

6) THE STRANGER

A) Chapter Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1) Name two ways in which the stranger was different than the men in Dar's clan.

His "manmark" consisted of two short lines on his cheek. His spearpoint was made of antler instead of flint.

2) What did Dar wish he had done before leaving his camp?

He wished he had sharpened his spear as Kenok had implied.

3) Given how powerful the stranger appeared, what wise thing did Dar do?

He revealed himself to the stranger and indicated that he meant no harm.

4) What friendly gesture did Dar make to the stranger?

Dar offered the stranger some food.

5) What did Dar do that greatly impressed the stranger?

When the stranger could not light the fire via rubbing sticks, Dar lit the fire easily using his sunstone.

6) What did the stranger do that greatly impressed Dar in two different respects?

He showed Dar his spear-thrower, which contained a beautiful carving of a leaping horse, and then he demonstrated its amazing ability to improve one's throw.

7) Recall that Kenok believed that woodcarvings possessed no value because they were not practical. What does the spear-thrower combine in one object that might change Kenok's mind?

The spear-thrower combined beautiful art and a practical tool in one object.

8) What did the stranger want Dar to do?

He wanted Dar to trade him the sunstone for the spear-thrower.

9) Why didn't Dar trade?

The sunstone was from his beloved grandfather and therefore possessed personal or sentimental value for Dar.

10) In what way would the trade have been beneficial for Dar?

The spear-thrower would have made Dar a much better hunter, and he would likely have found another sunstone to replace the one traded. Also, he would likely have learned how to make more spear-throwers for his clan.

11) How would the trade have been beneficial to Toreg and his clan?

Toreg probably could have made/got another spear-thrower. The sunstone would allow Toreg and his clan to build fires faster, and it would encourage them to find more sunstones.

12) What internal conflict did Dar experience?

Dar wanted to have the spear-thrower but did not want to give up his precious sunstone.

13) What did the stranger do that might give Dar another chance at getting the spear-thrower?

He explained to Dar where he lived and thus how to find him.

14) Dar thought that if he owned the "magical rod," something about him wouldn't matter any more. What?

With the spear-thrower, the fact that Dar was neither tall nor strong wouldn't matter anymore.

B) Characterization Exercises

1) What did we learn new about Dar's character regarding strangers?

We learned that Dar is wise, brave, and friendly. It took wisdom and courage to reveal himself to the stranger in a friendly manner. After all, the stranger could have been a bad person who could harm Dar to get his possessions. Dar warmed up to the stranger very quickly once he concluded the stranger was friendly.

2) What else did we learn new about Dar's character?

We learned that he honored his grandfather as demonstrated by his refusal to trade the sunstone even though that would have benefited him. He chose sentimental value over practical value.

3) What did we learn about Toreg's character?

We learned that although he looks quite dangerous on the surface, he is a very nice person. He could have easily robbed Dar, but he's not that kind of person. Also, he's quick to recognize value when he sees it, as demonstrated by his immediate desire to have the sunstone.

{NTT: The highlight of this chapter is how each person marveled at the other's possession, which dramatizes the value of trade. Each clan could benefit enormously from a single trade, but Dar would have been demeaned in our eyes if he gave away the sunstone without consideration for his grandfather. He would first have had to convince himself that trading was not, as Kenok believed, an act of disrespect for his grandfather.}

C) Subtheme Exercises

Certain subthemes can be abstracted from the events of this chapter. Below is a list of them. For each one, describe the particular events from which the subtheme can be abstracted.

1) How to confront strangers.

Dar confronted Foreg by revealing himself to be friendly and harmless.

2) The value to others of one's possessions.

Foreg greatly valued Dar's sunstone, and Dar greatly valued Foreg's spear-thrower.

3) The power of technology to make people more powerful.

The spear-thrower would make Dar a much more powerful hunter. The sunstone would make Foreg faster and more reliable at making fires.

4) Referring to something as "magical" when you don't understand how it works.

The author made it seem that Dar regarded the spear-thrower as magical. (p. 28)

5) The mutual benefit of trade.

If Dar traded Foreg the sunstone for the spear-thrower, both would have benefited because each could have replaced that which they traded and thereby had both devices.

6) Sentimental (personal) value versus practical value.

Dar sacrificed practical value for sentimental value when he refused to trade the sunstone for the spear-thrower. The sunstone had belonged to Dar's grandfather.

7) The problem with multiple languages.

Dar and Foreg couldn't communicate verbally because they didn't speak each other's language.

D) Plot Summary Paragraph

Summarize the plot of this chapter in about six sentences.

To avoid getting hurt, Dar reveals himself to the stranger and offers him some meat. Accepting the offer, the stranger, Foreg, begins rubbing sticks together to make a fire, but it wouldn't start, so Dar lights the fire with his sunstone, which greatly impresses Foreg. Fixated on the sunstone, Foreg shows Dar his spear-thrower on which is carved a beautiful horse, and to impress Dar even more, Foreg demonstrates its amazing ability to hit a target from a long distance. Foreg wants to trade it for Dar's sunstone, but even though Dar recognizes the spear-thrower's value and realizes he could easily find another sunstone, he agonizingly refuses because of the sunstone's sentimental value to Dar. Foreg shows Dar where he lived and then departs in a friendly manner.

E) Plot Summary Sentence

Summarize the plot of this chapter in one sentence.

Dar encounters a stranger, Foreg, who wants to trade his spear-thrower with a horse carved on it for Dar's sunstone, but Dar reluctantly refuses because the sunstone had belonged to his beloved grandfather.

{NTT: This chapter dramatizes the benevolence that's possible between strangers. If people are basically good, then there would not be much fear in being friendly to strangers. And the benefit of befriending strangers would be enormous, such as trade and knowledge transfer.}