

The Three Questions

Leo Tolstoy

Why does the hermit answer the questions with events instead of definitions?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Final explanation by the hermit

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	"You have already been answered!" said the hermit, still crouching on his thin legs, and looking up at the King, who stood before him.
END	for that purpose alone was man sent into this life!
PASSAGE ID	sec-threeq-01

THE MOVE

Connect an abstract claim to the concrete events that prove it

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The king spends the story seeking universal rules, but the hermit makes him live the answer before stating it. Each principle is tied to an action the king has already taken, so the ending argues that wisdom is situational and practical rather than a formula detached from experience.

MARK

Underline each of the three answers. Circle the event the hermit uses to prove each answer. Draw arrows linking principle to event. Star the sentence that turns the whole story into a lesson about the present.

NOTICE

- Why were the king’s earlier attempts to get general rules unsatisfying?
- How does helping the hermit change what happens with the enemy?

- What do all three answers have in common about attention to the present?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the hermit answer the questions with events instead of definitions? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The hermit answers through events because the king needs to see that the principles cannot be separated from immediate action. The digging, rescue, and reconciliation demonstrate that the right time, person, and action are defined by the present human need in front of him.

EVIDENCE

Use one of the hermit's principles and the specific earlier event he uses to prove it.

WATCH FOR

Do not list the three answers without explaining why the story makes the king experience them first.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 7 · LESSON 278

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WORK	The Three Questions
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TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Final explanation by the hermit
PASSAGE ID	sec-threeq-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

"You have already been answered!" said the hermit, still crouching on his thin legs, and looking up at the King, who stood before him.

END

for that purpose alone was man sent into this life!

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline each of the three answers. Circle the event the hermit uses to prove each answer. Draw arrows linking principle to event. Star the sentence that turns the whole story into a lesson about the present.
2. NOTICE Why were the king's earlier attempts to get general rules unsatisfying? How does helping the hermit change what happens with the enemy? What do all three answers have in common about attention to the present?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: Why does the hermit answer the questions with events instead of definitions?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.