The Stonecutter

1. Once upon a time there was a stonecutter who
2. worked hard all day long, cutting stones with
3. hammer and chisel. These he made into blocks
4. for building houses and roads. It was hard work,
5. but the stonecutter was contented until one day
6. when he saw the king ride by.
7. The king was sitting in a fine carriage, and
8. servants held a sunshade of turquoise silk with
9. golden tassels over him. "Cutter, cutter, carver, carver"
10. "Oh," breathed the stonecutter, "if only I were
11. the king, and servants held a silken sunshade over
12. me!"
13. Now inside the mountain where the stonecutter
14. was working, there lived an old wizard who heard
15. his wish and gave it to him.

16. In the next minute the stonecutter was himself
17. the King. He was sitting comfortably in the
18. carriage. Servants were holding over his head the
19. turquoise sunshade.
20. "Oh," he breathed happily. "Now I am the
21. greatest of all people alive. I am the King. I shall
22. wear a crown. I shall sit on a throne."
23. But one day when he was about to go on a
24. journey, the servants forgot the sunshade, and
25. the king had to wait in his carriage under the
26. hot sun. And he was very uncomfortable.

*repeated miscues are not coded for graphic similarity
27. "I am not after all the greatest thing in the world," he said.

28. "The sun is great enough to make me uncomfortable. He is greater than I. How I wish I were the sun!"

33. Again the old wizard gave him his wish. The stonecutter became strong over the sun. He shone down strongly over the land, burning the grasses and drying up the rivers. And the people hid from his fierce beam.

39. But one day a cloud drifted between him and the earth, and he could not shine through it.
41. "The cloud is greater than the sun," said the stonecutter, who was now the sun. "Oh, if only...
42. I could be that cloud!"
43. The old wizard in the mountain heard his wish, and he at once became the cloud. Now he had
44. the power to send down water upon the earth.
45. And this he did with such might that soon the river rushed over its banks, carrying with it sheep and calves, donkeys and horses, and even people.
46. But one thing the water could not overcome.
47. That one thing was a great rock which stood fast, and the water had to break and go around it.
48. "What!" cried the stonecutter, who was now the cloud. "Is there something more powerful..."
55. than I? Oh, if only I could be that rock!"

56. In the next second the stonemason became the rock. He held himself proudly and looked far

57. down upon the people moving below him. Rain was falling, the sky was covered with clouds, and the air was thick with mist.

58. could not wash him away, and he was contented.

59. "Now," he said, "I can watch the days and years come and go."

60. But one day a shivery feeling went all through him. A man was hitting the rock with hammer and chisel, and pieces of the rock were being broken off and falling upon the ground.

61. And the stonemason, who was now the rock,

62. said, "Is there something more powerful than the rock? Oh, if only I could be that man!"
69. At once the stonecutter became that man and
70. found himself where he had been at the beginning.
71. breaking the rock with hammer and chisel.
72. "There is nothing greater than man and the
73. in his ability to do," said the stonecutter.
74. Once again he was contented.

Roads to Everywhere (4th)
Russell, Gates, McCullough, Ginn & Co.
1961

Statistical Profile

Question 1: No. of Y 42/46 91 %; No. of N 4/46 9 %
Question 2: No. of Y 37/46 80 %; No. of N 9/46 20 %
Question 3: No. of N 37/37 100 %; No. of P 0 0 %;
    No. of Y 0 0 %
Question 4: No. of H 20/24 83 %; No. of S 2/24 8 %;
    No. of N 2/24 8 %

Holistic Retelling Score 5/5
R: OK, Gary, why don't you close the book up and tell me what this story was all about.

Gary: It was about this stonecutter. He always cut rocks into big squares, to build things...to build houses and roads. And once he seen a King that had servants with a sunsheet over him to stop the rays of the sun. And he wished he could be the King. And this wizard in the mountains heard him and so he was the King. And then one day the servants forgot to bring the sunshade and the sun was real hot that day and then he wished that he...how he could...how he wished he could be the sun. And the wizard heard him, in the mountains, and he was...so he was the sun. And he sent down hot rays on the sun, burning up the grass. And the people ran from its...from his fiery rays. And one day a cloud got in between him and the earth and he couldn't shine his rays through it. And he said that he wished he could be the cloud. And then the wizard again heard him and he was the cloud. And he threw storms to overflow the rivers on the earth. And there was rock that was in the water's way that wouldn't move, that
couldn't be moved. And he wished that he could be the rock and he was. And one day he felt that...he felt a person with a hammer and chisel, hitting him and he wished he could be that man. And then...and then he became to be his own self again...where he began.

R: What do you think this story is trying to tell us?
Gary: Well, never...well, you can't be anything else without trying to be whatever you want to be.

R: Why did the stonemcutter first want to be the sun, or the King?
Gary: Well, he wanted to be the powerulest on the earth.

R: And what happened to him when he was the King? Was he the most powerful?
Gary: No, he thought the sun was. And then...then he thought the cloud was, then he thought the rock was. Then he became a man again and then he found out that the man is most powerful.

R: OK. Is he going to always be the most powerful?
Gary: No, because other men can be.

R: Anything else besides men that can be powerful?
Gary: I don't really know.

R: Can you remember one word that you had trouble with? Does one word stick in your mind?
Gary: About little goldlike fringes on the sunshade.