

Myth

The
APPLES
of
IDUN

adapted by Betsy Hebert
illustrated by Valeria Cis



**Mc
Graw
Hill**

**PAIRED
READ**

Tomatoes

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Reread

Skill: Theme

Phonics

Closed Syllables and

Open Syllables

Vocabulary Strategy

Sentence Clues

Vocabulary

appeared, crops,

develop, edge, golden,

rustled, shining, stages

Content Standards

Science

Life Science

Word count: 632**

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Essential Question

What do myths help us understand?

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Chapter 1

THE EAGLE

Long ago, the gods liked to walk on Earth. Loki and Odin had been hiking for many days. The two gods were very hungry.

Odin killed an ox, and Loki made a fire. But the pieces of meat would not cook.

Was this someone's trick? Loki, who had played plenty of tricks himself, looked around. No one appeared.





Then a voice spoke from above. "I will make the meat cook if you will share it." Loki and Odin looked up. A huge eagle sat on a high tree branch and rustled his wings.

"Yes, you may have some meat," Odin said.

So the meat cooked, and the eagle swooped down. He grabbed many large pieces of meat. Loki, who was very hungry, jumped up. He was angry. He grabbed a big piece of wood and hit the eagle.



Poor Loki! The wood stuck to the eagle's claws. The other end stuck to Loki's hands. This was not a real eagle. It was a storm giant in the form of an eagle.



STOP AND CHECK

Who is Loki? What has happened so far?



Chapter 2

THE APPLES

The eagle flew off, dragging Loki with him. Loki banged and bumped into trees and rocks. "Please," he begged. "Let me go!"

"I will let you go if you do one thing for me," the eagle said. "I want the apples of Idun."

Loki said, "Oh, no, I can't do that!"



The apples of Idun were special. The goddess Idun grew beautiful golden apples. She fed them to the gods. The apples kept the gods young.

Loki did not want to steal them. But he was soon tired of being dragged. "Yes," he said. "I'll get the apples."

So the giant eagle dropped Loki.

Loki limped home and then went to Idun. The goddess was putting her apples into a basket.

“Those are beautiful apples,” Loki said, smiling at her.

“Yes,” Idun replied. “There are no others like them.”



“Really?” said Loki. “I saw a tree filled with apples that looked just like those. It is growing at the edge of the city.”

“Show me this tree,” Idun said.

“I will,” said Loki. “Bring your apples with you. Then you can compare them to the others.”



STOP AND CHECK

What is special about Idun's apples?



Chapter 3

THE CHASE

Idun took her basket of apples and followed Loki.

But as soon as Idun left the city, the storm giant snatched her. He grabbed the goddess in his eagle claws. In moments, they were gone.



The next morning, the gods waited for Idun to bring their apples. She did not come. The gods searched for Idun. They looked and looked. Days went by. The gods began to grow old. Their skin wrinkled, and their shining hair turned dull and gray.

Then the gods found out that Loki had tricked Idun. They were angry. "How could you do that?" they said.



"I'm sorry! I will get her back," Loki said. He turned into a falcon and flew to the storm giant's home.



Loki found Idun at the giant's house. He turned the goddess and her apples into nuts. Then he put them in Idun's basket. He held the basket and flew off as fast as he could.

But the storm giant saw Loki and flew after him.



The gods saw this, rushed to the city walls, and made piles of wood. As soon as Loki flew over the walls, the gods lit the wood on fire.

Huge flames leaped up, and the eagle flew into the fire. Loki, Idun, and the apples were safe. Idun fed the gods, and they grew young again. Loki had fixed his mistake.

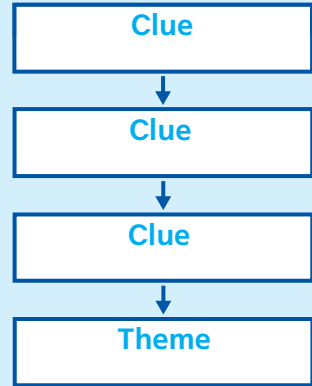
STOP AND CHECK

How did Loki get the apples back?

Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use the chart to help you summarize *The Apples of Idun*.



Text Evidence

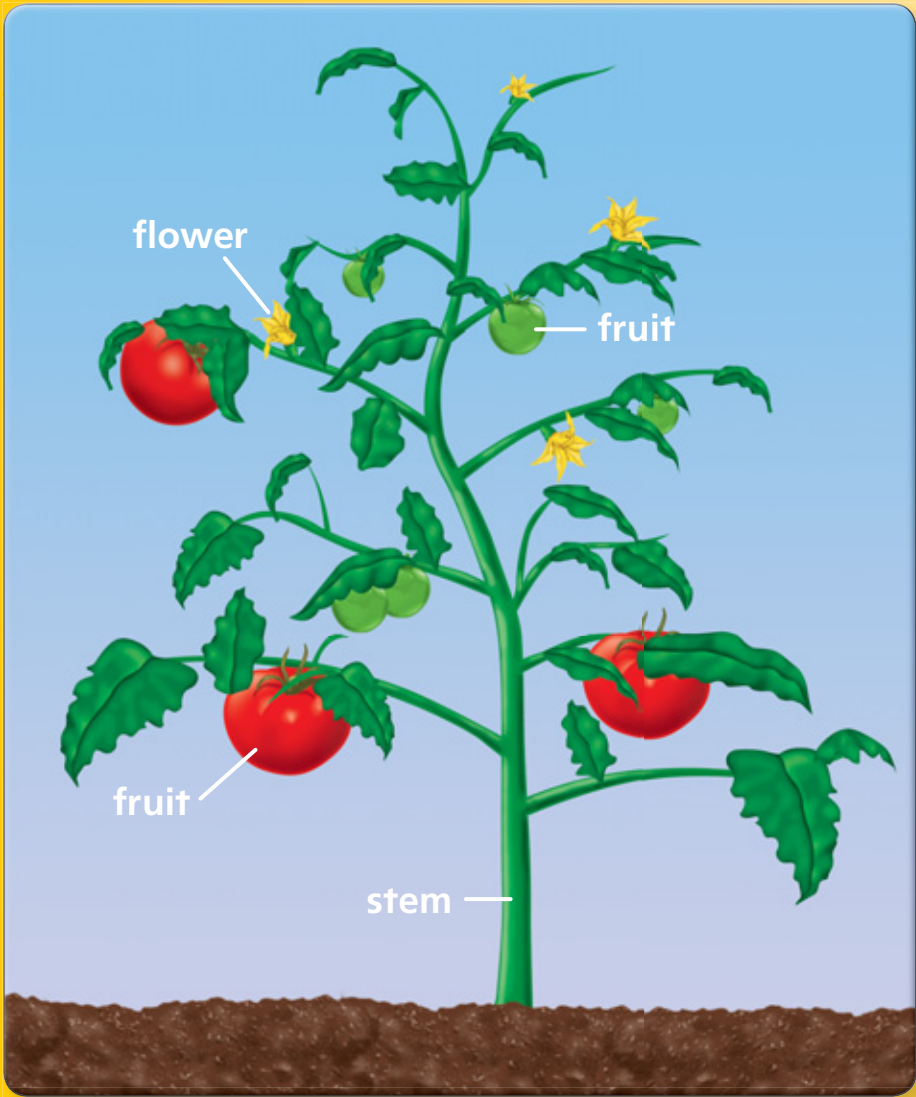
1. How can you tell this story is a myth? **Genre**
2. What message does the story give about Loki and how he acts? **Theme**
3. What does *sarcastic* on page 12 mean? Which sentence helped you know the meaning? **Sentence Clues**
4. Write about what you learned about the gods. **Write About Reading**

Compare Texts

Read about another golden fruit.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes come
in many colors.



The green tomatoes are not ripe yet.

Tomatoes develop in stages. First, a yellow flower grows. Then a green tomato forms. The fruit ripens and turns red or yellow.

Tomatoes first grew in South America. Today they are grown all over the world. The United States produces a large part of the world's tomato crops.



People eat tomatoes raw and cooked.

How to Grow Tomatoes

1. Put a pot of tomato seeds and soil in a sunny window.
2. Give the seeds water. After six weeks, move the plants outside.
3. Put them in a bigger pot or in the ground. You'll have tomatoes in about three months!



Make Connections

Why did the storm giant punish Loki?

Essential Question

How is a yellow tomato like one of Idun's apples? **Text to Text**

Focus on Genre

Myth A myth is a type of folktale. It might tell a story about gods or goddesses. It might explain something in nature.

What to Look for The characters in *The Apples of Idun* are gods and goddesses. They have special powers. Idun grows golden apples that keep the gods young.

Your Turn

Plan your own myth about a god or goddess. Give your character a name. Tell what special things he or she can do.

Thinkmark

Setting

Where does the beginning of *The Apples of Idun* take place?
Where does the end take place?

Characters

Who are the main characters in *The Apples of Idun*?

Sequence of Events

What happened at the **beginning**, **middle**, and **end** of *The Apples of Idun*?

Make Connections

How are you like Loki?
How are you different?