

Directions: Read short story below. Determine the theme of the story. Then match the numbered sentences with whether they are contributing to the development of theme, setting or plot. Some sentences may have more than one answer. The numbers appear before the sentences.

(1) A Woodman was felling a tree on the bank of a river, and by chance let slip his axe into the water, when it immediately sank to the bottom.

Being thereupon in great distress, he sat down by the side of the stream and lamented his loss bitterly. (2) But Mercury, whose river it was, taking compassion on him, appeared at the instant before him; and hearing from him the cause of his sorrow, dived to the bottom of the river, and bringing up a golden axe, asked the Woodman if that were his. (2) Upon the Man's denying it, Mercury dived a second time, and brought up one of silver. (3) Again the Man denied that it was his. So diving a third time, he produced the identical axe which the Man had lost. (4) "That is mine!" said the Woodman, delighted to have recovered his own; and so pleased was Mercury with the fellow's truth and honesty that he at once made him a present of the other two.

(5) The Man goes to his companions, and giving them an account of what had happened to him, one of them determined to try whether he might not have the like good fortune. (6) So repairing to the same place, as if for the purpose of cutting wood, he let slip his axe on purpose into the river and then sat down on the bank and made a great show of weeping. (7) Mercury appeared as before, and hearing from him that his tears were caused by the loss of his axe, dived once more into the stream; and bringing up a golden axe, asked him if that was the axe he had lost.

(8) "Aye, surely," said the Man, eagerly; and he was about to grasp the treasure, when Mercury, to punish his impudence and lying, not only refused to give him that, but would not so much as restore him his own axe again.

THEME: _____

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| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

ANSWERS

THEME: Honesty is the best policy

1. Theme, setting, plot
2. Theme and plot
3. Theme and plot
4. Theme and plot
5. Theme and plot
6. Theme and plot
7. Theme and plot
8. Theme and plot