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Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following statements.

1. The Great Stone Face stood near where Ernest and his mother lived. _____
False
2. One would clearly distinguish the features of the Stone Face only from a distance. _____
True
3. Ernest loved his mother and helped her in her work. _____
True
4. Though not very rich, Gathergold was a skilful merchant. _____
False
5. Gathergold died in poverty and neglect. _____
True
6. The Great Stone Face seemed to suggest that Ernest should not fear the general. _____
False

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Working with Text

1. (i) What was the Great Stone Face?
(ii) What did young Ernest wish when he gazed at it?
Answer:
(i) The Great Stone Face was a work of nature. It was formed on the side of a mountain by some huge rocks. They had been thrown together in such a position so that, when viewed from some distance, they resembled the face of a human face. If the spectator approached too near, the outline of the face would disappear into a heap of gigantic rocks. It was the belief of many people that the valley owed much of its fertility to the kind face of the Great Stone that was continually looking over it.
(ii) Young Ernest gazed at the Great Stone Face. It smiled to him. Ernest wished that it could speak because it looked very kindly. He thought its voice must be pleasant. He would love the man dearly whoever bore such face.
2. What was the story attributed to the Stone Face?
Answer:
The story that was attributed to the Stone Face was that at some future day, a child would be born near there, and he would be destined to become the greatest and noblest person of his time. His face, in manhood, would bear an exact resemblance to the Great Stone Face.
3. What gave the people of the valley the idea that the prophecy was about to come true for the first time?
Answer:
There was a rumor in the valley that the great man, who would look

like the Great Stone Face, had appeared at last. a young man, named Gathergold had left the valley. He had grown a rich merchant by the time he became old. He had decided to return to his native valley. He had the living likeness of the Great Stone Face. It made the people of the valley think that the prophecy was about to come true for the first time.

4. (i) Did Ernest see in Gathergold the likeness of the Stone Face?
(ii) Who did he confide in and how was he proved right?

Answer:

(i) No, Ernest did not see the likeness of the Great Stone Face in Gathergold.

(ii) Ernest confided in his own heart that the Gathergold was not the right person he was waiting for. He was proved right because Gathergold died after sometime. He was then a poor man. All the people, then, said that he had no likeness with the stone face.

5. (i) What made people believe General Blood-and-Thunder was their man?

(ii) Ernest compared the man's face with the Stone Face. What did he conclude?

Answer:

(i) General Blood-and-Thunder rose to his present position in defence from a soldier. He desired to return to his native valley. The residents of the valley said that he bore the likeness of the Great Stone Face. His childhood friends also said that the General had always looked like the Great Stone Face. It made people believe 'General Blood-and-Thunder' was their man.

(ii) Ernest compared the face of Blood-and-thunder with the Great Stone Face. He could not recognize any similarity between them. His heart assured him that the General was not the right person he was waiting for. So Ernest concluded that the greatest and the noblest man of his time bearing the resemblance to the Great Stone Face had yet to come.

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