Aengus and Caer: order the lake scene

Read the passage, then number six events from 1 to 6. This activity begins at the lakeside.

The meeting at the lake

Aengus stood on the shore and called Caer’s name. She answered from the water. He promised that, if she came to him, he would not stop her returning to the lake. Caer agreed and approached. Aengus became a swan, and the pair entered the lake together. They swam around it three times, then flew towards the Brú. Their beautiful music sent the people who heard it to sleep.

Six events, mixed up

Write 1 beside the earliest event and 6 beside the latest.

- ☐ A The two swans circle the lake three times.
- ☐ B Caer agrees and comes to Aengus.
- ☐ C Aengus calls Caer’s name from the shore.
- ☐ D They fly towards the Brú, singing music that sends listeners to sleep.
- ☐ E Aengus promises that Caer may return to the water.
- ☐ F Aengus becomes a swan and enters the lake with Caer.

What does Aengus promise? Why might this matter to Caer?

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Correct order

C, E, B, F, A, D. The numbers in the printed boxes are A=5, B=3, C=1, D=6, E=2 and F=4.

The promise

Aengus promises not to stop Caer returning to the lake. Accept an explanation that she wants to keep that choice. Ask learners to point to the words that support their answer rather than inventing a reason and treating it as a fact from the passage.

Which part of the story is this?

This is the final lake scene in Lady Gregory's Dream of Angus, not a summary of the complete chapter. The earlier dream visits, long search, raid and threats to Caer's father are left out. Aengus is called Angus in Gregory; the familiar spelling used by The Myths is retained here.

Keeping the versions separate

The source is Lady Gregory, Cuchulain of Muirthemne (1902), chapter VIII, pp. 143-147, especially p. 147. Gregory gives differing seasonal instructions within her chapter. The worksheet does not choose a calendar date or substitute the Samhain wording found in another account. The linked story page explains that comparison.

Story detail and artistic choice

Two swans, three circuits of the lake and sleep-inducing music belong to this ending. The shape of the hills, colours of the reeds and precise location of the lake in a colouring picture are artistic choices. A real landscape associated with a tale is not proof that the transformation happened.

Extend the activity

Read the passage from Caer's point of view. Ask the learner to write two sentences: one supported by the text and one clearly labelled as an imagined thought. Younger learners can explain their ideas aloud and then colour the companion swan sheet.

Read Gregory's chapter · Explore the story and its versions

Suggested for ages 7-11 with reading support. This original adaptation concentrates on the promise and flight; it does not reproduce the earlier violence.