

Name _____

The Legend of the Christmas Owl

In a snowy village nestled deep in the forest, people told the tale of the Christmas Owl. Each year, on the night before Christmas, an owl with shimmering silver feathers would appear in the pine trees and watch over the homes below.

No one had ever caught the owl, but they said it brought protection and peace to the village. According to legend, the owl had once saved a group of lost children during a terrible snowstorm. The bird had hooted loudly, guiding the search party to the children's location. Since then, it returned every year on Christmas Eve.

One cold December, a girl named Elsie decided she wanted to see the owl for herself. She bundled up and crept out of her cottage at midnight. She sat under the tallest pine and waited. Snowflakes tickled her cheeks, and the woods were silent.

Then, without a sound, a silver shape glided down from the sky. The owl perched on a branch above her, staring with bright amber eyes. Elsie gasped in wonder. The owl didn't stay long—just long enough for Elsie to whisper, "Thank you."

The next day, she told the village what had happened. Some believed her, others thought it was just a dream. But every year after that, Elsie left a little gift beneath the pine tree—just in case the owl returned.



Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the legend of the Christmas Owl?
2. Why did Elsie go outside at midnight?
3. What might the owl symbolize in the story?
4. Why do you think some villagers believed her and some didn't?
5. What does Elsie's gift-giving at the end show about her character?