

The Woodman's Ax



A poor woodman one day was cutting a tree on the bank of a river. By chance, his iron axe slipped from his hand, fell into the water and sank immediately. The woodman sat down and began to cry about his loss. The god who lived in the river, feeling worry for him, dived to the bottom and brought up a golden axe. But the honest woodman said that it was not his. The river-god dived in again, and this time, brought up a silver axe: but again, the woodman refused to take it.

After a third dive into the water, the river-god brought up the iron axe. "That is mine," cried the woodman, in great delight. The river-god was so pleased with the truthful way in which the man had behaved that he gave him the gold and silver axes also. The woodman went home to his cottage rejoicing.

Comprehension Skills for the Caribbean book

After reading the story above answer the following questions.

1. What is the setting of this story? (1)

   (a) In the woodman's garden (b) on a mountain top (c) near a river

2. What was the problem in this story? (1)

   _____

3. The woodman was helped by _____ (1)

   (a) His friend (b) the river-god (c) the police

4. After which dive did the river-god bring up the woodman's axe? (1)

   _____

5. How was the woodman rewarded for being honest? (2)

   _____

   _____

6. The woodman was: Choose the words that are **true.** (3)

honest	poor	cunning
well-to-do	straightforward	truthful

7. Was this story fiction or nonfiction? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS