

WORDS TO KNOW

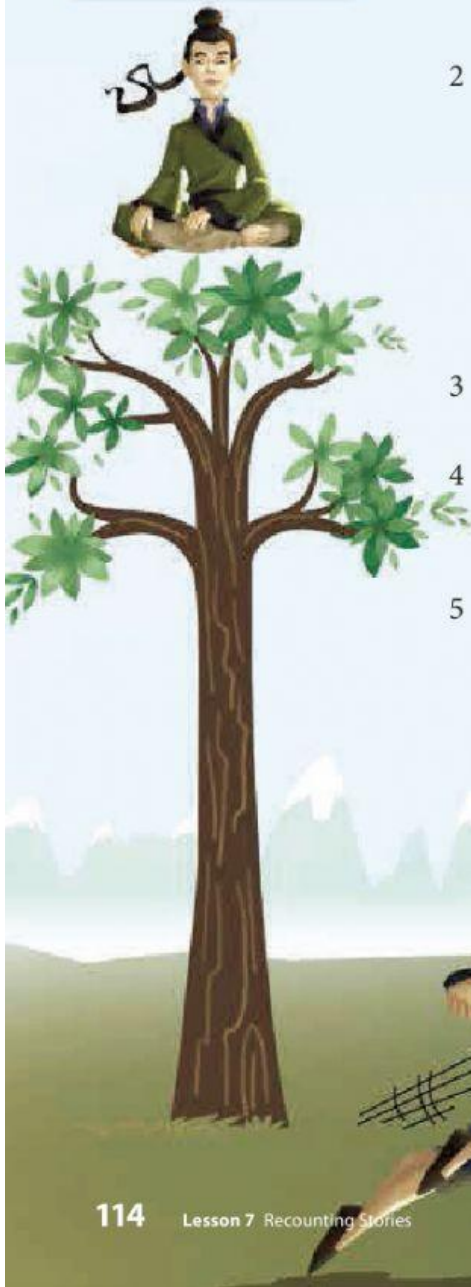
As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **fuss**
- **disbelief**

True or False

a folktale from Myanmar (Burma)

- 1 There once were three poor brothers who loved to tell tall tales. They traveled throughout the countryside telling wild stories. They always claimed that their tales were true, but no one ever believed them.
- 2 One day, the three brothers met a rich traveler. The man was dressed in fine clothes and wore shining jewels. The brothers wanted his things. "Let's ask him to play a game. Each of the four of us will tell a tale of a past adventure. The rule is that if anyone doubts the truth of another's story, he must become that person's servant. The man will never believe our stories. Getting him to doubt our stories will be like rolling off a log. He will have to become our servant."
- 3 The others liked this plan. They did not want a servant. But they wanted the man's fine things. The man agreed to the game.
- 4 The first brother told a story of how he had climbed a tree and could not get down. So he ran to a nearby cottage and borrowed a rope.
- 5 The second brother told of jumping into the stomach of a tiger who wanted to eat him. "I made such a fuss that the tiger spit me out," he said.



- 6 The third told of helping the village fishermen. He said he turned into a fish and jumped into the river. There, he turned back into a man and killed the big fish that were eating all the little fish.
- 7 The rich man listened to the three tales without saying one word of disbelief. Then he told his story. He said he was searching for three servants who had run away from him.
- 8 “You three must be the ones I am looking for,” he said.
- 9 The brothers looked at him with alarm. If they doubted him, they must become his servants. That was their rule. But if they said his story was true, they would have to become his servants too!
- 10 They said nothing.
- 11 Finally, the man said he would let them go if they promised never to tell tall tales again.
- 12 The brothers agreed, and they kept their promise.



 **Think** Use what you learned from reading the selection to respond to these questions.

1 Number the items to show the order of some events in the story.

- ____ Each brother told his make-believe story.
- ____ Three brothers talked a rich traveler into playing a game.
- ____ The rich man made them promise not to tell tall tales.
- ____ The rich man told them a story.
- ____ The rich man did not question the brothers' stories.
- ____ The brothers realized they were trapped.

2 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Why did the three brothers want to play a game with the traveler?

- A** They wanted to see if he would believe their tall tales.
- B** They wanted to trick him so they could have what he owned.
- C** They disliked people who had more money than they did.
- D** They were once the rich traveler's servants.

Part B

Write a sentence from paragraph 2 that supports the answer you chose for Part A.

- 3** Which is the **best** recounting of the third brother's story?
- A** He plays a trick on the fishermen. He pretends to be a big fish catching small ones.
 - B** He gets away from the fishermen by swimming in the river like a fish.
 - C** He helps the fishermen. He turns himself into a fish and then back into a person to kill a big fish.
 - D** He becomes a fish so that he can help the fishermen chase fish into their nets.
- 4** Which is the **best** description of the brothers' problem at the end of the folktale?
- A** The brothers think the rich man's story is the best of all the stories they have heard.
 - B** The rich man believes that the brothers are the runaway servants he is looking for.
 - C** The brothers promise never to tell tall tales again as they know they should not be doing that.
 - D** No matter how the brothers answer the rich man, they will have to become his servants.

5 Which **two** details could you leave out when recounting this story?

- A** The brothers tell their tales throughout the countryside.
- B** The brothers ask a rich traveler to play a game.
- C** A tiger spit one brother out after eating him.
- D** The rich man said nothing about the brothers' stories.
- E** The rich man told a story about missing servants.
- F** The brothers agreed not to tell any more tall tales.

6 Reread these sentences from paragraph 2.

The man will never believe our stories. Getting him to doubt our stories will be like rolling off a log.

What does the word *doubt* mean in this context?

- A** dislike
- B** understand
- C** mistrust
- D** enjoy



- 7 Short Response** Use your own words to recount the folktale. Be sure to write about the events in the sequence that they happen in the story.



Learning Target

Explain why recounting the events in a story will help you understand it.
