

Old North Wind lived in the North Pole region in winter, and there her children, the Icebergs, grew. She was very proud of her huge children, and when the long, cold winter was at an end she said:

"My three biggest, strongest children, come with me. We will float away from this land where there is no one to see your beauty and go to the seas where the ships are sailing."

So the three largest of the Icebergs broke away from their brothers and sisters and sailed away with Old North Wind, who blew her chilling breath on them as they went along.

"Ah, my beauties," she said, "I will make you so strong that nothing can harm you, and you shall crush the iron ships which dare to sail in our path and make all who see you tremble with fear."

They sailed and sailed until they came to the big ocean where iron ships crossed as they went from one land to another. Old North Wind kept close to her children, but one day South Wind saw them.

"Ah, ha!" he said, "there is Old North Wind with three of her children. She is up to some mischief, no doubt; I'm worried there could be trouble. I will ask the Sun to keep his eye on them."

"I have been watching them for many days," said the Sun when South Wind spoke to him, "and despite Old North Wind's cold breath on them, I have been warming her children the Icebergs more than she knows."

At last, one morning bright and early Old North Wind spied a ship sailing right in their path. Blowing and roaring, she hastened her three children toward the ship, and was so intent on crushing it that she did not feel the warm breath of South Wind or the warm rays of the Sun. Suddenly, she saw her huge children shiver, and before she could blow a chilling blast on them they swayed, and with a plunge sank from sight, and the cold sea closed over them. Old North Wind howled and blew, but the Sun and South Wind drove her away and saved the ship.

"Remember, Old North Wind, you can blow stronger than I and make more noise" said South Wind in soft, gentle tones, "but together the Sun and I can always melt your children the Icebergs; so keep to your land if you wish to keep them."

Old North Wind hustled away shrieking with anger, but she knew full well the power of South Wind and the Sun. Determined to carry on believing in her own strength and power, she roared louder and louder as she blew all the way back to the cold land from where she had ventured.

(Adapted from *Sandman's Goodnight Stories* by Abbie Phillips Walker)

1. Why did Old North Wind want to leave the North Pole?

- A. Because it was too cold there.
- B. Because she wanted to show off her children.
- C. Because there was not enough room for all her children.
- D. Because she wanted to go to the South Pole.

2. What reason best explains why Old North Wind blew on the Icebergs as they went along?

- A. She wanted them to go more quickly.
- B. She wanted to steer them in the right direction.
- C. She wanted to make sure they didn't start melting.
- D. She wanted them to know she was with them.

3. Which of these statements is NOT correct?

- A. The Icebergs had lots of brothers and sisters.
- B. Old North Wind was fond of ships.
- C. South Wind was wary of Old North Wind.
- D. Old North Wind tried to attack a ship.

4. What does South Wind think Old North Wind is doing?

- A. Showing off.
- B. Causing trouble.
- C. Educating her children.
- D. Having fun.

5. South Wind wants the Sun to keep an eye on Old North Wind and the Icebergs. Why?

- A. South Wind is concerned about them.
- B. South Wind is envious of them.
- C. South Wind is curious about them.
- D. South Wind is frightened of them.

6. What is Old North Wind unaware of, according to the Sun?

- A. That the ocean she has sailed into is very big.
- B. That the Icebergs are melting.
- C. That there is an iron ship in the area.
- D. That South Wind is close by.

7. Based on information in the story, which statement is true?

- A. Old North Wind is stronger than South Wind.
- B. South Wind is noisier than Old North Wind.
- C. The Sun and Old North Wind are friends.
- D. Old North Wind doesn't mean any harm to anyone.

8. In the end, Old North Wind...

- A. destroys a ship.
- B. defeats South Wind.
- C. returns to the North Pole.
- D. loses her strength.

9. Why did the Icebergs sink into the sea?

- A. Because the ship destroyed them.
- B. Because Old North Wind didn't take enough care.
- C. Because the water was warm.
- D. Because the waves were huge.

10. Which word best describes Old North Wind's mood at the end of the story?

- A. Upset.
- B. Confused.
- C. Furious.
- D. Empowered.