



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

Sir Palamedes and the Questing Beast



Long ago, in the mystical realm of Camelot, where King Arthur's noble knights pledged their lives to chivalry and justice, a unique challenge haunted the land.

Among these valiant knights was Sir Palamedes, a Saracen knight renowned for his exceptional skill in combat and his unwavering sense of honor. Yet, Palamedes carried a quiet sorrow, for his heart yearned for the fair Isolde, a love that could never be. Despite his personal grief, he was known for taking on the most thankless and arduous quests. His most famous pursuit was that of the elusive and terrifying Questing Beast .

The Questing Beast was a creature of nightmare: it possessed the head of a serpent, the body of a leopard, the haunches of a lion, and the feet of a hart. Its most unsettling feature was the constant, dreadful noise it emitted, a sound like the baying of thirty hounds. This beast symbolized chaos and dread, a persistent threat that few dared to confront. Palamedes took up this hunt not for fleeting glory, but out of a deep-seated commitment to order and a personal code of duty to protect the realm from such ancient evils.



Sir Palamedes pursued the beast across wild forests and desolate plains, facing it in many fierce encounters. He was often wounded, his armor battered, but his resolve never faltered. His quest was a lonely one, often overshadowed by the more celebrated adventures of other Knights of the Round Table. Yet, he continued, driven by an inner strength and a profound sense of responsibility, even when victory seemed perpetually out of reach .



Though the Questing Beast, in its symbolic nature, could never be truly vanquished or captured forever, Sir Palamedes's relentless dedication became a legend in itself. His story teaches that true valor is found not only in triumphant conquest but also in steadfast perseverance against seemingly endless challenges. It reminds us that some quests represent deeper, unending struggles, and that honor lies in the continuous pursuit of an ideal, regardless of the outcome.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

- (A) Sir Palamedes, a Saracen knight who hunted the Questing Beast.
- (B) King Arthur, the noble ruler of Camelot.
- (C) Sir Lancelot, a valiant knight known for his love for Queen Guinevere.
- (D) Merlin, the wise wizard and advisor to King Arthur.

(2) **In this myth, Sir Palamedes dedicated himself to hunting the Questing Beast to bring _____ to the realm.**

— continue writing on the lines below

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

- (A) The act of giving up easily when faced with difficulty.
- (B) The quality of continuing in a course of action despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.
- (C) The ability to quickly defeat an enemy in battle.



D The feeling of great sadness or sorrow.

(4) Why did Sir Palamedes continue his lonely quest for the Questing Beast even when victory seemed perpetually out of reach? What does this tell us about his 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?

