

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 4, Lesson 19

Teacher Packet

A legend usually:

- Focuses on heroic individuals or fantastic creatures
- Describes an exciting adventure
- May have some basis in historical fact
- Includes some supernatural events

Polar Sea Map



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L16-B

Because his father's blood ran in his veins, Keesh was bright, healthy, and strong. When the village council met in the big igloo of Chief Klash-Kwan, Keesh, despite his youth, spoke up.

“When my father hunted, he brought home more meat than any of the two best hunters combined,” Keesh explained, “With his own hands he divided the meat, and with his own eyes he saw to it that the neediest of the village received their fair share.”

The elders and onlookers jeered at the young boy; how dare one so young speak out in the council? Despite them, Keesh continued, “You speak for your wives and mothers. So, I speak for my mother, Ikeega, who should have her fair share of meat. All we get is gristly meat that’s full of bones.”

The village was abuzz with gossip. Everyone wanted to know the answer to the same question: how had young Keesh conquered a mother bear and her cubs? Even the smallest child knew that a mother bear is three times more dangerous than even an ice-bear. There were some who were suspicious of Keesh, and thought he used magic to slay the animals. Others were simply mystified. Regardless, over time, he gained popularity and respect, and people came to count on him to bring meat to the village. There was even talk of making him the next chief.

“I’m just a boy,” Keesh explained, “I’m ignorant of these things. I’ve devised a way to kill the ice-bear with ease, that’s all. It’s headcraft, not witchcraft.”

“Would you tell us how you do this? Can any man do this?” asked Klash-Kwan, not convinced.

“Any man can do this.” Keesh finished sucking his marrow-bone and rose to tell the group of his clever hunting tactic.

The council was satisfied and amazed by Keesh's story. And this is how Keesh rose from being an insignificant boy to becoming the head man of the village, and long as he lived, no one cried at night because there was no meat.

Guided Practice

In the text “The Legend of Keesh”, the author uses the character’s words and actions to describe Keesh, the protagonist, as brave, intelligent, and generous. It can be inferred that Keesh is brave through his actions and words. Keesh hunting the bear, even though he is young, is an action that proves Keesh to be brave. Also, Keesh speaking to the council is another example of bravery.

Independent Practice

Task: Using the chart about Keesh, what character traits does the author convey through Keesh's words and actions? Write a paragraph to explain how the words and actions of Keesh can be used to infer his character traits. Use key details from the text to support your answer. Also, don't forget to:

- Introduce your topic
- Group the traits together
- Use details to support the trait
- Provide a conclusion
- Link your thoughts together
- Use precise language
- Use correct grammar punctuation

Creative assignment: Draw how you imagine Keesh.