PHAETHON

by Siri Glasoe

LONG AGO, IN ANCIENT GREECE, a young boy named Phaethon lived alone with his mother. They lived happily together, but Phaethon longed to know who his father was. Phaethon's mother finally told him that his father was the sun god, Helios. She explained that Helios lived in the sky and drove the chariot of the sun.

Phaethon was so impressed that he was determined to visit his father. He began a long journey to the end of the earth, where the gods lived, to find Helios. When Phaethon finally found Helios, he introduced himself and begged Helios to let him drive the chariot.

Helios did not want to let Phaethon drive the chariot. The horses were wild and hard to control, especially for a young boy. Helios said, "Even Zeus, the king, will not drive these wild beasts. It is far too dangerous."

However, Phaethon said, "If you are really my father, you will let me try." So, Helios finally agreed. Helios showed Phaethon how to drive the chariot and made him promise to be very careful. Then Phaethon sat in the chariot and took the reins. Phaethon was sure he knew what he was doing, so he urged the horses to go faster, and they began to run away. The ride was more terrifying than Phaethon had imagined.

At first, the horses ran too high in the sky, and the earth grew cold and dark. Then they got too close to the earth, and everything began to burn. To save the earth, Helios asked Zeus to throw a thunderbolt to stop the chariot. Then Helios took control of the chariot once more, and the earth was saved.
OUT OF CONTROL
CODY

by Kelsey Green

Every year at my school’s career day, my dad is the most popular speaker. He’s a bareback rider in the rodeo, and his riding skills are admired throughout the rodeo circuit. My friends love to hear about his competitions. Did I mention that Dad is a great storyteller in addition to being a great rider?

The downside to having such an amazing dad is that he travels a lot for his job, and when he’s not traveling, he’s often riding. He believes that to be a great bareback rider, you have to be “one with your horse,” which means he spends a lot of time riding his prized horse, Cody. Like Dad, I have horses in my blood, and I want so much to be part of his exciting world of riding, rodeos, and horses.

I had begged Dad to let me ride Cody many times, but he always said no. He’d say, “Sara, a great horse like Cody is a little bit wild, just like the West.” I believed him because there were a lot of skilled riders on our ranch, but only Dad could ride Cody. Still, I wanted to try. I’d been around Cody since I was a little girl, and I had been riding for almost as long as I had been walking.

One day, after another round of relentless pleading on my part, Dad agreed to let me sit on Cody, but not to ride him. When I mounted him, Cody stood still, and I foolishly thought I had him under control. Before I could think about what I was doing, I gently nudged Cody with my heel. Suddenly, it was as though I was riding a tornado. I clung desperately to Cody’s back, but it was clear who was in charge.

Just as I was sure I would fall, Cody stumbled slightly on a loose rock in the riding ring. Dad’s commands caught his attention, and he slowed to a stop. Dad iced Cody’s leg and said he’d be fine after a rest, but he was clearly upset with me. I thought it was because I’d hurt Cody, but Dad explained that all he could think about was what would have happened if I had fallen and been hurt. But then he smiled and said, “You know what I just realized, though? You stayed on the whole time!”

Dad said he was never going to let me talk him into riding Cody again, but then he promised to start teaching me to be a bareback rider, too. I hope that one day I’m good enough to win prizes in the rodeo, just like Dad.
1. How are Helios in "Phaethon" and Sara's dad in "Out of Control Cody" similar?
   A. They have superhuman powers.
   B. They grow angry with their children.
   C. They want to keep their children safe.
   D. They believe that horses are easily controlled.

2. In the story "Phaethon," how is Phaethon's view of his skills different from Helios's?
   F. He is full of doubt, but Helios believes in Phaethon.
   G. He is sure he can ride the chariot, but Helios is worried.
   H. He believes that the horses will go wild, but Helios disagrees.
   I. He thinks he can train the horses to fly higher, but Helios thinks the horses are too timid.

3. In what way is "Phaethon" similar to "Out of Control Cody"?
   A. Both describe events that could happen in real life.
   B. Each describes what a father plans to teach his child.
   C. Both explain something that happens in the natural world.
   D. Each tells about a young person who wants to try something dangerous.

4. How are Phaethon in "Phaethon" and Sara in "Out of Control Cody" different?
   F. Phaethon is afraid to ride the horses, but Sara has no fear.
   G. Phaethon is successful with his horse ride, but Sara is not.
   H. Phaethon is safe during his ride, but Sara is injured during hers.
   I. Phaethon gets his father's permission to ride the horses, but Sara does not.

5. How are Sara and her dad similar?
   A. They both love telling stories out loud.
   B. They are both careful about riding Cody.
   C. They both enjoy the thrill of riding horses.
   D. They are both learning to ride horses bareback.

Answer Form

1 2 3 4 5

Number Correct 5