

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.****The Fire Stealer**

Once upon a time, there was no fire on the Earth, and animals everywhere were freezing. They could see the fire in the sun but could not get even a tiny coal from fierce Firekeeper, the sun's guardian. One day the animals were so cold they decided to take some fire.

Brave Crow said, "I will fly to the sun and take a piece of coal. Firekeeper will not miss such a tiny piece."

But Firekeeper noticed him and was so furious that he burned the feathers off of Crow's head as punishment.

Then Wily Possum said, "Maybe I can take some fire and hide it in my tail. Firekeeper will not notice a small coal hidden in my bushy tail."

But Possum could not fool Firekeeper, and angry Firekeeper burned the fur off Possum's tail as punishment.

Finally, tiny Water Spider said, "I will get so wet that the sun cannot burn me, and I will spin thread to make a little bowl on my back where I can carry the small piece of fire that I take."

Water Spider was so small she could easily slip by Firekeeper. When the animals saw her carrying back the fire, they all cheered.

Bear said, "You are the smallest in our animal family, yet you gave us this precious gift of fire."

**Turn the page.**

Answer the questions below.

**1** Based on Water Spider's actions, you can say that she was

- small and afraid.
- smart and brave.
- big and strong.
- sad and lonely.

**2** This story took place at a time when

- the sun was not hot.
- animals lost their fire.
- the Earth was a cold place.
- animals lived in coal mines.

**3** How was Water Spider like a real person?

- The sun could not burn her.
- She was so small she could hardly be seen.
- She went to visit Firekeeper.
- She made a plan to do something.

**4** What happened at the *end* of the story?

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**5** What lesson did the characters learn in this story?

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**Common Core State Standards**

**Questions 1, 3, 5: Literature 3.** Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events. **Questions 2, 4: Literature 1.** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.