

Progress Monitoring Probe 2  
DIBELS™ Oral Reading Fluency

The Woodman and the Lost Ax

A Woodman 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 33 43 53
The Woodman tried desperately to recover the axe, but he was unsuccessful. Recognizing that his means of earning a livelihood was lost, the Woodman began moaning in desperation.	63 72 80 81
Just then, Mercury, the messenger of the gods, appeared and asked the Woodman why he was despondent. After the Woodman described what had happened, Mercury plunged into the lake and retrieved a gleaming, golden axe.	91 100 108 116
“Is this the axe you lost?” demanded Mercury.	124
The Woodman assured him it was not, and Mercury disappeared beneath the surface again. Soon he returned with a silver axe in his hand.	133 143 148
“Is this the axe you lost?” demanded Mercury.	156
The Woodman said it was not, and Mercury dived beneath the surface yet again. This time, he returned with the Woodman’s axe.	166 176 178
“That’s it!” exclaimed the Woodman. He embraced Mercury and thanked him profusely. Mercury was impressed with the Woodman’s honesty, so he presented him with the golden and silver axes, as well as the one he had lost.	186 195 205 215
When the Woodman 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 threw his axe into it. Then he sat down beside the lake and pretended to cry. As before, Mercury appeared and inquired why	225 235 246 259 269

Progress Monitoring Probe 2 (Continued)  
DIBELS™ Oral Reading Fluency

The Woodman and the Lost Ax (Continued)

the man was crying. When he learned the reason for the man's	281
grief, Mercury again plunged into the lake and brought up a	292
golden axe.	294
"Is this the axe you lost?" demanded Mercury.	302
"Yes! That's it!" the man lied. He grabbed the axe greedily.	313
Mercury did not like being deceived so he took the golden	324
axe away from the man and refused to recover the axe the man	337
had thrown into the lake. Thus, the man ended up with no axe at	351
all, but he did learn a valuable lesson about the importance of	363
being honest.	365

ORF Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Retell:

The Woodman and the Lost Ax  
Comprehension Questions

- Q1: What is the lesson or moral of the story?  
A1: *Not to be greedy or selfish; Be honest*
- Q2: In the first paragraph, the 'axe slipped from his hand and into the **depths** of the lake.' What does **depths** of the lake refer to?  
A2: *Deep water, bottom of the lake*
- Q3: What caused the Woodman to lose his axe?  
A3: *Stumbling over the root of the tree*
- Q4: What good fortune did the Woodman's coworker expect to receive after throwing his axe into the lake?  
A4: *Better axe; multiple axes; Gold/silver axe*
- Q5: Do you think honesty is important? Why or why not?  
A5: *Answers will vary (Note to teachers: No judgment calls – only assess if their answer makes sense)*