

Instructions: Read the article and use the information you've learned to complete the following three parts.

The Story of Mazu

My name is Lin Mo, and this is my story.

When my father was forty, my parents had only one child. In our tradition, having more children is believed to bring greater blessings and merits. Hoping for another child, my father went to pray to GuanYin for a blessing. That very night, GuanYin appeared in my mother's dream, praising the virtue of our family for generations. She handed my mother a divine pill. After taking it in her dream, my mother soon found herself pregnant, and I was born the following year, on March 23rd.

On the day I was born, the room glowed with a soft red light, and the fragrance of fresh blossoms filled the air. I did not cry at all and remained calm and silent throughout my first month of life. For this reason, my parents named me Mo, which means "silent."

By the age of eight, I could already comprehend every word I read, no matter how complex the books were. At ten, instead of playing outside with other children, I devoted myself to reciting Buddhist scriptures. When I turned thirteen, a Taoist priest unexpectedly came to our door. He said that I possessed extraordinary gifts and a rare destiny. From that day on, I began learning the arts of divination and sacred rituals under his guidance.

As the years passed, I continued to uncover mysteries and aid those around me. When I was sixteen, I discovered the source of a local plague—it came from a well. Inside the well, I also found ancient coins and a Taoist scripture. Around that time, I had a sudden premonition that my father and brother, who were out at sea, were in danger. I tried to send my spirit to save them, but my mother woke me before I could complete the ritual. Because of that, I was only able to save my father; my brother drowned. When we later went to the sea to retrieve his body, the waves parted, and the water became clear—my brother's body floated gently to the surface.

At twenty-one, a great drought struck Putian. The local governor came to ask for my help in praying for rain. However, I refused at first, for he was known to mistreat his wife and act without virtue. Months later, he repented and changed his ways. Seeing his sincerity, I agreed to help. Soon after, rain poured down in abundance, refilling the wells and rivers.

At twenty-three, I fought and subdued the demons that had been causing chaos. They repented and became my loyal generals—Qianliyan and Shunfenger. Later, I formed a divine army led by Hai Yan Gong, guardian of the seas, who commands the sea creatures to protect sailors and fishermen. I also saved many from devastating epidemics and floods.

On September 8th, when I was twenty-eight, I told my parents that I no longer wished to live among mortals. With only my two generals by my side, I went to the mountains. The next day, I attained enlightenment. After I left the world behind, people began to worship me, building temples in my honor. I have since listened to their prayers and answered their wishes.

Across the seas, the people of Taiwan especially hold me close to their hearts. They feel my protection as tenderly as that of a grandmother watching over her children. They call me Mazu, the name by which I am now known and loved.

Part A. Discourse: According to the reading article, fill in the blanks to finish the whole story. (40%, 8 points each)

- (A) Many came to her for help when they faced trouble.
- (B) Today, people still remember her as Mazu, the sea goddess.
- (C) Only her father survived, while her brother was lost to the sea.
- (D) A Taoist priest visited her one day and said she had a special gift.
- (E) Many people believed her birth was blessed by GuanYin.

Lin Mo was born after her parents prayed to GuanYin for another child. On the day she was born, the room was filled with red light and a sweet fragrance. She didn't cry at all, so her parents named her Mo, which means "silent." __ (1) __

As she grew older, Lin Mo showed great wisdom and kindness. At ten, she preferred reading Buddhist scriptures to playing with other children. __ (2) __ She started her learning under his teaching.

When she was sixteen, her father and brother went out to sea. Lin Mo suddenly felt something was wrong. She tried to send her spirit to save them, but her mother woke her before she could complete the rescue. __ (3) __

Years later, Lin Mo used her powers to help people. She stopped disasters and saved lives. __ (4) __ After she passed away, people built temples in her honor. __ (5) __

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
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Part B. Multiple Choice: Answer the following questions according to the information you got from the article. (40%, 8 points each)

1. Which of the following best describes the circumstances of Lin Mo's birth?
 1. A strong, shimmering light brightened the whole room when Lin Mo was born.
 2. Because Lin Mo cried endlessly, her parents gave her the name, hoping it would bring her peace and silence.
 3. GuanYin appeared in the dream of Lin Mo's mother because she had gone to pray for having another child.
 4. Lin Mo was born in blessings and the hope of her parents, with miracles along.
2. According to the passage, which of the following presents the correct sequence of events in Lin Mo's life?
 1. Recited Buddha's scripture - Saved People - Met the Taoist priest - Worshipped by People
 2. Recited Buddha's scripture - Worshipped by People - Saved People - Recruited the Generals
 3. Recited Buddha's scripture - Met the Taoist priest - Saved People - Worshipped by People
 4. Recited Buddha's scripture - Saved People - Recruited the Generals - Met the Taoist priest

B3U9 Supplementary Reading Worksheet

3. How did Lin Mo get her generals and army?
 1. They accompanied the Taoist priest on his journey.
 2. They were a gift from the governor for bringing rain to Putian.
 3. They decided to follow Lin Mo after being defeated.
 4. They were found and brought back on Lin Mo's father's journey.
4. Which of the statements below is NOT TRUE about Mazu?
 1. Mazu was called so by the Taiwanese because of the grandma-like warmth and protection Lin Mo provides to the people.
 2. Lin Mo fought different battles against demons and governments as a general and won the title of Mazu.
 3. After saving a lot of people's lives, Lin Mo moved to the mountains and reached the awakened stage.
 4. Lin Mo was born with extraordinary signs, marking the remarkable like that awaited her.
5. Word Meaning:
 1. Which word in paragraph six carries the meaning of "a long period of little or no rain"? _____ (4%)
 2. Which word in paragraph seven means "to defeat or bring under control by force"? _____ (4%)

Part C. Word Formation: Read the passage below. Fill in each blank with a word from the article that correctly fits the sentence's grammar and meaning. (20%, 10 points each)

When Mazu was twenty-one, Putian suffered from a severe lack of rain. The local governor visited Mazu and asked for her help, hoping she would pray for rain. However, Mazu refused the local governor due to his (1)_____ of his wife and lack of virtue. Months passed, and the governor repented, changing his behavior. As he (2)_____ confessed his wrongdoing, Mazu changed her mind and prayed for the land. Soon after her prayers, rain poured down, ending the drought.