

Level 2-9

The Woodman and the Ax

Workbook

Teacher's Guide and Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

A. Summary

1. Book Summary

The Woodman and the Ax is a story about a woodman that lost his ax. When the god Mercury came to help him, the Woodman told the truth about which ax belonged to him. He was rewarded for his honesty.

The Woodman used his ax to make money. One day, he was very tired from working so hard. His ax slipped out of his hands and fell into a pool of water. The Woodman was very sad. He began to cry.

The god, Mercury, heard him crying and came to help him.

Mercury jumped into the water and brought out a gold ax. The Woodman said it was not his. Next, he brought out a silver ax. The Woodman said it was not his, either.

The third time, Mercury brought out the Woodman's plain ax. The Woodman was very happy.

Mercury gave the Woodman all three axes because he was so honest.

The Woodman went to the village and told everyone about his axes. Two other woodmen decided to pretend to lose their axes so Mercury would give them a reward, too.

They hid their axes. Then they cried until Mercury came. Mercury knew they were lying, so he sent them home.

The next day, the other woodmen went to get their axes, but they were gone. Mercury had taken them because they were so dishonest.

2. Section Summary

► **Pages 6-11:** The Woodman had an ax. He used it to make money. He cut down trees with his ax. One day, he was very tired. The ax slipped out of his hands and fell into a pool of water. The god Mercury came to help him. He jumped in the water and brought out a gold ax. The honest Woodman said it was not his.

► **Pages 12-17:** Mercury jumped in the water again and came up with a silver ax. Again, the Woodman said it was not his. Finally, Mercury came up with a plain ax with a wood handle. The Woodman was happy to see his lost ax. Mercury rewarded the Woodman for being honest. He gave him all three axes. The Woodman told everyone in the village what happened.

► **Pages 18-22:** Two other woodmen wanted get a reward, too. They hid their axes, but they pretended that they lost them. Mercury knew they were lying. He sent them home with no reward. The next day, the woodmen could not find their axes. Mercury had taken them because they were not honest.

B. Background and Themes

★ **Honesty:** It is always best to tell the truth. When we lie, we get in trouble. When we are honest, people will know that we have a good character. They will trust us and maybe even reward us, like the Woodman in the story.

★ **Hard Work:** It is better to work hard for a living than to lie to get a quick reward. The Woodman was a hard worker. The two other woodmen wanted to get a reward for doing nothing. In the end, they had nothing because they were lazy and dishonest.

★ **Gods:** There are many legends and myths about gods. Some gods are powerful and mean. Other gods are kind. Mercury was a kind and just god. He helped the honest Woodman find his ax and rewarded him for telling the truth. He punished the other woodmen for lying to him.

Answer Key

Part A. Story Focus

Before You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Introduction

1. He was from Greece.
2. He lived 2,500 years ago.
3. They teach people to be good and kind.

► Characters

1. The Woodman	2. Mercury	3. The Other Woodmen
<u>honest</u>	<u>a god</u>	<u>dishonest</u>
<u>poor</u>	<u>helpful</u>	<u>want a reward</u>

While You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Beginning: Pages 6-11

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about a woodman who loses his ax.
2. Another story is Little Red Riding Hood.
3. I think it is difficult because axes are heavy to lift again and again.

B. Review Questions

1. It was important because he used it to make money.
2. He dropped it because he was very tired.
3. The god, Mercury, came to help him.

► Middle: Pages 12-17

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about what happens when Mercury finds the Woodman's ax.
2. Another story is Bellerophon and Pegasus.
3. I would jump into the water and try to find it.

B. Review Questions

1. It was plain with a wood handle.
2. He was happy because the Woodman was honest.
3. They thought Mercury would give them a reward.

► End: Pages 18-22

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about what Mercury does to the dishonest woodmen.
2. They would ground me and take away my cell phone or computer.
3. I think he should take their axes and push them into the water.

B. Review Questions

1. They hid them in different places.
2. They cried until Mercury came.
3. He hit him over the head with his ax.

Mini Quiz

a. The first step is the hardest.

→ Beginning something is usually the hardest part of the task.

b. Honesty is the best policy.

→ It is always best to tell the truth.

c. Too much bed makes a dull head.

→ If you sleep too much, you cannot think clearly.

After You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Pattern Practice

4. A: Is this your pencil?

B: No, my pencil has a white eraser.

5. A: Is this your phone?

B: No, my phone has a blue cover.

► Challenge

1. He cut down trees and sold them.
2. He was looking for the Woodman's ax.
3. He was happy because Mercury found his ax.
4. He told everyone in the village about his axes.

Part B. Skill Focus

► Vocabulary Preview

A.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <u>wa</u> ter | 2. re <u>wa</u> rd |
| 3. e <u>ve</u> ryone | 4. <u>sl</u> ip |
| 5. bu <u>sh</u> | 6. p <u>l</u> ain |
| 7. <u>h</u> onest | 8. han <u>d</u> le |
| 9. ba <u>nk</u> | 10. <u>p</u> lace |

B.

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. happen | 2. best |
| 3. money | 4. different |
| 5. pretend | 6. forest |
| 7. woodman | 8. thanks |
| 9. silver | 10. village |

Reading Comprehension

► Beginning: Pages 6-11

A.

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. F

B.

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d

C.

1. a 2. d 3. c 4. c 5. c

► Middle: Pages 12-17

A.

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. T

B.

1. The Woodman
2. The Other Woodmen
3. Mercury
4. Mercury

C.

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. c 5. d

► End: Pages 18-22

A.

1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T

B.

1. d 2. a 3. b 4. c

C.

1. c 2. a 3. c 4. a 5. b

Think and Write

- | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. dropped | 2. hid | 3. honest | 4. dishonest | 5. reward |
| 6. took | 7. happy | 8. sad | 9. three | 10. axes |

Vocabulary Review

1. The Woodman needed his ax to make money.
2. He sat on the bank and cried.
3. He jumped into the water.
4. The silver ax was not his.
5. He found the ax with a wood handle.
6. He told everyone in the village.
7. He hid his ax in a bush.
8. He hid his ax under a rock.
9. Mercury hit one of the other woodmen.
10. The other woodmen were not honest.

Summary

A.

1	3
4	2

B.

1. The Woodman was very honest.
2. Mercury gave the Woodman a reward for being honest.
3. The other woodmen pretended that they lost their axes.
4. Mercury took the dishonest woodmen's axes.

Book Report

Story b → c → e → a → d