

# ELA, Grade 4, Lesson 20

## Teacher Packet

A legend usually:

- Focuses on heroic individuals or fantastic creatures
- Describes an exciting adventure
- May have some basis in historical fact
- Includes some supernatural events

Along the rim of the Polar Sea, Keesh lived and died. From father to son, from brother to sister, from summer when the sun does not set, until winter when the sun does not shine, Keesh's story is still told over and over again.

The next day, Keesh was seen leaving the village with his father's enormous hunting-spear and bow, and an ample supply of bone-barbed arrows. The villagers whispered to one another—it was unprecedented that a young boy should go hunting alone!

When Keesh's father was killed while hunting to save the village from starvation, the villagers soon forgot him. They neglected Keesh and his widowed mother, Ikeega, who shared a small igloo together. This all changed when Keesh turned thirteen. Because his father's blood ran in his veins, Keesh was bright, healthy, and strong. When the village council met in the big igloo of Chief Klash-Kwan, Keesh, despite his youth, spoke up.

Others were simply mystified.

Ugh-Gluck, like some others, was tormented by young Keesh's hunting victories and fed up with taking orders from him. Ugh-Gluck confronted Keesh, "You've been charged with dealing with evil spirits to help you hunt."

"Witchcraft! A charm!" accused Ugh-Gluk.

"I'm just a boy," Keesh explained, "I'm ignorant of these things. I've devised a way to kill the ice-bear with ease, that's all. It's headcraft, not witchcraft."

When the village council met in the big igloo of Chief Klosh-Kwan, Keesh, despite his youth, spoke up.  
how dare one so young speak out in the council?  
The villagers whispered to one another—it was unprecedented that a young boy should go hunting alone!  
Keesh rose from being an insignificant boy to becoming the head man of the village

How does a person who began in humble circumstances become a legend? Along the rim of the Polar Sea, Keesh lived and died. From father to son, from brother to sister, from summer when the sun does not set, until winter when the sun does not shine, Keesh's story is still told over and over again.



## Guided Practice

How does a spunky, ten-year-old girl help feed an entire community – all on her own? In 1863, nestled in the dark forests of the Tennessee mountains, young Eliza Brandt lived in a small community along with her family and dog, Skip. The raging Civil War made food scarce, but Eliza's innovation helped save a community, and her story is still being told today.

# Independent Practice

**Task:** Using the brainstorming chart, write your own legend using the details and format of “The Legend of Keesh” as your guide. As you write, be sure to:

- Orient the reader
- Organize your events
- Use dialogue, pacing, and description
- Use transitional words or phrases
- Provide a conclusion
- Use precise words and phrases and sensory details
- Check your grammar and punctuation

**Creative assignment:** Pretend your story has been made into a movie. Create a movie poster for your legend.