

Listen to the story and complete the blanks with verbs in the simple past form. Then look up the underlined words in a dictionary.

THE TALE OF THE THREE BROTHERS



There _____ (to be) once three brothers who were traveling along a lonely winding road at twilight. In time, the brothers _____ (reach) a river too treacherous to pass but being learnt in the magical arts, the three brothers simply _____ (wave) their wands and _____ (make) a bridge.

Before they could cross, however, they _____ (find) their path blocked by a hooded figure. It was Death and he felt cheated. Cheated because travellers would normally drown in the river, but Death _____ (to be) cunning. He _____ (pretend) to congratulate the three brothers on their magic and said that each had earned a prize for having been clever enough to evade him. The oldest _____ (ask) for a wand more powerful than any in existence so Death fashioned him one from an elder tree that stood nearby. The second brother decided he _____ (want) to humiliate Death even further and asked for the power to recall loved ones from the grave so Death plucked a stone from the river and offered it to him. Finally, Death _____ (turn) to the third brother. A humble man, he asked for something that would allow him to go forth from that place without being followed by Death. And so it was that Death reluctantly handed over his own cloak of invisibility.

The first brother _____ (travel) to a distant village while with the Elder Wand in hand, he _____ (kill) a wizard with whom he had once quarrelled. Drunk with the power that the Elder Wand had given him, he bragged of his invincibility. But that night, another wizard _____ (steal) the wand and slit the brother's throat for good measure. And so, Death _____ (take) the first brother for his own.

The second brother journeyed to his home where he took the stone and turned it thrice in hand. To his delight, the girl he once hoped to marry before her untimely death _____ (appear) before him. Yet soon she turned sad and cold for she did not belong in the mortal world. Driven mad with hopeless longing, the second brother killed himself so as to join her. And so, Death took the second brother.

As for the third brother, Death _____ (search) for many years but was never able to find him. Only when he attained a great age did the youngest brother shed the Cloak of Invisibility and give it to his son. He then _____ (greet) Death as an old friend and _____ (go) with him gladly, departing this life as equals.

