

Quiz: RL.6.6

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Lost Stranger

- 1 A haze suddenly veiled the sun and dimmed the landscape. Raven knew from observing patterns in the sky that he should scamper for home. He yelled for his dog, but the dog had begun eating grass and would not budge; he just carried on, grazing like a sheep.
- 2 “What’s wrong with you? Are you deaf?” Raven repeated his calls as he climbed toward the high ground. The wind had transformed into gusts, shoving him down to the ground. It was then that an old man materialized on the slope, reining in his own dog, which jerked and whined at the smell of Raven’s dog.
- 3 The stranger stumbled toward him, as if guided by Raven’s fears. Without facing Raven, the man announced, “I’m obviously lost, am I not? Can you help me, young man?” he pleaded.
- 4 Raven scrambled off, dust and wind whirling behind him, with the sounds of the stranger’s old feeble voice imploring Raven to wait. But Raven sprinted wildly away after his dog, now scurrying down the hill.
- 5 The stranger finally gained control of his dog and restrained him, gripping the dog by the neck. Hopeless and exhausted, the man crumpled to the ground. The dog had ceased whining, but all was not quiet, for the stranger suddenly began wailing, the wind carrying his lamentations: “How will I ever find them? I should never have insisted on fishing, defying the signs of a violent storm the day my son was born.”
- 6 Dark wet clouds transformed the afternoon into night. Rain fell in torrents on the slope where the lone figure swayed, struggling with the wind. In spite of being weak and feeble from a long illness, the man pulled himself to his feet and trudged on. He had attempted this journey several times before, but each time, he had been turned back by the weather. This time, he vowed to himself, he would reach his goal. His dog heaved, dragging him mercilessly, as if steered by an invisible hand toward the village.
- 7 Raven stirred the log his mother had fed to the flames in the fireplace. Since his father had vanished while out fishing on the day he was born, she had labored for all their needs. Now nine years old, Raven had taken over some tasks; he gathered the wood for the fire and, with his dog, caught a few hares that his mother stewed for dinner.
- 8 Outside, the wind howled and barked. “How strange,” Raven thought. The barking and yelping drew closer, and then the voice of a man pleading for shelter pierced their wall of animal skin. His mother unfastened the hooks that held the opening of their tepee, and the old man groped his way in, eyes unblinking and steady.
- 9 “It is warm here. Oh, thank you,” he said as his extended hand searched for the hands of the woman who took him in. Raven’s mother fell to her knees on seeing the splotch of gray skin, a birthmark, on the back of the stranger’s hand.

