

The Woodcutter And His Fortune

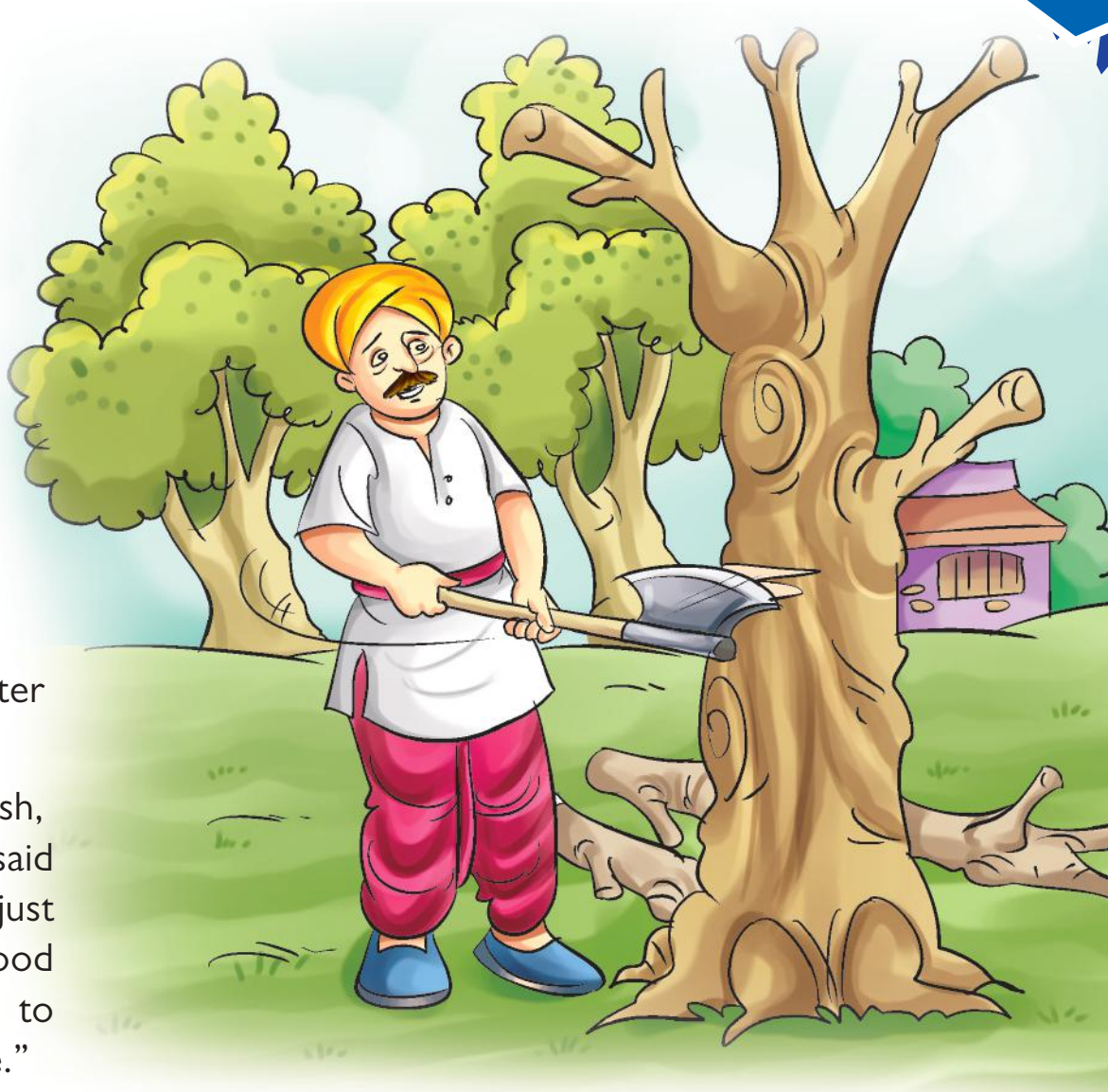
Once in a small town, there was an old woodcutter and his young daughter. Everyday, the woodcutter gathered wood and sold it as *firewood*. In this way, he earned enough for the two of them.

One morning, the woodcutter's daughter wished for pastries.

"I will fulfill your wish, my dear daughter," said the woodcutter. "I'll just collect some extra wood today. So you have to wait for me till I come."

So the woodcutter set out for day's work. He worked hard, but it took him longer time than expected.

When he was returning home with the wood, darkness had already fallen. It was too late to go to the market to sell the wood. He was very sad as he thought that his daughter might be waiting for her father with *delicious* pastries. With broken heart, he reached his house and found that his daughter had already locked the front door and gone to bed.





He knocked the door several times, but there was no answer. So he had to sleep at the doorstep outside.

Next morning, the woodcutter awoke while it was still dark. He said to himself, "I could collect some more wood if I go out right now. Then I can sell twice as much and buy even more pastries." He was feeling very good about his idea.

So he left his load and went back to the forest to gather more wood. But again he

took longer time than expected, and when he got back home, it was dark and the door was locked. He was very *disappointed* and again he had to sleep at the doorstep. So it happened for three days.

The woodcutter started weeping. Suddenly, a masked man appeared there and said to the woodcutter, "What's wrong, old man? Why are you crying?"

He looked up to see that strange man.

"Sir, since the past three days I have been going out to gather wood, but always coming home too late to get into my house. And all this time, I have had nothing to eat."

"What is the day today, old man?" asked the masked man.

The woodcutter said, "Why, Sunday eve, of course."



“That’s right. It’s a luck day for you onwards. And that’s the day of God.”

“God! What does it mean?” asked the woodcutter.

“That’s right, old man—God is ‘The Creator of the Universe.’”

The masked man took some roasted peanuts from his long pocket and gave them to the woodcutter. “Here, share this with me.”

“Thank you, sir!”

The masked man again said, “If you want your good fortune to continue, here’s what you must do; every Sunday eve, find someone in need, then share what you have, and tell a story about goodness. That way, you both will be helped.”

And saying that, the masked man disappeared.

The woodcutter knocked at the door of his house. It was unlocked by his daughter. She said, “Father, where have you been for two nights? I was so worried and *scared*. Oh, please come inside!”

The woodcutter and his daughter enjoyed many pastries. Then one morning, when the woodcutter had gone to the forest, his daughter decided to go for a walk in a public park. As she was walking down a broad path, a *chariot* stopped near her.

“What a pretty little girl!” said a royal young lady. “I am the daughter of the king. Would you like to be my friend?”

“Yes, Princess,” the girl said.

So, the woodcutter’s daughter became a special friend of the princess and got many gifts and money occasionally. They became rich.

The woodcutter had not to gather wood anymore.

But he forgot all that the masked man had told him.

One day, the princess and her friend went on a picnic to some peaceful place near a beautiful lake. There they decided to go for a swim in the lake.

The princess took off her precious necklace and placed it on a stone *overlooking* the water. She forgot completely about the necklace.

After a few days, the princess recalled the necklace but she couldn't find it. She thought that the woodcutter's daughter had stolen it and she turned furiously to her.

"You stole my necklace. You must have stolen it when we were in the lake for a swim."

"No, Princess, I am not a thief.



"Shut up! You're a liar. I'll teach you the right lesson for your theft. Get out of my sight immediately otherwise I will *lose* my *temperament*." The woodcutter's daughter ran home *sobbing*.

Gradually again they had bad days.

Now, that evening was of Sunday. Suddenly the woodcutter recalled the man. He cried out.

"Oh, what a fool I am! How could I forget all those things which were told by the masked man before? Yet I haven't done it once."

He got a packet of roasted peanuts saw a beggar girl coming by.

"Hey, young girl!" called the woodcutter. "Please share this with me while I tell you a story."

The girl sat down near him and started eating gratefully what was offered. As she ate, the woodcutter told her everything that had happened to him, since the time his daughter asked for pastries to the present bad days of his life.

“Thank you for your meal,” said the girl. “I was very hungry and you shared your food with me, and also the story was interesting.”

After a couple of days, the princess again went to the same lake and saw her necklace glittering in the water. She was flabbergasted and said to herself, “That woodcutter’s daughter didn’t steal my necklace and I made a big mistake.” She ran away to the palace and *narrated* all to the king and pleaded for the best for the woodcutter and her daughter.

By the end of the day, the princess and the woodcutter’s daughter became friends again.

And every Sunday eve after that, the woodcutter always remembered to share his things with needy one.

Word Treasure

firewood : fuel

disappointed : upset and sad

chariot : a two-wheeled and horse-drawn vehicle

overlooking : looking over, much above

sobbing : crying with sudden sharp breaths

delicious : tasty

scared : afraid

lose temper : lost as by magic

narrated : gave an account of



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- The woodcutter sold the wood in the market as _____.
a. timber b. firewood c. furniture
- He worked so hard but it took him longer time than _____.
a. expected b. wanted c. unexpected
- The _____ man took some roasted peanuts from his long pocket and _____ them to the woodcutter.
a. clever, gave b. fearful, handed c. masked, gave
- With the _____ and _____ the princess gave her, she and her father became quite rich.
a. jewels, money b. stones, gifts c. money, gifts

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. Everyday, the woodcutter went out to the forest to gather wood.
2. The woodcutter's daughter requested for pineapple pastries.
3. The masked man took some roasted peanuts from his long pocket and gave them to the woodcutter.
4. The woodcutter's daughter was walking down a broad path when a scooter stopped beside her.
5. The woodcutter stole the necklace of princess.
6. The woodcutter shared his food with the beggar girl.



C. Answer the following questions :

1. Who was lived with an old woodcutter?
2. What did the woodcutter's daughter request of her father for?
3. Who met the woodcutter at his doorstep?
4. What was the lucky day of the woodcutter as announced by the masked man?
5. Who became a special friend of the princess?
6. Did the woodcutter's daughter steal the necklace of princess?

Fun with Words

D. Match the same meant words :

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| stolen | explained |
| recalled | stupid |
| hard working | open |
| fool | crying |
| narrated | remembered |
| weeping | theft |
| unlocked | labourious |

Essential Grammar

E. Change the following sentences into Past Continuous Tense :

1. Avinash is reading an interesting novel.
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2. Ria shouts at her friends.

3. We are going to market.

4. Rimjhim helps her in her exams preparation.

5. The Sun shines brightly.

Essential Speaking

F. How would you offer the peanuts to your friends?

Example : Would you please have these peanuts?

Would you like to have these?

There are some peanuts. Please have it.

Use some other ways and practise these.

Essential Writing

G. Write a letter telling your experience of the masked man to your friend.

