

**Visualizing**  
and  
**Verbalizing**<sup>®</sup>

for  
Language Comprehension  
and Thinking

# Imagine That! Stories

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and  
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For Language Comprehension and Thinking



**Imagine That!**  
**Stories**  
**Supplemental**  
**Lesson Pack**

## HELPFUL ADVICE

These are **Imagine That!** stories that can be used with the Visualizing and Verbalizing® (V/V®) program or with any program of instruction to develop imagery for language comprehension. Although these stories have been written at fifth-grade to eighth-grade reading level, you can use these stories with other grade levels as you feel is appropriate. The stories feature a main idea or topic to be imaged, and then provide detailed imagery for the topic. While sentences or paragraphs may contain much concrete detail that can be imaged, others contain abstract concepts.

It is recommended that you start with any new vocabulary to help students both with decoding and with imaging new words and concepts. While reading each story, be sure to ask questions to elicit detailed imagery from the student.

Once you have completed each story, move on to the Higher Order Thinking questions. These are main idea, inference, conclusion, evaluation, and prediction questions. The order of the HOT questions is such that they stimulate students' thinking first about the gestalt and then about the details of the story. Some questions may include contrast or introduce additional information, from which the students can extend their thinking about the story.

Additional activities are provided in the form of a crossword puzzle, coloring pages, and a word search.

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## VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Preread words for each story:

1

shadowy  
mirror  
reflection  
flickers

4

Fenrir  
Tyr  
steel  
furious

2

fox  
purple  
vine

5

loch  
dappled  
magical  
kelpie

3

Cerberus  
snarling  
slinking  
taut  
lunges

6

Vishnu  
Madhu  
Kaitabha  
Brahma

Study and visualize the vocabulary:

**reflection:** an image produced by or seen in a mirror (*n.*)

**flickers:** shines unsteadily; light that goes on and off very quickly (*v.*)

**fox:** a mammal of the dog family with a pointed muzzle and bushy tail (*n.*)

**vine:** a woody, long-stemmed plant known for climbing or trailing (*n.*)

**snarling:** making an aggressive growl with teeth showing (*v.*)

**scans:** looks at all parts of something (*v.*)

**slinking:** moving in a sneaky or stealthy way; moving quietly with gliding steps (*v.*)

**taut:** stretched or pulled tight (*adj.*)

**lunges:** suddenly moves forward with the body, in an attacking manner (*v.*)

**steel:** a hard, metal alloy of iron with carbon, usually a gray or bluish-white color (*n.*)

**law:** the system of rules that a country or community recognizes as regulating behavior (*n.*)

**furious:** extremely angry, enraged (*adj.*)

**loch:** like a lake; an arm of the sea that is partially landlocked (*n.*)

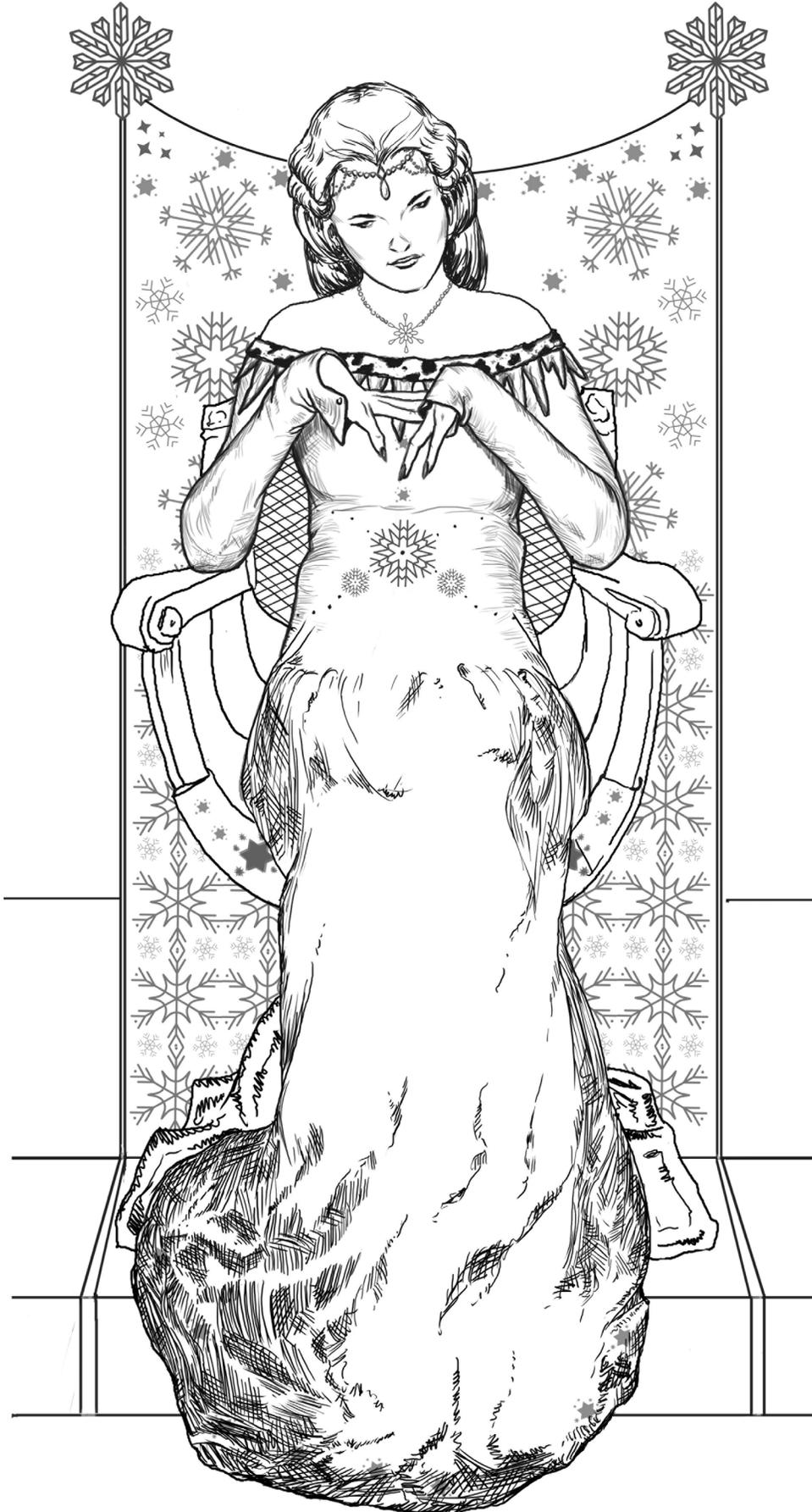
**dappled:** marked with spots or rounded patches (*adj.*)

**kelpie:** a water spirit of Scottish origin, typically a horse with a fish's tail instead of hind legs (*n.*)

**rash:** acts without caution or careful thought (*adj.*)

**smug:** having an excessive amount of pride in oneself; conceited (*adj.*)

COLORING PAGE!



## Don't Call Mary!

Two girls stand in a dark bathroom with only a candle to light the mirror in front of them. They hold each other's hands tight and begin calling the name "Bloody Mary" over and over. They stare deep into the shadowy mirror until a shape in the reflection flickers. They swear it's the bloody face of a woman behind them! But before they see her clearly, the two girls run screaming out of the room.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the girls hold each other's hands tight?
3. Why do you think the girls were chanting the name "Bloody Mary"?
4. Why do you think the girls ran out of the bathroom screaming?
5. Do you think there really was a woman behind them? Why or why not?
6. Do you think the girls will try to call Blood Mary again? Why or why not?



## Sour Grapes

One beautiful spring day, a red fox saw a purple bunch of wild grapes hanging high on a vine wrapped around the branches of a tree. The fox's mouth watered as she stared at the juicy grapes. The small fox jumped up, jaws snapping, but she fell short. She tried and tried but could not reach high enough. Hungry and angry, the fox ran off, deciding that the grapes would have been too sour anyway.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the grapevine wrapped around a *tree*? Why not around a *bush*?
3. Why do you think the fox's mouth watered?
4. Why do you think the fox was angry?
5. Why do you think the fox couldn't reach high enough?
6. Do you think the grapes were sour? Why or why not?



## Cerberus, the Underworld Guard

A huge snarling black dog with three heads stands before a black gate. One head scans the left and one guards the right while the middle head stares to the front. One pair of red eyes spots a man slinking near the exit gate, and all three heads bark like thunder. The dog growls and snaps with sharp rows of saw-like teeth. His thick chain stretches taut when he lunges, and the man scurries back into the dark.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the Underworld has a guard dog?
3. Do you think people try to enter or exit the Underworld? Explain.
4. Why do you think Cerberus has *three* heads? Why not *one*?
5. Why do you think the man is slinking? Explain.
6. Why do you think the story says the dog's barking is "like thunder"?
7. Do you think the dog's chain keeps him from biting the man? Why or why not?



## The Magic Trap

The gods once feared the huge, wild wolf monster, Fenrir. Tyr, the god of law, approached the wolf with a magical chain as thin and soft as silk thread but stronger than steel. Tyr dared the wolf to wear the chain around its neck and show its strength by breaking free. Fenrir nodded its furry head but snarled that Tyr must place his arm in Fenrir's sharp-toothed mouth. Tyr calmly put his right hand in the wolf's open jaws and snapped the chain tight around Fenrir's bulky neck. Fenrir thrashed and pulled, yet the chain tightened with every move the wolf made. Furious, Fenrir snapped its jaws shut and bit off Tyr's arm, but the wolf was trapped forever.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the gods feared Fenrir?
3. Why do you think Tyr approached the wolf with a *magical* chain? Why not a metal chain?
4. Why do you think Fenrir agreed to wear the magical chain?
5. Why do you think Fenrir told Tyr to place his arm in its mouth?
6. Do you think Tyr was afraid to put his arm in Fenrir's mouth? Why or why not?
7. How do you think Tyr felt after he lost his arm? Explain.



## A Dangerous Ride

A young boy's parents told him to never play by the water. But one day he ran out to play ball near a shimmering gray loch. Suddenly, he looked over and saw a large dappled-gray horse standing nearby, its dark mane dripping water. The boy ran up to the beautiful animal and couldn't resist climbing up onto its back. The horse turned around and walked toward the dark water, but the boy found he was stuck to the magical kelpie. Later, the boy's parents came looking for their son, but they only saw muddy hoofprints and a ball.

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the boy's parents told him to never play by the water?
3. Where do you think the horse came from? Explain.
4. Why do you think the kelpie is *beautiful*? Why not *ugly*?
5. Do you think the boy would stick to a normal horse? Why or why not?
6. Do you think the boy wanted to stay on the kelpie? Why or why not?
7. What do you think happened to the boy? Explain.



## The Foolish Demons

Long ago, the four-armed god Vishnu slept on top of a giant thousand-headed snake floating on an ocean that covered the whole world. As the blue-skinned god slept, clumps of yellow earwax fell down from his head. Two small demons called Madhu and Kaitabha sprang to life from the wax. They looked like men but had red skin, glaring eyes, and sharp pointed teeth. The greedy demons hunted sea animals and grew large and strong. They wanted to never die and spent each day and night chanting prayers to the gods above.

Hearing the demons' endless prayers, the goddess Devi smiled. Devi was the most sacred and divine with long black hair and eight arms. With a voice like a songbird, she called out to Madhu and Kaitabha. She offered them one wish each as a reward. The demons asked to live until they chose the day and time of their death. Devi granted their wish and made them nearly impossible to hurt.

Knowing that they could never die, Madhu and Kaitabha became rash and cruel. They began to kill sea creatures all over the great ocean and not even eat them. Then they challenged the Lord Brahma, a four-armed god whose task was to create all things on Earth. They found Brahma seated on a lotus flower. All three of Brahma's white-bearded heads looked at the demons. Seeing the demons' strength and evil, the lord called to the great god Vishnu for help.

Vishnu, the strongest god of all, wrestled with Madhu and Kaitabha for years. For all the great god's power, he could not defeat them. Finally, Vishnu told the demons that he would grant them each a wish for fighting so bravely. The smug demons answered they would grant Vishnu a wish instead. The clever god wished that he could kill the foolish demons. They had no choice but to agree.

From what you pictured...

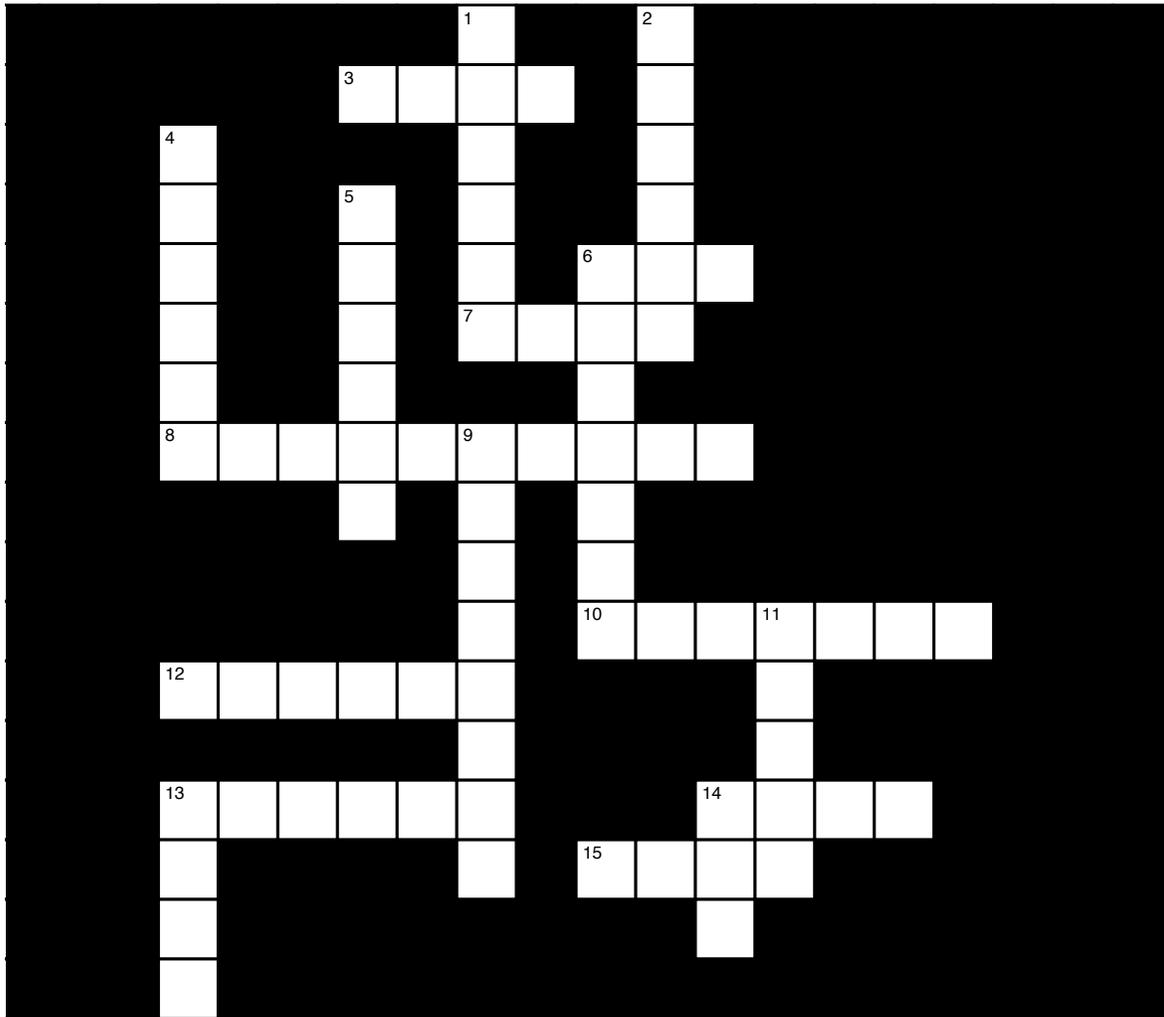
What is the main idea of this story?

1. Why do you think Madhu and Kaitabha were small?
2. Why do you think the demons chanted prayers to the gods above?
3. Do you think Devi knew the demons were greedy? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Devi made the demons nearly impossible to hurt?
5. Why do you think Brahma didn't fight the demons?
6. Vishnu is the most powerful and strongest god. Why do you think Vishnu couldn't defeat the demons?
7. Why do you think the demons were smug?
8. How do you think Vishnu was clever? Explain.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

# Myths and Legends



**Across**

- 3. Stretched or pulled tight
- 6. This mammal is usually red with a long, bushy tail, and is known for cleverness
- 7. The opposite of sweet; having an acidic or bitter taste
- 8. What you see in the mirror
- 10. Unreal or insubstantial; full of shadows
- 12. A water spirit of Scottish origins
- 13. A four-armed god of the Hindu religion
- 14. An arm of the sea that is partially landlocked (Scottish)
- 15. To look all around you

**Down**

- 1. Suddenly moves forward with the body, in an attacking manner
- 2. A reflective surface, typically of glass, you've probably got one in your bathroom!
- 4. A wild wolf monster from Norse myth
- 5. The color of royalty; a mix of red and blue
- 6. Extremely angry, enraged
- 9. The dog with three heads who guards the Underworld
- 11. Another word for devil
- 13. A woody, long-stemmed plant that climbs
- 14. A system of rules for people to live by

# Myths and Legends



Brahma  
 Cerberus  
 dappled  
 demon  
 dog  
 flickers

fox  
 furious  
 kelpie  
 loch  
 Madhu  
 magical

mirror  
 purple  
 slinking  
 smug  
 steel  
 Tyr

vine  
 Vishnu  
 wolf

