Family Times

Summary

How Night Came from the Sea: A Story from Brazil

Why do we have day and night? A Brazilian legend says there was always daylight on Earth until the African goddess Iemanja's daughter left her ocean home to marry a land dweller. When Iemanja's daughter became homesick for the cool, shadowy world under the sea, her mother sent some of the darkness up to her, and now we have night on land as well as day.

Activity

Pourquoi Tales The word *pourquoi* means *why* in French. Create your own *pourquoi* tale, a story about why a familiar pattern in nature exists. Answer a question about night and day, such as *Why does the sun appear to rise and fall in the sky?*

Comprehension Skill

Generalize

When you **generalize**, you make a broad statement or rule that applies to many examples, such as *All oceans contain salt water*. Words such as *all, most, always, usually*, or *generally* help you to find generalizations. If a generalization is supported by facts or details, it is valid (logical). If it is not supported by facts and details, it is faulty (false).

Activity

Valid or Faulty? Make up your own generalizations and write them down. Then ask a family member to write whether they are valid or faulty. Switch roles and repeat the activity.

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Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading *How Night Came from the Sea*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

brilliant shining brightly; sparkling **chorus** anything spoken or sung all at the same time

coward person who lacks courage or is easily made afraid; person who runs from danger, trouble, etc.

gleamed flashed or beamed with light

shimmering gleaming or shining faintly

Conventions

Subject-Verb Agreement

The **subject** and **verb** in a sentence must **agree.** In other words, if the subject is a singular noun or pronoun, the verb must also be in its singular form. If the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural. For example: She eats lunch every day. The children eat at the table. The singular "she" agrees with the singular "eats," and the plural "children" agrees with the plural "eat."

Activity

Disagree to Agree Take turns writing simple sentences in which the subject and verb do not agree. Have family members correct each sentence in two ways, first by changing the subject and second by changing the verb. For example, if someone writes *The dog bark*, make the sentence correct by saying both *The dog barks* and *The dogs bark*.

Practice Tested Spelling Words)			
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