Teacher's notes and answer key

Isis and Odin – the Price of Secret Knowledge

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 12 (B1) | Video: 9:09 min

Answers B

1. Ra's true, secret name. Egyptians believed a name was part of the soul: whoever knew it had power over that being.
2. Isis mixed Ra's spittle with earth and shaped it into a living, poisonous snake.
3. The poison came from Ra's own body; only magic from his hidden nature – his true name – could heal it.
4. He pierced himself with his spear and hung on the World Tree Yggdrasil for nine nights without food or drink.
5. “Secret” or “whisper”.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

D2: In all three stories hidden knowledge (a name or sign) gives power; whoever knows it controls the other being or reality itself.

E: Isis – Ra's true name / a trick with the poison snake / she betrays Ra and lets him suffer / becomes “Great of Magic”, the basis for reviving Osiris. Odin – the runes / self-sacrifice on the World Tree / his own pain, almost death / nine songs of power and eighteen spells, power over magic, poetry and victory.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 12. Odin wounding himself and hanging on the tree are described in detail. Please preview the video.

Sources of the retelling: the Egyptian story of Isis and Ra's name (Turin Papyrus) and the Hávamál of the Poetic Edda.

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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