

# From *The Sea-Mammy* retold by Philip Sherlock

A hard time it was, a hard time after the hurricane had raged across the land, whipping the sugarcane, blowing down the bananas, tearing branches from the trees, smashing through the forest to the sound of crashing trunks. The rain pounded down on the fields, scooping the young yams out of the brown earth. Hissing streams washed away the potatoes planted on the hill-side. Floods swept away the eddoes and coco plants in the valley. There was no food. The birds went hungry. Parrots shrieked for food, dogs tried to eat grass, leaves and roots, and Anansi grew weak.

One day in those hard times Blackbird flew by Anansi's home. Looking at her, Anansi saw that Blackbird was fat. Her feathers were glossy, her hoarse voice sounded strong and clear, and she flew easily, like a bird that was getting its meals regularly. "Blackbird has food," muttered Anansi. "I wonder how she gets it?"

Early next morning Anansi waited in front of his gate. As soon as he saw Blackbird he signalled to her to stop, and she said, "I see you, Anansi. I am in a hurry but as we are friends I will stop for a minute, but not for long. I have not had my breakfast yet."

"Breakfast," replied Anansi. "I have forgotten what breakfast looks like. As for lunch, the least said the better. As you will see, Blackbird, my clothes are falling off me."

"Certainly you look very thin," replied Blackbird. "But why did you signal to me to stop?"

"Blackbird, do you get enough to eat? Where do you find food in these hard times?"

"I have a feeding-tree," replied Blackbird. "It is on an island out in the river, far from here. The only other person that knows that island is the Sea-Mammy."

"Please, Blackbird, take me with you to the feeding-tree."

"But, Brother Anansi, you have no feathers, so how would you get there? You cannot fly."

"I am sure that I could fly if you would lend me some feathers, Blackbird. You see how thin I am. Once in the air, the breeze would carry me along."

Blackbird picked out two feathers from her breast, two from the tail, two from the wings, two from the stomach. She stuck all the feathers on Anansi, saying, "I will need these feathers, Anansi. When we get back please return them to me, for it took me a long time to grow them."

"Indeed I will, Blackbird, indeed I will. But let's get moving: I am terribly hungry." Anansi jumped into the air, and fell back to the ground.

"I don't think that you can fly," exclaimed Blackbird. "You had better let me have my feathers now."

"Wait a moment," said Anansi. "All I need is a good start. Just before falling I felt the wind lifting me into the air." He climbed on to the top of the garden gate, leapt off, and to Blackbird's surprise, circled round the garden once before settling back on the gate.

Read the text, then answer the questions.

1. In the first paragraph, the writer describes the time of the hurricane. Pick three words you think help to make the description so vivid. Explain why you have chosen each word.

Word	Explanation

2. In the first paragraph, the writer uses very long sentences. Why?
- \_\_\_\_\_
3. The hurricane was a very bad time. Chosse **three** bad things that happened to the land.
- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What effect did the hurricane have on the creatures of the valley?
- \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why was Anansi surprised that Blackbird's feathers were glossy?
- \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why is Blackbird surprised when Anansi flies at the end? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## From *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie

Scene: The living room

**Present:** *Michael, Wendy, John, Mr & Mrs Darling, Nana (the dog). Mr & Mrs Darling are ready to go out for the evening. It's time for Michael's medicine.*

**Mr Darling:** Be a man, Michael.

**Michael:** Won't; won't!

**Mrs Darling:** I will get you some chocolate for afterwards. *(Exit Mrs Darling.)*

**Mr Darling:** Mother, don't pamper him. Michael, when I was your age I took medicine without a murmur. I said, "Thank you, kind parents, for making me well."

**Wendy:** That medicine you take, father, is much nastier, isn't it?

**Mr Darling:** Ever so much nastier, and I would take it now as an example to you, Michael, if I hadn't lost the bottle.

**Wendy:** I know where it is, father. I'll bring it! *(Exit Wendy.)*

**Mr Darling:** *(shuddering)* John, it's most beastly stuff. It's that nasty, sticky, sweet kind.

**John:** It will soon be over, father. *(Wendy enters.)*

**Wendy:** *(panting)* I have been as quick as I could.

**Mr Darling:** *(sarcastically)* Wonderful. Michael first.

**Michael:** *(suspiciously)* Father first.

**Mr Darling:** I shall be sick, you know.

**John:** Come on, father.

**Mr Darling:** Hold your tongue, John.

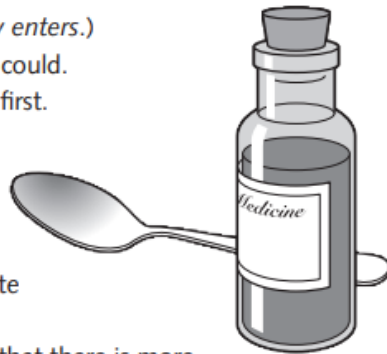
**Wendy:** *(puzzled)* I thought you took it quite easily, father.

**Mr Darling:** That is not the point. The point is, that there is more in my glass than in Michael's spoon. And it isn't fair: I would say it though it were with my last breath; it isn't fair.

**Michael:** *(coldly)* Father, I am waiting.

**Wendy:** Why not both take it at the same time? Ready? One, two, three. *(Michael takes his medicine, but Mr Darling slips his behind his back. Michael yells.)*

**Wendy:** Oh, father!



Read the text, then answer the questions.

1. Why do you think Mr Darling says "Be a man, Michael"? Tick one.

Because Michael is tall, like a man.

☐

Because he wants Michael to be brave, like a man.

☐

Because Michael is old enough to be a man.

☐

2. What sort of person do you think Mr Darling is?

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3. How does Wendy see her father? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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4. Number the events below from 1 to 5 in the order that they occur in the text.

Michael takes his medicine.

☐

Wendy gets father's medicine.

☐

Mrs Darling offers Michael chocolate.

☐

Mr Darling says he has lost his medicine bottle.

☐

Michael won't take his medicine.

☐

5. How does Mr Darling's attitude towards medicine change during the course of the extract?

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## Myths, Legends and Language – Challenge Activity

### Section B

Read the sentences below and decide which sentence belongs to which subheading.

Sentence	Myths	Famous Legends	Language
This describes the method of human communication.			
These people have been well known throughout history.			
It can be written or spoken and usually involves the use of words.			
A traditional story that is often about the early history of people.			
These people are famous for achieving great things.			
It tries to explain some natural or social event and often involves supernatural beings.			

### Section C

Think of a suitable subheading for the following paragraphs.

Summary of Paragraph	Possible Subheading
The influence of the Ancient Greeks is still felt today. They had a huge impact on the arts, science, maths, literature, politics and philosophy.	
The Ancient Greeks played an important role in the development of the alphabet. In fact, the word alphabet comes from the first two letters in the Greek alphabet – 'alpha' and 'beta'.	
It is thought that the first Ancient Greek civilisation was formed nearly 4,000 years ago (1600 BC). By 800 BC, the Ancient Greek Empire had spread throughout Europe.	



## Any Votes for Democracy? – Challenge Activity

### Section A

Find pairs of words that mean the same thing. Use a different colour for each pair.

vote	silly	follow	odd
weeping	strange	foolish	crying
equal	obey	the same	choose

### Section B

Match the word to the correct meaning.

Word	Meaning
vote	a person who is made to obey someone who owns them
modern	something that belongs to the past and no longer exists
invented	a nameless person
ancient	not the real thing
slave	up-to-date or now
fake	to choose between two or more candidates
anonymous	to have designed something that has not existed before

### Section C

Write the meaning of each of these words.

democracy	_____
imaginary	_____
grand	_____
nonsense	_____
governor	_____

