

Chapter 1: The Lion Cub Waits

Reading Notes

pendant	a loose-hanging piece of jewelry, generally attached by a small loop to a necklace.
parka	a coat or jacket with a hood and usually a warm lining for cold-weather wear.
sinew	a tough band of fibrous connective tissue that usually connects muscle to bone.
hearth	the area in front of, or surrounding, a fire or fireplace.

Vocabulary

Give a short definition for the underlined words, as they are used in the context of the story.

1. It prowled around the family hut...(p. 1) _____
2. If food is scarce, she'll feed herself...(p. 2) _____
3. ...a troubled look on her usually tranquil face. (p. 4)_____
4. Anooka walked through the commotion. (p. 7) _____
5. The muscles of her father's jaw clenched. (p. 9) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. What does Anooka dream about before her father wakes her?

2. Why is Anooka's father angry with her?

3. What was Anooka doing while she was supposed to be helping her sister, Nomi?

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think Anooka's punishment for not helping Nomi is fair?
2. Have you ever felt left out?

Chapter 2: Singing on the Riverbank

Reading Notes

- flint** a hard, gray rock flaked or ground in ancient times to form a tool or weapon.
- monotonous** dull, tedious, and repetitious.
- furtively** secretly, stealthily, suspiciously.
- awl** a small pointed tool used for piercing holes, esp. in leather.
- shaman** a person having access to, and influence in, the world of spirits.
- belied** disguised or contradicted.

Vocabulary

Give a short definition for the underlined words, as they are used in the context of the story.

1. Two men carried on a rumbling conversation...(p. 11)_____
2. After the writhing fish were heaped onto the shore (p. 12)_____
3. A strong, soaring voice...(p. 13) _____
4. Anooka hesitated – Nomi was at the river. (p. 14)_____
5. His graceful dancer's stride...(p. 15)_____

Comprehension Questions

1. What memory comes back to Anooka while she is singing the salmon song?

2. What happens to the bear skin?

3. Who comes to talk to Anooka?

Discussion Questions

1. Durgan says, “People are like the river – always changing.” Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
2. What do you think happened to cause the scars on Durgan’s face?

Focus Passage

Copy Durgan’s words that begin, “All living things...” and end with “...Spirit World.” (p. 17) Be sure to copy the correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization, and to use your best handwriting.

Chapter 3: Bears

Reading Notes

- peninsula** a piece of land surrounded by water on three sides (not an island).
- ivory** a coat hard, white material that forms animal tusks, used for carving.

Vocabulary

Give a short definition for the underlined words, as they are used in the context of the story.

1. **Brooding** over Durgan's words...(p. 19) _____
2. ...see the people straggling up the path **laden** with fish...(p. 19) _____
3. "You **reek** of bear." (p. 20) _____
4. The bear **thrashed** around in the river...(p. 21) _____
5. She... **vigorously** ran her hands over her skin...(p. 22) _____
6. She **skirted** the clearing...(p. 23) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. What type of animal does Anooka see by the river?

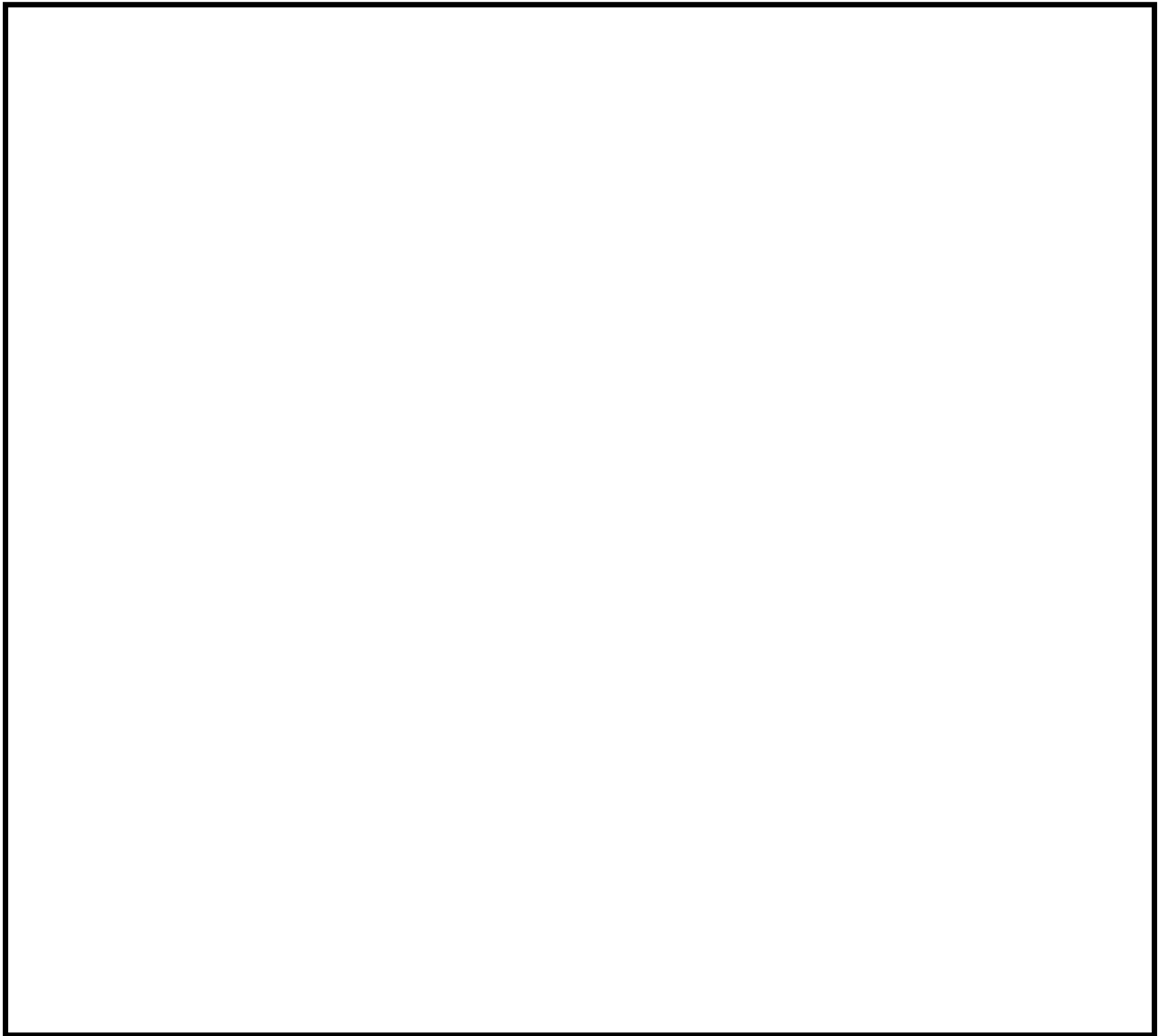
2. What does Anooka make with the clay?

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think that it is fair that women cannot carve in Anooka's clan? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think the clan has this rule?

Drawing Activity

Anooka makes a figure of the bear out of clay. Use this space to draw an animal that you've seen recently, an animal that is special to you, or an animal that lives in your imagination.



Chapter 4: The Dance of the Salmon Spirit

Reading Notes

- twang** a sharp, vibrating sound.
- trance** a half-conscious state, between sleeping and waking.

Vocabulary

Give a short definition for the underlined words, as they are used in the context of the story.

1. The boys **sprawled** together...(p. 24) _____
2. Anooka **yearned** to join in their spirited conversation...(p. 25) _____
3. The **intensity** of the song...(p. 27) _____
4. ...her body was **rigid** with worry...(p. 28) _____
5. ...she would visit Durgan to **plead** with him...(p. 29) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. What instrument does Durgan play?

2. What is Durgan's cape made from?

Chapter 5: Chee-boy

Reading Notes

- unbidden** spontaneous or uninvited.
- reeds** the straight stalks of tall grasses.
- back sling** a strap or band used to carry something (in this case, a baby).

Vocabulary

Give a short definition for the underlined words, as they are used in the context of the story.

1. ...in deep shade, shafts of sunlight filtered...(p. 31) _____
2. Anooka's skin prickled. (p. 31) _____
3. ...a furry winter coat on the horse's flanks...(p. 33) _____
4. She clutched the pendant...(p. 33) _____
5. They blamed her for leaving the baby unattended. (p. 36) _____
6. ...Durgun said with resignation. (p. 36) _____
7. The turmoil grew... (p. 37) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Who does Anooka sneak away to visit?

2. What is Durgan carving?

3. What is the name of Anooka's mother?

4. Who is Chee-boy?

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think the clan was right to blame Lulaq for the baby's death? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Durgan broke the vow and told Anooka the truth?

Chapter 6: Sisters

Reading Notes

chant a short, simple melody.

Vocabulary

Give a short definition for the underlined words, as they are used in the context of the story.

1. ...and all her sorrows came together. (p. 39) _____
2. Her gaze turned inward. (p. 41) _____
3. ... Anooka snatched back the bear... (p. 43) _____
4. She stormed out of the hut. (p. 43) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Who does Anooka meet at the river?

2. What did Anooka's mother make for Nomi just before the baby was born?

3. What does Anooka show to Nomi in the hut?

4. What does Anooka do with the bear after her father sees it?

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think it is better to fit in and make people happy, or be yourself and risk being treated badly?
2. Do you think Anooka will regret destroying her bear? Why or why not?