

Name: _____ Date: _____

Being Mindful

Directions: Read the play *The Lost King* and the informational text “Being in the Moment.” Then answer the questions below. Use your answers to this activity to help you answer the writing contest question on page 18.

1. In “Being in the Moment,” author Maggie Pierce writes that mindfulness is “experiencing life as you live it.” Explain what she means. Draw on what Pierce writes as well as your own ideas.

Now let’s look at how the idea of mindfulness relates to the play.

2. At the beginning of the play, is the king mindful? That is, is he experiencing life as he lives it? (Hint: Think about whether the king is focused on the past, the present, or the future.) Explain, using details from the play to support your answer.

3. To what three questions does the king seek answers?

A.

B.

C.

4. What answers to his questions does the king find, and who helps him find those answers? Support your answer with text evidence.

5. How is what the king learns similar to the idea of mindfulness?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

The Lost King

1. In the prologue, how does the setting reflect the king's emotions? (character, setting)
2. In Scene 1, why are the guests "feasting merrily" even though the king is unhappy? (inference)
3. In Scene 2, why does the queen suppress a smirk? (interpreting text)
4. In Scene 2, the king asks, "Who are the right people to listen to?" How are the answers he receives from the general, the doctor, and the priest similar? (evaluating arguments)

- ©2018 BY SCHOLASTIC INC. TEACHERS MAY PROJECT OR MAKE COPIES OF THIS PAGE TO DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Critical-Thinking Questions

The Lost King and "Being in the Moment"

1. Why do you think the hermit doesn't answer the king's questions right away?

2. The hermit says that the most important moment is the present moment. Do you agree? Explain.

3. Look back at the list of questions created at the beginning of the class. Have your ideas changed? If so, how?

4. How could practicing mindfulness benefit the king?



The Lost King

How can we live in the present?

Respond to each statement by checking “agree” or “disagree.” Be prepared to justify your responses.

	Agree	Disagree
1. Worrying about things that happened in the past is useless.		
2. Worrying about the future is useless.		
3. You will never be happy if you don't trust yourself to make the right decisions.		
4. Every day is another chance to become the person you want to be.		
5. When you're not sure what to do, you should rely on advice from other people.		
6. The most important goal in life is to make other people happy.		
7. We learn best from personal experience.		
8. Good leaders must have confidence in themselves.		
9. The ability to stay focused on the current moment is important to being happy and healthy.		

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Lost King

Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about the character of
the king

1. A. How does the king feel about his recent victory? Use text evidence to support your answer.

B. What do the king's feelings about his victory suggest about what kind of person he is?

2. A. What does the way the king treats the wounded man in Scenes 3 and 4 reveal about the king's character?

B. Do you think most people would treat the wounded man the way the king did? Explain.

3. What does the king come to realize through his conversation with the hermit in Scene 5?

4. Is the king a static character or a dynamic character? Explain your reasoning.

A **static character** does not change in any important way over the course of a story.

A **dynamic character** undergoes an important internal change over the course of a story.

5. Think about the king's main character traits. What are some pros and cons of having these traits—not just for the king, but for anyone?

6. Is the king a good leader? Explain your reasoning.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Lost King Quiz

Directions: Read *The Lost King* and “Being in the Moment.” Then answer the questions below.

1. How does the king feel after leading his army to victory in the war?
 - (A) proud and confident in his ability to lead
 - (B) grateful that the war is finally over
 - (C) full of regret and self-doubt
 - (D) excited and ready to celebrate
2. Which line from page 15 helps you understand how the king feels after winning the war?
 - (A) **Duke:** “You won a great victory for your people here.”
 - (B) **SD2:** “The queen and nobles are feasting merrily.”
 - (C) **Queen:** “Isn’t that inevitable in war?”
 - (D) **King:** “I lie awake at night thinking that if only I had taken different actions . . .”
3. Choose the best summary of Scene 2.
 - (A) The king receives advice from several people but doesn’t find the answers he is seeking.
 - (B) A doctor tells the king that the most important thing to do is to pursue science.
 - (C) The king ignores the excellent advice he receives and consults a hermit instead.
 - (D) The courtier tells the king that the hermit on Cloud Mountain may be able to answer the king’s questions.
4. Which of the following is a theme of the play?
 - (A) It’s important to focus on the present and help others.
 - (B) Science is more important than military power or faith.
 - (C) It’s important to reflect on your past mistakes.
 - (D) War is never the answer.
5. How does the king’s interaction with the wounded man help develop the theme that you identified in question 4?
 - (A) It shows that the king is a kind and fair ruler.
 - (B) It reveals that the king can learn from the mistakes he made during the war.
 - (C) It shows how war harms people.
 - (D) It shows what the hermit means when he states the answers to the king’s questions.
6. Based on “Being in the Moment,” which of the following is an example of being mindful?
 - (A) texting with your friends while you watch a movie
 - (B) listening with total concentration while a friend talks to you
 - (C) helping your parents clean the house before company comes over
 - (D) memorizing the state capitals

Constructed-Response Questions



Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. In Scene 4, the wounded man tells the king, “I had heard you were a kind and fair ruler, but I did not believe it.” What other evidence is there in the play that the king is kind and fair? Explain.
8. In “Being in the Moment,” Maggie Pierce lists some possible benefits of mindfulness. In *The Lost King*, how does learning to live in the present benefit the king? Use text evidence.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Lost King Quiz

Directions: Read *The Lost King* and “Being in the Moment.” Then answer the questions below.

1. How does the king feel after leading his army to victory in the war?
 - (A) proud and confident
 - (B) grateful that the war is over
 - (C) full of regret and self-doubt
 - (D) excited
2. Which line from page 15 helps you understand how the king feels after winning the war?
 - (A) **Duke:** “You won a great victory for your people here.”
 - (B) **SD2:** “The queen and nobles are feasting merrily.”
 - (C) **Queen:** “Isn’t that inevitable in war?”
 - (D) **King:** “I lie awake at night thinking that if only I had taken different actions . . .”
3. Choose the best summary of Scene 2.
 - (A) The king gets advice that does not satisfy him.
 - (B) A doctor tells the king that the most important thing to do is to pursue science.
 - (C) The king ignores all the excellent advice he receives.
 - (D) The courtier suggests that the king talk to the hermit on Cloud Mountain.
4. Which of the following statements expresses a theme of the play?
 - (A) It is important to focus on the present and help others.
 - (B) Science is more important than military power or faith.
 - (C) It’s important to reflect on your past mistakes.
 - (D) War is never the answer.
5. The interaction between the king and the wounded man
 - (A) shows that the hermit recognizes the king.
 - (B) reveals that the king can learn from the mistakes he made during the war.
 - (C) shows how war harms people.
 - (D) shows what the hermit means when he answers the king’s questions.
6. Based on “Being in the Moment,” which of the following is an example of being mindful?
 - (A) texting with your friends while you watch a movie
 - (B) listening closely while a friend talks to you
 - (C) helping your parents clean the house
 - (D) memorizing all the state capitals

Constructed-Response Questions



Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. In Scene 4, the wounded man tells the king “I had heard you were a kind and fair ruler, but I did not believe it.” What other evidence in the play suggests that the king is kind and fair? Explain.
8. The king goes on a quest to learn the answers to three questions. Explain what these questions are and why the king wants to find answers to them. Use text evidence to support your answer.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary:

The Lost King

1. enlightened (en-LAHYT-nd) *adjective*; Someone who is enlightened shows understanding and wisdom in dealing with others. An enlightened person knows what is right and true and can understand what others find mysterious. Think of being *enlightened* as being full of light—light that allows you to see things clearly.

2. inevitable (in-EV-ih-tuh-buhl) *adjective*; Something that is inevitable is sure to happen—it cannot be stopped or avoided. The passage of time is inevitable. There is nothing you can do to stop it.

3. intently (in-TENT-lee) *adverb*; To do something intently is to do it with intensity—in other words, to do it with strained or great eagerness and concentration. If Rachel listens intently to what Antonio is saying, she listens very closely, as though she believes what Antonio is saying is extremely important.

4. judgment (JUJH-muhnt) *noun*; *Judgment* can refer to a decision or an opinion, as in “What is your judgment of this movie?” *Judgment* can also refer to the ability to judge—that is, the ability to make a decision or form an opinion. Someone with good judgment usually makes wise decisions and forms sensible opinions. Someone with poor judgment tends to make bad decisions and form senseless opinions.

5. marvel (MAHR-vuhl) *verb or noun*; To marvel at something is to be filled with wonder by it—to be amazed by it. A marvel is someone or something that causes feelings of wonder and amazement. You might marvel at a 5-year-old girl who plays the piano like an adult—or you might say that the girl is a marvel.

6. resplendent (ri-SPLEN-duhnt) *adjective*; Something that is resplendent is bright and beautiful and glowing or shining with color and light.

7. stagnant (STAG-nuhnt) *adjective*; When *stagnant* is used to describe water or air, it means “not flowing.” A stagnant pond does not have water flowing into or out of it; the water just sits there. *Stagnant* can also mean “not changing or advancing.” If Matt says he feels stagnant in his art classes, he means that he doesn’t feel like he’s improving or learning anything new.

8. suppress (SUH-pres) *verb*; To suppress something is to hold it back, keep it secret, or use force to put an end to it. You might suppress a yawn during class, or you might suppress your anger to avoid getting into an argument. A company might try to suppress news about something it did wrong. Teachers might suppress a food fight in the cafeteria.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

King Contest

Maggie Pierce writes that mindfulness is “experiencing life as you live it.” What does she mean? How does this idea relate to the play? Answer both questions in an essay. Five winners will get *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clearly stated central idea
- ⇒ use of supporting text evidence
- ⇒ good organization and transitions
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your written entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: King Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY March 15, 2018!