

READ THE PASSAGE Keep track of all the things you read that could not happen.

The Attack of the Giant Mosquitoes

This is a story about Paul Bunyan, the most famous lumberjack of all time. Bunyan was as tall as a mountain. He could chop down 100 trees with one mighty swing of his ax. It is a fact that he and his men cut down every tree in Texas. All that grows in that state nowadays is wheat.

One day, Paul's men were in the woods when a hungry swarm of mosquitoes attacked. The pests were as big as eagles. They zoomed in on the men and bit them all. Before long, the men were full of holes. They looked like window screens or pieces of Swiss cheese.

The mosquitoes then dared to attack Bunyan. He held a frying pan as big as a football field over his head. *Wham!* The mosquitoes slammed into the pan. Their stingers went right through it. The bugs couldn't shake the pan loose, so they buzzed off with it. The pests were mighty tired by the time they flew over Lake Michigan. The giant mosquitoes splashed into the lake. The pan pulled them under the water. That was the last anyone saw of them.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. Write the one sentence from the text that could really happen.

2. Using the information in the first paragraph, explain what a lumberjack is.

3. What probably happened to the mosquitoes in Lake Michigan? Explain.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Draw a picture of something you visualized as you read the passage.