

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Father Frost Knows

The winter wind howled around the house and slipped in around the windows. Anna fed more wood to the fire as her sister sat wrapped in a blanket.

“We must do something about the cold,” Lucy said. “I cannot take this much longer.”



Anna added another log to the fire. “We will be fine, Lucy. We have enough to eat and plenty of wood. The wind will die down soon.”

Lucy grumped and grumbled. “It’s getting colder every hour.”

Anna’s father and mother came through the door of their small cabin in a swirl of wind and snow. Mother shook the snow off her coat, while Father stomped his feet on the floor and hurried to the fire to get warm.

“Did you have a nice trip?” Anna asked. As always, her voice was gentle.

“No,” her mother said. “There was no food at the market. They will not have any more food until this weather passes.”

Father hugged Anna. “We will be fine,” he whispered.

“Why don’t I go into the forest and bring back some food?” Anna said. “It is the least I can do to help.”

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Anna looked up at Father. His eyes looked sad, and he hugged her again.

“Yes,” said Lucy. “Hurry up and get us some food.”

Without a word, Anna pulled on her coat and boots and headed out into the forest. The sun was setting when she finally found a fir tree. Maybe she could use of the needles to make soup.

Anna pulled the needles from the fir tree and placed them in the sack she carried.

The sun set. Darkness covered the forest. Anna didn't like being outside in the dark. She shivered but kept filling her sack.?

“Are you warm?”

Anna looked up to see an old man with a long, white beard and a long, blue fur coat over his dark shirt and pants. He carried a walking stick, and a sack hung on his back. He was Father Frost.

“Yes, sir. I am plenty warm,” Anna said through chattering teeth. The cold cut through her gloves, and she could barely feel her fingers.

“Are you hungry?” Father Frost asked.

“No, sir,” Anna replied. She held up her sack. “I have plenty.”

Father Frost placed a hand on Anna's shoulder. “Since you are good and kind and have spoken politely, take this.”



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Anna took the sack and a lantern from Father Frost and hurried home.

“What took you so long?” Lucy snapped. “I’m starving.”

Anna placed the sack on the table and opened it. Bread, fruits, and vegetables tumbled out along with gold and gems. There was enough there to keep the family fed for a long time.

“Where did you get this, Anna?” Father asked.

“I saw Father Frost in the forest. He gave them to me.”

Father smiled. He knew of Father Frost. The gifts showed that Anna was good and kind.



After she had eaten, Lucy said she wanted to go into the forest. She wanted a sack of treasures like Anna. She put on her coat and went out the door.

Lucy stomped through the forest. She muttered as she walked. She held the lantern in front of her, but she could barely see in the darkness. Finally, she found a fir tree. She wrapped herself in her furs and plopped down in the snow. She hoped Father Frost would hurry up.

“Are you warm?”

Lucy looked up to see Father Frost standing over her with a smile on his face. “Of course not. It’s snowing and the wind is blowing. I’m freezing.” She jumped to her feet and shook the snow off her cloak.

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"Are you hungry?" Father Frost asked.

"Yes!" Lucy cried. "The little bit of bread you gave Anna was barely enough to feed one person. There are four of us. I got almost nothing!" Lucy did not tell Father Frost that she had eaten a lot and had even taken some of Anna's portion. "Now, give me food and jewels so I can go home."

Father Frost scowled. He handed Lucy a heavy sack.

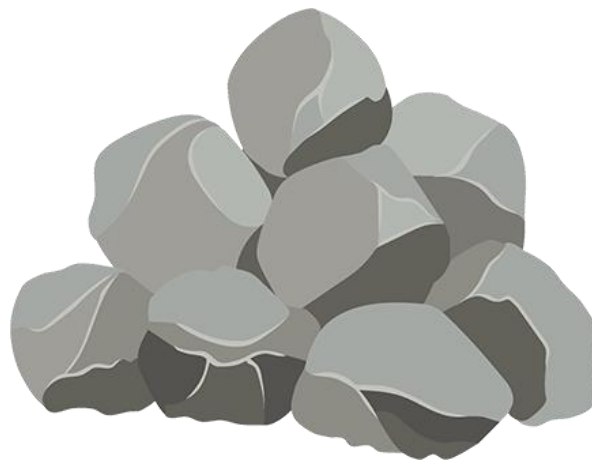
Lucy turned and headed home. She did not even say thank you.

Lucy's mother was waiting at the door when Lucy returned. "Well? What is in the sack?"

"I don't know," Lucy snapped. "It's so cold outside, I haven't even looked." She handed the sack to her mother and went straight to the fire.

Mother dumped the sack on the table. Instead of food and coins, the table was covered with small rocks.

"Father Frost only rewards those who are good and kind," Father said. He turned to Lucy. "Maybe you need to think about how you treat others."



Questions:

1. Put the story events in order.

_____ Mother dumped a bag of rocks on the table.

_____ Anna put wood on the fire.

_____ Father Frost spoke to Anna.

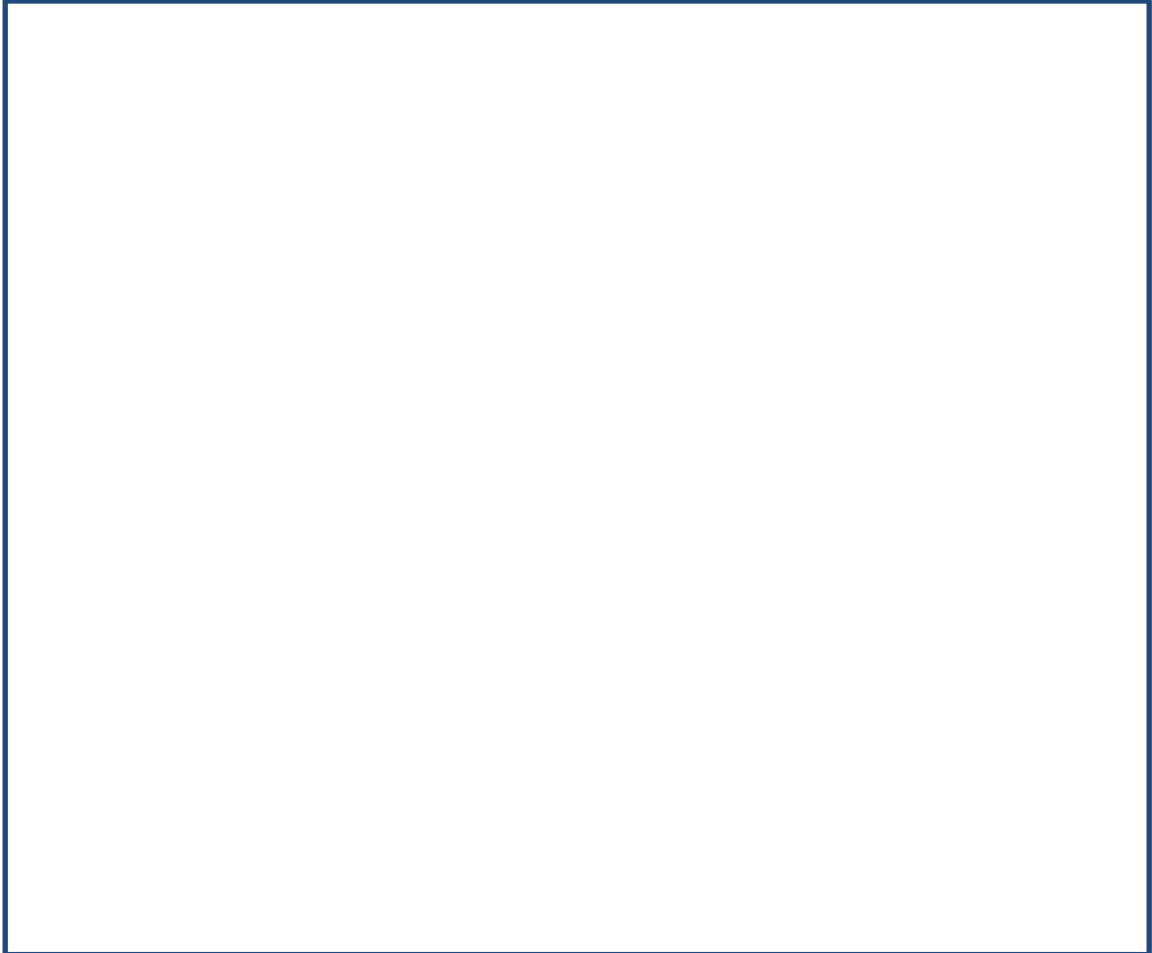
_____ Lucy went into the woods.

2. What did Lucy do while Anna added wood to the fire?
 - a. Lucy polished the silver.
 - b. Lucy painted her fingernails.
 - c. Lucy sat wrapped in a blanket.
 - d. Lucy walked the dog.

3. What did Lucy do when Anna said she would go to look for food?
 - a. Lucy offered to help.
 - b. Lucy thanked Anna nicely.
 - c. Lucy told Anna not to go.
 - d. Lucy stayed beside the warm fire.

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4. Draw Father Frost's face when he is speaking to Anna. Now draw it again after he speaks to Lucy.



Answers:

1. Put the story events in order.
4 Mother dumped a bag of rocks on the table.
1 Anna put wood on the fire.
2 Father Frost spoke to Anna.
3 Lucy went into the woods.

2. What did Lucy do while Anna added wood to the fire?
c. Lucy sat wrapped in a blanket.

3. What did Lucy do when Anna said she would go to look for food?
d. Lucy stayed beside the warm fire.

4. Draw Father Frost's face when he is speaking to Anna. Now draw it again after he speaks to Lucy.
Answers will vary.