

Hina, Maui and the Captured Sun

Read the poem of the legend.

A long time ago in a tropical land
Hina, the goddess, made cloth by hand.
She gathered the bark from the mulberry trees
Then soaked it in water gathered from the seas.

She pounded it flat on a kapa log
Then left it to dry in the afternoon fog.

Maui, her son, would get quite mad
To see her working—always aching and tired.

“The day is too short,” she would often say.

“The sun goes away before I finish for the day.

The cloth is still damp when night time falls
So it stays that way till dawn starts to call.”

“The Sun is to blame,” said Maui with a frown.

“He travels too fast and needs to slow down.”

He wove some snares from coconut threads
Into eight strong cords with a noose on each end.

He paddled to the land of the sleeping Sun,
Set his snares and waited for the fun.

The Sun awoke as dawn came near.

Each leg of the Sun slipped into a snare.

Maui drew each noose up tight
Then tied them to rocks to stop the Sun’s flight.

“What have you done?” the Sun cried out

“Your world will die if you don’t let me out!”

“Listen to my plan and if you agree

I’ll undo the snares and set you free.

You will travel slowly for part of the year.



The sky will be bright and warm and clear.”
The sun gave his word and was soon on his way.
The pattern of life was set from that day.
Hina dried her cloth in the warmth from the Sun.
Maui was happy because of what he had done.

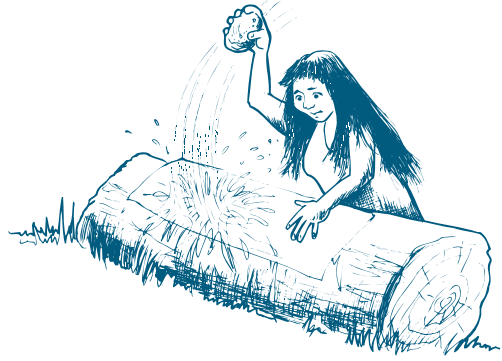
1 Literal

Complete the table below.

[5]

Scanning for specific information

(a) Main characters	
(b) Setting for the poem	
(c) Main events or action	



2 Inferential

Circle the words or phrases which describe the main characters. [6]

Using prior knowledge
Using contextual clues

(a) Hina

hardworking lazy impatient young strong weary

(b) Maui

calm angry old likes to fight impatient kind nasty cunning

(c) Sun

punctual fast stubborn agreeable strong arrogant reliable

3 Applied

Maui was a young demigod who used a cunning plan to get what he wanted from a stronger god — the Sun.

Write about another legend or a story where a similar event happened. [2]

Comparing and contrasting

Try this

This poem uses mostly rhyming couplets (two lines that have a word that rhymes with the other at the end of the line). For example, 'land'/'hand'; 'trees'/'seas'.

- 1 In the space below, write the words at the end of each group of two lines which you feel do not fit the rhyming pattern. [5]

Scanning for specific information
Using prior knowledge

- (a) _____ and _____
- (b) _____ and _____
- (c) _____ and _____
- (d) _____ and _____
- (e) _____ and _____

- 2 If the rhyming pattern for the first six lines of the poem is a, a; b, b; c, c; then the rhyming pattern for the next ten lines (from 'Maui, her son,' ... to 'on each end') is ... [1]

Scanning for specific information

Try this

- 3 (a) Write eight adjectives used in the poem which help to describe a character, place or thing. [4]

Scanning for specific information

- (b) Write eight verbs from the poem ending in '-ed'. [4]

Scanning for specific information

- 4 Why do you think the poet used direct speech (the actual words the characters said) in the poem? Were they used effectively? Explain your answer. [3]

Using prior knowledge
Making predictions
Making inferences

Answers to:

Hina, Maui and the Captured Sun

- Hina, Maui, the Sun
 - A tropical land
 - (suggested answers)
Hina works really hard making cloth. Maui, her son, wants to make things easier for her. He captures the Sun and will not let him go until he agrees to move slowly through the sky at certain times of the year. The Sun agrees. Maui lets him go and the Sun keeps his promise so that Hina has plenty of time to dry her cloth.
- hardworking, weary
 - angry, likes to fight, impatient, cunning
 - punctual, fast, agreeable, strong, reliable
- (suggested answer)
Odysseus tricked the Trojans into thinking that the Greek army had left Troy when they were actually hiding inside a large wooden horse.

Try this

- mad / tired
 - falls / call
 - threads / end
 - near / snare
 - cried out / me out
- d, e, f, f, g, h, i, i, j, k
- tropical, flat, mad, aching, tired, short, damp, strong, bright, warm, clear, happy (Any eight)
 - gathered, soaked, pounded, paddled, waited, slipped, tied, dried
- (suggested answers)
The poet used direct speech to give the reader a better idea of the way the characters spoke and what exactly the characters were thinking. It also made the poem more interesting especially for poems where a story was being told. Direct speech was used effectively in this poem as it showed clearly what the problem and solution were.