

The Wind and the Sun

1 One day the wind and the sun were talking to each other.

“There’s no one stronger than I!” boasted the wind.

The sun raised an eyebrow and smiled.

“Not even me?” she asked.

2 “Especially not you,” scoffed the wind. “I’m ten times stronger than you — a hundred times stronger. A thousand!”

“Tell me why you think that,” purred the sun.

“I can create storms,” announced the wind. “I can throw tall trees crashing to the ground, and even tumble boulders.”

3 “Very impressive,” agreed the sun. “Anything else?”

“Of course, when I blow hard I can make waves like mountains. I can blow ships halfway around the world. I can tip

whales on their tails, and make the seals seasick.”

4 “Bravo,” yawned the sun. “I’m sure that shows great strength. But what about real power? The power to spark plants into life, the power of warmth?”

“Oh, that’s nothing,” scoffed the wind. “A touch from my little finger and the tender new shoots on plants shrivel and die. I make the merest sigh and they move. You don’t make the plants obey you like I do.”

5 “I tell you what,” decided the sun suddenly. “How about a contest to decide which of us is the more powerful?”

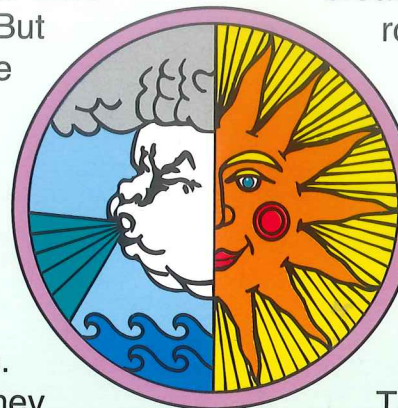
“Why not?” agreed the wind. “I’ll win, of course. What shall we do? Create storms? Break down buildings? Snap off trees?”

“Oh, we don’t need to do that,” replied the sun. “See that man down there, walking along the road?”

6 “The man with the shabby coat?” replied the wind. “Yes, I see him. A weak, weedy-looking character. Hardly worth blowing over.”

“Whichever of us can make him take his coat off is the strongest,” continued the sun. “Agreed?”

7 “Agreed!” declared the wind. “That’ll be easy for me. I’ll have his coat off him in a few seconds.” And the wind took a deep breath. He blew a chilly wind along the road. It snaked up round the man’s back and belly. The man pulled his coat tighter around himself.



8 “Hmm,” mused the wind. He pursed his lips and blew a blast of icy air straight along the road towards the man. This gust rattled the stones along the road. The man shivered and buttoned up his coat, wrapping his arms around himself.

9 “All right,” hissed the wind, and with a huge breath from deep within his mighty lungs, the wind blew a great gale that whipped leaves off trees, bent the grass at the side



of the road flat to the ground and almost tore the man's trousers from his legs. But the man huddled into his shabby coat, his arms wrapped around himself and kept on walking.

10 The wind was panting. "He's a stubborn man, that one," he gasped.

"Let me see what I can do," said the sun, smiling. She reached out with gentle fingers and stroked the man's back.

Her rays reached down, deep and warm. The man unbuttoned his coat. And the next moment, he took off his coat and flung it over his shoulder, holding it there with one finger as he walked along the road.

11 "You see?" twinkled the sun. "That didn't take long. Now which of us is the stronger?"

"Humph," grunted the wind, and wrapped a long scarf of dirty dark clouds around his throat. He turned his back on the sun and went to practise making snowstorms at the North Pole.



Questions

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| <p>1 The wind said that he was
a less powerful than the sun.
b as powerful as the sun.
c ten times more powerful than the sun.</p> <p>2 What did the wind say he could do to boulders?
a make them tumble
b make them crash down
c send them halfway around the world</p> <p>3 What power does the sun have?
a the power to make seals seasick
b the power of warmth
c the power to make plants obey her</p> | <p>4 The wind's first attempt at getting the coat off the man
a snaked up around his belly.
b rattled the stones.
c whipped leaves off trees.</p> <p>5 The sun
a was less boastful than the wind.
b had a gentler approach than the wind.
c both of the above.</p> <p>6 After the wind lost the contest
a he showed sportsmanship.
b he congratulated the sun.
c he showed poor sportsmanship.</p> |
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Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues. The brackets show the text sections ().

boulders stubborn plants boasted bravo

- 7 A word meaning bragged (1)
8 Large, round rocks (2)
9 Well done (4)
10 These grow in soil (4)
11 Refusing to agree or give in (10)

Alphabetical Order

The following words appear in the text. When placed in alphabetical order, which one would be **first**?

- 12 why, waves, wind, weedy
13 sun, ships, scoffed, stronger
14 touch, think, times, talking
15 boasted, break, buildings, belly

Back To The Text...

- 16 Who do you think this text is most likely written for (audience)?
a children b adults
- 17 Is this a true story?
a no b yes
- 18 Prediction: What is likely to happen in the future?
a The wind might want another contest later.
b The sun will become angry and rough.

Sequencing

Look back through the card to find happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- 19 a The wind boasted about his strength.
b The sun asked the wind if he would like a contest.
- 20 a The wind announced that he could make storms.
b The sun spied a man wearing a coat.
- 21 a The wind almost tore the man's trousers off him.
b The wind blew a blast of icy air along the road.

Think About This

- 22 The image on page 3 refers to which of the following sections?
a 8 b 9 c 10 d 11
- 23 When hearing of the contest the wind
a wanted to be kind.
b wanted to be destructive.
c wanted to blow a coat off.

Challenge Option

Research: Find out how far the Sun is from the planet Earth.

