

Badang

Long ago, in a quiet village by the Sayong River, lived a poor man named Badang. He was not a strong man, but he worked hard every day as a **labourer**, clearing the thick jungles for farmers. To boost his **meagre** earnings, Badang relied on his fish traps. Every evening, he would set his wicker bubu traps in the river, hoping for a good catch to feed himself the next day.



One morning, Badang arrived at the river to find his traps empty. This continued for several days. Each time, he found nothing but fish scales and bones scattered along the bank. "Something is stealing my food!" he cried out in frustration. Determined to catch the thief, he hid behind a large clump of straw and waited through the night.

As the moon reached its peak, a terrifying creature emerged from the dark water. It was a Hantu Air, a water spirit. It had glowing red eyes, skin as green as moss, and long, matted hair. Badang's heart pounded, but his hunger was greater than his fear. He **lunged** forward and grabbed the spirit by its hair. The spirit struggled, but Badang would not let go. "Please, spare me!" the creature pleaded. "If you let me go, I will grant you one wish."



Badang thought of his heavy labour in the jungle. "I wish for the strength of a hundred men," he replied. The spirit agreed, but on one condition: Badang had to swallow the spirit's own vomit to gain the power. Though he was disgusted, Badang closed his eyes and did as he was told. Instantly, a surge of heat flowed through his body. To test his new power, he grabbed a massive tree and plucked it from the earth as easily as a blade of grass.



Badang's fame soon spread to the palace of the Sultan of Singapura. He became a royal champion, serving the kingdom with his incredible strength. His greatest challenge came when a famous warrior from India, Wadi Bijaya, arrived to challenge him. The two men competed in many feats of strength, but they were evenly matched.



Finally, Badang pointed to a massive boulder sitting on a nearby hill. "He who can throw this rock the furthest shall be the winner," he declared. Wadi Bijaya tried first, but he could barely lift the stone to his knees. Badang stepped forward, **hoisted** the giant rock over his head with a single breath, and hurled it across the Singapore River. It landed miles away at the mouth of the river, where it stayed for centuries as a reminder of his power.





Practice

A.

Read each statement and write T (True) or F (False).

1	Badang's main job at the start of the story was catching fish for the Sultan.	
2	The thief stealing the fish was a water spirit with glowing red eyes.	
3	Badang was terrified and ran away the first time he saw the creature.	
4	The water spirit offered Badang a wish in exchange for its freedom.	
5	Badang had to swallow something disgusting to gain his superhuman strength.	
6	After gaining his strength, Badang could pull trees out of the ground easily.	
7	Wadi Bijaya, the champion from India, was much stronger than Badang.	
8	The large rock Badang threw landed at the mouth of the Singapore River.	

B.

Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

Column A (Word)		Column B (Definition)
1. Labourer	_____	A. To have moved suddenly and forward, usually to grab something.
2. Lunged	_____	B. A person who does hard physical work for wages.
3. Meagre	_____	C. To lift or raise something very heavy, often with great effort.
4. Hoisted	_____	D. A sudden increase or a powerful rush
5. Surge	_____	E. Lacking in quantity or quality; a very small amount.

Tun Teja



In the golden age of the Melaka Sultanate, there lived a woman whose beauty was whispered about in every corner of the Malay Archipelago. Her name was Tun Teja Ratna Benggala, the daughter of the powerful Bendahara of Pahang. She lived a sheltered life within the stone walls of the Pahang palace, guarded by warriors and served by many. While many noblemen and foreign princes asked for her hand in marriage, Tun Teja was proud and refused them all, content in her father's house.

In Melaka, Sultan Mahmud Shah heard of her radiant beauty and became consumed by the desire to make her his queen. However, relations between Melaka and Pahang were cold and tense. The Sultan knew that a formal marriage proposal would likely be rejected. He called upon his most trusted admiral, the legendary Hang Tuah, who was currently in a state of disgrace at court. The Sultan promised to restore Hang Tuah's honours if he could successfully bring Tun Teja to Melaka.



Hang Tuah travelled to Pahang, but he did not go with a fleet of warships. Instead, he arrived as a humble traveller. Using his immense charm and silver tongue, he befriended an elderly woman named Sang Guna, who worked as a palace servant. Through her, he sent exquisite gifts and messages of "love" to Tun Teja. Some stories suggest that Hang Tuah used a powerful love potion, but others say it was simply his legendary wit that swayed her. Eventually, Tun Teja was convinced that Hang Tuah, the greatest warrior in the world, was deeply in love with her.





Under the cover of a moonless night, Tun Teja climbed over the palace walls to elope with Hang Tuah. They fled to his ship, which was waiting in the river. As the dawn broke, the Bendahara of Pahang realised his daughter was gone. He ordered his swiftest galleys to pursue them. A fierce sea chase followed, but Hang Tuah's superior seamanship allowed them to escape into the open ocean.

It was during this journey that the heartbreak began. As they sailed toward Melaka, Tun Teja spoke of their future together. It was then that Hang Tuah, bound by his unwavering loyalty to his Sultan, revealed the cold truth. "My Lady," he said solemnly, "I am but a servant. I have not brought you here for myself, but to be the bride of my Master, the Sultan."



Tun Teja was devastated. She had abandoned her family and her home for a man who had tricked her. She spent the remainder of the voyage in silence, staring at the waves. Upon arriving in Melaka, she was greeted with the highest honours and a grand wedding. Though she eventually became the Sultan's most favoured consort and bore him children, the legend remembers her as a tragic figure, a woman whose heart was the price paid for a warrior's loyalty to his King.





Practice

A.

Circle the correct answer.

1. Why did the Sultan promise to restore Hang Tuah's honours?
 - A) Because Hang Tuah saved his life in battle.
 - B) Because Hang Tuah agreed to bring Tun Teja to Melaka
 - C) Because Hang Tuah apologised for his past mistakes.
 - D) Because Hang Tuah was able to defeat the Bendahara of Pahang

2. How did Hang Tuah communicate with Tun Teja inside the palace?
 - A) By throwing letters over the wall.
 - B) By singing songs under her window.
 - C) By dressing up as a palace guard.
 - D) Through an elderly servant named Sang Guna.

3. What was the main reason the Pahang ships could not catch Hang Tuah?
 - A) Hang Tuah had a much larger army.
 - B) Hang Tuah possessed superior skills in seamanship.
 - C) The Pahang ships got lost in a storm.
 - D) Tun Teja convinced her father to stop the chase.

4. When did Tun Teja realise she had been tricked?
 - A) As soon as she stepped onto the ship.
 - B) When she arrived at the palace in Melaka.
 - C) During the sea journey when Hang Tuah revealed his loyalty to the Sultan.
 - D) When her father's ships caught up to them.

5. What does the story suggest was the "price" for Hang Tuah's loyalty?
 - A) Tun Teja's broken heart.
 - B) A bag of gold from the Sultan.
 - C) Hang Tuah's own life.
 - D) The destruction of the Pahang palace.

B.

Fill in the blanks with the words given.

exquisite

disgrace

cunning

solemnly

unwavering

consumed

restore

consort

1. The forest fire was so powerful that it _____ everything in its path, leaving only ashes behind.



2. After the heavy storm, the community worked together to _____ the old park to its former glory.



3. The jewellery was so _____, with tiny diamonds and gold patterns, that it was kept in a glass case.

4. The general's _____ loyalty to his country meant he would never give up, even in the toughest times.

5. After the politician was caught lying, he resigned from his position in _____ and left the city.



6. The fox is known in many fables as a _____ animal that can easily trick others to get what it wants.

7. During the wedding ceremony, the groom looked into the bride's eyes and _____ promised to love her forever.

8. While the King handled the politics of the war, his _____ focused on charity and helping the poor people of the kingdom.



Puss In Boots

Once, there was a miller who died and left his three sons his only possessions: a mill, a donkey, and a cat. The youngest son was disappointed, for he received only the cat. "I shall surely starve," he lamented. However, the Cat, hearing this, told him, "Do not worry, master. Just give me a bag and a pair of boots, and you shall see that your fortune is not as bad as you think."

The master provided the items, and the Cat, now dressed in exquisite boots, began his plan. He caught a rabbit and presented it to the King, claiming it was a gift from his master, the "Marquis of Carabas." The Cat continued this ruse for months, bringing gifts to the palace.



One day, the Cat learned the King and his daughter would be driving along the river. He told his master to bathe in the river and then hid the master's ragged clothes. When the royal carriage passed, the Cat cried out,

"Help! The Marquis of Carabas is drowning! Thieves have stolen his clothes!"

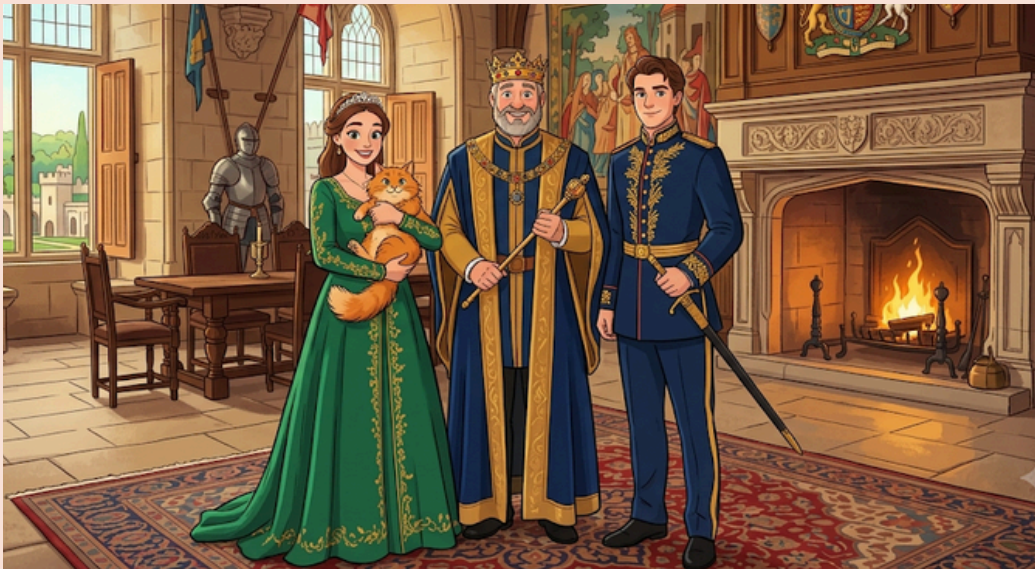
The King, recognising the "Marquis" who had sent him gifts, provided him with splendid royal garments. The master looked so handsome that the Princess fell in love with him instantly.

The Cat ran ahead and reached a great castle belonging to a cruel Ogre who could change into any animal. Using his cunning wit, the Cat challenged the Ogre.

"I hear you can turn into a lion," the Cat said. The Ogre transformed immediately. "Impressive," said the Cat, "but surely you cannot turn into something as small as a mouse?" The Ogre, wanting to prove his power, turned into a mouse. In a flash, Puss pounced on him and ate him.



When the King arrived at the castle, the Cat welcomed him to "the Castle of the Marquis of Carabas." Impressed by the wealth and the master's charm, the King agreed to the marriage. The poor miller's son became a prince, and Puss became a great lord who never ran after mice again, except for his own amusement.





Practice

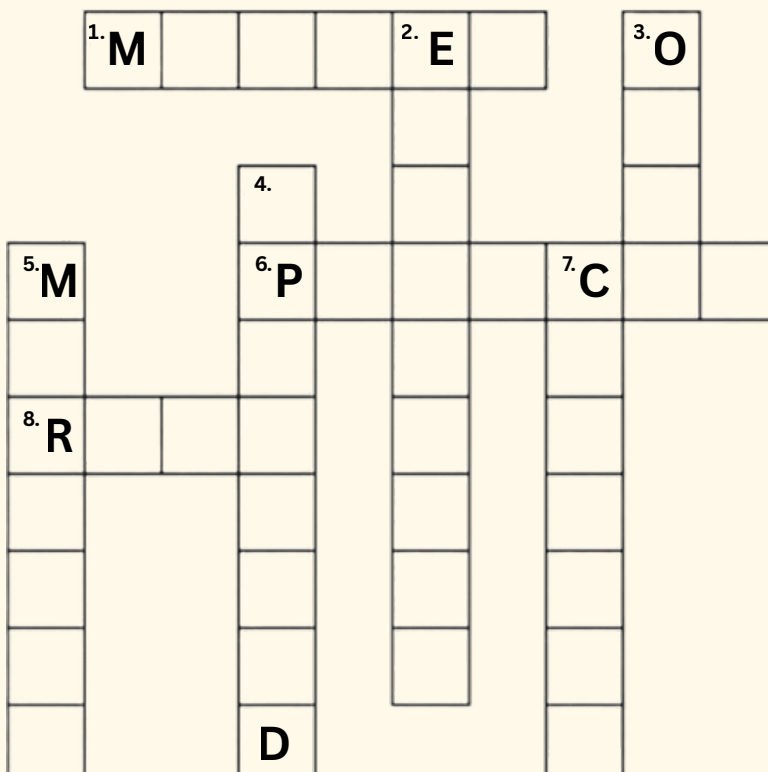
A.

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the blank spaces provided to show the correct order.

	The Cat tricks the cruel Ogre into turning into a mouse and quickly eats him.
1	A poor miller dies and leaves his youngest son nothing but a cat.
	The King gives the master splendid new clothes after the Cat yells that thieves stole his master's clothes.
	The miller's son marries the Princess and becomes a great prince.
	The Cat tells his worried master to give him a bag and a pair of boots.
	The Cat brings wild animals to the King, claiming they are gifts from the "Marquis of Carabas."
	The King arrives at the Ogre's great castle and is very impressed by the "Marquis."
	The Cat tells his master to bathe in the river just as the royal carriage is approaching.

B.

Fill in the crossword puzzles using the clues given below.



Across

1. A person who owns or works in a mill making flour
6. Jumped suddenly in order to catch or attack something.
8. A clever trick or a dishonest plan meant to deceive someone.

Down

2. Extremely beautiful, delicate, and carefully made.
3. A large, frightening, and cruel fantasy creature who lives in a castle.
4. Very impressive, magnificent or grand.
5. The fake noble title the Cat invented for his poor master
7. Being clever and skilful in using tricks to get what you want.

ANSWERS



Badang

A. 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. T 7. F 8. T

B. 1. B 2. A 3. E 4. C 5. D



Tun Teja

A. 1. B 2. D 3. B 4. C 5. A

B. 1. consumed 2. restore 3. exquisite 4. unwavering 5. disgrace
6. cunning 7. solemnly 8. consort



Puss in Boots

A. 6,1,5,8,2,3,7,4

B. 1. miller 2. exquisite 3. ogre 4. splendid 5. marquis
6. pounced 7. cunning 8. ruse