Our story begins in the summer of 1636 in a small village nestled in the trees along the shore of the mighty river that flows from the mountains to the sea.

In this place, two young children began their adventure, though they had no idea what was to come. Their names were Pino and Mohita.

Their families lived close to each other, but their parents were not friends. The families were fighting most of the time because of their fathers, Kinto and Longo, were always competing with each other. They had been friends when they were younger. Their friendship ended when they both fell in love with the same girl. They had a big fight and it continued to that time. (In the end, the girl married another man.)

Pino and Mohita liked played together, even though their parents said no. They liked to go to the forest to look for mushrooms and berries. They would run and hide from each other and play until it was almost dark. It was especially fun to do this in the summer when the grass was tall, but most of the time Pino and Mohita had to stay at their homes helping their parents.

Pino was with his father learning to fish and to hunt for food.

Mohita stayed with her mother learning how to make clothing and to cook.

This was the life in their village. Every person had a job to do and by working together, the village was a happy place to live. They shared all that they
had with each other.

The more Pino and Mohita played together, the closer they became. Sometimes they would pretend that they were married and dreamed about having children of their own. It was a great time for them to be alive. They only wished that they could tell their parents about the feelings they had for each other.

One day, when Pino and Mohita were about twelve years old, a strange boat appeared in the river. All the people went to the bank of the river to see what this thing might be. They had never seen anything like it before.

Suddenly there was a loud noise. Then smoke rose into the air. Just as suddenly, there was another loud noise as something fell from the sky and hit the ground.

Everyone ran in many directions, not knowing what this was.

Another and then another loud noise came from the boat in the river and large objects fell from the sky around them.

The people ran into the forest to hide.

As they watched from behind the trees, smaller boats came to the edge of the river. The strange men got out and walked up the river toward the village.

They had never seen anyone like them before.

The strangers searched and then burned the houses. They yelled loudly as they destroyed everything they saw.

After a long time the strangers began to leave.

Pino, and some of the other young men, got angry and ran out of the forest after the strangers, yelling at them to go away.

Their fathers tried to stop them, but it was too late. The strangers turned and grabbed the young men and carried them away.

The women in the forest began to cry, especially Mohita. Where were Pino and the young men going? What was going to happen to them?

Several years passed and Mohita could not forget Pino. Mohita was now old
enough to get married, but she did not love any of the men in her village. She could only think of Pino.

One day, a stranger came to the village to sell them things he had purchased in the big city. He told tales of the city and the great buildings that were there. He told of how people in big ships from a far off place had built the city and that they had many slaves. These slaves were from different places and some of them spoke the language of Mohita’s people.

Mohita got excited. Maybe Pino was one of those slaves. Maybe she could go to the city and save him. Maybe she could find her true love.

Mohita began to make plans to go to the city. She listened carefully to everything the stranger said. She wanted to know all she could about how to get to the city and what to expect when she got there.

The stranger described the many dangers in the forest he had to overcome on his journey. He told about wild animals and thick forests. He told of other people he had met along the way who were not very friendly. He told of how the weather could become dangerous.

Mohita listened intently and remembered every detail. She was going to the city to see if what he had said was true. Ever since Pino had disappeared, she felt in her heart that he was still alive. She knew that now was the time to go.

A few days later, Mohita decided she was ready to leave. She had a small bag with the things she thought she would need.

In the middle of the night, she quietly walked out of her house and walked along the edge of the river toward the sea. She used the light of the moon to see her way.

Until now she had never gone very far from the village, so she had to remember what the stranger said about the way to the city. She was both excited and afraid as she began her journey.

When she heard the noise of the ocean, as the waves crashed on the beach,
she knew she was far from her village. She had never been so far from her home, but she was not going to return until she found her true love, Pino.

Mohita followed the directions she remembered from the man who had visited her village. The big rocks on the side of the hill told her to go to the left. She went up the hill, climbing the big rocks, and when she got to the top, she could not believe how beautiful the view was. The ocean stretched farther than the eye could see. Clouds floated by in the sky and white birds soared above her. The sun was coming up and its orange color reflected off the water.

She stood and stared out at the sea. She knew that she was following her destiny and that she would find Pino, it was just a matter of time.

She followed the shore of the sea until she came to a thick forest. Between the trees she found an opening where there was a path to follow. This was exactly how she remembered the story.

Once inside of the forest, it became very dark. The trees blocked the sunlight and it was difficult for her to see her way.

Suddenly she felt like something was watching her. She became afraid. She walked faster and faster, but the feeling was still there. She looked behind her, but she did not see anything.

She ran until she became so tired she had to stop and rest. She leaned against a tree and took long breaths of air.

She put her head down to help her get more relaxed. When she looked up, in front of her was a huge snake. She was so surprised she was unable to scream. The snake was hanging from a branch of the tree above her and was going back and forth looking at her face.

The traveler had told her about the snakes in the forest and how dangerous they were. He told how they hung in the trees waiting for someone to come along and then, when the person least expected it, they would bite the person and then eat them.
To the surprise of Mohita, the snake began to talk.

“What are you doing in my forest?” the snake asked.

Mohita was very surprised and did not know what to say at first. She finally became calm enough to speak.

“I’m on a quest to find my true love. His name is Pino and he was taken from me many years ago. I’m going to the great city to find him. Please don’t hurt me. If you do, I’ll never find him, and he’ll be alone for the rest of his life,” Mohita begged the snake.

“You’re looking for your long lost love? How sweet. I’ve never met anyone like you. I bet you’ll taste very delicious. Since you have a sweet heart, you must be very sweet to eat!” the snake said, as he snapped at Mohita.

Mohita jumped out of the way and the snake bit the tree instead.

The snake shook its head in pain.

“Why did you do that?” the snake wanted to know.

“I didn’t want you to eat me. Why do you want to eat me?” Mohita asked.

“I need meat and you look like you would be very delicious,” the snake answered.

Now Mohita was an excellent hunter. She had learned to hunt with Pino before he disappeared. She looked around for a moment and then took a small knife out of her bag. She threw it past the snake and hit a squirrel that had stopped to watch the snake eat Mohita.

Mohita ran over to the squirrel, picked it up, and gave it to the snake to eat.

“I have never had anyone do this for me before,” the snake said as it ate the squirrel in one swallow.

While the snake ate, Mohita ran down the trail toward a light at the end of the forest. The snake was too busy eating to notice that Mohita had gone.

When she got to the middle of the forest, she fell into a bog and sank up to her waist. The more she tried to get free, the farther she sank into the mud.
She screamed for help, but there was no one to help her. She began to sink deeper and deeper until she was up to her neck in the quicksand.

Just then, something dropped down in front of her. She grabbed it and it pulled her out of the mud. When she looked up, she saw it was the snake.

“Why did you help me? Do you still want to eat me?” Mohita asked the snake.

“No, I don’t want to eat you anymore. The squirrel you gave me will last for several days. I wanted to thank you for the meal, but you had left. When I followed you here, I saw you were in trouble, so I decided to help you,” the snake informed her.

“Thank you so much. I would be dead if you had not helped me,” Mohita said thankfully. “I must now get clean and then continue on my journey to the city.”

“Do you need help finding your way?” the snake asked.

Very surprised, Mohita asked, “Do you know the way to the city?”

“Yes, just follow me and I’ll take you there,” the snake offered. “Because of your kindness to me, all of the snakes in the forest will help you. From now on you’ll be safe.”

Mohita was very excited. She had a new friend and he was going to show her the way to the city.
VOCABULARY (Match the word to its definition)

1. nestled _____ a. unusual, odd
2. village _____ b. unsafe, perilous
3. pretend _____ c. protected, sheltered
4. strange _____ d. fly with ease
5. yell _____ e. worried, uneasy
6. dangerous _____ f. small town
7. stretch _____ g. journey with a purpose
8. soar _____ h. spread, enlarge
9. nervous _____ i. speak in a loud voice
10. quest _____ j. imaginary, invented

TRUE / FALSE

1. The village was in the mountains high above the city. T / F
2. The village was close to the city. T / F
3. Pino’s and Mohita’s fathers were best friends. T / F
4. Pino learned to hunt and fish. T / F
5. Pino disappeared into the forest. T / F
6. Pino and Mohita were in love. T / F
7. All of the men in the village chased the strangers away. T / F
8. Mohita got married when she was old enough. T / F
9. Mohita listened to the man who came to her village. T / F
10. Mohita went on a quest to find Pino. T / F
MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What year did the story take place? _____
   a) 1636
   b) 1736
   c) 1837
   d) 1789

2. Who was taken away from the village? _____
   a) Pino and his friends
   b) Mohita and her friends
   c) the men of the village
   d) the animals

3. Who went to look for Pino? _____
   a) his father
   b) his mother
   c) his brother
   d) Mohita

4. Who told the stories about the big city? _____
   a) Pino
   b) a stranger selling goods
   c) a man from the big ship
   d) Mohita
COMPREHENSION: (Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)

1. Where was the village located?

2. What did Pino and Mohita do in the summer?

3. Why did their parents say they could not play together?

4. What did the strangers in the boat do to the village?

5. What did Mohita’s mother teach her to do?

6. What did Mohita do when the stranger told about the city?

7. When did Mohita leave her village?

8. What did Mohita see when she climbed to the top of the rocks?

9. What did Mohita feed to the snake?

10. What had happened to Mohita when the snake saved her?
It took several days to walk through the forest. The snake helped Mohita along the way. Mohita used her hunting skills to not only feed herself but also the snake.

The forest began to thin as the sun came through the branches more and more. She walked until in front of her she could see the city.

She had never seen anything like it before. The buildings were big and the wall which was made of logs surrounded. Smoke rose from the houses and the noise coming from inside of the city was very loud.

When she walked through the gate into the city, she saw horses doing many different jobs. People were going from place to place in such a hurry. The smell was strong and the noise was even worse. As she walked down the street she watched the people, but no one seemed to notice her. They were too busy. The streets were narrow and dirty.

She could not understand the language of the people as they talked. Some of them seemed angry while others seemed to be worried. She could only see the expressions on their faces.

While she was walking, she saw a number of young men working very hard. They were working on many different projects around the city. Usually there was an older man yelling at them and hitting them with sticks. They must have been the
slaves the man had told her about. Mohita did not like this. She could only think about Pino and she hoped that he was not one of those who were being so badly mistreated.

Mohita walked and walked until she became so tired she had to sit down. The city was big and it had taken her the rest of the day to reach the other side.

She found a tree along the wall and sat under it. Soon she was fast asleep.

She awoke the next morning and felt very hungry. She had not eaten since she arrived in the city. Close to the tree, she saw a garden. There were many things to eat in the garden, so she went to pick some vegetables.

While she was eating, a lady came out of the house and started screaming at her and chased her away with a stick. Mohita did not understand what she was saying, and she didn’t understand why the woman was so angry. In her village, they shared everything with everyone.

Mohita took the food and ate it as she ran away. The lady was still yelling at her as she disappeared onto the next street.

Mohita continued to walk, looking for Pino. She knew he was close, she could feel him. She knew it was just a matter of time before she would find him. She was smiling as she was thinking about how wonderful it would be for them to find each other again.

Every once in a while, she would wonder if Pino would remember her, or even if he would still love her, but she always put her doubts aside and kept positive thoughts in her mind.

When she reached the center of the city, the people were gathering and cheering. She moved to a place where she could see clearly. What Mohita saw were many young men who were tied together and following a man on a horse. They were being led out of the city.

Mohita followed behind because she was curious about why the townspeople were so excited. There was music and singing as the people walked
together out of the city.

They stopped at a large field just outside the city gates. Once everyone arrived at the field, the people formed a large circle.

Mohita could not see very much. Every time she tried to move to the front, another person would push her away and say something to her in a very mean voice. This did not stop Mohita from trying.

For a few moments, the crowd was silent. The men on the field were given long sticks with a basket on the end. They were separated into two groups and lined up on opposite sides of the field. Then a ball was thrown into the air and the two teams ran into the middle of the field to get the ball.

Players were running with the ball only to be knocked down and forced to give the ball away. Some were hit over the head and were bleeding. The crowd was cheering loudly as the game went on. More and more of the young men were on the ground unable to continue. The faster players were able to avoid being struck by a stick.

Mohita did not understand what was going on. She heard the players yell out in pain when they were hit. She tried to see if it was Pino who was on the ground, but fortunately, the players she could see were not him.

The game went on for a long time, and the crowd continued to cheer and scream for their favorite players.

There was a loud whistle and everyone went silent. Suddenly the game had stopped.

Mohita jumped up and down trying to see what was happening now. She saw a tree not far from the field and decided to climb it to get a better view.

When she got there, the tree was already full of children. She climbed up and found a spot where she could sit and see what was going on. The children yelled at her, but she didn’t care. She could now see the players on the field.

In the middle of the field was an older man who was talking to them. Many
of the players had been taken off the field and were receiving medical attention. None of them was Pino.

When she looked back at the center of the field, the others lifted one of the young men into the air. They were cheering. The young man had something in his hands and he was holding it above his head smiling. It was Pino!

Mohita jumped down from the tree and ran to the crowd. She tried to go through them to get to Pino, but no one would let her through.

She yelled, “Pino, Pino!” but the crowd was so noisy he couldn’t hear her.

The young men were cheering as they carried Pino toward the city gate. The people who followed behind were also cheering for him. Mohita could only follow and hope that she could find him once they were inside of the city.

The crowd was big and moved slowly.

By the time Mohita got inside of the city, the young men and Pino had disappeared. She had no idea where they had gone. Now she had to search for him again, but at least she knew that he was alive and safe.

Mohita didn’t know how to ask for help since she did not speak the language of the people around her. She just walked up one street and down the next. She got tired, but she did not stop. She knew he was there. She had come too far to give up now.

Mohita began to get discouraged. She was thirsty and hungry. She sat down to take a rest.

Just then, a nice woman came up to her and spoke in a language she did not understand.

Mohita answered, “I’m sorry, I don’t understand you.”

The lady replied in Mohita’s language, “Are you OK?”

Mohita was very surprised but happy that she had met someone who spoke her language.

The nice woman gave her some bread and water to drink.
While Mohita ate and drank, she told about her journey and why she had come to the city. She continued by telling the lady about her true love Pino and how the players had held him up.

“Oh my! You friend Pino was the winner of the game today. He has won his freedom. He has been a slave for many years, but because he won the match today, he is free to go. We must hurry before he leaves. He must to be planning to return to his village very soon,” the lady explained to Mohita.

Mohita was now very excited. The lady was going to take her to where Pino was living.

Mohita kept saying to the woman, “Hurry, we must Hurry!”

But she was old and could not walk fast.

When they got to the place where the slaves were kept, there were many men outside to make sure that none of those who were inside escaped.

“Where is Pino, I don’t see Pino!” Mohita began to panic.

“I will ask,” the woman replied.

She walked over to one of the guards and talked to him for a few minutes. When she returned she did not look happy.

“He’s gone. They’ve already taken him to the city gate,” she informed Mohita.

“I must get to the gate quickly. Pino doesn’t know the way home. I must show him, or he will have many dangers along the way!” Mohita yelled as she ran faster than ever toward the gate of the city.

It was late in the day and the sun was very hot. Even though Mohita was hot and thirsty, she ran as fast as she could to catch up with Pino before anything bad happened to him.

When she reached the gate, Pino was not there, just the normal traffic of people who were coming and going. She looked every direction, but she could not see him.
She ran to the forest. She yelled out Pino’s name, but there was no response. She sat in the cool shade of the trees and began to think. How could she find him?

Then she had an idea. She called out to the snakes.

“Snakes, I need your help. This is Mohita, do you remember me? I gave food to your friend and he told me you would help me!” Mohita cried out.

Suddenly there were snakes everywhere, on the ground, in the trees and under the logs.

“What can we do for your Mohita? We have heard of your kindness. How can we help?” one of the snakes asked.

“I need to find my true love. His name is Pino, and I believe he has entered the forest. He doesn’t know the way home and I’m afraid he will be harmed in the forest. Will you help me find him?” Mohita asked.

“We’ll help you. We’ll find you true love and we’ll keep him safe,” one of the snakes answered.

And then, the snakes disappeared into the forest.

Mohita followed the trail. It was getting dark and it was difficult to see the way.

The snakes talked to the fireflies and they came to light the way for Mohita. The trail began to glow. She could follow the glow on the trail easily. Now she could walk faster.

She walked and walked. She did not see any of the snakes. Worst of all she didn’t find Pino. She was trusting the snakes that they would keep their promise to her.

Even though Mohita was getting very tired, she did not stop except to drink some water and eat some berries.
Vocabulary (Match the word to its definition)

1. skill ____ a. to be hit with something
2. mistreated ____ b. abuse, injure
3. recognize ____ c. encourage, praise, shout
4. struck ____ d. least, not best
5. cheer ____ e. faith, confidence
6. worst ____ f. path, route
7. trust ____ g. bugs with lighted tails
8. difficult ____ h. talent, ability
9. trail ____ i. not easy
10. fireflies ____ j. comprehend, identify

True / False

1. Mohita got lost in the forest. T / F
2. Mohita followed the crowd out of the city. T / F
3. The young men were playing a game. T / F
4. Mohita stole food from a garden. T / F
5. Mohita slept in a hotel. T / F
6. Pino won the game. T / F
7. An old lady gave Mohita water and food. T / F
8. The snakes ate Pino. T / F
9. Fireflies carried Mohita to the edge of the forest. T / F
10. Mohita found Pino. T / F
MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What did Mohita sleep under when she was tired? ____
   a.) under a rock
   b.) in a cabin
   c.) beside a log
   d.) under a tree

2. What did the lady do when she saw Mohita eating her vegetables? ____
   a.) gave her more to eat
   b.) chased her with a stick
   c.) he was in jail
   d.) the family was poor

3. Who won the game? ____
   a.) Mohita
   b.) the old lady
   c.) one of the players
   d.) Pino

4. Who helped Mohita in the forest? ____
   a.) snakes
   b.) townspeople
   c.) horses
   d.) young men
**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What was the wall of the city made of?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

2. Where did Mohita fall asleep?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

3. What did the lady do when Mohita took vegetables from the garden?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

4. Where did the townspeople go after they left the walls of the city?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

5. What happened to many of the players?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

6. Where did Mohita go so she could see the players better?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

7. Why did Mohita want to see the players better?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

8. Who won the game?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

9. Where was Pino when Mohita arrived at the place where the slaves lived?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

10. What made the path glow so Mohita could see her way in the forest?
   
    ____________________________________________________________
It took several days to go through the forest. When she arrived at the far side of the forest, the morning sun was coming up giving off a soft glow in the meadow in front of her. She saw the sun glisten off the dew that had settled on the plants the night before. The sweet smell of flowers filled the air. Normally she would have stopped to enjoy this, but she was not going to stop until she found Pino.

Suddenly in front of her appeared a snake out of the grass. Mohita noticed the snake and stopped to talk to it.

She asked the snake if it had seen her true love, Pino.

“I’m sorry, but I have not seen a young man come this way recently. You must be mistaken. He must have gone a different way from the city,” the snake informed her.

Mohita sat down and cried. She was sure that he had entered the forest before her and that he was on his way back to the village.

Now she had no idea what to do. She just sat and cried.

Mohita was discouraged and confused. Her instincts had been right before, why had they not worked this time? She was so close and yet Pino was not anywhere to be found.

Turning back to the snake, Mohita asked, “Are you sure that no one came this way? I was sure that he was just in front of me.”
“I haven’t seen anyone but you. I’m sorry. Perhaps he chose another way,” the snake surmised.

Mohita had to make a choice. Was she going to go back through the forest to find Pino, or was she going to return to her village and wait to see if he found his way home?

She was so tired she fell asleep along the side of the path.

When she awoke, she was surrounded by snakes. They were keeping her safe from anyone or anything that might hurt her.

She was happy to see them.

“Have any of you seen my true love, Pino?” she asked hoping they had seen him and that maybe the first snake was wrong.

Not one of the snakes had seen a young man in the forest.

Mohita found some water to drink and ate some nuts she found in a tree.

She decided the only thing she could do was to go back to her village and wait to see if Pino would return. She would wait for two weeks and if he did not return, she would go to find him again.

Her walk home took much longer because she was sad and she was not excited to go home without Pino. She had been so close to being with him, yet he had not heard her voice.

When she got to the big rocks by the sea, she looked out across the ocean and dreamed that Pino was on a big boat returning to her village. There was nothing on the sea; only white birds flying in the big blue sky above her. She stood there looking out at the ocean. It was a beautiful sight.

She climbed down the rocks to the riverbank and began the long walk to her village. She was not afraid. She was sad.

As soon as she arrived at her village, it was late in the evening and most of the people were already in their homes sleeping. The soft golden glow of the fires scattered around the village lit up the place where she lived. Smoke rose from the
fires. The smell was sweet to her nose. It brought back so many memories of her life there.

She remembered the time when she and Pino played together in the forest. She remembered how he smiled at her.

It was good to be home, even though she was alone.

She had been gone for more than a month.

When she knocked on the door of her house, her father opened the door and yelled, “It’s Mohita, she has returned!”

Shortly afterward, her mother came and they embraced each other for a long time. It was good to be home.

Her parents asked why she left so suddenly. Mohita told them about how she sensed that Pino was in the city after the stranger had told her the story of what the city was like.

She sat in the house and shared with them her adventure.

She told them about the snakes and how they had protected her on her journey. She told them about the city and how the people there were very strange.

She told them how Pino had won his freedom and about the lady who spoke their language in the city.

Mohita began to cry when she told them how she had called out to Pino, but he hadn’t answered.

She thought that he was on his way home, but he was not on the same trail. He had not come home after all.

Her parents tried to console her, but since she was so upset, she just curled up in the corner of her room and fell asleep.

The next morning the rest of the village heard about Mohita’s return. She had to tell them the entire story she had told her parents the night before. She told them that she had seen Pino, but he had not seen her. How he had won his freedom and that he was trying to come home, but he probably did not know the way.
After she told her story, the elders of the village had a meeting. They talked for several hours about how they might find Pino and bring him home.

The problem they had was that very few of the people of the village had ever left the valley and they were afraid of what might happen to them if they went to search for Pino. They were afraid they might be captured and be put into slavery just as Pino had.

There were many arguments about how to find Pino. At the end of the discussion, three of the young men decided they would go to look for Pino.

Although the elders felt it was a bad idea, the boys made their plans to search for Pino.

The young men met with Mohita to get directions on how to get to the city. Mohita told them it was very dangerous and that the without the help of the snakes, she would never have been able to make the journey herself. She would have died if it were not for the help the snakes gave her.

The young men were determined to make an effort to find Pino. Mohita offered to go with them, but they said no, they wanted to do it on their own.

The young men packed supplies for the trip.

Just after the sun rose the next day, they began the walk down the river toward the sea.

Mohita was afraid for them, so she secretly followed them at a distance to make sure they were not in danger. She knew she could ask the snakes to make their journey safe.

The young men reached the rocks and began to climb to the top. They followed the directions Mohita had given them. After they reached the top, they disappeared down the trail toward the forest.

Mohita followed them by climbing the rocks and then watched as the young men entered the forest.

Mohita trailed behind where they could not see her. When she got to the
edge of the forest, she called out to the snakes to come and talk to her.

Several snakes appeared.

“What can we do for you today?” one of them asked.

“Some of my friends are going through the forest to find my true love Pino. Will you protect them like you protected me?” she asked.

“We’ll be happy to, but why are they going through the forest?” another asked.

“They are looking for my true love, Pino” she replied.

“Do you mean the young man you told us about?” asked the first snake.

“Yes, they are looking for Pino, my true love,” she answered.

“He left the forest last night. We protected him from danger. He has found his way this far. We don’t know what happened to him after he left the forest,” another snake said, wondering why Mohita did not know that her true love had already passed through the forest.

Mohita was excited. Pino was on his way home, but why had they not seen him? Maybe he had gone too far, or maybe he had gone another way? She did not know what to think.

“Please go and tell my friends to turn around and go home. Tell them you have seen Pino!” Mohita exclaimed as she ran back toward the rocks. She was going to see if she could find his tracks and follow him.

Mohita looked to her right and to her left to see if Pino may have left the trail and gone another way. As she climbed down the rocks, she looked for footprints to see if he had gone that way. She saw the prints of the young men and herself in the sand.

Then she saw a set of bigger footprints going the opposite direction. This set of prints was going toward the village! But they led through the forest. That is why she had not seen him. They passed each other, but never knew it.

Mohita ran along the edge of the river calling out Pino’s name. She could
see his footprints in the sand between the rocks as he had climbed over trees and walked toward the village. Pino had found his way, but why had she not seen him?

When Mohita arrived back at the village, the people were excited.

Pino is home! Pino is home!

As soon as Pino saw Mohita he ran to her and hugged her.

The people of the village had told him her story. They had told him that she had never forgotten him and that she had dreamed that one day he would return to her.

Pino told her the snakes had informed him of all that Mohita had done to find him.

He picked Mohita up and carried her to the center of the village. The people cheered and danced all night.

Pino told Mohita that he had heard her call to him after the game, but he couldn’t believe it was her. He had looked around to see who was calling to him, but he did not see her.

After that, he knew he had to come home to find her. He told her that he had never forgotten about her and that he won the game so he could go home to be with her.

He told how the snakes had helped him in the forest and how the fireflies had lit the path for him. Without the help of the snakes, he would never have found his way home.

“How is it that we passed each other, but I did not see you?” Mohita asked.

“I fell asleep next to fallen tree. I must have been sleeping when you walked past me,” Pino answered.

Soon after, the three young men who went to search for Pino returned to the village and joined the celebration.

A few weeks later, the other young men who had been taken from the village returned. They told the villagers that after Pino won the game, a new leader came
to the city and told all of the slaves to go home. They said that if the snakes in the forest had not helped them, they would never have found their way home.

Mohita and Pino were married, had several children, and lived a happy life together.
**VOCABULARY (Match the word to its definition)**

1. glow ____ a. open space in a forest
2. meadow ____ b. moisture in the morning
3. dew ____ c. dim light
4. mistaken ____ d. quarrel, disputes
5. discouraged ____ e. leaders, chiefs
6. riverbank ____ f. edge of a river
7. curl up ____ g. disappointed, sad
8. arguments ____ h. wrong, incorrect answer
9. elders ____ i. sparkle, gleam
10. glisten ____ j. coil, sleeping position

**TRUE / FALSE**

1. Mohita got lost on her way home and died. T / F
2. The snakes helped Mohita find her way in the forest. T / F
3. Mohita went swimming in the ocean. T / F
4. The river flooded the village. T / F
5. Mohita arrived at the village early in the morning. T / F
6. Mohita saw footprints in the sand. T / F
7. Pino and Mohita danced all night. T / F
8. Mohita died before they were married. T / F
9. The village sent many men to free the other slaves. T / F
10. Mohita and Pino had many children. T / F
MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What lit up the path so that Mohita could see in the forest? _____
   a) light bulbs
   b) a flashlight
   c) fireflies
   d) fairies

2. Who told Mohita that Pino had left the forest the night before? _____
   a) squirrels
   b) the elders
   c) snakes
   d) her parents

3. What did Mohita see after she woke up? _____
   a) squirrels
   b) the elders
   c) snakes
   d) her parents

4. Who was the happiest to see Mohita? _____
   a) snakes
   b) Pino
   c) the elders
   d) her parents
**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What did Mohita see when she left the forest on her way home?

   __________________________________________

2. What did Mohita eat before she decided to return to her village?

   __________________________________________

3. Why did the walk home take longer than before?

   __________________________________________

4. What did Mohita see in the sky above her?

   __________________________________________

5. When did Mohita arrive at her home?

   __________________________________________

6. How long had Mohita been gone from her home?

   __________________________________________

7. Who hugged Mohita when she got home?

   __________________________________________

8. Who met in order to decide what to do to find Pino?

   __________________________________________

9. Who went to search for Pino after the meeting of the elders?

   __________________________________________

10. How did Mohita know that Pino was on his way home?

    _________________________________________