

The story of Osiris

These questions will help you practise:

- ★ identifying key details from fiction
- ★ making comparisons
- ★ making inferences
- ★ explaining inferences
- ★ making predictions.

A long, long time ago, a special king was born in Egypt. His mother was the goddess of Heaven and his father the god of Earth. The king's name was Osiris and he was very wise. He taught his people how to live and work together, as well as how to understand the teachings of the gods.

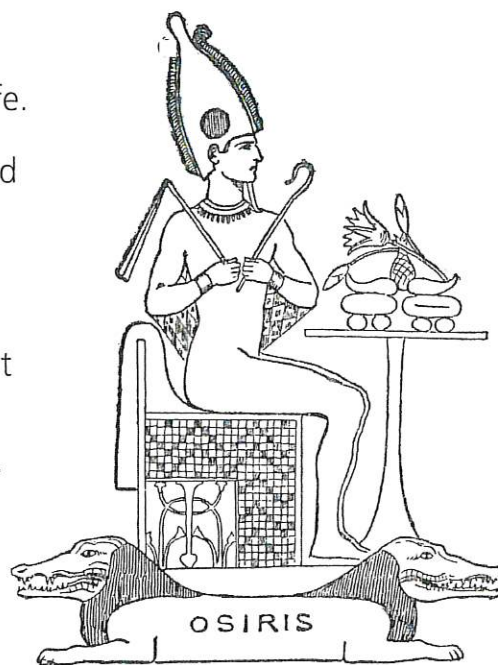
Now Osiris married his sister, Isis, and they were very happy. This made their brother, Set, jealous – it seemed as if Osiris had everything. So Set thought of a plot to get rid of his brother. He ordered a beautiful wooden chest to be made to the king's measurements and promised it to whomever fitted inside most exactly. When Osiris tried it for size, Set's men immediately bolted the lid. They hurried away with the chest and threw it into the river Nile.

Meanwhile, Isis was kept prisoner by Set but she was determined to escape and find her husband's body. Isis tricked her captors and ran away in search of the chest. After many years of searching, she discovered it resting in the trunk of a tree, far away from home. Lovingly, she journeyed back with it to Egypt.

Set was seized with rage. He hunted down the chest and chopped Osiris' body into fourteen pieces, which he flung in every direction. But, fragment by fragment, Isis found and pieced together her husband's body. Carefully, she enclosed it in wax and bound it in linen cloths to make the first mummy. Then, using the magic teachings of Osiris, she summoned him back to life.

Osiris rose to live forever in a peaceful land beyond the sky. Here, he judged the souls of the dead by weighing their hearts against a feather, called the Feather of Truth. Those whose hearts were heavy with bad deeds were fed to a hungry monster. But those whose hearts were as light as the feather were granted a new life in Osiris' happy kingdom.

First Puffin Book of Stories from World Religions by Annabel Shilson-Thomas



1 Number the events from **1** to **5** in the order in which they happen in the story.

1
(1 mark)

- Isis made the first mummy.
- Set plotted to get rid of Osiris.
- Osiris came back to life and lived in peace.
- Set chopped Osiris' body into small pieces.
- Isis set out to search for her husband.

2 What is different about Osiris' character compared to his brother, Set?
Give **two** examples, referring to the text.

2
(1 mark)

3 How do you know the wooden chest was made especially for the king?

3
(1 mark)

4 What conclusions can we come to about Isis' character?
Give **two** things about her character and support each with evidence from the text.

4
(2 marks)

1.

2.

5 Do you think Osiris forgave his brother?
Explain your answer fully, referring to the text.

5
(3 marks)

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