

Building Comprehension

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Hawkeye's Adventures

(Adapted from *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper)

Hawkeye, a frontiersman, lived in America during the 1700s. He was born on the frontier and lived alone in the woods. At an early age, he learned how to use a rifle. Over the years, he became known as an excellent shot. His skill with the rifle saved his life more than once.

Hawkeye lived through a dangerous time in America. In 1757, the country was mostly wilderness, and many forces were fighting to control it. The French and English were battling with each other and with the Native Americans for rule of the land. Many Native American tribes were fighting among themselves as well.

Since he lived during such an active time, Hawkeye had many adventures. One adventure ended in a sad way for Hawkeye. He was tracking in the woods with his lifelong friend, Chingachgook. Chingachgook was a member of the Mohican tribe. His son, Uncas, had just joined the two men when they were surprised by a group of travelers. Two young English ladies, Alice and Cora Munro, were trying to make their way through the wilderness to Fort William Henry. Their father, Colonel Munro, commanded the

fort, which was now under attack by the French. The girls wanted to be with their father. They were accompanied by two men from the English Army. The whole group was being led by Magua, an evil Huron Indian.

Hawkeye spotted Magua at once. He knew that this treacherous man was probably kidnapping the group instead of guiding them to the fort. Magua, suspecting that he had been seen, left the group and went into the woods. Hawkeye and the Mohicans took the group to hide in the safety of some caves. In the morning, they were attacked by Magua and his band of Hurons. Hawkeye, Chingachgook, and Uncas fought bravely and successfully. Magua escaped into the woods.

The group started toward the fort. They had to slip past French troops to get there. With Hawkeye as guide, the girls finally reached their father at Fort William Henry. The Colonel was very happy to see his daughters, but the happiness did not last long. Magua and another tribe attacked the fort and kidnapped the girls.

continued...



Uncas was very upset by this. He and Cora had fallen in love, and Uncas did not want anything to happen to her. He started after them, but in a short time, he, too, was captured by the Hurons. Hawkeye and Chingachgook hid in the woods and waited for the right opportunity. Then, disguised in beaver coats and animal heads, the two helped Uncas escape and attacked the Hurons. In the bitter battle, all the enemies, including Magua, were killed. Unfortunately, Uncas and Cora died during the fighting, too.

Hawkeye helped Chingachgook bury his son and Cora. Chingachgook was very sad. Uncas was his only son as well as the last brave of the Mohican tribe. Chingachgook felt very alone. Hawkeye was able to cheer him a little. He promised to remain with his best friend, Chingachgook, forever. The two men set off through the woods in search of new adventures.



Main Idea

1. Hawkeye spent his life
 - a. killing Native Americans.
 - b. helping the English army.
 - c. surviving in the wilderness.

Significant Details

2. Uncas belonged to the
 - a. Mohican tribe.
 - b. Huron tribe.
 - c. Magua tribe.
3. Hawkeye was well known for his
 - a. friendship with Native Americans.
 - b. skill with a rifle.
 - c. wood carvings.
4. Alice and Cora wanted to visit their father at
 - a. Fort William Henry.
 - b. English Army Fort.
 - c. Fort Colonel Munro.

Context Clues

5. Magua was a *treacherous* man.
 - a. brave
 - b. loyal
 - c. dangerous

6. Hawkeye and Chingachgook *disguised* themselves.

- a. planned a bitter attack
- b. changed their appearance
- c. gave themselves up

Inference

7. Hawkeye was a good person because
 - a. he risked his life to help others.
 - b. he lived alone in the woods.
 - c. he knew how to use a rifle.

Drawing Conclusions

8. America must not have had its own government at the time this story took place because
 - a. the country was still nothing but woods.
 - b. other countries were still fighting for its control.
 - c. the French were in control of the land.

Following Through

9. Read James F. Cooper's original *The Last of the Mohicans*. Try reading other stories from his *Leather-Stocking Tales*. Find out what names Hawkeye is known by in these other tales.

Pandora's Box

(Adapted from Greek mythology)

In Greek mythology, the beautiful Pandora was the first woman on earth. Zeus, the head of the gods, ordered his son Hephaetus to create her. Hephaetus was the god of crafts. He had built palaces for each of the gods. He had also made Zeus's famous thunderbolts and Achilles's wonderful armor. Creating a woman was a big task. Hephaetus molded earth and water into a lovely woman to send to earth.

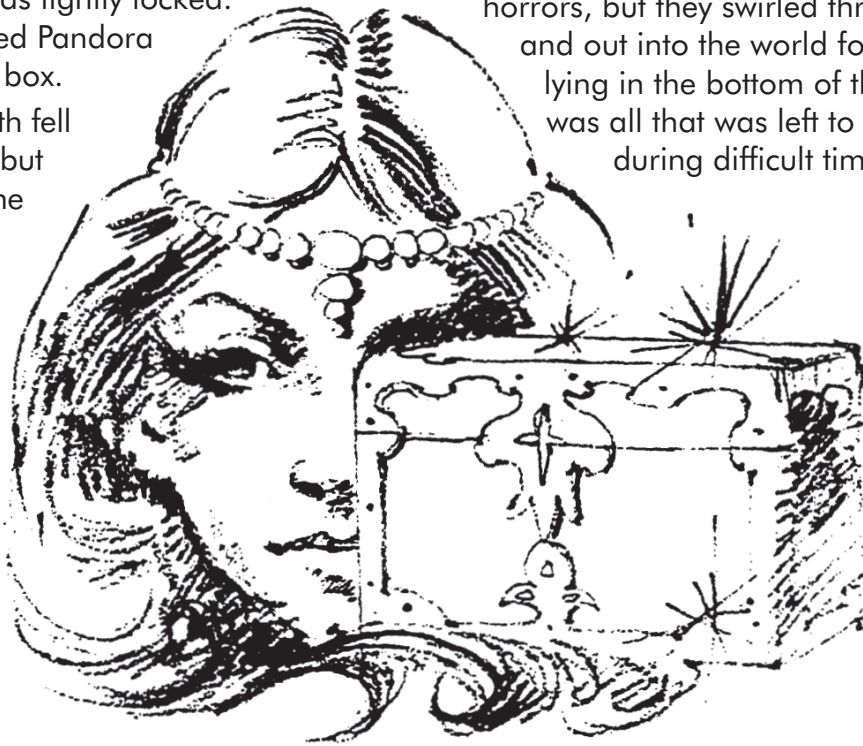
This woman was named Pandora, meaning "all-gifts." She was given this name because the gods and goddesses gave her many gifts. One gave her beauty. Another gave her knowledge. Still others gave her beautiful clothes. Zeus gave her the most interesting gift of all. It was a small, black box. The box was tightly locked. The other gods warned Pandora never to open Zeus's box.

Many men on earth fell in love with Pandora, but she chose to marry one named Epimetheus. Pandora began to enjoy life and forgot all about the black box. Then one day, when her husband was away, Pandora

was feeling bored. She came across the box. It was half hidden in the corner of a room. She looked at it carefully. There did not seem to be anything special about it. She wondered why the gods had told her not to open it.

Finally, Pandora decided to find out what was in the box. She broke the lock and began to pry off the lid. She worked around the edges until the lid was loose. Gently, she lifted the lid. Whoosh! She screamed and jumped back.

Out of the box flew all the horrors of the world—sickness, anger, envy, war, and poverty. They were all the things that make life difficult. Pandora realized her mistake and slammed the lid. But she was too late. She tried to catch the horrors, but they swirled through the window and out into the world forever. The only thing lying in the bottom of the box was Hope. It was all that was left to help troubled people during difficult times.



Main Idea

1. The most important thing about this story is
 - a. the beauty of Pandora.
 - b. the opening of the black box.
 - c. Zeus's famous thunderbolt.

Significant Details

2. Who actually created Pandora?
 - a. Hephaetus
 - b. Zeus
 - c. Achilles

Context Clues

3. They *swirled* through the window.
 - a. twisted
 - b. crept and crawled
 - c. blew

Following Through

4. Do you think Hope was the best thing that could have been left for future people? Would something else have been better? Explain.

