

Folktale Reading Questions

- 1) What makes "The Seventh Sister" a how-and-why tale? What does it explain?

- 2) What natural features and events does "Co-Wit, The Fire Keeper" explain?

- 3) What behaviors & attitudes do the Creator/Sun in these 2 tales reward? What do they punish? What beliefs do they encourage for the people who read them?

- 4) According to the folktale, how and why did snake get its poison?

- 5) According to the folktale, how and why do dogs chase cats?

- 6) Which character is the trickster in "The Lion, Bruh Bear, and Bruh Rabbit"? Explain how you know & what he does that makes him a trickster, & what the purpose of a trickster character is.

- 7) Which characters are the tricksters in the 2 Aesop's Fables, and how do they outsmart the other characters?

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8) In "Ali Baba & the Forty Thieves" why do you think Ali Baba and his brother, Cassim, react so differently to finding the treasure? What lesson can you learn from their different fates? What other lessons can you learn from this tale (e.g. from Morgiana)?

9) Why won't any adults admit that the emperor is wearing no clothes in "The Emperor's New Clothes"? Why do you think a child is not afraid to tell the truth? What is the author's message/opinion of children vs. adults?

10) The author of "King Kong Shanks" based her story on "The Emperor's New Clothes". Explain 3 important differences between the stories.

11) Which folktale that you read was your favorite? Explain why. What was the message or moral of this story?