



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

The Wall of Asgard



Long ago, in the dawn of time, the mighty gods of Asgard, known as the Æsir, sought to protect their golden realm. They needed an impenetrable wall to keep out their enemies, especially the formidable giants from Jotunheim. This was a time when the realms were still taking shape, and the gods often faced great dangers.

One day, a mysterious master builder arrived, offering to construct a wall so strong that no one could breach it. His price was steep: the beautiful goddess Freya, the sun, and the moon. The gods, led by Odin, thought this task impossible to complete in the proposed time—just one winter. Loki, ever the trickster, convinced them to agree, adding a condition that the builder must finish the wall entirely by himself, with no help from any other being, before the first day of summer.



The builder agreed, bringing with him only his magnificent stallion, Svaðilfari, a horse of incredible strength and speed. To the gods' astonishment, Svaðilfari worked tirelessly, hauling enormous stones with ease, far faster than any mortal or god could. As winter drew to a close, the wall was nearly complete, and panic spread through Asgard. The gods realized they might actually lose Freya, the sun, and the moon because of Loki's clever but risky deal.



Furious, the gods demanded that Loki find a way to stop the builder. Loki, fearing their wrath, transformed himself into a beautiful mare. He galloped into the forest, luring Svaðilfari away from the construction site with his irresistible charm. The stallion chased the mare for days, leaving the builder without his essential helper.



Without Svaðilfari, the builder could not finish the wall on time. Enraged, he ripped off his disguise, revealing his true form as a fearsome giant. Before he could cause any harm, Thor, the thunder god, appeared and struck him down with his mighty hammer Mjölfnir. Thus, Asgard's wall was completed, but the gods learned a harsh lesson about making deals with tricksters and the importance of careful planning.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

- (A) Odin, the Allfather who leads the gods
- (B) Loki, the trickster god who helps and hinders the Æsir
- (C) Thor, the thunder god who protects Asgard
- (D) Heimdall, the guardian of the Bifrost bridge

(2) In this myth, Loki had to transform into a mare in order to _____ .

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What does the word 'impenetrable' mean as it is used in the story?

- (A) impossible to get through or break into
- (B) very easy to enter
- (C) built quickly
- (D) a type of magical spell

(4) Why did Loki convince the gods to agree to the builder's impossible terms? What does this tell us about Loki's character?



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

