Four Men and the Moon

Once there was a faraway land that had no moon. The townspeople there only went out by day. When night approached, they would return to their homes and only step out again at sunrise. One day four men from that land crossed the mountains into another country. At sunset that day, they were astonished to see a dim light shine through the night.

The men stopped a farmer coming down the road.

“What is that?,” they asked.

“It’s the moon,” the farmer replied. “Our mayor bought it and hung it in an oak tree. We fill it with oil so it glows all night.”

The four men decided to take the moon home with them. They climbed the tree, pulled the moon down, and hauled it home in an enormous cart. Back home, they hung the moon in an oak tree.

The townspeople were thrilled by the moon’s light! In the evening, they could visit their neighbors and find their way home. They paid the four men to keep the moon filled with oil.

But as time passed, the four men grew weary of taking care of the moon. One day they let all the oil burn away. The night sky was dark once again.

Where had the moon gone? Only one young boy knew. He filled the moon with oil, and once again the moon cast its soft and lovely light across the sky. Then, with all his strength, the boy threw the moon up into the sky. A mysterious force kept it there. From that day on, no one has had to take care of the moon. It has been shining brightly every night ever since.
Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1 What problem do the people in the faraway land face at the beginning of the story?
   - They have no oil to keep the moon glowing.
   - The men will not take care of the moon.
   - The moon shines every night.
   - They have no moon.

2 Read this sentence from the story.
   
   He filled the moon with oil, and once again the moon cast its soft and lovely light across the sky.

   Which sentence below uses the word *cast* the same way it is used in the sentence above?
   - She was cast in the leading role in the play.
   - His figure cast a shadow on the sidewalk.
   - The doctor put a cast on his arm.
   - Let us cast a plan for the party.

3 What did the boy do AFTER the men stop taking care of the moon?
   - He talked to a farmer.
   - He went to another country.
   - He threw the moon into the sky.
   - He hung the moon in an oak tree.

4 What is the MOST important thing this myth explains?
   - how four men took a moon
   - how to take care of a moon
   - how a faraway land came to have a moon
   - how the townspeople lived without a moon

5 How did life for the townspeople change after they got a moon? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.