

“The Third Wish” by Joan Aiken

Open-Book Test

Multiple Choice and Short Answer

Write your answers to all questions in this section on the lines provided.

For multiple-choice questions, circle the letter of the best answer.

1. What happens in the opening of “The Third Wish” that is like a traditional fairy tale?

Explain your answer.

- a. The swan gets caught in thorns by the river.
 - b. Mr. Peters drives his car near the forest of Savernake.
 - c. The swan turns into the King of the Forest.
- Mr. Peters hears a noise like somebody is in trouble.

2. Which detail from the opening of “The Third Wish” shows it is a modern fairy tale?

Explain your answer on the lines below.

- a. The swan gets caught in thorns by the river.
- b. Mr. Peters drives his car near the forest of Savernake.
- c. The swan turns into the King of the Forest.
- d. Mr. Peters hears a noise like somebody is in trouble.

3. What is the meaning of the word *composure* in this sentence from “The Third Wish”:

“I expect three wishes, no more and no less,” answered Mr. Peters, looking at him steadily and with composure.

Explain what the reader learns about Mr. Peters from his reaction to the King of the Forest.

- a. calmness
- b. anger
- c. bitterness
- d. happily

4. When Mr. Peters took Leita home, he showed her his treasures. What were they? Why did the river please Leita the most?

5. Why wasn't Leita happy with her life as Mr. Peters' wife?

6. What offers did Mr. Peters make when he realized his wife was unhappy? How does this show that the story is a modern fairy tale?

7. Mr. Peters offers to take Leita on a trip around the world. Why did Leita decline his offer?

8. What is the meaning of the word *malicious* in the sentence below? Explain why the king looked at Mr. Peters in this way.

“He heard a harsh laugh behind him, and turning round saw the old King looking at him with a malicious expression.”

- a. laughing b. interested c. hateful d. curious

9. The narrator says, “As Mr. Peters grew old everyone wondered at his contentment.” Why did they wonder at his happiness? Explain your answer.

10. Why didn't Mr. Peters make his last wish?

Extended Response

11. In the chart below, record details of the story setting.

Forest of Savernake	Mr. Peters's home

12. In what ways is the setting like a traditional fairy tale? How is it a modern fairy tale? Use the chart from question 11 to help you.

13. What kind of husband was Mr. Peters? What kind of wife was Leita?

14. Is “The Third Wish” a good title for the story? Why might the author have chosen it? What point was Joan Aiken making?

15. Mr. Peters seemed to have learned the ingredients for a contented life. Write down his recipe for happiness.

Oral Response

16. Choose question 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, or 15 or the question your teacher assigns you, and take a few minutes to prepare an oral response for class.

Rubric for Evaluating Extended Responses

0	1	2	3	4
Off topic Blank paper Foreign language Illegible, incoherent Not enough content to score	Incorrect purpose, mode, or audience Brief, vague Unelaborated rambling	Lack of language control Poor organization Correct purpose, mode, audience Some elaboration Some details	Gaps in organization Limited language control Correct purpose, mode, audience Moderately well elaborated Clear, effective language	Organized (perhaps with brief digressions) Correct purpose, mode, audience Effective elaboration Consistent organization Sense of completeness, fluency