Reading time

1. Read the love story and then read the statements that follow it. If you think it is a fact put **F** in the box, and if you think it is an opinion put **O**.

Willow wife

Heitaro was a poor Japanese man who lived in a hut close to a very beautiful, tall, willow tree. Heitaro loved the willow more than anything else in his life. Everyday he used to pray underneath its long comforting branches. One night, when he was praying under the tree, a beautiful young woman appeared. She looked as if she wanted to speak with him but was too shy. '*Honorable lady. I see you are waiting for someone. I will leave.*'

She spoke softly. '*There is no need. No one will come.*'

'*Does he not love you enough?*' asked Heitaro.

'*He will not come because he is already here.*' With these words she smiled and disappeared.

After this, the woman appeared every evening. One evening Heitaro asked her to marry him. She agreed and in time they had a child. Heitaro was happier than he could ever have imagined.

Years passed and then word came that the Emperor needed fine wood to build a temple. The villagers decided to offer the wood of the willow because it was the best tree to be found anywhere. Heitaro said to his wife, '*before I met you, I could have not lived without the willow, but now I have you and the child.*'

The villagers arrived and started to cut down the tree. Immediately the wife cried out in pain. Suddenly the willow fell with a loud crash. Willow wife fell at the same time. Willow wife was no more.

Story taken from Highflyer intermediate workbook by Longman, 1996

a. Heitaro was poor. ☐

b. Heitaro's wife was probably much younger than him. ☐

c. Heitaro's wife was very beautiful. ☐

d. Heitaro was a good man. ☐

e. Heitaro used to pray under the Willow tree. ☐

f. The Emperor was very rich. ☐

g. Heitaro was much kinder than the Emperor. ☐

h. The Willow tree was a very special tree. ☐

i. The Emperor was much more powerful than Heitaro. ☐

2. A jumbled story. Read the following paragraphs and number them in the correct order in the boxes.

A couple of days later, he was looking for something in the car when he found a woman's coat. Knowing it must be the hitchhiker's, he retraced his route to return the coat to her. ☐

He tried to have a conversation with her but she just wouldn't say anything, not even where she wanted to go. Instead, as they were approaching a junction, she started to point. Then she pointed at her road, and finally at her house. She got out of the car. He drove off feeling angry. ☐

When he found her house, he knocked on the door and an older lady opened it. He held out the coat and explained that he wanted to return it to the young woman. ☐

A friend of a friend was driving down the A1 motorway, when he passed a young woman who was standing by the side of the road. ☐

He stopped and asked her if she needed a lift. Without speaking, she got into the car. ☐

The woman burst into tears. 'It was my daughter's,' she said, 'but she was killed on the A1 five years ago.' ☐

3. Match the subtitles with the illustrations.

4. Which of the following would not be a suitable title for the story?

   a. The Lost Coat

   b. Bumps and Thumps in the Night

   c. The Mysterious woman

   d. A Ghost Story