

Verifying Inferred Meaning



Directions: The passage below is from *The Book of Wonder* by Edward J. M. D. Plunkett. Read the passage. Answer the questions.

When first the feet of the centaur touched the grass of that soft alluvial earth he blew for joy upon the silver horn, he pranced and caracoled, he gamboled over the leagues; pace came to him like a maiden with a lamp, a new and beautiful wonder; the wind laughed as it passed him. He put his head down low to the scent of the flowers, he lifted it up to be nearer the unseen stars, he reveled through kingdoms, took rivers in his stride; how shall I tell you, ye that dwell in cities, how shall I tell you what he felt as he galloped? He felt for strength like the towers of Bel-Narana; for lightness like those gossamer palaces that the fairy-spider builds 'twixt heaven and sea along the coasts of Zith; for swiftness like some bird racing up from the morning to sing in some city's spires before daylight comes. He was the sworn companion of the wind. For joy he was as a song; the lightnings of his legendary sires, the earlier gods, began to mix with his blood; his hooves thundered. He came to the cities of men, and all men trembled, for they remembered the ancient mythical wars, and now they dreaded new battles and feared for the race of man.

1. *Gambol* is a synonym for: A. run B. frolic C. pines
2. *League* is a way of measuring: A. time B. size C. distance
3. *Alluvium* is a kind of _____
4. What do you think the word *gossamer* means? _____

Verify your answers by looking up the words in the dictionary. If any of your inferences was incorrect, write that word and its definition below.
