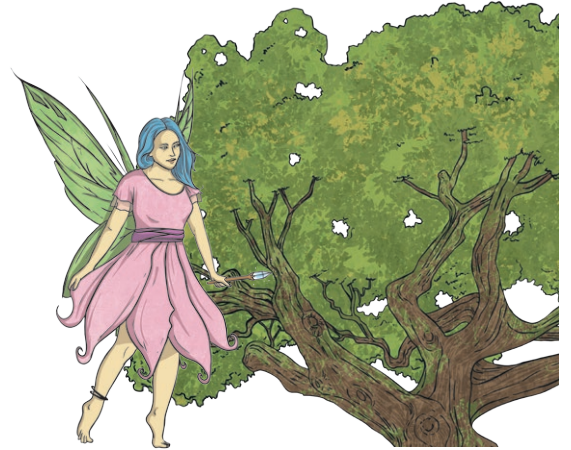


Improving Your Reading with Rex Retriever: The Woodman's Wishes



Legend tells that, many years ago, a poor woodman lived in a great forest, felling timber every day of his life. One day, as she had done many times before, the woodman's wife filled his satchel with food and drink to keep him sustained throughout his day at work.

The woodman ambled through the forest and marked out a huge, old oak tree for felling. He took his axe in his hand and swung it around his head in such a way that it almost looked as if he would fell the tree in one stroke. With moments to spare before hitting the tree, the woodman heard a pitiful cry and there, stood before him, appeared a fairy, begging him to spare the tree.



Dazed with wonderment and fright, the woodman was unable to utter a single word. Minutes passed before he felt able to speak and agreed to honour the fairy's request. "You've done better for yourself than you know," answered the fairy, "and to show I'm not ungrateful, I'll grant you your next three wishes, whatever they may be." With that, the fairy disappeared before the woodman's eyes.

1. What did the fairy beg for? **Tick one.**

- the woodman's wife's assistance
- a new home for her family
- the tree to be spared
- the woodman to head home

2. What did the woodman's wife regularly do?

3. **Circle** the correct option to complete the sentence.

The text begins with the woodcutter...

ambling through
the forest.

returning
homeward.

felling a great
oak tree.

dazed with
wonderment.

4. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

Statement	True	False
The woodman's food was prepared by his children.		
The woodman had chosen to fell an oak tree.		
A pitiful cry stopped the woodman's wife in her tracks.		
The fairy accompanied the woodman home.		



Answers

1. What did the fairy beg for? **Tick one.**

- the woodman's wife's assistance
 a new home for her family
 the tree to be spared
 the woodman to head home

2. What did the woodman's wife regularly do?

The woodman's wife regularly filled his satchel with food and drink.

3. Circle the correct option to complete the sentence.

The text begins with the woodcutter...

ambling through
the forest.

4. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
The woodman's food was prepared by his children.		✓
The woodman had chosen to fell an oak tree.	✓	
A pitiful cry stopped the woodman's wife in her tracks.		✓
The fairy accompanied the woodman home.		✓