

Read the passages and select the best answer for each question.

KING ROBERT AND THE SPIDER- A Traditional Scottish Tale

There was once a king of Scotland whose name was Robert Bruce. He had need to be both brave and wise, for the times in which he lived were wild and rude. The King of England was at war with him and had led a great army into Scotland to drive him out of the land. Battle after battle had been fought. Six times had Bruce led his brave little army against his foes; and six times had his men been beaten, and driven into flight. At last, his army was scattered, and he was forced to hide in the woods and in lonely places among the mountains.

One rainy day, Bruce lay on the ground under a rude shed, listening to the patter of the drops on the roof above him. He was tired and sick at heart, and ready to give up all hope. It seemed to him that there was no use for him to try to do anything more. As he lay thinking, he saw a spider over his head, making ready to weave her web. He watched her as she toiled slowly and with great care. Six times she tried to throw her frail thread from one beam to another, and six times it fell short. "Poor thing!" said Bruce: "you, too, know what it is to fail." But the spider did not lose hope with the sixth failure. With still more care, she made ready to try for the seventh time. Bruce almost forgot his own troubles as he watched her swing herself out upon the slender line. Would she fail again? No! The thread was carried safely to the beam, and fastened there. "I, too, will try a seventh time!" cried Bruce.

He arose and called his men together. He told them of his plans, and sent them out with messages of cheer to his disheartened people. Soon there was an army of brave Scotchmen around him. Another battle was fought, and the King of England was glad to go back into his own country. I have heard it said, that, after that day, no one by the name of Bruce would ever hurt a spider. The lesson that the little creature had taught the king was never forgotten.

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1. Which piece of textual evidence BEST supports the idea that the spider inspired King Bruce?

- a. "He was tired and sick at heart, and ready to give up all hope."
- b. "you, too, know what it is to fail."
- c. "I, too, will try a seventh time!"
- d. "He watched her as she toiled slowly and with great care. "

2. "At last, his army was scattered, and he was forced to hide in the woods and in lonely places among the mountains."

From the excerpt from the story, you can infer that:

- a. Scotland is a lonely place.
- b. King Bruce's army had been defeated again.
- c. The King had been victorious, and they went home to celebrate with their families.
- d. Another battle would take place soon.

3. Why is it significant that the spider failed six times but succeeded on the seventh?

- a. King Bruce had been expected to fail six times, so he sympathized with the spider.
- b. Spiders are known to be frightening creatures, so he gained courage.
- c. People named Bruce no longer harm spiders because of a secret pact made.
- d. King Bruce had just failed a battle for the 6th time, he felt inspired after seeing the spider succeed.

4. Choose one piece of textual evidence supporting King Bruce's success after seeing the spider.

- a. "Battle after battle had been fought."
- b. "He arose and called his men together."
- c. " It seemed to him that there was no use for him to try to do anything more."
- d. "Another battle was fought, and the King of England was glad to go back into his own country."

5. Which piece of text evidence shows that the spider successfully spun her web on the seventh try?

- a. "Would she fail again? No! The thread was carried safely to the beam, and fastened there."
- b. "But the spider did not lose hope with the sixth failure."
- c. "He watched her as she toiled slowly and with great care."
- d. "With still more care, she made ready to try for the seventh time."