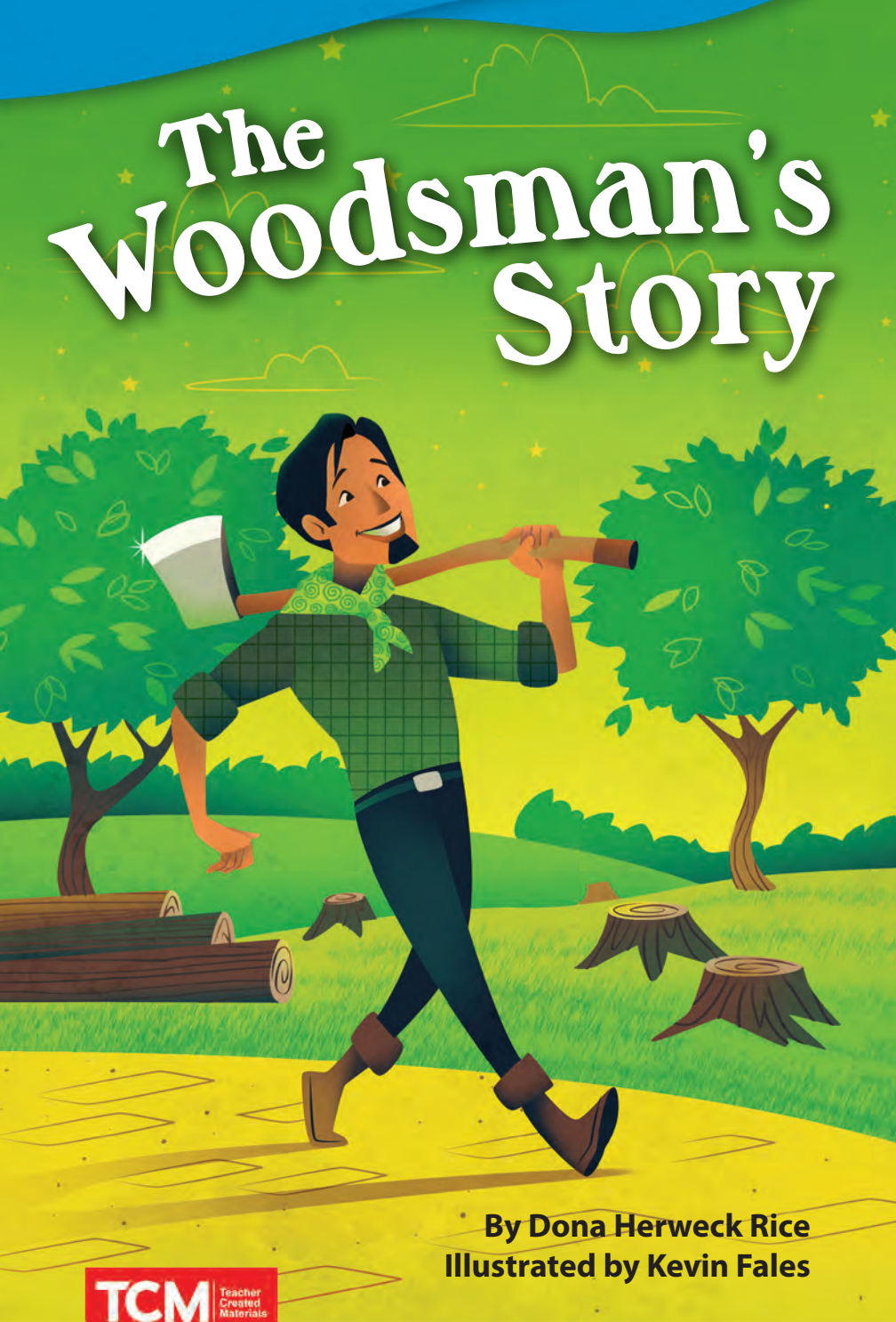
The Woodsman's Story



By Dona Herweck Rice
Illustrated by Kevin Fales

TCM Teacher Created Materials

Table of Contents

Chapter One:
"A Story to Tell" 5

Chapter Two:
We Meet Nick Chopper 7

Chapter Three:
We Meet Nimee Amee 13

Chapter Four:
We Meet Hepzibah 15

Chapter Five:
We Meet the Tin Woodsman 21

Chapter Six:
Brokenhearted 25

Chapter Seven:
"Where Our Story Ends" 29

About Us 32

For Review Only

CHAPTER ONE



"A Story to Tell"

Granny Dot sat back in her chair and sighed. It had been a long while since she'd thought of the story. Well, all the stories, really. There had been so many adventures—none of which she could have imagined would happen, and none she could really believe *had* happened, looking back now. But as a glint of

For Review Only

silver sunlight caught her eye, gleaming off the high shelf where her most prized possession rested, she knew that the stories were true.

"Glinnie, come sit with Granny. I have a story to tell," Granny Dot called to her granddaughter, eight years of good-natured, fanciful fun. "And Twinkie, jump up here, you dear old pup," Granny added, stroking Twinkie's bristled coat as he snuggled into her generous lap.

"Now, granddaughter, did I ever tell you about the woodsman? He had trouble with his ax, you see—and trouble in love too. He couldn't make either one swing true. Listen closely, and I'll tell you about it."

Glinnie settled in, wide-eyed. If Granny was telling it, any story was bound to be a good one.

For Review Only

CHAPTER TWO



We Meet Nick Chopper

Nick Chopper held his ax at his shoulder as he walked along the tree-lined trail. He whistled a snappy tune that reminded him of his dad. Big Bob Chopper was the first woodsman in these parts, and young Nick learned the trade at his father's knee. Nick had his dad's brown eyes, freckled nose,

For Review Only

and tender heart—why not his love for chopping too? After all, it was in the family name.

A sudden rustle caught Nick's attention. He stopped mid-note and froze in his tracks. A rangy lion with a look of terror leaped from the trees to Nick's right and ran straight across his path. The lion missed Nick's face by inches but slammed one paw down on Nick's outstretched foot before running into the trees to his left. Nick grabbed his injured foot—forgetting for the moment the ax he carried. It dropped and landed squarely on his uninjured foot just above the big toe.

"Tarnation!" Nick bellowed. A little, gray mouse—running across Nick's path just then—sneered at Nick before continuing its chase after the fearful lion.

"What have I done?" Nick lamented, sitting on the forest path and cradling his throbbing left and slashed right feet.

Nick took his handkerchief from his pocket and bandaged the slashed foot

For Review Only



For Review Only

as best he could. But he was late for work, and Nick was a man of honor. He took his promises to heart, and he had committed to chopping wood this day. He decided to thoroughly clean and bandage the wound later and get down to business immediately. "It'll be fine," Nick said heartily, then added with a chipper grin, "First things first!"

True to his family name, Nick chopped away, swinging his ax while the sun traveled through the green-tinted sky. He chopped and chopped until he'd made a hefty stack of firewood and the shimmering sun began to set. "That's that," Nick said to a passing pair of blue jays, who shrugged and flew by. "See you tomorrow!" Nick waved after them.

The jays whistled, "Goodbye, friend!"—or so Nick thought. He had never learned to speak blue jay properly, and their words for "friend" and "fool" sounded awfully alike.

Nick had nearly forgotten about his injury, but a throb as he walked

For Review Only

Book Club Questions

1. On page 6, the author writes about Nick, "He couldn't make either one swing true." What is the author saying about Nick's abilities with an ax and love?

2. Why does Nimee Amee's mistress pay the Witch of the East three gold coins?

3. Provide examples of imagery the author uses to help you see, hear, taste, touch, or smell what is going on in the story.

4. What familiar book character is Granny Dot? How do you know?

5. How do the illustrations let you know that the setting has changed?

6. Predict what you think will happen to the characters: Granny Dot, Glinnie, Nick Chopper, and Nimee Amee.

For Review Only