

An ancient legend tells of a monster called the Sphinx. The Sphinx had the body of a lion and the head of a woman. The Sphinx lived on a rock outside the city of Thebes. It stopped all travelers and demanded the answer to this riddle: "What walks on four legs in the morning, two legs at noon, and three legs in the evening?"

Anyone who answered the riddle correctly was permitted to continue their journey, but no traveler passed on to Thebes, for no one could answer the riddle.

Then a man named Oedipus came upon the monster and was asked the riddle.

Oedipus replied, "A person—who crawls on all fours when a baby, walks on two legs when young, and walks with a cane when old."

Oedipus was correct, and the Sphinx became so furious that it jumped off the rock and was destroyed.

Oedipus proceeded to Thebes, where the citizens were so grateful that they decided to make him their ruler.

- 1** The story says that the Sphinx is a monster
 - a** of ancient Egypt.
 - b** of ancient India.
 - c** in an ancient legend.
 - d** in an ancient book.
- 2** The story says that the Sphinx has the
 - a** tail of a serpent.
 - b** body of a woman.
 - c** head of a lion.
 - d** None of the above
- 3** The monster lives
 - a** outside Thebes.
 - b** on a rock.
 - c** in the city of Thebes.
 - d** Both **a** and **b**
- 4** The Sphinx stops travelers and
 - a** demands money.
 - b** asks for food.
 - c** demands gold.
 - d** asks a riddle.
- 5** The Sphinx lets travelers pass if they
 - a** try to answer the riddle.
 - b** answer the riddle correctly.
 - c** ask it a riddle.
 - d** answer the riddle incorrectly.
- 6** By the end of the story the total number of people who answer the riddle correctly is
 - a** zero.
 - b** one.
 - c** two.
 - d** five.
- 7** In the riddle a person walks on four legs when
 - a** old.
 - b** young.
 - c** a baby.
 - d** middle-aged.
- 8** When Oedipus answers the riddle, the Sphinx
 - a** jumps off the rock.
 - b** attacks.
 - c** lets him pass.
 - d** becomes the ruler of Thebes.

1 c

2 d

3 d

4 d

5 b

6 b

7 c

8 a

SAMPLE