1

Moon Tales

Many years ago, people did not know as much about the moon as we know now. In the past, people from all over the world made up stories and tales about the moon.

Some of these stories try to explain the changing shape of the moon.

Other stories try to explain where the moon came from or why it has dark and light spots on it.

Here are two of the tales people have made up to try and explain the mysteries of the moon. They both come from Africa.

The Moon and the Sun

One story from Africa tried to explain why the moon changes shape. In this story, the moon used to say that it was more beautiful than the sun. The sun was so angry that it broke the moon into pieces.

Ever since then, the moon has been scared of the sun. The moon is so scared, that on most nights it only shows a bit of its face. That is why you don't often see a full, round moon in the night sky.

The Thief

Long ago the moon did not shine. It wanted to have bright rays like the sun. So one day, when the sun was on the other side of the Earth, the moon stole some of the sun's light.

The sun was so angry that it splashed the moon with mud. You can still see those spots on the moon today.

2

Moon Tales

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1 In *The Moon and the Sun*, why does it say you don't often see a full, round moon in the night sky?

Tick **one**.

because it is a story from Africa	☐	because the moon was frightened of the sun	☐
because the sun was angry	☐	because the moon hides behind the clouds	☐

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2 In *The Thief*, how did the sun show it was angry?

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3 What does the tale *The Thief* try to explain about the moon?

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4 What do you notice about the sun and moon in the two *Moon Tales*?

Tick **one**.

They change shape.	☐	They are thieves.	☐
They both have spots.	☐	They behave like people.	☐