

Name _____

The Water of Life

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The character development of the three princes in "The Water of Life" showcases their individual qualities and strengths. Dimitri demonstrates compassion and selflessness when he helps the dwarf, highlighting his kind nature. Erik's ability to use music to soothe the dragon reflects his talent and resourcefulness. Ivan's bravery and determination in defeating the dragon with a rusty old club reveal his courage and inner strength. Each prince's actions throughout their journey demonstrate their unique qualities, which ultimately lead to their success.
2. The theme of kindness and its rewards is evident in the story, as the acts of kindness shown by Dimitri, Erik, and Ivan towards the dwarf result in them receiving magical gifts. Their willingness to assist someone in need not only reflects their compassionate nature but also leads to them obtaining valuable items that aid them in their quest. This highlights the idea that kindness and generosity can lead to unexpected rewards.
3. The significance of the magical gifts received from the dwarf lies in their practicality and utility during the quest. The golden goose, golden harp, and rusty club each played a crucial role in the confrontation with the dragon. The gifts emphasize the importance of resourcefulness and using one's abilities and resources effectively when facing challenges. They also symbolize the idea that sometimes, ordinary objects can have extraordinary value when used wisely.
4. The king's decision at the end of the story to divide the kingdom among his sons reflects his acknowledgment of their individual strengths and abilities. By dividing the kingdom, he not only rewards their bravery but also ensures a balanced and fair distribution of leadership responsibilities. This resolution suggests that the king values qualities like bravery, resourcefulness, and kindness in his sons and believes in their capacity to rule effectively. It also promotes a sense of unity and cooperation among the siblings.

