

## APOLLO, THE GOD OF LIGHT

39/40

## I

Apollo was the son of Zeus and was one of the greatest of the gods of Mount Olympus. He was often called "the sun god," because the Greeks thought that he brought the sun's light and warmth to men. As these are so necessary to every living thing, they thought that Apollo was also the god of health and beauty. So he was always represented by the Greeks in their pictures and statues as a strong and beautiful young man.

Apollo was very fond of music and was in the habit of playing upon the lyre at the feasts of the gods, to the great delight of all who heard him. He was very proud of his skill and would often have contests with the other gods, and sometimes even with men.

At one of these contests, a king named Midas was present. But instead of deciding, as was usual, that Apollo was much the more skillful player, he was better pleased with another. Apollo became very angry at this, and to show his opinion of Midas, he changed his ears into those of a donkey.

It was then the turn of Midas to be vexed. He wore a cap which hid his large, ugly ears; and he allowed no one to learn what had happened to him except the man who cut his hair. Midas made this man promise that he would tell no one of his misfortune, but the man longed so to tell that at last he could stand it no longer. He went to the edge of a stream, dug a hole in the earth, and whispered into it the secret. Then he filled up the hole, and went away satisfied. But up from that spot sprang a bunch of reeds, which immediately began to whisper on every breeze, "King Midas has donkey's ears; King Midas has donkey's ears." And so the story was soon known to the whole world.

## II

The Greeks thought that Apollo caused sudden death among men by shooting swift arrows that never failed in their aim. In this way, he punished the wicked and gave welcome death to the good who were suffering and wished to die.

There was once a great queen named Niobe, who had six sons and six daughters. She was proud of her beauty, and proud of her wealth and power, but proudest of all of her twelve beautiful children. She thought that they were so beautiful, and she loved them so much, that she even dared to boast that she was greater than the mother of Apollo, who had but two children.

This made the goddess very angry, and she begged her son to punish the queen for her wicked pride. Apollo, with his bow and arrows at his side, floated down to Earth hidden in a cloud. There he saw the sons of Niobe playing games among the other boys of the city. Quickly he pierced one after another of them with his arrows, and soon the six lay dead upon the ground. The frightened people took up the dead boys gently and carried them home to their mother. She was broken-hearted, but cried,

"The gods have indeed punished me, but they have left me my beautiful daughters."

She had scarcely spoken when one after another her daughters fell dead at her feet. Niobe clasped the youngest in her arms to save her from the deadly arrows. When this one, too, was killed, the queen could bear no more. Her great grief turned her to stone, and the people thought that for many years her stone figure stood there with tears flowing constantly from its sad eyes.

### III

One of the most famous temples in Greece was built to Apollo at a place called Delphi. Here there was always a priestess, whose duty it was to tell the people who came there the answers which the god gave to their questions. She would place herself on a seat over a crack in the earth out of which arose a thin stream of gases. By breathing this, she was made light-headed for the moment, and then she was supposed to be able to tell the answer that Apollo gave.

These answers were almost always in poetry; and though they were very wise sayings, it was sometimes hard to tell just what the god meant by them. Once a great king wished to begin a war and asked the advice of Apollo about it at Delphi. The priestess answered that if he went to war, he would destroy a great nation. The king thought that this must mean that he would conquer his enemies, and so he began the war. But, alas, he was conquered himself and found that it was his own nation that was to be destroyed.

Although these "oracles," as they were called, were so hard to understand, the Greeks thought a great deal of them; and they would never begin anything important without first asking the advice of Apollo.

1. Based on the selection, which words help create the humorous mood in part I?
  - A. "...dug a hole..."
  - B. "...wore a cap..."
  - C. "...donkey's ears..."
  - D. "...bunch of reeds..."
  
2. What is *most* ironic about the advice made by the priestess in part III of the selection?
  - A. The prophesy was referring to another time and place.
  - B. The prophesy was referring to events yet to happen.
  - C. The prophesy was referring to the king's own kingdom.
  - D. The prophesy was referring to conquering the king's enemies
  
3. What is the *most likely* reason King Midas's ears were changed to those of a donkey?
  - A. The ears show others his angering of Apollo.
  - B. The ears emphasize his desire to be noticed.
  - C. The ears create a conflict between characters.
  - D. The ears allow him to hear everything that is said.
  
4. How does King Midas's mood change from the beginning to the end of part I?
  - A. from angry to hesitant
  - B. from hopeful to satisfied
  - C. from excited to devastated
  - D. from proud to embarrassed

5. In part I of the selection, how is Apollo different from Midas?
- Apollo is a celebrated Greek god, while Midas is a human mortal.
  - Apollo is a wonderful musician, while Midas is unable to sing.
  - Apollo is considered ugly, while Midas has the most beautiful ears.
  - Apollo lives on Mount Olympus, while Midas lives high in the clouds.

### Barnacles

My soul is sailing through the sea,  
 But the Past is heavy and hindereth me.  
 The Past hath crusted cumbrous shells  
 That hold the flesh of cold sea-mells  
 About my soul. 5

The huge waves wash, the high waves roll,  
 Each barnacle clingeth and worketh dole  
 And hindereth me from sailing!  
 Old Past, let go, and drop in the sea  
 Till fathomless waters cover thee! 10

For I am living, but thou art dead;  
 Thou drawest back, I strive ahead  
 The Day to find.  
 Thy shells unbind! Night comes behind;  
 I needs must hurry with the wind 15  
 And trim me best for sailing.

6. How does the author's use of symbolism affect the reader?
- The reader better relates to the speaker's voice.
  - The reader better relates to the speaker's dialect.
  - The reader better understands the theme of the poem.
  - The reader better understands the setting of the poem.
7. What advice would the speaker *most likely* give to someone having difficulties dealing with past memories?
- Be willing to let go of the past.
  - Be prepared to remember the past.
  - Fathomless waters can cover the past.
  - Events from the past help with the future.
8. Which question is answered in the poem?
- What is the speaker's belief about cumbrous shells?
  - What is the speaker's attitude towards sailing?
  - How does the speaker feel about past events?
  - How do barnacles make sailing difficult?

9. What effect (idea) is created by the personification of the "Past"?
- A. It develops the plot of the poem.
  - B. It illustrates the main character.
  - C. It reveals the setting of the poem.
  - D. It characterizes a nonliving object.
10. What impact does the imagery in lines 3, 4, and 5 have on the poem's main idea?
- A. It suggests the birds have befriended the speaker.
  - B. It suggests the speaker wants to ascend into heaven.
  - C. It suggests the speaker wants to move forward into life.
  - D. It suggests the barnacle crust weighs down the speaker's soul.

### Excerpt from Civil War Food

Hardtack was a biscuit made of flour and other simple ingredients issued to Union soldiers throughout the war. Hardtack crackers made up a large portion of a soldier's daily ration. It was square or sometimes rectangular in shape with small holes baked into it, similar to a large soda cracker.

Large factories in the North baked hundreds of hardtack crackers every day, packed them in wooden crates, and shipped them out by wagon or rail. If the hardtack was received soon after leaving the factory, it was quite tasty and satisfying. Usually, the hardtack did not get to the soldiers until months after it had been made. By that time, they were very hard, so hard that soldiers called them "tooth dullers" and "sheet iron crackers." Sometimes they were infested\* with small bugs the soldiers called weevils, so they referred to the hardtack as "worm castles" because of the many holes bored through the crackers by these pests. The wooden crates were stacked outside of tents and warehouses until it was time to issue them. Soldiers were usually allowed six to eight crackers for a three-day ration. There were a number of ways to eat them — plain or prepared with other ration items. Soldiers would crumble them into coffee or soften them in water and fry the hardtack with some bacon grease. One favorite soldier dish was salted pork fried with hardtack crumbled into the mixture. Soldiers called this "skillygallee," and it was a common and easily prepared meal.

Would you like to try some hardtack? It's very easy to make. Here's the recipe:

- 2 cups of flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup water
- 1 tablespoon of Crisco or vegetable fat
- 6 pinches of salt

Mix the ingredients together into a stiff batter, knead several times, and spread the dough out flat to a thickness of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch on a non-greased cookie sheet. Bake for one-half hour at 400 degrees. Remove from oven, cut dough into 3-inch squares, and punch four rows of holes, four holes per row into the dough. Turn dough over, return to the oven, and bake another one-half hour. Turn the oven off, and leave the door closed. Leave the hardtack in the oven until cool. Remove and enjoy! (And make sure your parents try some!)

Does your taste lean more to the Southern side? Then try a "Johnnie cake" that the Confederate soldiers enjoyed with their meals. The recipe is also very simple:

- two cups of cornmeal
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of milk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of salt

Mix ingredients into a stiff batter, and form eight biscuit-sized “dodgers\*.” Bake on a lightly greased sheet at 350 degrees for twenty to twenty five minutes or until brown. Or spoon the batter into hot cooking oil in a frying pan over a low flame. Remove the corn dodgers and let cool on a paper towel, spread with a little butter or molasses, and you have a real Southern treat!

\* **infested: filled with**

\***dodger: a cake of corn bread that is fried, baked, or boiled as a dumpling**

11. How would a nutritionist **most likely** evaluate the diet of Union and Confederate soldiers?

- A. lacking materials
- B. lacking nutrition
- C. full of vitamins
- D. full of protein

12. Which would have been the **best** way to improve food conditions for the soldiers?

- A. Adding seasonings to newly prepared foods could improve the taste.
- B. A plan to transport food quicker could have been developed.
- C. Dietary restrictions could have been placed on food.
- D. New recipes could have added more variety.

13. According to the selection, which **best** describes the food provided to Union soldiers during the Civil War?

- A. inadequate
- B. popular
- C. plentiful
- D. satisfying

14. How did the soldiers **most likely** feel when given the bug-infested hardtack crackers?

- A. disappointed
- B. enthusiastic
- C. disappointed
- D. satisfied

15. According to the information in the selection, which was a problem during the war?

- A. Confederate soldiers were ill-trained and suffered from malnutrition.
- B. Food supplies proved for soldiers during the war were poor.
- C. Living conditions for Union soldiers were difficult.
- D. Military training did not include preparing meals.

16. From a soldier's perspective, which *best* characterizes "hardtack"?

- A. dense
- B. filling
- C. nutritious
- D. unsuitable

### Buying a New Computer

Buying a computer in today's fast-paced market can be very confusing. Computer usage has become one of the world's most popular pastimes, and its popularity is growing every day. To supply the needs of its customers, the computer industry is growing by leaps and bounds.

Computers become obsolete\* quickly, and the industry continues to add hot new features. Here are some reasons provided by Consumer Reports that may help you decide whether or not you might need to upgrade to a new computer:

- It can run only Windows 95 or an even older operating system. This often does not allow you to use such devices as newer printers, scanners, and digital cameras.
- It uses older types of RAM (random access memory). Older RAM chips are very hard to find and quite costly.
- The hard drive is getting full, and it won't support a larger drive.
- New software won't run on your current system.
- Older, slower processors and graphic cards bog down at highly graphical websites.

### Tips For Buying a New Computer

According to Consumer Reports, the average consumer considers the price of a computer more important than its speed. Fortunately, computers are becoming more efficient by becoming faster, better, and cheaper! You can expect to pay between \$600 and \$3,000 for a new computer. Buy the BEST computer you can afford. This will reduce your need to upgrade and extend the overall life of the computer. The Federal Consumer Information Center says when purchasing a new computer, look for things like a good warranty, a DVD drive, and CD-RW unit. A scanner and/or a printer added to the package can boost your computer's capacity and help you do many additional tasks.

### Where To Buy Your New Computer

Another problem for today's consumer is that there are so many places to buy computerware. Most consumers in a Consumer Reports study thought that it was better to buy directly from the manufacturers. However, many stores provide good service and equally good prices. The computers that retail stores carry tend to be configured for the average user, which means the ability to customize your computer could be limited.

Buying a new computer is an investment, and there are many factors that come into play when choosing the one that's right for you. Most of all, you want to buy a machine that suits you personally and financially.

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\* **obsolete: outdated**

17. Which *best* describes the audience of the selection?
- A. computer store owners
  - B. computer buying experts
  - C. people who own computers
  - D. people uninterested in computers
18. What is the *most* important consideration when buying a new computer?
- A. how fast it is
  - B. how long it lasts
  - C. how much it costs
  - D. how it will be used
19. According to the selection, what should be the *most* important consideration when buying a new computer?
- A. its brand
  - B. its extras
  - C. its quality
  - D. its location
20. According to the selection, which would be the *best* purchase?
- A. a fast, very expensive computer
  - B. an old but inexpensive computer
  - C. the computer with the most accessories
  - D. the computer that has the right software

### Everyday Mysteries: Freezer Burn (2.01)

**Question:**

What is “freezer burn”?

**Answer:**

The outcome of frozen food losing its moisture as a result of poor wrapping.

**3** Have you ever wondered what happened to food in the freezer that looks discolored and parched? It is covered in frost, and there are dry spots on the meat tissue. It looked fine when you froze it a few months ago. What caused this transformation?

When food is frozen as a method of preservation, thousands and thousands of water molecules within the food form ice crystals. These water molecules prefer the most hospitable environment—the coldest place in your freezer. The molecules migrate from the food to the coldest place they can find, which is often the side of your freezer. The loss of these water molecules causes the food to become dehydrated. The result is freezer burn.

**So why did this happen?**

- Most likely, your food was not tightly wrapped, enabling water molecules to escape and seek a better location.
- Also, freezer burn is likely to occur for items stored in the freezer too long. There is a limit to how long items should be stored in the freezer. Sooner or later, the water molecules will find their way out of the frozen food to a colder place in your freezer.
- The temperature of your freezer may have been above 0 degrees F. Freezer burn will set in from fluctuating temperatures above 0 degrees F. When water molecules escape from your frozen food, it is also possible for oxygen molecules to seep in. The oxygen molecules can dull the color and modify the flavor of your frozen product.

Food that has freezer burn is safe to eat, but you may find the texture and taste not to your liking.

21. How does the author support the information provided in the selection?

- A. statistical data
- B. people's opinions
- C. detailed examples
- D. questions with answers

22. Which scientist would *most likely* study freezer burn?

- A. biologist
- B. geologist
- C. chemist
- D. botanist

23. Which item would *most likely* suffer freezer burn?

- A. a loosely wrapped steak in a very cold freezer
- B. a loosely wrapped steak in a fairly cold freezer
- C. a tightly wrapped steak in a very cold freezer
- D. a tightly wrapped steak in a fairly cold freezer

24. What would the author *most likely* recommend to people storing food in a freezer?

- A. to mark the food with the date
- B. to dry the food before freezing
- C. to raise the moisture in the freezer
- D. to store the food on one side of the freezer

25. What else would help the reader understand freezer burn?

- A. other methods of preserving food
- B. other molecules that make up food
- C. the best temperature to freeze food
- D. the cost of the average food freezer

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