THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Two little children were sitting by the fire one cold winter's night. All at once someone knocked at the door, and one ran to open it.

There, outside in the cold and the darkness, stood a child with no shoes upon his feet and dressed in thin, ragged clothes. He was shivering with cold, and he asked to come in and warm himself.

"Yes, come," said both the children; "you sit with us by the fire. Come in!"

They shared their supper with the boy, and gave him their bed, while they slept on a hard bench.

In the night they were awakened by the music and, looking out, they saw children going towards the house. They were playing on golden harps, and the air was full of melody.

Suddenly the Stranger Child stood before them; no longer cold and ragged, but dressed in silvery light.

His soft voice said: "I was cold and you took Me in. I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was tired, and you gave Me your bed. I am the Christ Child, walking through the world to bring peace and happiness to all good children. As you have given to Me, so may this tree every year give rich fruit to you."

So saying, He broke a branch from the fir tree that grew near the door, and He planted it in the ground and disappeared. But the branch grew into a great tree, and every year it gave wonderful golden fruit for the kind children.

Adapted from: http://www.free-short-stories.org.uk/the-legend-of-the-christmas-tree.htm

1. Put these sentences in order:

- [ ] Children gave their supper to the Stranger Child.
- [ ] The branch turned into a tree.
- [ ] Christ Child planted the branch.
- [1] Someone knocked at the door.
- [ ] Children saw someone playing on a musical instrument.



2. Decide if the sentences below are true (T) or false (F):

- [F] The story takes place in autumn.
- [ ] The boy that knocked at the door wore new and clean clothes.
- [ ] The two children did not sleep on their beds that night.
- [ ] Children outside the house where playing on golden violins.
- [ ] The branch turned into a big tree.



GLOSSARY

Ragged = old and torn



to shiver with cold = shake slightly because they feel cold



Harp = a large musical instrument played with the fingers



A fir tree = a tall evergreen tree that has thin needle-like leaves



LIVEWORKSHEETS