Teacher's notes and answer key

The Morrígan – the Goddess Who Knew How the Battle Would End

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 12 (B1) | Video: 8:58 min

Answers B

1. The mythical “people of the goddess Danu”, who came to Ireland in a cloud of mist. The Morrígan usually appeared as a crow or raven, sometimes as a young woman, an eel, a wolf or a heifer.

2. He lost an arm in the first battle; by ancient law only an unblemished king could rule. The healer Dian Cécht and the smith Credne made him a moving silver arm.

3. That she would use magic to tear the blood from the heart and the courage from the Fomorian leader Indech; she also revealed where the Fomorians would land.

4. Lugh hurled a stone through Balor's deadly eye as he opened it.

5. The new peace – and a dark prophecy of the end of the world: trees without fruit, seas without fish, people without honour.

Answer C

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

Notes on D and E

E: Lugh – master of all skills, war leader, kills Balor; Balor – king of the Fomorians, a giant with a deadly eye; Dian Cécht and Goibniu – healer and smith, make warriors and weapons ready again every night; the Morrígan – goddess of war and fate, spreads fear as a raven, weakens Indech.

Link: some researchers see the Morrígan as a forerunner of the banshee (without direct proof).

Content note and age

Recommended from age 12. Battle scenes; a hint that the Morrígan and the Dagda “come together” at the ford.

Sources of the retelling: the Middle Irish manuscript “Cath Maige Tuired” (Second Battle of Mag Tuired).

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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