

The English Corner Shop

Reading Comprehension

THE LEGEND OF THE THREE SISTERS (THE BLUE MOUNTAINS)

• Read the text and answer the questions



A very long time ago in the Blue Mountains lived a medicine man called Tyawan and his three daughters, Meenhi, Wimlah and Gunnedoo.

To keep his daughters happy Tyawan used to imitate noises of animals from the bush. People said that he also could turn himself into a lyre bird with a help of his magic shin-bone.

When Tyawan used to go hunting the girls watched him until he passed the cave where the Bunyip, the monster, slept.

One day when their father was in the valley, Meenhi threw a stone over the cliff. All of a sudden the earth stirred and a wide gap appeared behind the girls. It was too wide to jump across! Suddenly the Bunyip appeared.

Tyawan heard the animals' cries and ran back to help his little daughters. He pointed the shin-bone at the girls and they turned into stone. The Bunyip raced after Tyawan who could not get inside the cave to hide from the Bunyip because the entrance was too narrow. Tyawan turned into a lyre bird and flew into the cave to hide just as the Bunyip crashed into the rock. When the Bunyip left, Tyawan tried to find the shinbone but it was gone! He couldn't change himself or the girls back into human from without it.

Since that time the lyre-bird has been flying around the Three Sisters crying for help and looking for his magic shinbone



• **True or False?**

1. Tyawan was friends with many birds and animals. However if he was looking for help he would often turn to a lyrebird
2. When their father went hunting the girls usually followed him as they were afraid to stay behind.
3. The earth started to shake and Bunyip appeared after one of the girls had thrown a stone over the cliff.
4. Tyawan turned his daughters into stone to protect them from an angry Bunyip.
5. Tyawan is still alive.

• **Do you understand the meaning of the following words and phrase from the text?**

1. **'Medicine men' is**

- a). a doctor
- b). a person who has a special powers of healing
- c). a pharmacist

2. **'Imitate' means**

- a). copy
- b). change
- c). imagine

3. **'Race' means**

- a). food
- b). run
- c). part of the body

4. **'Point' means**

- a).full stop
- b). aim
- c). ineffective

5. **'Crash' means**

- a). a small river
- b). to ask for
- c). to collapse, to fall



A Lyrebird in the Blue Mountains