

River God

WILBUR SMITH

- 1** Because she can never go anywhere without her guards or her servants. She is never allowed to be alone.
- 2** Because Intef has trusted Taita to take care of his daughter. But she has fallen in love with Tanus, and Taita has not stopped this from happening. Intef would not want Lostris to marry a soldier in his army. So he would be very angry with Taita and would probably kill him, or have him killed.
- 3**
- 1 Because Intef's spies have already told him more of the truth than Taita has told him.
 - 2 Because the north wind has helped Tanus to move the royal barge to safety. So they have given the wind a new name to praise Tanus.
- 4**
- 1 Rasfer has slipped in the water which was flowing from the channel onto the stage. This has stopped Rasfer from killing Tanus. The water flowed onto the stage because Taita's masons have not built the channel well. But Taita cannot be angry with them because their bad work has saved Tanus's life.
 - 2 Taita thinks that Tanus's words have made Pharaoh Mamose very angry and that Lord Intef is happy about this. He thinks that Intef will have Tanus killed, to please Pharaoh. He does not want to tell Lostris this.
- 5** Tanus has given Kratus command of the Blue Crocodile Guard. Taita is shocked because he thinks that Tanus is expecting to die soon. That is the only reason why he would give control of the guard to another man.
- 6** Tanus is surprised because he sees that Taita is good at fighting. Taita has killed one of the Shrikes and injured another. Usually, Taita is not a violent person.
- 7**
- 1 He wants Tanus's men to wear these clothes. He wants them to look like slave women. He wants the Shrikes to attack them. He thinks that the Shrikes will attack a caravan of slave women but that they will not attack a hundred armed men.
 - 2 He captures Shufti, the Baron of the Shrikes.
- 8**
- 1 Because Pharaoh will believe that Taita has true messages from the god, Anubis.
 - 2 Taita has made Pharaoh believe his story about the god Horus. He has said that Horus is the real father of Lostris's baby.
- 9** Because the Shrikes have been destroyed, Mamose's army can control the countryside which is far from the Nile. They can fight the false Pharaoh's army anywhere.
- 10** *The student could mention that they see horses for the first time. They see chariots for the first time, and on these chariots they see wheels for the first time. They are surprised by the long knives which are fixed to the hubs of the Hyksos chariot wheels. And they are surprised by the bows which are made curved before the strings are fastened to them. They find out that these bows are much more powerful than Egyptian bows. The student might also say that the Egyptians are surprised that the Hyksos have no ships and do not know how to sail ships.*
- 11**
- 1 He makes chariots and he makes more powerful bows.
 - 2 *The student will probably say that Taita remembers the day when Lostris first met Tanus. On that day, she had gone to a hippopotamus hunt, although Taita had not wanted her to go.*
- 12** Because Taita is a healer and Arkoun's people need his skills.
- 13** *Student's own answer. The student might say that Taita thinks that Tanus has been the real leader of the Egyptians. Tanus's father had been a good governor of Egypt who had been treated badly. And he thinks that Tanus has been the true husband of Lostris, the Queen. He also knows that Tanus was the real father of Lostris's child, and the child would be the next Pharaoh.*
- 14**
- 1 The gnu have a disease which can destroy horses. Taita wants the gnu to give this disease to the Hyksos horses.
 - 2 They have learnt about the disease that the gnu can give to horses. They have learnt to use horses, chariots, and powerful bows to shoot their arrows. *The student might also*

add that Tamose has the blue sword. He has learnt that this is much stronger than the bronze swords the other fighters in his army use.