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Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

1.35

In the story of the Sphinx, the answer to the question is ‘man’. This is because, a baby moves using two hands and two feet. An adult walks on two legs and an old person walks on two legs but also needs a walking stick. In the question the Sphinx also talks about three different parts of the day: morning, noon and evening. These parts of the day represent the different stages of our life. Morning is childhood. Noon is the middle of our life. Evening is old-age. In the original Greek story, the Sphinx killed many travellers because they didn’t know the answer. Finally, one man answered the question correctly. He was Oedipus and when he answered ‘man’, the Sphinx killed itself.