this myth, Gaius Mucius had to prove his courage by putting his hand into a burning

_____ .

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What does the word "scribe" mean as it is used in the story?

- A A soldier who guards the king.
- B A person who writes things down for someone important.
- C A king from a different country.
- D A brave warrior who fights for his city.

(4) Why did Gaius Mucius put his hand into the fire? What does this tell us about Roman values?

(5) What do you think this myth was trying to explain or teach? How does its message connect to something in real life today?



