Name: _____ Date: _____

The Dwarfs' Forge

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 299 words

Loki was a trickster who liked jokes more than anything. One night, he cut off all of Sif's golden hair.

Thor, her husband, was very angry. "Make this right," he said, "or you will be sorry!"

"The dwarfs can help," said Loki. "They can make hair out of real gold." Thor let him go.

Deep underground, the dwarfs worked at their hot forge. They made Sif new hair of gold. They made a magic ship and a spear, too.

But Loki could not stop. He walked into another smithy, where two brothers were working. "You cannot match my gifts," he said.

"My head says you cannot," said Loki. "Agreed," said Brokk. Sindri was already stoking the fire.

Brokk worked the bellows with all his strength. A fly stung his hand. He kept working.

From the flames rose a pig with golden bristles. Next came a beautiful gold ring. The fly bit Brokk's neck, but he kept on.

That fly was really Loki, hiding in a new shape. He wanted the dwarfs to fail. Last, Sindri put iron in the furnace.

The fly stung Brokk's eyelid. He dropped the bellows to wave it away. Out came a hammer with a short handle.

The gods came together to judge the gifts. Odin got a spear that never missed. Frey got a ship that folds up small.

Sif put on the new hair. It grew at once. Then Thor held the hammer.

"It will never break," said Brokk. "It flies back to your hand." Thor laughed at the short handle.

The gods said the hammer was best, so Brokk won. "Now I will take your head," he said to Loki.

"My head is yours," said Loki, "but not my neck!" Everyone laughed. Loki kept his head, but he had to be quiet.

Questions

1. What did Loki do to Sif?

A. He cut off her hair
B. He broke her ship
C. He hid her ring

2. Who did Loki ask for help?

A. The giants
B. The dwarfs
C. The gods

3. What did Loki bet?

A. His ship
B. His spear
C. His head

4. Why did Loki turn into a fly?

A. He did not want to lose the bet
B. He wanted to make gold
C. He was lost

5. In this story, what does "judge" mean?

A. Run a race
B. Decide who is best
C. Cook a meal

6. What made the hammer's handle short?

A. Brokk let go of the bellows for a moment
B. Sindri ran out of iron
C. Thor asked for it

Words to know

trickster: a prankster
forge: smith's fire
bellows: fire blower
judge: decide winner

Answer key: The Dwarfs' Forge

1. A. He cut off her hair
2. B. The dwarfs
3. C. His head
4. A. He did not want to lose the bet
5. B. Decide who is best
6. A. Brokk let go of the bellows for a moment