Midas was a king who lived in luxury in a great castle with his beautiful daughter, Marygold. Midas thought that his greatest happiness was provided by gold. He used to spend his days counting his golden coins! Money was his obsession.

One day a satyr, named Silenus, was traveling across the land, got tired and decided to take a nap in the rose gardens at the palace of king Midas. Silenus was caught and Midus was granted one wish for his release. Midus wished that everything he touched would be turned to gold.

The next day, Midas, woke up eager to see if his wish would become true. He extended his arm touching a small table that immediately turned into gold. Midas jumped with happiness! He then touched a chair, the carpet, the door, his bathtub, a table and so he kept on running in his madness all over his palace until he got exhausted and happy at the same time! He sat at the table to have breakfast and took a rose between his hands to smell its fragrance. When he touched it, the rose became gold. I will have to absorb the fragrance without touching the roses, I suppose, he thought in disappointment. Without even thinking, he ate a grape but it also turned into gold! The same happened with a slice of bread and a glass of water. Suddenly, he started to sense fear. Tears filled his eyes and that moment, his beloved daughter entered the room. When Midas hugged her, she turned into a golden statue! Despaired and fearful, he raised his arms and asked that this curse be removed.

The god Dionyssus heard Midas and felt sorry for him. He told Midas to go to river Pactolus and wash his hands. Midas did so: he ran to the river and was astonished to see gold flowing from his hands. The ancient Greeks said they had found gold on the banks of the river Pactolus. When he returned home, everything Midas had touched had become normal again. Midas hugged his daughter in full happiness and decided to share his great fortune with his people. From now on, Midas became a better person, generous and grateful for all goods of his life. His people led a prosperous life and when he died, they all mourned for their beloved king.
Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1. What is the MOST LIKELY reason the author wrote the article “The Midas Touch”?
   - to explain what a satyr is
   - to describe King Midas
   - to inform the reader about a valuable lesson
   - to tell about a greedy, evil daughter

2. What was the first thing Midas touched and turned to gold.
   - His daughter Marygold was turned to gold.
   - He touched a chair.
   - He touched bread and then water.
   - He touched a small table.

3. What is the meaning of the word ancient as used in the sentence below?
   - The ancient Greeks said they had found gold on the banks of the river.
   - golden
   - old
   - brave
   - successful

4. Which statement BEST expresses the theme of the passage?
   - It’s important to tell the truth.
   - Be careful what you wish for.
   - Relationships are more valuable than wealth.
   - Money can buy you love and happiness.

5. Describe King Midas. Support your answer with details from the passage. Write your response on another sheet of paper.