

Directions

305009P

Read this passage. Then answer questions XX through XX.

The Discontented Rock

an Iroquois tale by Frances Jenkins Olcott

1 FROM the beginning of the Earth, Gustahote, the great Rock, had overhung the valley. He watched and guarded the land, but he was not content, and longed to be something mightier and stronger than he was.

2 “If I could be the wide river that flows through the valley,” he thought, “then surely I should be mighty and strong! The river winds happy and free through its broad lands; and green grass and flowers follow its course. If I could only be that river!”

3 And instantly Gustahote the Rock became the river. Down the valley he sped, leaping with joy, and the singing brooks from the hills ran into his stream. Through rocky gorges he tossed his foaming waves toward the Sky, and they returned to him in a rainbow spray. He wound around the bases of lofty mountains, and leaped down precipices. Then through the silent forest he glided, and the trees dipped their branches in his cool waters.

4 On and on he hastened, faster and faster, growing wider as he went, until at last he plunged into the billowing ocean. It encircled him with its broad, hungry arms, and drew him down and mingled his waters with the deep, so that he was the river no longer.

5 Then suddenly Gustahote found himself again the Rock, overhanging and guarding the valley. And he rejoiced to have escaped from the hungry deep.

6 But he was not content. He still longed to be something mightier and stronger than he was.

7 “If I could have wings, and live in the Sky,” he thought, “then surely I should be mighty and strong! The Sky is open and pathless, and leads to unseen heights. It has no billowing deep to swallow the unfortunate.”

8 And even as he thought thus, Gustahote the Rock became a bird, and the air was caressing and delicious as he tried his wings. He plumed them, and fluttered them, and spreading them wide, soared into the Sky. Beneath him were the valleys and the forests and the mountains, growing smaller and smaller as he flew upward.

9 The air became cold, as he rose above the clouds and entered the Land of Mists. A whirling wind rushed past him, breaking his wings. They drooped at his sides, and he fell heavily toward the Earth. But a fiercer blast caught him, and tore his body to fragments, and whirled the pieces over and over through the endless grey Sky.

10 Then suddenly Gustahote found himself again the Rock, overhanging and guarding
the valley. And he rejoiced that he had escaped from the pathless Sky.

11 But still he was not content. He longed to be something mightier and stronger than he
was.

12 “If I could be a creature, and wander about on the Earth,” thought he, “then surely I
should be mighty and strong. Fair are the valleys of the Earth, and wide its green forests,
and beautiful and fruitful its meadows. It has no fierce rushing wind to rend in pieces the
unfortunate.”

13 And even as he thought thus, Gustahote the Rock became a creature walking upon the
Earth. He wandered up and down the world, so strange to him, and soon grew lonely and
desired a companion.

14 First he sought the beasts, but they were too busy getting their food to stop and talk to
a strange creature. After that he went to the birds, but they were nesting, and could not
stop to talk to a strange creature. Weary, lonely, and despairing, he wandered about.

15 Then suddenly Gustahote found himself again the Rock overhanging and guarding the
valley. And he rejoiced that he was a Rock once more. And he heard a voice whisper:—

16 “Be content, O Gustahote the Rock! The waters may overflow you, but they cannot
drown you. The Sun may look upon you with its hottest rays, but he cannot burn you. The
tempest may strike you, but it cannot rend you. Old age cannot wrinkle you. The rivers
may dry up in their beds, the forests may fall into dust, but you will stand stanch and true,
and always watching, and forever remain unchanged and changeless.”

17 So Gustahote the Rock rejoiced exceedingly; and he still overhangs and guards the
valley. The river flows from him, and the Sky smiles or frowns, and the Earth heeds him
not. But he is content.

What makes Gustahote lonely while he's an Earth creature? Use **two** details or examples from the passage to support why Gustahote is lonely.

MEASURES CCLS: RL.5.1, RL.5.2, RL.5.3:

RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

RL.5.3: Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

HOW THIS QUESTION MEASURES RL.5.1, RL.5.2, and RL.5.3:

The question measures RL.5.1 and RL.5.2 because it asks students to comprehend and apply textual details to support a general inference. This inference requires students to understand a major challenge faced by the main character and locate evidence to support it. In addition, since any text-supported response is acceptable, a student could focus on the interaction between characters, which would measure RL.5.3.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONSES RECEIVING FULL CREDIT:

This question asks students to use textual details to demonstrate an understanding of the cause of Gustahote's loneliness. Comprehending this cause-effect relationship is central to an understanding of the story's ending. Because any response that answers the question and is logically supported by two relevant details or examples is acceptable, there is a variety of possible full-credit inferences.

Some possible text-supported responses are:

- Other creatures were too busy to interact with Gustahote.