

Pronounce & Spell

trout

scout

barrel

bridge

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. once got himself **stranded** _____
left with no way home
2. beside the **moccasins** of his friend _____
leather shoes with a soft sole, typically with beading
3. **peered** over the edge _____
looked

Comprehension Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. How did the scout help Tommy? _____
He rescued him from the dry bank.
2. What was unusual about Tommy? _____
It appeared he didn't need water.
3. What is the exaggerated part of the story? _____
The fish and Tommy took long hikes together.
4. How did the scout feel when Tommy did not follow him across the bridge?
He felt confused and curious, but ultimately happy that his friend ended up
where he belonged.

Discussion

1. Reread the title of the story. What does that expression mean?
When a fish is not in the water, it seems odd and out of place. A "fish out of water" is an expression used when a person is in an unexpected place or situation.

Pronounce & Spell

climb

rainbow

axe

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. Her owner was a **lumberjack** someone who makes a living cutting down trees
2. strapped an axe on each of Annabel's **hind** legs back
3. Then he **hoisted** a jar of honey lifted with the help of something (rope)
4. **made short work** dealt with or finished something quickly

Comprehension Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. What outrageous thing does the story say Annabel would do for a pot of honey?
She would climb a rainbow.
2. How did the lumberjack make good use of Annabel's fondness for honey? He strapped axes to Annabel's hind legs and had a jar of honey hung in the tree for her to climb after.
**Children should never play with axes. Remember, these stories are exaggerated and outrageous!*
3. What was Annabel's reward for helping the lumberjack? She got to eat the honey.

Discussion

1. Discuss several ways this story fits the model of a folk tale. (See characteristics of folk tales in Introduction.)
It is unlikely that a lumberjack would own a bear who works with him; it is impossible for a bear to climb a rainbow; it is a clever—though ridiculous and very dangerous—idea to have a bear chop down a tree by following a pot of honey on a string.