

WORLD LITERATURE READING 6 (continued)

Indian Fables

The day after he left, the fishermen together with their helpers blocked off the outlet, spread a dragnet, and caught every single fish. When this happened, Quick-witted lay in the net and made himself appear as if he were already dead. The fishermen, thinking, "This big fish has died on his own," drew him out of the net and threw him near the water. He then jumped in and fled quickly to another lake. Inevitable darted here and there, totally at a loss and not knowing what to do. The fishermen bound him with the net and beat him to death with clubs.

From Pañcatantra: The Book of India's Folk Wisdom. Translated by Patrick Olivelle. Oxford University Press, 1997.

Analyzing the Reading

Directions: Answer the questions below in the spaces provided.

1. What was Far-sighted's plan for escaping the fishermen?

2. What was Quick-witted's plan for escaping the fishermen? How did he carry it out?

3. Did Inevitable think ahead? Was he able to think intelligently when in danger?

4. **Critical Thinking** What lesson did the author want readers to learn from the fates of Far-sighted, Quick-witted, and Inevitable?

CHAPTER 6