

If It Isn't you, It Must Be Your Father

A Kannada Folk Tale

Once a lamb was drinking water in a mountain stream. A tiger came to drink the water a few yards above him, saw the lamb, and said, "Why are you muddying my stream?"

The lamb said, "How can I muddy your water? I'm down here and you are up there."

"But you did it yesterday," said the tiger.

"I wasn't even here yesterday!"

"Then it must have been your mother."

"My mother has been dead for awhile. They took her away."

"Then it must have been your father."

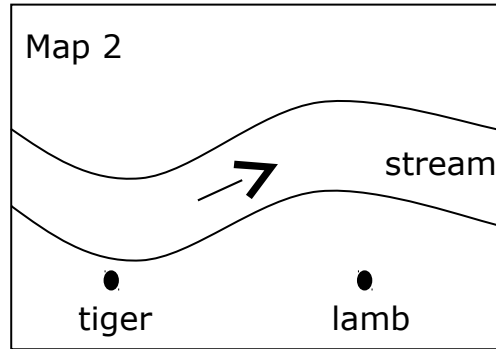
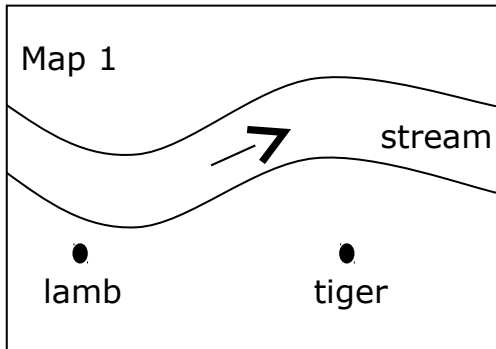
"My father! I don't even know who he is," said the desperate lamb, getting ready to run.

"I don't care. It must be your grandfather or your great-grandfather who has been muddying my stream. So I'm going to eat you," said the tiger. And he pounced on the lamb, tore him to pieces, and made a meal of him.



1. Who asked, "Why are you muddying my stream?" _____
2. In this story, the phrase "mountain stream" means: (tick one)
 - a. a spring on a mountain
 - b. a small river
 - c. a well on a mountain
 - d. a lake
3. In this story, the word "muddying" means: (tick one)
 - a. drinking
 - b. standing in
 - c. getting dirty
 - d. taking mud out of
4. Was the lamb male or female? _____
5. Who said, "Then it must have been your mother"? _____
6. In this story, the word "yards" (in the first paragraph) means: (tick one)
 - a. several feet
 - b. grounds
 - c. kilometres
 - d. trees

7. Which of the following two maps shows the positions of the tiger and the lamb on the side of the river at the beginning of the story?



[The arrow shows the direction the stream is flowing.]

8. In this story, the word "pounced" (in the last paragraph) means: (tick one)
- a. told
 - b. punched
 - c. jumped
 - d. ate
9. At the end of the story, do you think the tiger knew who had muddied his stream?

10. Who do you think was more honest, the lamb or the tiger? Give reasons.

11. Did the lamb do something bad? If so, what?

12. Tell, in your own words what happened at the end of the story.
