



This is a horrible place, Your Highness,” said the woodsman, with a shudder. “Why do you stay here?”

“I don’t know,” said the Princess, and a tear rolled down her cheek. “I have tried so many times to escape into the forest, but I can’t. When I was small, I tripped on my father’s wooden footstool. That made the Sorceress angry and she **took her revenge** on me. Can’t you see? I am **lame**.”

The woodcutter looked down at Princess Sharma’s feet. One was strong and **dainty**, but the other was lame; and even though she was wearing her new clogs, she couldn’t walk properly. She could only limp.

“Never mind,” he said, **gallantly** offering her his arm. “I shall help you.”

“No! Beware the **curse** of the Sorceress! Haven’t you heard what happened to all those other young men?”

“What?” cried the woodsman, trying to be brave.

“They, too, tried to help me escape but, as soon as they touched my hand, the Sorceress turned them into trees. Look at them—their arms are branches. Twigs and leaves are growing in their hair. Each spring they **carpet the forest** with their tears.”





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Midsummer Moon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (took her revenge) she punished (me) for doing something wrong
2. _____
crippled, unable to walk
3. _____
polite and gentlemanly
4. _____
delicate, well formed
5. _____
cover the forest floor
6. _____
an evil magic spell



Midsummer Moon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 11

- a. Why has the woodcutter never seen the Forest Sorceress?
- b. Why is the Forest Sorceress so angry?
- c. What does the Forest Sorceress do every Midsummer Eve?
- d. How does the Forest Sorceress punish Princess Sharma?
- e. Can you explain what is the 'Curse of the Forest Sorceress'?
- f. What will happen to the woodsman if he tries to help Princess Sharma escape?



Draw Princess Sharma in the Enchanted Forest, warning the woodsman of danger.



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.



The woodsman stared fearfully at the trees in the Enchanted Forest. They looked so **petrified** and twisted, he dared not touch them. A single white tearblossom fell at his feet.



“Please search in the forest for the magic slippers,” said Princess Sharma, “but if you don’t find them before Midsummer, you must promise me never, never to return.”

This was no time for promises. The woodsman **bid a hasty goodbye** to the Princess before he crept away. He descended the steep rock staircase and, very late that night, he trudged back into the town.

When he arrived at the private rooms behind the Tailor’s shop, the woodsman heard the sounds of a grand feast still going on. Something made him stop for a moment and listen at the door. The three old men seemed very pleased about something.

“What good fortune we had to meet that foolish woodsman,” said the Cobbler. “I rather liked him, though. It’s a pity we shall see him no more.”



“They say the King has gone quite mad,” said the Tailor. “Remember all those young men who brought slippers to the Palace for Princess Sharma to dance in? They’ve never been seen again. I’m sure they must have all lost their heads on the royal chopping block.”

“The King has almost given up hope of finding the magic slippers,” said the Baker. “They say, at Midsummer, he’s going to marry off Princess Sharma to the old Duke de Vieux-Boisy. In return, the Duke has promised to give the King half his forest lands at the foot of the mountain.”

“What! How could a father be so cruel?” **mourned** the Tailor. “And what if it is true? We won’t be able to borrow any more firewood from the Duke’s forest. We shall have to pay the King’s taxes for our timber. Next winter, we shall all **perish** from the cold—

“Oh! Who’s there!” he screamed suddenly, as the woodsman slipped into the room.



Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Midsummer Moon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (**mourn**) to be sad about something, usually a death
2. _____
die (of hunger or cold)
3. _____
said a quick farewell
4. _____
living things turned to stone or, sometimes, almost frightened to death



Midsummer Moon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 12

- a. When must the woodsman bring Princess Sharma the magic dancing slippers? What do you think will happen after the Midsummer Ball?
- b. Do the three old brothers expect the woodsman to come back safely from the Enchanted Forest? Why or why not?
- c. What gift will the Duke de Vieux-Boisy give the King when he marries Princess Sharma?
- d. Why won't the three old men be allowed to chop down any more firewood from the Duke's forest?



Can you draw a picture of the woodsman secretly listening at the door?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.



Your pardon, gentlemen,” said the woodsman with a smile. “I have just returned from the Palace. It took me much longer—and was far more dangerous—than I imagined. May I join you at table, as you promised?”



“Why, of course, young man,” said the Baker. “A promise is a promise.” He hurried into the kitchen and brought back a plate of home-made **croissants**, which he set at the woodsman’s elbow.

“Do have a piece of cheese,” said the Cobbler in a strange, high-pitched tone of voice. “Taste our home-made jam.”

“I have a **bargain** to strike with you, gentlemen,” said the woodcutter. He sat at the head of their table and helped himself to the best of their food. “I promise to **furnish** you each with enough logs and firewood for the rest of your **honest** lives—”

“Oh, thank you!” they cried, all together.

“—in **exchange** for a modest gift.”

“A gift?” said the Baker. “What gift?”

“You, Master Tailor, must sew me some more **elegant** clothes,” said the woodsman. “What I’m wearing now may suit a simple woodsman, but **it hardly does honour to a king.**”





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Midsummer Moon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (bargain) a deal, an arrangement
2. _____
give you, supply you with
3. _____
it is hardly suitable for a king
4. _____
light fluffy bread rolls
5. _____
well designed, beautiful
6. _____
true, just and fair
7. _____
trade



Midsummer Moon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 13

- a. Why are the three old men surprised to see the woodman?
- b. What does the woodsman promise to do for the three old men?
- c. What favour does the woodsman ask in return?



Draw a picture of the first 'modest' gift that the woodcutter is requesting from Master Tailor.



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





A king!” echoed the three brothers. The **tallow** candle flickered violently in their hollow gush of breath.

“A KING!” screeched the parrot, from inside its cage.

“Certainly, a king,” said the woodsman, glancing calmly around. “I said a king. Why not a king?”

“A king,” mumbled the Tailor, nodding his white head. He tried to remember where he had hidden those pearl **cuff links** he’d found in some rich nobleman’s pocket many years ago.

“He looks rather like a king to me,” said the Cobbler. “He has a high-and-mighty **instep** to his foot.”

“He has the most **refined** of banquet manners,” remarked the Baker, pushing a platter of hot scones to the head of the table.

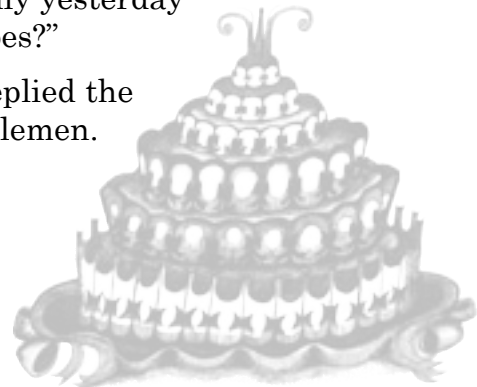
“Why, thank you, Master Baker,” smiled the woodsman. “From you I shall require a royal wedding cake. It must be freshly baked and iced in the shape of a mountain palace.”

“But that’s exactly like the wedding cake I’m supposed to be baking for Princess Sharma and the Duke de Vieux-Boisy!” said the Baker uneasily. His face **blanched** to a sickly almond paste. “Haven’t you heard that they’re getting married at Midsummer?”

“I’ve just received an order from the Duke,” said the Tailor. “He needs a black silk **frock coat**; I suppose it must be for his wedding day.”

“Didn’t you know,” said the Cobbler, “only yesterday I measured his foot for his new wedding shoes?”

“What do I care about the old Duke?” replied the woodsman gruffly. “Just do as I ask, gentlemen. You have my **solemn** promise,” he said.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Midsummer Moon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (tallow) melted beef fat, used to make candles
2. _____
serious, true
3. _____
very fine, polite
4. _____
turn pale with fright
5. _____
high bridge of the foot
6. _____
old-fashioned coat with long full skirts in the back and the front
7. _____
small decorative clasps to fasten buttonholes on shirt cuffs



Midsummer Moon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 14

- a. Why 3 compliments do the three old men pay the woodman?
- b. Do you think that these compliments are sincere? Why or why not?
- c. What makes the three old men suspicious of the woodcutter's intentions?



Draw the woodsman sitting at the head of the table, giving orders to the Cobbler, the Baker and the Tailor. Don't forget the parrot.



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





Spring blossomed late that year, then ripened into summer. The sun beat down on the tiled roofs of the village. It was much cooler under the trees, though, and each day the woodsman axed his way steadily into the Duke's forest—chopping, chopping, chopping. He kept coming back with loads of timber and firewood. It soon began to make the three old men very **nervous** indeed. The Tailor stitched a button on the woodsman's white silk shirt.

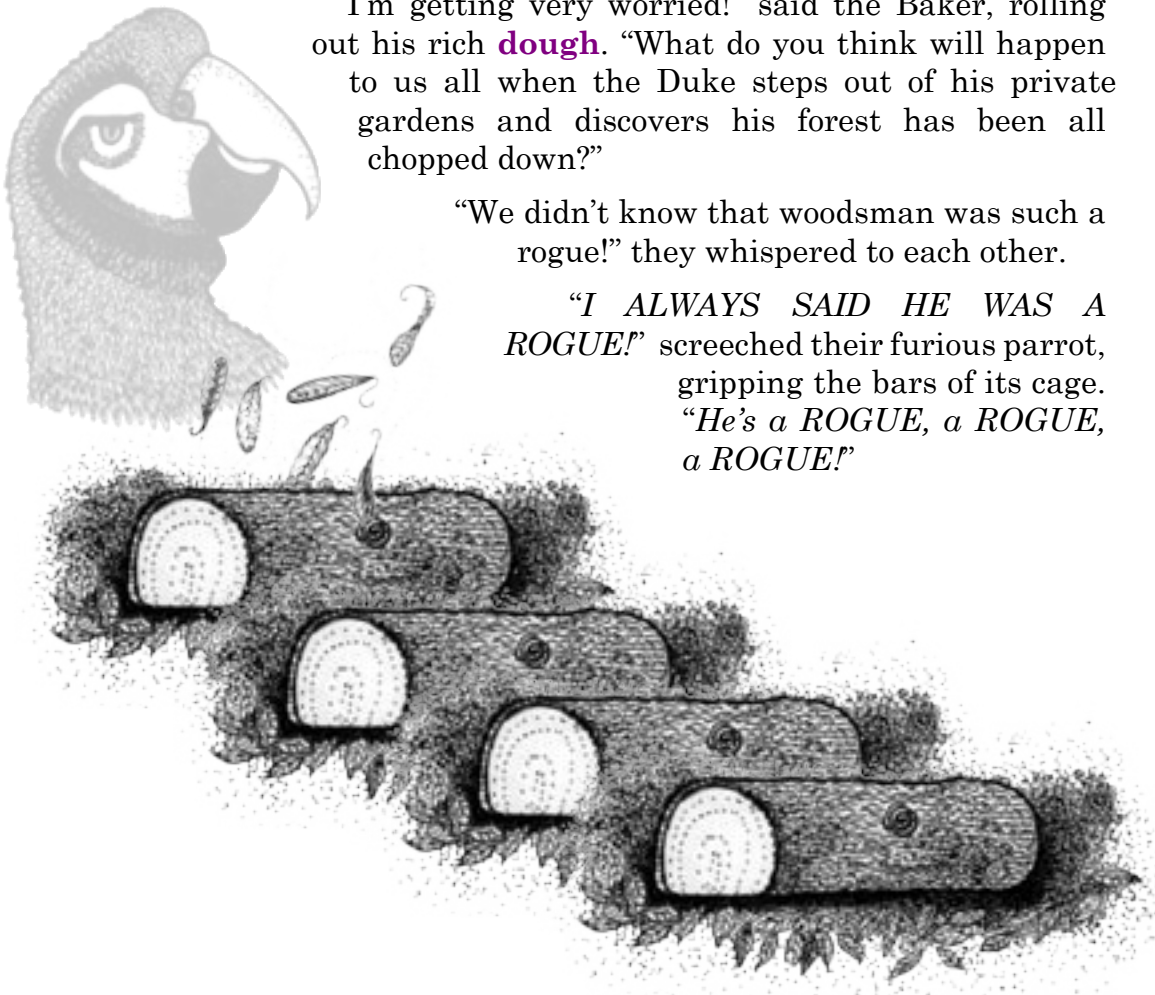
"Our sheds are **stocked** with firewood," he said. "There's no room for any more. When will the woodsman stop his chopping?"

"He's as **ambitious** as a king," said the Cobbler softly, inspecting the finely turned heel of a leather boot he was making for the woodsman.

"I'm getting very worried!" said the Baker, rolling out his rich **dough**. "What do you think will happen to us all when the Duke steps out of his private gardens and discovers his forest has been all chopped down?"

"We didn't know that woodsman was such a rogue!" they whispered to each other.

"I ALWAYS SAID HE WAS A ROGUE!" screeched their furious parrot, gripping the bars of its cage. *"He's a ROGUE, a ROGUE, a ROGUE!"*





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Midsummer Moon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (**ambitious**) keen to succeed, or do very well

2. _____
bread or cake mixture, often made with flour, milk and eggs

3. _____
filled

4. _____
worried, anxious, stressed



Midsummer Moon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 15

- Why are the three old brothers becoming so worried?
- Why does the parrot call the woodsman a rogue?
- Whose forest is being chopped down?
- How do you think Count Owl feels about the forest being chopped down?



Draw a picture of the woodsman chopping down trees in the forest.



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.