|  |
| --- |
| **TBQ: Can I Identify unfamiliar words and phrases?**  **To the Edge if the World - focus setting** |

Once there was a man who was so unlucky that he had lost his house, his job and even the shirt off his back! So he ventured out into the world to discover the answer to all of his problems.

He walked and he walked and he walked through the wild rocky mountains, that towered above him like needles reaching into the grey broken mist. The path was extremely difficult, strewn with rocks and boulders which he had to scramble and climb over. As he descended down the mountain towards the river, he spied a wolf, a lean wolf, a mean wolf with fierce crimson eyes and sharp dagger like teeth.

“I’m trying to find and answer to why I’m desperately unlucky and to see if there is anything that can be done about it.” Sighed the miserable man to the lean mean wolf.

“If you find someone who can help, will you ask a question for me?” growled the wolf fiercely.

The man nodded in agreement as he listened to the lean mean wolf.

“Very well, ask why I’m so thin and what can possibly be done about that?”

So the saddened man set off again along the rocky path down towards the roaring splashing river. He walked and he walked and he walked through the thick muddy and water logged path until finally he came to a place where a grand oak tree was growing. It’s gnarled limbs twisted towards the grey skies.

“Excuse me!” asked the man, “I’m trying to find an answer to why I’m so very unlucky and to see if there is anything that you could help me with.” Sighed the man as he stared at the giant tremendous tree.

“If you can find someone who can help, will you find a question for me?” said the tree as it’s branches shook in the wild winds.

The man nodded in agreement as he listened to the tall tree.

“Very well, ask why my branches are dying and what can be done about that?”

So the disappointed man set off again along the thick muddy and water logged river bank towards the rolling salty sea. As he walked along the golden sandy and windswept beach, the sand whipped against his legs and wrapped around his body. Suddenly, he spied a young girl hiding from the wild winds amongst the grassy hillocks of the dunes. She was bitterly crying.

“I’m trying to find and answer to why I’m dreadfully unlucky and to see if there is anything that can be done about it.” Sighed the miserable man to the upset girl.

“If you find someone who can help, will you ask a questions for me?” sobbed the young girl as she gently wiped away a tear from her rosy cheek.

The man nodded in agreement as he listened to the young girl.

“Very well, ask why I’m so sad and what can be done about that.”

So the frustrated man continued on his quest. He trudged along the windswept beach and he walked and he walked and he walked until he came to the end of the Earth. The clouds billowed loudly, rain drifted intensely and buzzards swooped magnificently as they circled the valley

At the end of the Earth, a golden glow permeated the sky surrounding the undying Sun, who was combed his delicate beard with his golden comb.

“Why am I so unlucky and what can be done about it?” the saddened man asked the undying Sun who was perched on a cloud peering at him with curiousity.

“There is plenty of luck just waiting for you,” chortled the undying sun nodding his golden head.

So, sooner rather than later the unlucky man had answers to the questions and he set off. Excited by the prospect of his good fortune, he raced and he raced and he raced towards home. He passed the grassy hillocks of the dunes on the windswept beach where the young girl was still crying.

“I’ve been promised luck and I’m on my way to find it!” the man shouted to the sobbing young girl.

“That’s wonderful!” she exclaimed with half a smile “but what about me?” What am I so sad?”

The man smiled – that’s easy! It’s because you are lonely. So marry the first handsome young man you see then you’ll both live happily ever after!”

“Marry me then” the girl shouted out after the man who had reached the end of the windswept beach.

He continued on his journey and he ran and he ran and he ran. Soon he reached the grand old oak tree who was waiting patiently as time itself for the man to return.

“Where are you headed to?” grumbled the tree, “Did you find why my branches are dying?”

“That’s easy – they’re dying because your rotten roots are blocked by a great treasure chest and they can no longer suck up enough water.” replied the unlucky man who continued to weave between the gnarled twisted branches. “Stop the first strong young man who passes by and ask him to help dig up the treasure chest.”

Before the tree had chance to ask the man to help he had disappeared into the distance on his journey to find luck.

Waiting by the wild rocky mountains, the lean mean wolf growled hungrily, “Where are you going? Did you discover why I’m so thin?” The wolf rubbed his empty belly and licked his thin lips.

“That’s easy!” replied the unlucky man “You’re hungry and so must eat the first fool that passes by and gobble him up!”

And so he did!