*“The Gift of Light”*

Long ago, the Inuit people of the far North knew only darkness. Their friend, Crow, told then of the South, where he said daylight came every day. At first, they did not believe him. Then they began to imagine what it would be like to live in daylight. They wondered what they could see if there was light.

The Inuit chief asked Crow to rescue his people from the dark life they led. At

first, Crow said he was too tired. But when he saw how sad his answer made the chief, Crow agreed to make the long trip south.

Crow flew for many miles in darkness until he saw a glimmer of light. Daylight was close! He flew as fast as he could. Soon, a brilliant light greeted him. He saw blue sky and fluffy white clouds. Happy, he came to rest on a tree limb.

Crow noticed a small girl below. He wanted to follow her, but he didn’t want to frighten her. Crow turned himself into a bit of dust and drifted onto her coat. (He had another reason for changing his form too.)

The girl walked to her home in the village. Inside the girl’s home, Crow noticed a box sitting on a table. It was lit up from the inside. “This must be where the daylight is kept!” thought Crow.

Crow (who was still a bit of dust) whispered in the girl’s ear, “You want to play with the light in the box.” The girl rubbed her ear and repeated Crow’s words to her father. “I want to play with the light in the box,” she said.

The girl’s father removed a shining ball of daylight from the box, tied it with a string, and gave it to the girl. She played happily with the ball, watching the bouncing light move around the room. Crow again whispered in the girl’s ear, so she asked her father if she could take the ball outside.

As soon as the girl went outside, Crow turned back into his own form. He swooped down, grabbed the string, and flew away with the shining ball sailing behind him.

Later, the Inuit people were awakened by a light in the sky. When they saw it was Crow, they clapped their hands excitedly. Suddenly, Crow, who was very tired, from his long journey, dropped the string. The ball broke into pieces on the ground. Daylight was everywhere! Every corner was lit. People could see colors and shapes for the first time. They were delighted!

But Crow told the people that the ball was broken. It could not be turned off each night. Instead, it would shine for six whole months. After that, the daylight would have to rest for six months. During that time, it would be dark again. But the people were still happy. Darkness is bearable when it has an end, they thought. Even if the end is six months away.

Even today, the Inuit people live in darkness for six months and daylight for six months. And they are thankful to Crow who brought them the gift of daylight.

1. Crow has a plan to get light for the Inuit. How does turning himself into a speck of dust fit into his plan?
2. It helps him get close to the light.
3. It makes it easy for him to fly.
4. It lets him scare the little girl.
5. It gives him the power to move light.
6. Which sentence from the story shows that Crow have power over the little girl.
7. “Their friend, Crow, told them of the South, where he said the daylight came every day.”
8. “The Inuit chief asked Crow to rescue his people from the dark life they led.”
9. “The girl rubbed her ear and repeated Crow’s words to her father.”
10. “Afte that, the daylight would have to rest for six months.”
11. Which of these best retells that story’s events?
12. The Inuit people sent Crow to find daylight. He flies south to get it. The people in the south chase him off. He leaves without finding daylight.
13. The Inuit people want daylight. Crow flies south and tricks a little girl into giving him daylight. Then he brings daylight back to the Inuit.
14. Crow wants to find daylight for the Inuit. He goes south and finds a little girl. He asks the girl for the daylight. She gives it to him.
15. People in the south want darkness. Crow flies north to steal it form the Inuit. He is unable to being the darkness back to the south.