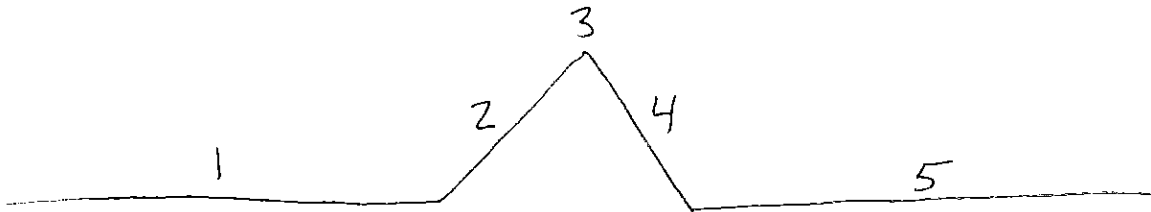


# "The Wise Old Woman"

## Study Guide

1. What type of power does the young lord have over his village? Provide examples to support.
2. Why do you think the young lord selected the age of 71 for exile?
3. With all the elders being sent away at the age of 71, what problem will eventually arise for the young lord? How do you think he will deal with this?
4. What is the farmer forced to do with his mother? Could you do it?
5. What touching thing does the mother do for her son to ensure he returns home safely? This leads the farmer to do what with his mother?
6. Who is Lord Higa and what threat does he pose to the village?
7. What's challenge 1 and how is it overcome?
8. What's challenge 2 and how is it overcome?
9. What's challenge 3 and how is it overcome?
10. On the last page of the story, find the sentence(s) that state the main idea of the entire story.

**Things to consider:** Secondhand account (retold), ruler (tyrant, dictator, authoritarian), stoic attitude, dungeon origin, following rules - no matter what, "up and up he climbed and the path was gone", characteristics of a mother, wise men (did not include any women) - ironic and misogyny, seasons in literature (spring, summer, fall, winter), fitting title?, believable ending?



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