



## Test Strategy

### Think and Search

The answer is in more than one place. Keep reading to find the answer.

# The Year of the Two Winters

retold by Tricia Gentle

## Characters

**PAUL BUNYAN**, superhuman lumberjack

**SIX LUMBERJACKS**, each named Elmer

**LUCY**, the purple cow

**SOURDOUGH SAM**, the cook

**OLÉ**, the blacksmith

Job	Workers	Date Done
Sharpen Axes	Elmer	Postponed due to Snow
Cut Trees	Elmer	Postponed due to Snow
Hire Workers	Paul Bunyan	Postponed due to Snow
Shoe Babe	Olé	Postponed due to Snow
Make Griddle	Olé	Postponed due to Snow

*[Setting: A lumber camp in Michigan. It is May, but snow covers the trees. Paul Bunyan is digging through the snow and finds three of the Elmers, Lucy, and Sourdough Sam frozen underneath.]*

**PAUL BUNYAN:** If I wait for the spring thaw, we won't get any work done this year.

*(Shouts back over his shoulder.)*

Olé, I found Sam and some others, but they're frozen stiff! Let's get a fire going over here!

**OLÉ:** (*Calls from offstage.*) Okay, Paul, I'm on my way!

(*Olé arrives and builds a fire near the frozen characters. When the fire begins to roar, the characters caught in the frozen scene come to life.*)

**SOURDOUGH SAM:** (*Rubs warmth back into his body.*) Thank you, Olé. I was starting to think it would be summer before I'd lay eyes on you again. I know everyone must be hungry, like me. Snow doesn't make much of a meal, you know.

**PAUL:** I sent my ox for a load of pork and beans. Babe should be back any time now.

**SOURDOUGH SAM:** Great! Paul, will you lend me some Elmers to get a meal going?

**PAUL:** Be glad to, Sam. (*Turns and shouts over his shoulder.*) Elmer!

(*The three Elmers from the frozen scene appear along with three others who come from offstage.*)

**PAUL:** (*Chuckling.*) Best idea I ever had, hiring all of these Elmers. It saves me a lot of time.

**SOURDOUGH SAM:** Elmers, go build fires on the shore all around that icy lake over there. (*They leave.*) We'll boil the water in that lake and make a pot of pork and beans. We'll have hot food for the rest of the year.

**PAUL:** But what will we wash it all down with?

**SOURDOUGH SAM:** I'd suggest milk, but judging by the looks of Lucy over there, I guess we're out of luck. She produces only when the grass is green, and last time I saw that color on the ground was last month!

## Answer Questions

**PAUL:** *(Taking green glasses from his pocket.)* If green is what she needs, then green is what we'll give her. If she wears these glasses, the snow will look like grass. *(Paul goes to Lucy and puts glasses on her. Lucy starts grazing. An Elmer arrives with a pail and begins milking her.)*

*(It starts to snow.)*

**SOURDOUGH SAM:** *(Disgusted.)* Snow, again! How many winters are we going to have this year?

**PAUL:** It's hard to say, Sam. Sure looks like we're not having much of a spring. I'm going to tell the Elmers to let their beards grow. They can wrap themselves in their beards until summer.

**SOURDOUGH SAM:** That's a good idea, Paul. 'Cause from the looks of things, this is going to be a Paul Bunyan-sized winter or winters. *(Laughs and claps Paul on the back.)*



**Tip**

Keep reading. The answer may be in more than one place.

**Directions: Answer the questions.****1. How do the Elmers help Paul save time?**

- A They like to cook pork and beans.
- B They help with many jobs.
- C They shoe Babe.
- D They give Lucy glasses.

**2. What foods does Sourdough Sam suggest they prepare?**

- A pork and beans and snow
- B green grass and milk
- C pork and beans and milk
- D They cannot cook because of the snow.

**3. Look at the chart and the play. What jobs could the Elmers do?**

- A sharpen axes, cut trees, milk the cow
- B start the fire, shoe Babe, cook pork and beans
- C cook pork and beans, shovel snow, light a fire
- D make a griddle, cook pork and beans, milk the cow

**4. Summarize the play. Briefly tell what happens in the beginning, middle, and end.****5. Using what you know and what you have read, explain why tall tales are fun to read. Include examples from the selection in your answer.****Writing Prompt**

Have you ever had a problem due to weather? What happened? Write a letter to a friend about a time weather caused a problem for you. Write three to five paragraphs and include details to tell what happened.

