The Story of Stingy Jack

Later known as Jack O'Lantern

Fill in the gaps with the right form of the past simple.



As the story goes, several centuries ago in Ireland, there _____ (live) a drunkard known as Stingy Jack. He was known throughout the land as a deceiver or manipulator. On a fateful night, Satan overheard the tale of Jack's evil deeds and silver tongue. Unconvinced (and envious) of the rumors, the devil _____ (go) to find out for himself whether or not Jack _____ (live) up to his vile reputation.

Typical of Jack, he _____ (be) drunk and wandering through the countryside at night when he _____ (come) upon a body on his cobblestone path. The body, with an eerie grimace on its face, _____ (turn) out to be the devil himself. Jack _____ (realize) that this was his end; Satan had finally come to collect his malicious soul. So Jack _____ (make) a last request: he _____ (ask) the devil to let him drink ale before he _____ (depart) to Hell. Finding no reason not to agree to the request, Satan _____ (take) Jack to the local pub and _____ (supply) him with many alcoholic beverages. Upon satisfying his thirst, Jack asked Satan to pay the tab for the ale, much to his surprise because he wasn't carrying any money. Jack _____ (convince) him to turn himself into a silver coin with which to pay the bartender and change back when he's not looking. Satan _____ (do) so, impressed upon by Jack's unyielding wicked tactics. Cunningly, Jack _____ (stick) the now transformed Satan (coin) into his pocket, which also _____ (contain) a crucifix. The crucifix's presence _____ (keep) the devil from escaping his form. This _____ (coerce) Satan to agree to Jack's demand: in exchange for his freedom, he had to spare Jack's soul for ten years.

Ten years after the date Jack originally struck his deal, he naturally _____ (find) himself once again in the devil's presence. Jack _____ (stumble) upon Satan in the same setting as before, and he seemingly _____ (accept) it was his time to go to Hell for good. As Satan _____ (prepare) to take him to Hell, Jack asked if he could have one apple to feed his starving belly. Foolishly, Satan once again _____ (agree) to this request. As he _____ (climb) up the branches of a nearby apple tree, Jack _____ (surround) its base with crucifixes. Satan, frustrated at the fact that he _____ (be) entrapped again, _____ (demand) his release. As Jack _____ (do) before, he _____ (make) a second demand: that he will never take his soul to Hell. Having no choice, the devil agreed and was set free.

Eventually, the drinking _____ (take) its toll on Jack, and he _____ (die). Stingy Jack's soul _____ (prepare) to enter heaven through the gates of St. Peter, but he _____ (stop). Jack was told by God that because of his sinful lifestyle of deceitfulness and drinking, he wasn't allowed into Heaven. Jack then _____ (go) down to the Gates of Hell and _____ (beg) for admission into the underworld. Satan, fulfilling his obligation to Jack, _____ (not take) his soul. He _____ (give) Jack an ember to light his way. Jack _____ (be) doomed to roam the world between the planes of good and evil, with only an ember inside a hollowed turnip to light his way.

LIVEWORKSHEETS