



Ancient Myths Retold

Grade 4

Name: _____

Read the fable carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

Think about what the character learned and what lesson the fable is teaching.

The Golden Touch



In ancient Phrygia, King Midas lived in a grand palace. His greatest joy was not his people, but gold. Midas loved gold, admiring treasures and wishing for more. He believed enough gold would make him the happiest man alive.

One day, an old satyr named Silenus, a companion of the god Dionysus, wandered into Midas's royal gardens. Silenus had gotten lost after a feast. King Midas, recognizing the satyr, kindly took him in and cared for him for ten days, showing great hospitality.

When Dionysus came looking for his friend, he offered Midas any wish. Midas's eyes gleamed, thinking of his passion. "O mighty Dionysus," he exclaimed, "I wish that everything I touch would turn into pure, sparkling gold!" Dionysus sighed, knowing this wish might bring sorrow, but he granted it.



Midas woke, eager to test his power. He touched his bed, and it shimmered into solid gold. He walked through his garden, and every flower, leaf, and stone he touched instantly transformed. "This is magnificent!" he cried. But when he sat to eat, his bread turned to gold, and his cool water became a heavy, golden liquid he could not drink.

Panic stirred in Midas's heart. He was hungry and thirsty, surrounded by wealth he couldn't enjoy. Just then, his beloved young daughter, Marigold, ran in to greet him. She threw her arms around his legs, and in an instant, she became a cold, golden statue.

Midas let out a cry of despair. His own child was now just another golden object.



Overwhelmed, Midas pleaded to Dionysus to take back the terrible gift. The god, seeing Midas's regret, took pity. He instructed the king to wash in the Pactolus River. As Midas washed, the golden power flowed out, turning the river's sands to gold. His daughter was restored, and Midas learned true happiness was found not in riches, but in life's simple joys and family love.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in this fable, and where does he live?

(2) What problem did King Midas face after his wish was granted?

(3) Why did King Midas wish for everything he touched to turn into gold?



(4) Was King Midas's choice to wish for the golden touch a good one? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.

(5) What lesson does this fable teach? How could this lesson help you in real life?

