

Name:

Fiction: Reading Comprehension – Q1:1

Date:

*As you answer this week's questions, highlight your evidence in the text.*

## The Boy Who Wanted the Moon

### *an African Folktale*

Once upon a time, a powerful king in Africa had a son. He celebrated having an heir for his kingdom by giving the boy anything that the child wanted. He even made the prince king of the children.

"Everything that you can see belongs to us," said the king, showing his son the land from a high mountain.

"I own everything I can see," the prince told the other children.

"Do you even own the moon?" said a girl. "You can't own the moon!"

The prince was **adamant**. "I own everything I can see. My father, the king, told me it is so!"

"You really think your father can give you the moon? That's ridiculous," the same girl argued. All the children laughed.

He ran weeping to his father and told him, "Give me the moon. Now. Or did you lie to me?"

"I did not lie to you, son. But I admit I was thinking about the land, not the sky," the king said.

The spoiled prince refused to eat until his father gave him the moon. Like a full moon, he began to get thinner as every day passed.

"My son will die because he is so stubborn," the king told his subjects. "I must get him the moon. We shall build a tower up to the moon, and I will get it down for him."

Even a foolish king had absolute power, and the people of the country began to cut down trees and build a tower. Higher and higher the prince's tower to the moon rose.

The prince climbed up the tower with his father, but he still couldn't touch the moon. He could see the whole continent of Africa.

"Look at all the land we can see!" said the prince. "Look how much we own now!"

"Isn't that enough, son?" the king asked. It was a long, long way down from the tower. People looked as small as ants below them.

"I want the moon," said the prince. "You said I owned everything I can see, and I see the moon."

The king sighed and ordered the tower to be built even higher.

At last, the tower was so high that the king could touch the bright white moon. But as he tried to wrestle it from the sky, he bumped into it and made the big craters that **mar** its face.

"You cannot have the moon," boomed a voice from the sky. "Foolish, foolish king!" The king fell back to earth and was caught in a high tree.

At that moment, the king, the prince, and all the subjects began to grow brown fur all over their bodies. They sprouted long tails, and they became the animals now called monkeys. They no longer owned anything, and they lived high in the trees. They could never reach the moon again. In frustration, they chatter in the branches, wishing they were human. The tower the king built rotted into nothing but mulch.

When the moon is full, you can still see the black spots on its face where the king bumped into it, long, long ago.



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**Monday**

**Before you begin**, read the title. What can you predict about the text based on the title?

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What is the text mainly about?

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How does telling the prince, "Everything that you can see belongs to us," cause a problem?

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Determine the meaning of the word **adamant** in the text.

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**Tuesday**

From what point of view is the story being told?

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Which detail from the story helped you answer the previous question?

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At the beginning of the story, all the children laugh at the prince. How does this make the prince feel?

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What effect did the prince refusing to eat have on the king?

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### Wednesday

Based on the clues in the text, what event most likely caused the boy to ask his father for the moon?

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*"People looked as small as ants below them."*  
What type of figurative language is the author using?

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After climbing the tower for the first time, how does the king attempt to make the prince happy?

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Determine the meaning of the word **mar** as it is used in the text.

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### Thursday

What question about nature is explained through this folktale?

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Circle the detail below that best demonstrates the prince is spoiled.

*We shall build a town up to the moon, and I shall get it down for him.*

*You said I owned everything I can see, and I see the moon.*

When the king orders the tower to be built even higher, what clue tells you he is not happy about continuing to build the tower?

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What lesson can you learn from this folktale?

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Answer Key - Fiction: Reading Comprehension – Q1:1

Monday	Tuesday
<p><b>Before you begin</b>, read the title. What can you predict about the text based on the title?</p> <p>Answers will vary.</p>	<p>From what point of view is the story being told?</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> person point of view</p>
<p>How does telling the prince, "Everything that you can see belongs to us," cause a problem?</p> <p>The prince takes the king's words literal and now wants everything he can see.</p>	<p>At the beginning of the story, all the children laugh at the prince. How does this make the prince feel?</p> <p>sad; angry; frustrated</p>
<p>What is the text mainly about?</p> <p>A king who spoils his son and must now try to give him the moon.</p>	<p>Which detail from the story helped you answer the previous question?</p> <p>He ran weeping to his father</p>
<p>Determine the meaning of the word <b>adamant</b> as it is used in the text.</p> <p>stubborn; unwavering</p>	<p>What effect did the prince refusing to eat have on the king?</p> <p>This caused the king to decide to attempt to get the moon for his son.</p>
Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Based on the clues in the text, what event most likely caused the boy to ask his father for the moon?</p> <p>the other children questioning the price and telling him that he cannot own the moon</p>	<p>What question about nature is explained through this folktale?</p> <p>How did the moon get craters?</p>
<p>After climbing the tower for the first time, how does the king attempt to make the prince happy?</p> <p>The king shows the price even more land they can now see and own.</p>	<p>When the king orders the tower to be built even higher, what clue tells you he is not happy about continuing to build the tower?</p> <p>He sighed before ordering the tower to be built higher.</p>
<p>"People looked as small as ants below them." What type of figurative language is the author using?</p> <p>a simile</p>	<p>Circle the detail below that best demonstrates the prince is spoiled.</p> <p><i>We shall build a town up to the moon, and I shall get it down for him.</i></p> <p>You said I owned everything I can see, and I see the moon.</p>
<p>Determine the meaning of the word <b>mar</b> as it is used in the text.</p> <p>damage; harm</p>	<p>What lesson can you learn from this folktale?</p> <p>Answers may vary. You cannot have everything you want.</p>