

Interviewing Ivan

Part A

Write a list of questions an interviewer could ask Ivan about events so far in the story.

E.g. At the beginning of the story, why were you so determined to have a turn at trying to catch the apple thief?

Here are some question starters to help you:

- What was your first impression of...?
- How did you feel when...?
- Why did you...?
- What made you want to...?
- If you had given up on this quest, when...?
- What's the scariest thing...?
- What's the happiest moment...?
- What do you hope...?
- What do you fear...?
- Do you think you will...?
- Will you ever...?
- What's your favourite...?
- When did you fall in love...?



Interviewing Ivan Answers

Example answers:

Part A

What was your first impression of the wolf?

How did you feel when you were arrested for stealing the firebird?

Why did you touch the horse's bridle when you had been told not to?

What made you want to go on the quest to find the firebird?

If you had given up on this quest, when do you think you would have done this?

What's the scariest moment you have had on your quest?

What's the happiest moment you have had on your quest to find the firebird?

What do you hope your father will say when you take the firebird back to him?

What do you fear most in the future?

Do you think you will marry Helena?

Will you ever go on another adventure once you are home safely?

What's your favourite place to spend time?

When did you fall in love with Princess Helena? Was it love at first sight?

Part B

Journalist: Hello, Ivan. Thanks so much for agreeing to speak with me.

Ivan: That's OK. I'm surprised you were brave enough to meet me out here by the forest. Most people would be too scared to come out here.

Journalist: No, not me. So, Ivan. I've got a few questions to ask you. Is that OK?

Ivan: Sure.

Journalist: What motivated you to want to catch the firebird? Your father didn't give permission for you to go, did he?

Ivan: No, that's true and I must admit that the fact that he didn't let me go made me want to go on the mission even more. I was fed up of my father always treating my brothers differently to me. I wanted to prove to him that I am capable of more than he thinks and that I am not a young boy any more. After all, I am the only one who managed to stay awake to see the firebird.

Journalist: I see. I understand you have been caught twice trying to steal from other tsars. How did it feel when you were caught and taken in front of these powerful men?

Ivan: It was pretty scary, I can tell you. I tried to keep my cool on both occasions but I was terrified that I was going to end up in a dungeon somewhere.

Journalist: What would you say is the scariest moment that you have had on your quest to find the firebird?

Ivan: I'd say it was when I was in this very forest and a huge, fearsome wolf ate my horse up in just two mouthfuls. Amazingly, the wolf who ate my horse that day has now become my best friend.

Journalist: What was your happiest moment from your quest?

Ivan: I'd say it is now. I've achieved so much. I have the firebird, the horse with the golden mane and most importantly, I have fallen in love with the beautiful Princess Helena.

Journalist: Wow! It certainly sounds like you've had an amazing adventure. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today.

Challenge Task

Journalist: Hello, Princess Helena. Thanks so much for agreeing to speak with me.

Helena: It's a pleasure.

Journalist: When did you first realise that you had been taken from your garden by Ivan?

Helena: Well, in fact it was the wolf who scooped me up in my sleep and I first became aware of it when I woke up in the wolf's mouth.

Journalist: Wow – you woke up in a wolf's mouth! How did you feel?

Helena: I was absolutely terrified! I totally froze but the kind and gentle Ivan was so comforting to me.

Journalist: Is that when you fell in love with the young Prince Ivan?

Helena: I'm not sure. I think it might have been. I certainly remember thinking that I felt safer when he talked to me and that he was very handsome.

Journalist: I understand that the wolf turned himself into a replica of you. How did it feel to see another version of yourself?

Helena: It felt so very strange. I just couldn't believe my eyes.

Journalist: Are you looking forward to meeting Ivan's family?

Helena: Oh yes, definitely. Ivan says his brothers can be unkind at times but I find that hard to believe. I bet they are just as nice as him!

Journalist: Thank you, Helena. I look forward to seeing you back in Tsar Vislav's kingdom.