

Read the story below.

Suggestion: Read the questions before reading the story. This will help you know what you should know at the end of reading the story. Try to visualize what you are reading.

## The Old Woman and the Physician

Once upon a time, in a small village nestled between rolling hills, there lived an old woman who had lost the use of her eyes. She was a wise and respected member of the community, known for her compassionate heart and astute judgment. Determined to regain her sight, she called upon a renowned physician from a neighbouring town, hoping he could heal her.

The physician, a man of dubious character, arrived at her doorstep accompanied by witnesses. With a shrewd smile, he proposed a bargain. If he could cure her blindness, he would receive a generous sum of money, but if her infirmity remained, he would ask for nothing. The old woman, trusting in the goodness of humanity, agreed to the arrangement, sealing it with a handshake.

Time after time, the physician visited the old woman and applied his salve to her eyes. Each time he did so, he took something precious from her house, a trinket or a piece of jewellery, hoping to fill his pockets while her eyes were filled with darkness. The old woman, unaware of the deceit, eagerly awaited her sight's return, believing the physician was working diligently to restore it.

Months passed, and the physician's visits became less frequent. One day, the old woman opened her eyes to a world filled with vibrant colours and light. Overwhelmed with joy, she began exploring her surroundings, eager to see the treasures she had gathered over a lifetime. To her dismay, she found her house empty.

### Questions:

1. What is the mood of the story?
2. Where did the old woman live?
3. What was the old woman known for in her community?
4. Who did the old woman call upon to regain her sight?
5. What bargain did the physician propose?
6. What did the physician take from the old woman's house?
7. How many times did the physician visit the old woman?
8. What did the old woman trust in when making the arrangement?
9. What did the physician hope to gain from the arrangement?
10. How did the old woman's eyes react to the physician's treatment?
11. What did the old woman hope to achieve by calling upon the physician?