

More than 200 years ago, people built a community in Indiana. It was called Pigeon Creek. The people who lived there were pioneers. Pioneers are brave people who do something for the first time.

A family moved there. There were four people in the family. There were two children. One was a girl who was 9 years old. The other was a boy who was seven. Their father and mother wanted to move to a place where they would have land to farm.

They had a horse, and the horse helped them carry things. The family walked while the horse carried their tools. They crossed a river on a boat. Even the horse went on the boat. The father said, "Don't worry. We will get there soon. Remember to always hope."

The father was a carpenter. He built things with wood. He brought his tools with him. He would build a home out of wood. It was called a log cabin.

The family brought many other things too. They brought a spinning wheel. That is a tool people use to make wool. They brought tools to farm, too.

They had a farm near the creek. The children carried water from the creek. They carried it in wooden buckets. It was heavy to carry. In summer it was hot, hard work.

They all helped to grow corn. They would take the corn to a mill every year. That is a place where they could get it ground. When it is ground you can use corn to make bread and other food.

At first there was no store in Pigeon Creek. So people traded with each other. Then a man opened a store near the community. People could get pots, needles, and salt there. The family traded its corn for those things because they did not have money. Trading one thing for another is called barter.

The son worked in that store. He learned many things there. He learned about barter. He also learned about other places. People would come to the store from other places and tell about them. And they would talk about other places they have lived. People would spend a lot of time at the store because it was a place where they could meet. He liked meeting people and talking with them.

The family stayed in Pigeon Creek for 13 years. The children grew up. Then the son moved to Illinois. There he would become part of government. In fact, he would become the leader of the United States. He was Abraham Lincoln.

*Directions: Choose the best answer for each question*

1. What is a trait of the pioneers?

- a. lonely
- b. sad
- c. brave
- d. unfriendly

2. What was one of the father's traits?

- a. mean
- b. hopeful
- c. busy
- d. rich

3. What was one of the son's traits?

- a. friendly
- b. lonely
- c. lazy
- d. unhappy

4. What was one of the traits of both children?

- a. hard-working
- b. playful
- c. generous
- d. unfriendly

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

*What trait would help someone be a pioneer?*

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*Why do you think so?*

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**TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking**

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	b	a	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. hard-working; resourceful; friendly; sharing. Students should justify their answer with an example.

## Skill: Identify and infer stated and implied character traits

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fiction: A Proud Flight

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Long ago, people looked to the sky and saw birds fly. They wondered if there was a way they could fly like birds. People made up myths about flying. A myth is a story that has imaginary people and places in it.

A myth that people in Greece made up was about a young man. The young man was called Icarus. In the story, he and his father, Daedalus, were imprisoned by an evil man. They were kept on an island. They could not escape because there were high walls. The island was surrounded by water.

His father was an inventor. He invented wings made from bird feathers. He used wax to get them to stick to a frame shaped like a wing. They would use the wings to escape.

Because they were made with wax, the wings could melt if they got hot. So Daedalus warned his son not to fly close to the sun. At that time, which was hundreds of years ago, people did not know how very far away the sun is. The story comes from Greece, where the sun feels very hot in summer.

You probably guessed what happened next. Daedalus and Icarus used the wings to escape. They flew over the walls. They flew away from the island. They were flying across the sea.

But Icarus forgot what his father had warned him about. He forgot to stay away from the sun. There were no clouds. The sun shone brightly. It melted the wax. The feathers fell off the wings. They would no longer support him in the air. So he fell to the sea.

Daedalus was sad to see his son fall into the sea. But he could not help him. He knew this could happen. That was why he had tried to tell his son how dangerous it was to fly close to the sun.

In Greece, many times people told myths to educate other people. There were three lessons to learn from this myth. First, you should listen to your parents. Second, you should not take dangerous chances. What is the third lesson? That is for you to figure out.

*Directions: Choose the best answer for each question*

6. What was a trait of the man who had imprisoned Daedelus?

a. evil

b. helpful

c. lonely

d. cheerful

8. What was a trait of Icarus?

a. sad

b. bold

c. helpful

d. cooperative

7. What was a trait of Daedelus?

a. helpless

b. greedy

c. inventive

d. careless

9. Which trait led to the problem for Icarus?

a. careless

b. faithful

c. mean

d. kind

10. *Write your own answer to this question.*

*What is the trait that the story-teller wants you to have?*

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Why do you think so?

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	a	c	b	a

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. careful; responsible. Students should use the story to support their answer.