

Step 1

Before Reading

Answer the following questions individually in your ISN. Then share with your group before you read.

1. What control do we have in making choices?
2. How do we solve problems?
3. What impact do our choices have

Step 2

During Reading

"The Stone" by Lloyd Alexander

Glue this handout into your notebook. As you read independently, answer the following questions on the next blank page of your notebook.

4. Look at the picture on page 866 and 877. What clues do these pictures offer about the setting of the story? What details suggest fantasy or imaginary elements?
5. Why is Maibon upset at the beginning of the story?
6. What are Maibon's complaints on page 868?
7. Based on your own experience, why do you think Maibon grumbles as he works?
8. Write down the sentence that uses the vocabulary word *plight*. What does *plight* mean?
9. What problem does Maibon face?
10. What is unusual about Doli?
11. Why is Doli frustrated by Maibon and other humans?
12. Write down the sentence that uses the vocabulary word *jubilation*. What does *jubilation* mean?
13. What big idea does Maibon's experience suggest to you on page 871?
14. What does Maibon realize when he wakes up in the morning?
15. Find three details in the painting on pages 872 and 873 that suggest the people in the painting lead a life similar to that of Maibon and his wife.
16. What is the stone doing to everything on Maibon's farm?
17. Based on your own experience, why is Doli angry with Maibon on page 874?
18. How does the stone cause problems for Maibon, his family, and his farm?
19. Many messages in advertisements and on consumer products promote youthfulness. Do you think this is a good message? Why or why not?
20. What is the definition of a *universal theme*? Look back at the beginning of the story (864) or check your vocabulary chart.
21. What universal theme is revealed in the story, just after Doli explains to Maibon why the stone would not go away?

Vocabulary Builder

22. Could the situation of a family who lived through a terrible war be described as a *plight*?
23. Would you react with *jubilation* if your favorite team lost a championship game?

Step 3

After Reading

Reader Response/Unit Connection

Write in complete sentences to answer the following questions about “The Stone” in your LA Notebook.

1. What was Maibon willing to give up in order to gain what he thought he needed?
2. How did the way that he tried to solve his “problem” affect his life?
3. How did his choices impact his family and himself?

“The Stone” Assignment

Assignment Description: A utopia is a community or society possessing highly desirable or near perfect qualities. Suppose that by some magical means, we have all been transported to a utopian society where we had the opportunity to remain the “perfect” age for all of our lives. In your response, decide what that “perfect” age would be for you and then discuss whether or not you would choose to remain that age for the rest of your life. Remember to examine the pros and cons of this hypothetical situation. What would be gained? What would be lost?