

Progress Monitoring Probe 2

The Woodsman and the Lost Ax

A Woodsman was chopping wood beside a deep, blue lake.	10
He whistled as he chopped, happy to work in such a beautiful place. Without warning, he stumbled over a root and lost his balance. When he reached to steady himself, his axe slipped from his hand and into the depths of the lake.	22
The Woodsman tried desperately to recover the axe, but he was unsuccessful. Recognizing that his means of earning a livelihood was lost, the Woodsman began moaning in desperation.	33
Just then, Mercury, the messenger of the gods, appeared and asked the Woodsman why he was despondent. After the Woodsman described what had happened, Mercury plunged into the lake and retrieved a gleaming, golden axe.	43
“Is this the axe you lost?” demanded Mercury.	53
The Woodsman assured him it was not, and Mercury disappeared beneath the surface again. Soon he returned with a silver axe in his hand.	63
“Is this the axe you lost?” demanded Mercury.	72
The Woodsman said it was not, and Mercury dived beneath the surface yet again. This time, he returned with the Woodsman’s axe.	80
“That’s it!” exclaimed the Woodsman. He embraced Mercury and thanked him profusely. Mercury was impressed with the Woodsman’s honesty, so he presented him with the golden and silver axes, as well as the one he had lost.	81
When the Woodsman returned home that evening, he told his coworkers what had happened. One of them decided he wanted to experience similar good fortune. He hurried to the lake and	91
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threw his axe into it. Then he sat down beside the lake and pretended to cry. As before, Mercury appeared and inquired why the man was crying. When he learned the reason for the man’s grief, Mercury again plunged into the lake and brought up a golden axe.	259
“Is this the axe you lost?” demanded Mercury.	269
“Yes! That’s it!” the man lied. He grabbed the axe greedily. Mercury did not like being deceived so he took the golden axe away from the man and refused to recover the axe the man had thrown into the lake. Thus, the man ended up with no axe at all, but he did learn a valuable lesson about the importance of being honest.	281
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Total words: _____ – errors: _____ = words correct: _____

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