

Long, long ago there was a good man called Epimetheus who longed for a wife of his own. One day, the gods smiled down on him and sent a lovely young woman called Pandora to his home. She cooked and cleaned for him and looked after him very well. Epimetheus was so happy with his new wife and thanked the gods for their kindness.



One day, Pandora decided to have a good look around the house. She looked in cupboards and drawers, and she went down into the cellar. There she found a strange looking box. She wondered what was inside. Epimetheus saw her looking at the box and told her that she was never to open it – the gods had warned him not to.

That night, Pandora lay awake. She thought that she could hear voices coming from the box. They were begging for her to let them out. Pandora remembered what Epimetheus had told her but she ignored his warning. She crept down to the cellar and prised open the lid of the box.

Suddenly, dark shadows began flying out of the box, laughing and hissing. They surrounded Pandora and she was very frightened. Epimetheus heard the commotion and ran down to see what was amiss. He was very angry with Pandora. He had told her not to open the box.



One of the dark shadows spoke to Epimetheus and said he was named 'Fear'. He and his brothers and sisters were going to punish people for all the bad things that they do. Pandora noticed a tiny creature at the bottom of the box. The creature said that she was called 'Hope' and that she had hidden inside the box when the gods were not looking. 'Wherever you see trouble in the world, then I will be there' she said and then she flew into the night.

Name:..... Date:.....

Read the story and then use the text to help you answer the following questions:



1. Who was the good man that longed for a wife?

2. What two things did the gods send to Epimetheus?

3. What did Pandora find in the cellar?

4. What warning was Epimetheus given by the gods?

5. What could Pandora hear coming from the box?

6. Why was Epimetheus so cross with Pandora?

7. What was the name of the good creature in the box?

8. What message did the good creature give to Pandora?

9. Describe, in your own words, what Fear might look like.

10. What might Hope look like?

What might Pandora have heard coming out of the box?



**Alternative endings**

Choose one of the alternative endings below and continue the story.

**Pandora couldn't open the box so she called Epimetheus to help her.**

or

**The Gods saw Pandora heading for the cellar. They sent an almighty...**

or

**Make one up of your own!**
