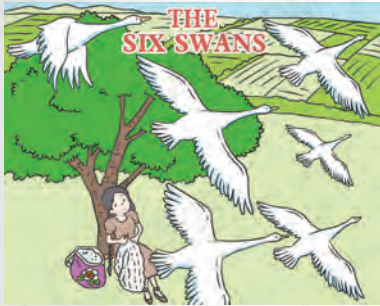


Cathy is reading a page in *Grimm's Fairy Tales*. Read the fairy tale.

## The Six Swans



Once upon a time, there was a king who lost his way while hunting in a huge forest. There, he met an old lady and asked her to show him the way out. He agreed to marry her daughter in exchange for the way back home.

The king had six sons and one daughter, whom he loved dearly. Worrying that the stepmother would not treat his children well, he secretly hid them in a castle deep in a **remote** forest.

The stepmother soon noticed the king's frequent absences. She was **suspicious** and thus she gave a great deal of money to a servant to find the king's secret. The stepmother, who was actually a witch, then easily tracked the king's children and turned the six princes into swans. Yet, she did not realise she had left the princess out.

The princess looked for her brothers every day after they disappeared. One day, she ran into a flock of swans while wandering in the forest, and recognised they were her brothers. 'To set us free, you must not speak or laugh for six years. Meanwhile, sew a shirt for each of us using starflowers. It's the only way to break the **curse**,' they told her. 'I will save you, brothers!' she said determinedly.

Years later, the young king of a neighbouring country passed by the forest and met the princess—she was as beautiful as the first spring flower. He fell deeply in love with her at first sight. They got married very soon. The princess became the queen and gave birth to a lovely baby. Realising who the new queen was, the stepmother hid the baby and **schemed** to accuse the queen of killing her own child. Not being able to defend herself, the young queen was later sentenced to death.

Just before she was **executed**, the six swans came and flew towards the poor girl. They touched the starflower shirts she sewed and turned back into human beings. They told the entire story to everyone. The wicked stepmother was then punished and expelled for all the evil deeds she had done.

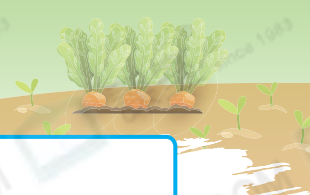
**Suspicious (adj.)** has two meanings:

- ✓ I'm **suspicious** of what he does (= feeling that you do not trust someone).
- ✓ That man looks **suspicious** (= thinking that someone might be doing something wrong).



10 mins

DATE



Choose the best answers by blackening the circles.

1. What was the king's secret?

- A. He built a new castle for his new wife.
- B. He planned to turn his children into swans.
- C. He had six sons and one daughter.
- D. He hid his children in a secret place to protect them.

Tip

Q2: The word 'suspect' means 'to doubt'.

2. The stepmother suspected the king because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. he went hunting frequently
- B. he gave money to a servant
- C. he left the castle very often
- D. a servant told her a secret

3. In line 21, the word 'schemed' means '\_\_\_\_\_ '.

- A. told
- B. wanted
- C. planned
- D. promised

4. Which of the following is TRUE according to the fairy tale?

- A. The king and the old lady's daughter fell in love at first sight.
- B. The princess was pretty like a starflower when the young king saw her.
- C. The princess saved her brothers with great determination.
- D. The stepmother killed the princess' newborn child.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

5. Why did the princess sew shirts for her brothers?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What happened to the stepmother at the end of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

Arrange the pictures in the correct order. Put 1-4 in the correct boxes.



7.



□ → □ → □ → □

READING