

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Golden Fleece

Immediately the fifty heroes got on board and seizing their oars, held them perpendicularly in the air, while Orpheus (who liked the harp far better than rowing) swept his fingers across the harp. At first the ringing note of the music they felt the vessel stir. Orpheus thrummed away briskly and the galley slid at once to sea. Dipping her prow deeply and rising again as buoyant as a swan. So triumphantly did the *Argo* sail out of harbour, amidst the good wishes of everybody except the wicked old Pelias, who stood on a promontory scowling at her and wishing he could blow out of his lungs the tempest of wrath that was his heart and so sink the galley with all on board.

To make the time pass more pleasantly during the voyage the heroes talked about the Golden Fleece. It had originally belonged to a ram, who had taken on his back two children when in danger of their lives and fled with them over the land and sea. One of the children, whose name was Helle, fell into the sea and drowned. But the other boy (named Phrixus) was brought safely ashore by the faithful ram, who, however, was so exhausted that he immediately lay down and died. In memory of his good deed the fleece of the poor dead ram was miraculously changed into gold. It was hung upon a tree in a sacred grove, where it had now been kept for many years and the envy of the mighty knights who had nothing so magnificent in their palaces.

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Answer in sentences please.

1. How many heroes went aboard the Argo?

2. What did Orpheus like doing far better than rowing?

3. What did the heroes feel at the first ringing note of the music?

4. What is a promontory?

5. What did Pelias wish he could do to the ship ?

6. How did the heroes make the time pass more pleasantly during the voyage?

7. How did Helle die?

8. What happened to Phrixus?

9. What change came over the fleece of the ram after its death?

10. Where was the ram's fleece kept?

Think of 3 questions of your own.

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Answer in sentences please.

11. How many heroes went aboard the Argo?

12. Why did the author use *italics* for the word Argo?

13. What did Orpheus like doing far better than rowing?

14. Identify the simile by highlighter. Why does the author use this?

15. What is a promontory?

16. How did Pelias feel ?

17. What is the evidence for this ?

18. What does sacred mean?

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19. What character trait best describes the ram?

- a. quiet
- b. confused
- c. courageous.

20. Where do you think this story is set?

21. What is evidence for this?

Think of 3 questions of your own.
