

The legend of the three sisters

Narrative

Long ago, many years before the white people knew our hot, dry land, a witchdoctor named Tyawan lived in the Blue Mountains. Tyawan had three beautiful daughters, Meenhi, Wimlah and Gunnedoo. In a cave, deep within the mountains, lived an evil bunyip spirit that was feared for miles around.

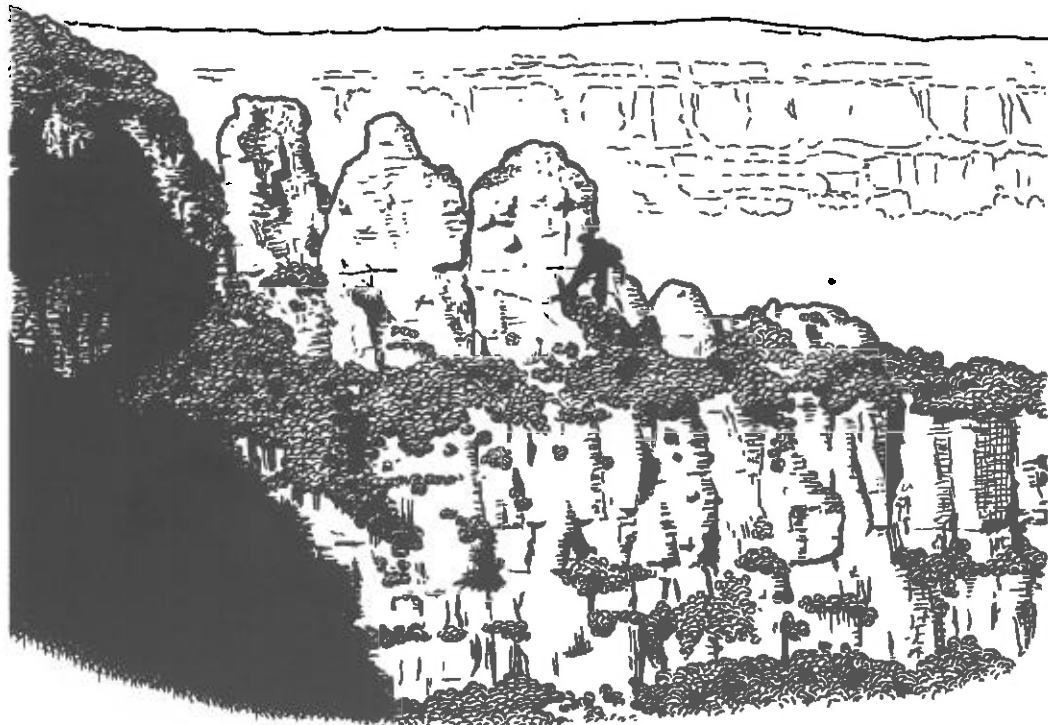
One day when Tyawan went in search of food, he left his daughters on a cliff, hidden behind a rocky ledge. While they were playing, Meenhi was startled by a large centipede that crawled close to her. In fear, she took a rock and threw it at the creature. The rock continued to jump along the cliff and soon disappeared over the edge and into the valley below.

The bunyip was woken by the vibrations in his cave caused by the bouncing rock. He raced angrily to the mouth of his cave and to where he could hear the laughter of the girls as they played.

Suddenly, the rocky wall that had been protecting the girls began to split as the bunyip used its powerful magic. There, standing in the gap was the bunyip. The three sisters screamed in terror. Hearing their cries, Tyawan raced back just as the bunyip leapt towards his fear-frozen daughters.

Tyawan quickly used his magic bone to turn the girls into stone so that the bunyip could not harm them. Enraged, the bunyip turned on Tyawan who turned himself into a lyre bird and ran swiftly to safety. As he did so, his magic bone fell over the cliff and into the valley.

Without the magic bone, Tyawan and his daughters could not be turned back to their former selves. As a lyre bird, Tyawan continues to search for the bone, all the time calling to the three sisters. Meanwhile, Meenhi, Wimlah and Gunnedoo stand silent and majestic, overlooking the valley.



If you visit the Three Sisters on a quiet, still day, you may be able to hear Tyawan calling to his daughters. What do you think he could be saying?

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Analysing a narrative

Narrative

Use the narrative on page 12 to complete the page.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this text is to _____

2. Title

What is the connection between the title and the narrative? _____

3. Orientation

(a) When and where does the narrative take place?

(b) Who are the characters?

4. Complication and events

(a) What is the complication in the narrative?

(b) Write three consecutive events from the narrative.

5. Resolution

How was the complication resolved?

6. Ending

There is a twist to the ending of this narrative. Briefly explain the twist.

