Comprehension

Part A

1. Why do you think Ivan and Princess Helena have 'their eyes wide' in the first paragraph of this chapter?

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2. Why do you think Princess Helena walked around the replica of herself several times?

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3. Why did Princess Helena need to be hidden while Ivan and the wolf went to Tsar Alfron?

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4. Which words/phrases tell you that the wolf left the palace of Tsar Alfron in a hurry?

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5. How did the servants react when they could not find Princess Helena the next morning? Which words tell you this?

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6. How does the wolf persuade Ivan to complete his quest to secure the firebird for his father?

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7. What is your favourite moment of this chapter and why?

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Part B

1. The text says that the wolf and Ivan go to 'deceive' Tsar Dolmat. What other word could be used here instead of 'deceive'?

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2. How is Ivan feeling at the end of this chapter? What words/phrases tell you this?

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3. Do you think Ivan has forgiven the wolf for eating his horse? Explain your reasons.

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4. What mood is created by the author at the end of this chapter? Which words/phrases help create this mood?

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5. Do you think Ivan has changed from the start of the story? Explain your reasons.

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Challenge Task

Write a list of questions you would like to ask the wolf at the end of this chapter.

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Comprehension **Answers**

Part A

1. *Their eyes are wide in disbelief at the amazing thing they are seeing. The evidence for this is that in the following paragraph, Helena is 'utterly shocked'.*
2. *She cannot believe what she is seeing so circles the replica of herself trying to take in what she has witnessed.*
3. *It is vital that others don't see that there are two Princess Helenas so they need to hide the real Helena.*
4. *The word 'fled' suggests that the wolf left in a hurry and as he is 'in pursuit' of the others, this also makes it sound like he is rushing.*
5. *They are horrified to find that Princess Helena has left her room. I think they are worried about what the tsar will say and do. They are puzzled by the grey hairs all over her room.*
6. *The wolf persuades Ivan to go on to get the firebird by reminding him that this was his original aim and that he should complete his quest. He also offers to help him to keep the horse and the firebird.*
7. *My favourite moment is when the wolf changes his form for the first time because I never expected this was going to happen and it really took me by surprise and it opens up lots of possibilities for the plot.*

Part B

1. *The word 'trick' could be used in place of 'deceive'.*
2. *Ivan is feeling very content and grateful for all he has at the end of this chapter. He is 'delighted' to have nearly finished his quest. He and Helena are described as riding 'happily' in the direction of home. Ivan also tells the wolf, "I am so blessed."*
3. *I think he has forgiven him as he tells the wolf what a great friend he has been and he acknowledges that he would not have Princess Helena, the horse with the golden mane or the firebird without the wolf.*
4. *The mood is happy and sad at the end of the chapter. It is happy because Ivan is feeling so blessed for all he has and the reader is pleased that he has almost completed his quest but it is sad because the wolf is saying goodbye. The wolf speaks 'seriously' and the chapter ending with 'he was gone' gives a feeling of finality.*
5. *Ivan seems to have learnt from his mistakes and is now less impulsive and has learnt to listen to others' words. He speaks to the wolf about how grateful he is for his help so perhaps he appreciates others more at the end of the story.*

Challenge Task

Example answers:

Did you have any reservations about using your shape-changing powers to help Ivan?

Why didn't you go back with Ivan to live within his kingdom?