Tales from Northern and Western Europe

This volume in the Tales Through Time series includes a story about Beowulf, the hero of a classic Anglo-Saxon poem; the Scottish legend of Tam Lin; an Irish tale about Finn MacCool; and an English tale about Gawain, one of the knights of the Round Table.

What did you learn?

QUESTIONS

1. The Kalevala is now the national epic, or adventure-poem, of ...
   a. Italy  
   b. Germany  
   c. England  
   d. Finland

2. “The Dragon Slayer” was written more than ...
   a. 1,500 years ago  
   b. 2,200 years ago  
   c. 8,000 years ago  
   d. 1,200 years ago

3. For more than 1,000 years, Ireland has been telling tales about ...
   a. Lady Macbeth  
   b. Tam Lin  
   c. Tim O’Cool  
   d. Finn MacCool

4. The story of the Green Knight and the man named Gawain was first written as ...
   a. Hymn  
   b. Poem  
   c. Book  
   d. Song

5. What were the knights of the Round Table in search of?

6. Where did King Arthur have his court and palace?

TRUE OR FALSE?

____ 1. Louhi shrieked out a spell and she became a giant.

____ 2. Beowulf plunged his dagger into the dragon’s throat, and the dragon died.

____ 3. In many of the stories called fairy tales, the fairies are huge, catlike creatures.

____ 4. Tam Lin became a metal statue that was very sharp.

____ 5. Finegas caught the Salmon of All Knowledge.

____ 6. Sometimes it was so cold that Gawain’s metal armor seemed to burn like fire.

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1. **d. Finland.** According to section “The Quest for the Sampo” on page 7, we know that “The Kalevala is now the national epic, or adventure-poem, of Finland.” So, the correct answer is D.

2. **d. 1,200 years ago.** According to section “The Dragon Slayer” on page 29, we know that “The poem was written in England more than 1,200 years ago, but the action takes place in Denmark and Sweden.” So, the correct answer is D.

3. **d. Finn MacCool.** According to section “Finn and the Goblin” on page 51, we know that “Tales about Finn MacCool have been told in Ireland for more than 1,000 years.” So, the correct answer is D.

4. **b. Poem.** According to section “The Green Knight’s Challenge” on page 69, we know that “The story of the Green Knight and the man named Gawain was first written as a poem about 600 years ago in England.” So, the correct answer is B.

5. According to page 86, the knights of the Round Table sought the Holy Grail.

6. According to page 83, King Arthur had his court and palace at Camelot.

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**TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS**

1. **True.** According to section “The Quest for the Sampo” on page 21, we know that “Her body swelled and she became a giant.” So, the correct answer is True.

2. **True.** According to section “The Dragon Slayer” on page 39, we know that “It was the deathblow for the dragon.” So, the correct answer is True.

3. **False.** According to section “The Saving of Tam Lin” on page 41, we know that “In many of the stories called fairy tales, the fairies are tiny, humanlike creatures.” So, the correct answer is False.

4. **False.** According to section “The Saving of Tam Lin” on page 49, we know that “Then Tam Lin became a metal statue that glowed red-hot, as if it had just come out of a furnace.” So, the correct answer is False.

5. **True.** According to section “Finn and the Goblin” on page 57, we know that “I have caught the Salmon of All Knowledge.” So, the correct answer is True.

6. **True.** According to section “The Green Knight’s Challenge” on page 77, we know that “Sometimes it was so cold that Gawain’s metal armor seemed to burn like fire.” So, the correct answer is True.