

The Three Sisters

Long ago, in the Blue Mountains of Australia, there lived a wise man, whose name was Tyawan. He had three young daughters. The mountains were a magical place: tall peaks seemed to touch the sky, and the deep valleys were covered in lush, green eucalyptus trees.



In a stagnant pool at the bottom of a valley there lived a Bunyip: a terrible creature who liked nothing better than feasting on human flesh, especially that of young girls. The only way to escape a Bunyip was to run very, very fast.

One morning, the wise man left his daughters at the top of a mountain, descended into the valley and began to move carefully past the Bunyip's pool.

Suddenly, the youngest sister was startled by an enormous centipede. She threw a stone at it, but it missed and began to roll down the mountain, becoming louder and louder as it fell, the noise echoing around the cliffs. The sound caused the mountain to split, leaving all three girls trapped on a narrow ledge.

The Bunyip stirred. He roared and charged up towards the three sisters.

Tyawan reacted quickly. He pointed his magic bone up at his daughters and turned them to stone. The Bunyip bellowed with rage and turned on Tyawan, who used the bone once again, transforming himself into a lyrebird so he could fly away and escape. The Bunyip skulked back to his lair to await his next victim.

Far away from the Bunyip, Tyawan was ready to restore himself with the magic bone. But he didn't have it — he must have dropped it when he transformed into the lyrebird. Tyawan frantically searched the forest floor, desperate to restore his daughters, but to no avail. They were changed forever.

That is why you can still see the lyrebird scratching and scratching at the forest floor, watched silently by three rocks known as the Three Sisters.

1. Write the numbers 1 to 5 in the boxes to put these events from the text into the right order. The first one has been done for you.

The Bunyip is disturbed.

Tyawan turns into a lyrebird.

Tyawan goes down the mountain.

A centipede startles one of the girls.

Tyawan turns his daughters to stone.

1 mark

2. Which type of trees grow in the Blue Mountains?

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1 mark

3. What does the word *stagnant* mean in the text?
Circle the correct option.

warm

stale

dark

evil

1 mark

4. What does the word *charged* suggest about how the Bunyip moved?

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1 mark

5. Why does Tyawan search the forest floor?

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1 mark

6. Write down **one** way in which Tyawan's personality is different to his youngest daughter's.

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1 mark

7. Using your own words, summarise what happens in the text from *Far away...* until the end.

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2 marks

END OF TEST

/ 8