

WHAT'S THE CAUSE?

Read *At the Edge of the World* by Sarah Novak and answer the following questions.

Once upon a time, there was a prince. The prince was dying. The only cure was water from the lake at the edge of the world. Here, the sky touched the water and gave it healing magic. The king promised golden treasure for this healing water to cure his son. The news reached a poor farmer and his two sons and young daughter Ampata. "We will find this lake and its magic water," said the two sons. But after many days of difficult travel through jungles and over mountains, the two brothers were nowhere near the edge of the world. "Let's get water from the next lake we see and say it's magic." They agreed and brought it to the king's palace. But the prince was not cured. The king angrily ordered the brothers to be imprisoned for their falsehood. Upon hearing of her brother's imprisonment, Ampata decided to go get the healing water herself. She carried some roasted corn to eat. She walked all day, then stopped to rest. She noticed three scarlet macaws in the trees above her. "Please share some of my corn!" she said. "Thank you! Very generous! Where are you traveling?" squawked the macaws. Ampata explained her quest to the birds. "A long, dangerous journey! You need our help," said the birds. Each one gave her a red feather, which she tied together. "Make a wish, and wave your feather fan," they told her.

Ampata wished to be at the lake. She waved the feathers, and there she was! The water shimmered with magic. But as she dipped her water jug into the lake, a huge serpent slithered out. "Stop! That water is mine," he hissed. "I wish you would share it," said Ampata, waving the feathers. The snake swam away. Then Ampata wished to be at the king's palace. And there she was! The prince drank the water and was cured. "Take half of my gold!" exclaimed the king to Ampata. Instead, she asked him to free her brothers, to return the macaws' feathers, and to go home with llamas and alpacas for her family's farm.



A What was the cause of the king's promise of golden treasure?

B What was the effect of the brothers bringing water from the wrong lake?

C What was the cause of the serpent coming out of the lake?

D What was the effect of the prince being cured?

