

## In the Northwoods

Long ago, in the Northwoods of America, there lived a woodsman named Paul. Paul liked to go out into the forest and chop wood all day long. He was known as the best woodsman in the entire country. He could chop wood faster than anyone around.

One day, Paul was in the forest cooking breakfast. Suddenly, he heard screams coming from a nearby lake.

“Help me! Help me! Somebody, please help me!”

Paul rushed towards the voice. In the middle of the lake, a local merchant had tipped over his canoe while fishing. He struggled to stay afloat in the water.

Paul looked around and said “I have to help that man!” But Paul couldn't swim. So Paul thought as hard as he could; trying to think of a way to help the drowning man.

Then he had an idea. Using his super fast wood chopping skills, he chopped down the trees around him. He used the trees to build a bridge to the drowning man.

“Thank you so much for saving me,” the merchant said when he got back to shore. “But why didn't you swim out to help me?”

“I don't know how to swim,” Paul replied. “So I had to think of a different way to help you. I had to use my other talents.”

“I don't know how to swim either, so I'm glad you could think fast,” the merchant said. “Personally, I'm good at throwing things, so if you were the one drowning, I would have thrown you a rope to save you.”

Paul said, “I'm happy I could help you. We're all different, so we can all solve problems in different ways.” The moral of the story is that every person has a unique talent that they can use to solve problems in different ways.