

Unseen Reading Comprehension

Student's Name: _____ Grade 5 _____ Date: Oct. 2nd, 2025

(setting)

(character)

Long ago, in a quiet cottage by the river, there lived a poor woodcutter named Karim. Every day, he would carry his heavy axe to the forest to collect firewood and sell it in the market. In those days, money was scarce, and Karim often found it hard to buy enough food for his family. (conflict)

(setting)

One hot afternoon, while cutting wood near the riverbank, Karim's axe slipped from his hands and fell into the deep water. He bent down to peek into the river, but the axe was nowhere to be seen. Karim sat sadly, knowing he couldn't buy a new one.

(character)

(climax)

Suddenly, the river fairy appeared, holding a shiny golden axe. She asked, "Is this yours?" Karim shook his head. The fairy then showed him a silver axe, but again, Karim said, "No, mine was just an old iron axe." Finally, she pulled out his rusty iron axe. Karim's eyes lit up, and he said joyfully, "Yes, that is mine!"

(resolution)

The river fairy smiled at his honesty. As a reward, she gave him all three axes—the golden, the silver, and his own iron one. Karim returned to his cottage a happy man and promised to share his story with the villagers. From then on, the tale of Karim reminded everyone of the value of honesty. (theme)

1. Is the text above fictional or nonfictional? Explain your answer.
The text is fictional because it tells a story.
2. What makes this story a folktale? Write two features.
It happened long time ago, and it teaches a lesson.
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
The main characters are Karim and the river fairy.
4. What is the setting of the story?
The story takes place long ago in a cottage by the river.
5. What conflict did Karim face?
Karim did not have enough money to buy food for his family.
6. How was the problem solved?
The river fairy gave Karim three axes as a reward for his honesty.
7. What is the theme of the story?
You get rewarded when your honest.
or Honesty is always the best choice.
8. Find an adjective in the first paragraph that means “not enough”.
scarce
9. Find a verb in the second paragraph that means “look quickly”.
peek
10. In the sentence: “She asked, ‘Is this yours?’ Karim shook his head.” – what does the pronoun She refer to? the river fairy
11. Critical Thinking: Why do you think folktales like this one were told to children in villages long ago?
People told their children folktales to teach them lessons.
(Answers vary.)