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## Part One Stories and Poems Everyone Likes



## The Lion in His Den

*Aesop*

In the forest many years ago there lived an old lion. This lion was so old that he could no longer run and catch little animals for his food. He knew that the only way to get enough to eat was to make the other animals come to him.

So he crawled into his den and made believe that he was sick. He groaned and groaned. The little animals would hear the groans. They felt sorry for the old lion, and they would go in the den to see if they could help him. Then the lion would snap them up for his food. In this way many animals lost their lives.

One day a fox was passing by the lion's den and he heard the lion groan. The fox did not go into the den, but he stood in the entrance and said, "What's the matter, my friend?"

“Oh, I am very sick,” replied the lion. “I will not live very long now. Come into my den so that I can say good-bye to you.”

When the fox heard these words, he replied, “Please pardon me, friend lion, but I do not think I will come in. I see many paw prints pointing into your den, but I don’t see any pointing out.”

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#### QUESTIONS

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1. What trick did the old lion use to get his food?
2. Did he catch many animals by this trick?
3. Why didn’t he catch the fox with his trick?
4. What is the point of this fable?



## THE DEER

### *Old Fable*

One time a deer came up to the edge of a river to get a drink. He saw himself in the water, and he was very pleased to see how large and broad his antlers were. But then he saw his legs reflected in the water, and he said to himself, "How thin and ugly my legs are!"

Suddenly a lion jumped out of the bushes and ran after the deer. The deer started to run across the open field. He was nearly out of sight of the lion when his antlers became tangled in a tree branch. The lion almost caught him. But the deer got his antlers untangled just in time. After he had run a safe distance from the lion, he said to himself, "How stupid I am! I thought that my legs were thin and ugly, and yet they have saved me. I was glad that my antlers were big and broad, but because of them I almost lost my life!"



Across the ocean and far away, a poor African farmer prepared to journey to the big city of Accra, in Ghana. He walked around his small farm, taking note of the yams and corn growing in the garden. Then he fed his chickens and goats, latched his thatched-roof hut, and started down the narrow, dusty road.

All morning and all afternoon the farmer trudged down the road, stopping only at midday for a bite to eat and a short rest. At last he reached the farms on the outskirts of the city. There he noticed a great herd of cows. Who could own such a great herd, he wondered. Seeing a man with them, he asked, "To whom do these cows belong?" The man did not know the

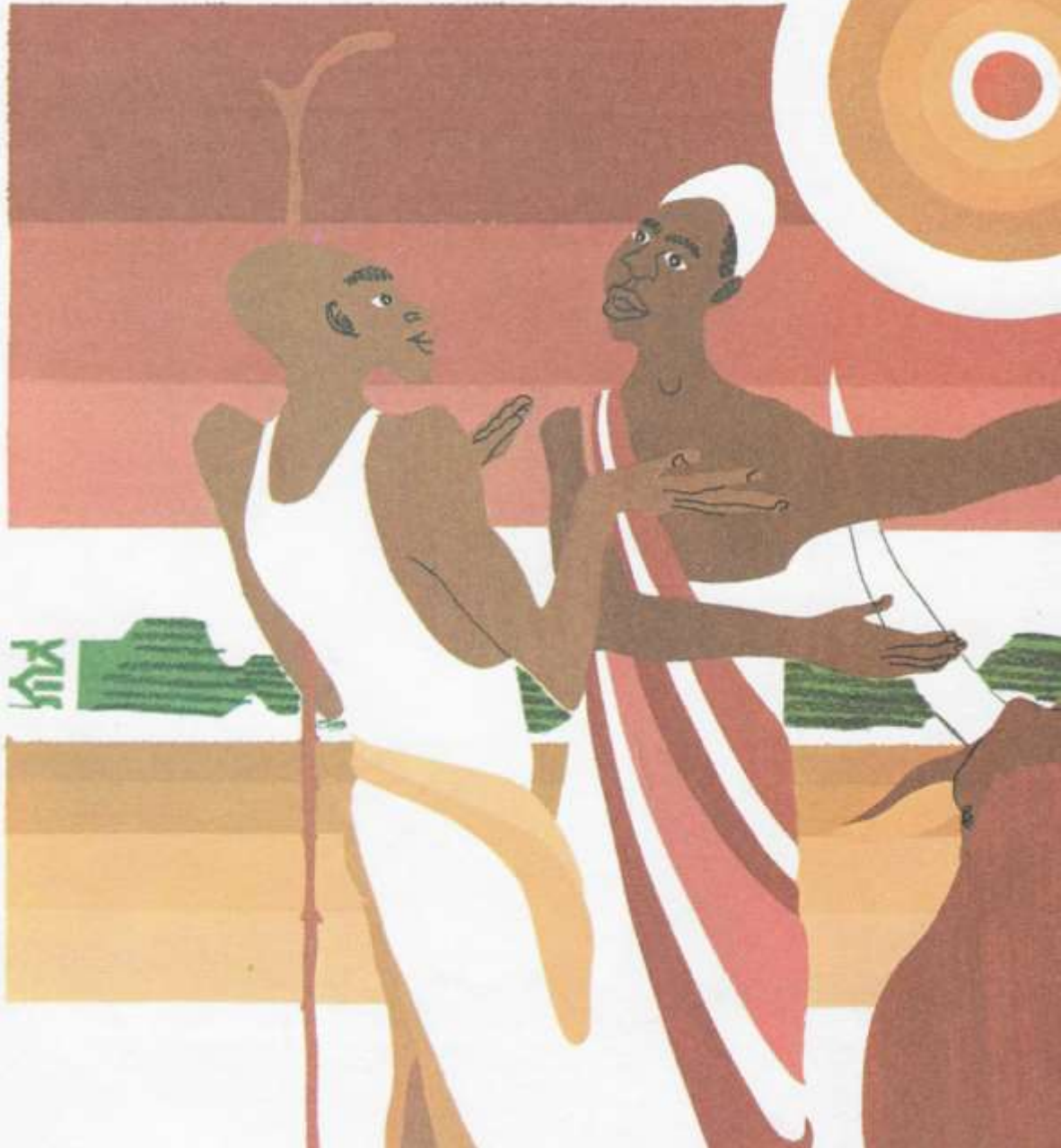
## THE GREAT MINU

*Retold by  
Beth P. Wilson*





language of the farmer, who had traveled so far, so he shrugged his shoulders and said, "Minu," meaning "I do not understand." The traveler thought Minu must be a person



and exclaimed, "Mr. Minu must be very rich!"

Entering the city, the traveler saw some large new buildings in the town square. He wondered who might own these buildings. But the man he asked could not understand his question, so he also answered, "Minu." "Good heavens!" cried the traveler. "What a



rich fellow Mr. Minu must be to own all those cows and these large new buildings, too!"

Soon he came to a grand hotel surrounded by beautiful grounds and mahogany trees. A group of fashionably dressed African ladies came down the front steps of the hotel. The traveler stepped up to them and asked who might be the owner of such a grand hotel. The ladies smiled and said softly, "Minu." "How wealthy Mr. Minu is!" exclaimed the astonished traveler.

He wandered from one neighborhood to another and finally came to the harbor where he saw men loading bananas, cocoa beans, and mahogany onto a fine big ship. With the blue sky above, the foamy green ocean below, and the sailors rushing about on board ship, it was an impressive sight. The traveler inquired of a bystander, "To whom does this fine big ship belong?" "Minu," replied the puzzled man who couldn't understand a word of the question. The traveler gasped. "To the great Minu also? He is the richest man I ever heard of!"

Just as the traveler was setting out for home, he saw men carrying a coffin down the main street of Accra. A long procession of people, all dressed in black, followed the men. People on the sidelines shook their heads slowly. Sad faces looked up now and then. When the traveler asked one of the mourners the name of the dead person, he received the usual reply, "Minu."

"Mr. Minu is dead?" wailed the traveler. "Poor Mr. Minu! So he had to leave all his wealth—his great herd of cows, his large new buildings and grand hotel, and his fine big



ship—and die just like a poor person. Well, well, in the future I'll be content with my little hut, on my little farm, in my little village.”

The long, dusty road back didn't seem as long as it had before. When the farmer arrived home, he unlatched the door of his hut and looked around inside. Then he climbed into his own snug bed and dreamed of the good foo-foo he would eat the next day.

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#### QUESTIONS

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1. Who is Mr. Minu?
2. What did the farmer learn from his trip to Accra?
3. Find the city of Accra, and the country of Ghana, on a map of Africa.
4. If somebody asks you what “foo-foo” is, what is your answer?

# My Shadow

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

I have a little shadow that goes in and out  
with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than  
I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to  
the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump  
into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he  
likes to grow—  
Not at all like proper children, which is always  
very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an  
India-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes gets so little that there's  
none of him at all.

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every  
buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-  
head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast  
asleep in bed.



# The Boy Who Cried Wolf

*Aesop*

Once there was a shepherd boy who took care of his sheep on a lonely hillside in the country. He had no one to talk to, and he was very lonely. One day the boy thought of a way to find some excitement. He ran down the hill and shouted, “A wolf! A wolf!”

The farmers who were working in the nearby fields heard the shouts. They thought that a wolf was eating up the boy’s sheep, so they stopped their work and ran to help him.

But when they got to the hillside, the boy laughed and said, “I was only playing a joke.” The farmers did not think that the boy’s joke was very funny, and they were angry with him.



A few days later the boy did the same thing again. "A wolf! A wolf!" he cried. Again the farmers dropped their tools and ran to help him. But when they saw that the boy had fooled them a second time, they were very angry.

Then on the very next day a wolf did come.

"Wolf! Wolf!" cried the boy. But this time the farmers did not believe him. They went on with their work, and the wolf ate up many of the boy's sheep. The boy was very sad, but he had learned a hard lesson: If you are a liar, no one will believe you, even when you are telling the truth.

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#### QUESTIONS

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1. Why did the boy cry "Wolf " the first time?
2. Why didn't the farmers think the boy's joke was a good one?
3. Why didn't the farmers come the last time the boy cried "Wolf "?
4. What lesson did the boy learn?



Mandy's grandmother was coming for a visit. Mandy's mother was cleaning the house. Even the closets and the drawers.

"Will my grandmother peek in our drawers?" Mandy asked.

"Of course she won't," her mother said. "I'm just in a mood for cleaning drawers. You wouldn't understand."

---

WORDS TO WATCH

---

entertain  
precious

fumbling  
formula

scurvy  
casting on

"I don't," said Mandy.

"How will I manage?" said Mandy's mother later. "What with the baby teething and all?"

Mandy was helping her mother make the guest room bed. "That's a bad baby," she said. "All he does is cry."

"It isn't his fault," replied her mother. "You cried too when you were cutting teeth."

"I doubt it," Mandy said.

Mandy's mother smoothed the spread. She was in a hurry. She was always in a hurry now. "You'll have to help me entertain your grandmother," she said.

"I don't know how to entertain," said Mandy.

Mandy had a picture book with a grandmother in the story. That grandmother took the little girl for walks and to the zoo. She had plenty of time to hold the girl on her lap. Mandy looked at all the pictures carefully, especially the ones with the girl on the grandmother's lap. Sometimes she liked to sit on somebody's lap. Sometimes she didn't, but sometimes she really did.

On the day that her grandmother was coming, Mandy had to pick up her room, take a bath, and change her clothes. "Do I have to take down my fort?" Mandy asked.

"Oh, I suppose not," said Mandy's mother, hurrying.

Mandy put on clean jeans and her favorite sweater and her floppy old, sloppy old hat.

"Couldn't you put on a dress?" asked her mother, holding the crying baby.

"My grandmother will like my hat," said Mandy.

Mandy's grandmother came in a furry coat and a funny



hat with flowers. She had two interesting boxes in her arms. Mandy's mother brought the baby down. He was crying again. "Isn't he precious?" her grandmother said. "And who is this little fellow?" she said to Mandy.

"Why, that's our Mandy," said Mandy's mother quickly.



“Oh, dear,” said Mandy’s grandmother, fumbling with her packages and trying to smile.

In the baby’s box were a soft toy horse, some silly-looking suits, and a fat yellow puff that Mandy liked and wanted for herself. “I can hardly wait to see Mandy in hers,” Mandy’s grandmother said.

“Maybe it’s cowboy clothes,” Mandy thought, tearing the ribbons off her box. The dress was yellow. So was the hat. The purse had a little lace hanky inside. “Thank you,” said Mandy softly but politely. She tried to smile, but it came out crooked.

The next day it rained. Mandy looked out of the kitchen window. “Yuck,” she said. Mandy had the same breakfast every day: a peanut butter and banana sandwich, and tea with honey but mostly milk. “That’s not a healthy breakfast,” Mandy’s grandmother said. “I’ll fix you some oatmeal and some eggs.”

“Yuck,” said Mandy. “I hate eggs.”

Mandy’s mother was making formula. The baby was crying in his chair. Formula stuff was spread all over the kitchen. “Do me a favor, honey,” said her mother. “Go in and talk to Grandmother a while.” Mandy went in the living room.

“Show me your dolls,” said Grandmother brightly. “How your mother used to love her dolls.”

“I don’t have dolls,” said Mandy. “I don’t like them. I have a frog, though,” she said hopefully. “His name is Wart.” She lifted her hat, and there was Wart sleeping on her



head. Mandy's grandmother screamed, her mother came running, and Mandy was sent outside.

"What I know about grandmothers," Mandy said to Wart, "is that they're very boring." Mandy was mad at everyone, even Wart. Wart hopped on the pirate ship she had built for them. "Not today, you scurvy toad," said Mandy.

Mandy's grandmother took a walk by herself down to the mailboxes and back. She walked in the wet garden, frowning at the weeds. She sat on the porch writing letters.

The next day Mandy's grandmother didn't come down. "Take her up this cup of tea," Mandy's mother said.



"She doesn't like me," Mandy said.

"Of course she does," said her mother sternly. "She loves you."

Mandy knocked.

"Come in," said Mandy's grandmother softly. She was sitting by the window. Her eyes were closed.

Mandy set the tea on the table. She was thinking about the picture book, because she was feeling like sitting on somebody's lap. "I brought some tea," she said.

"Thank you, dear," Mandy's grandmother said, "but I'm not feeling very well."

Mandy saw that her grandmother had been crying. It made her stomach feel queer to think about grown-ups crying. "Tea's very good for you," she said. "It warms you up."

Mandy's grandmother closed her eyes again. She didn't take the tea.

"I think you must be very sad," said Mandy.

"I am a little sad," Mandy's grandmother said. "I was thinking about when your mother was little like you. I used to like to hold her on my lap."

"I like laps, too," said Mandy quickly. "I like laps a lot."

Mandy's grandmother held out her arms, and there was Mandy on her lap. Mandy's arms were around her neck, and Mandy's face was pressed against her shoulder.

"Are you crying?" Mandy's grandmother asked.

"No," said Mandy, crying.

They had their breakfast together by the window. Mandy had a sandwich. Mandy's grandmother had scrambled eggs and toast. They both had tea with honey and mostly milk.



After breakfast Mandy showed her grandmother the barn. She showed her the chickens and the goats and introduced her to Strawberry Pony.

"Does he bite?" her grandmother asked.

"Not if he likes you," Mandy said.

Mandy's grandmother fed him carrot sticks, and Strawberry licked her hand.

"Would you like to ride him?" Mandy asked. "Sometimes he bucks a little bit."

Mandy's grandmother thought that she wouldn't. "Hip Hip Hurray!" she shouted as Mandy and Strawberry came galloping down the lane.

Mandy showed her the pirate ship. Her grandmother took a good look at Wart, but she didn't want to hold him.

"Friends don't have to share everything," she said.

Mandy thought that over and decided she was right. She showed her grandmother the secret blackberry bush. "Promise you'll never tell," she said. Her grandmother crossed her heart. They packed a lunch and ate it on the picnic rock halfway up the hill.

The next day was wet again. They talked a lot. Mandy's grandmother told her stories of when her mother was a little girl. About how she made cookies once with salt instead of



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# The Boy Who Flew Too Close to the Sun

## Greek Myth

Many years ago on an island called Crete there lived a wicked king named Minos. Minos had a wife, and his wife was the mother of a strange monster called the *Minotaur*. The Minotaur was half man and half bull.

Minos did not want anybody to know that his wife was the mother of a monster, so he thought of a way to keep it a secret.

He asked a clever man named Daedalus to build a labyrinth. A labyrinth is a place with so many passageways that it is very hard to find one's way out. Daedalus lived in the country of Greece, and he had a little son named Icarus. Together Daedalus and Icarus sailed to Crete to build a labyrinth to keep the Minotaur in. Daedalus built such a good labyrinth that when the Minotaur was placed inside it, he could not find a way out no matter how hard he tried.

King Minos was happy again, and he thanked Daedalus for helping him. But when Daedalus wanted to sail with his son back to Greece, Minos would not let him go. He wanted Daedalus to stay and invent many new things that would help

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### WORDS TO WATCH

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Crete	Daedalus	Greece
Minos	labyrinth	Icarus
Minotaur	passageway	prison

him. Minos had Daedalus and Icarus put in prison so that they would have to stay in Crete.

Daedalus and Icarus wanted very much to go home, but they did not know how to escape from prison. Then Daedalus thought of a way to get back home. He said to his little son, "Minos has blocked all my ways of escape by land and by water. But he does not rule the air. We will escape by air. I will make some wings for us, and we will fly back home."

So Daedalus set to work to make wings. He took some feathers and placed them so that the largest feathers were at one end and the smallest feathers at the other. Then he stuck the feathers together with wax so that they looked just like the wings of a large bird. He tied one pair of these wings to his son's arms, and he tied the other pair to his own arms.

Before they tried out their wings, Daedalus said to his son, "Icarus, you must not fly too high nor too low. If you fly too low, you may fall into the sea and drown. If you fly too high, the sun will melt the wax that holds your wings together. The best thing to do is to follow me."

Then they began flapping their wings. At once they rose into the air. Soon they were high above their prison, and they started flying toward home. Icarus was having a good time flying through the air. He forgot all about what his father had told him. Instead of following his father, he flew higher and higher in the sky. He wanted to see how high his wings could carry him. Soon the heat of the sun began to melt the wax. Feathers began to fall off, and his wings began to come apart. Down and down he fell. Icarus kept flapping, but he was flapping only his bare arms. He fell into the sea.



Icarus cried out to his father, but the waves closed over him and his cries were heard no more. Daedalus saw some feathers from his little son's wings floating on the water. He flew down and took up the boy's body and flew with it to the shore. There he buried it. Daedalus was heartbroken that he had lost his son and wished that he had never thought of inventing wings.

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#### QUESTIONS

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1. Why did Daedalus and his son go to Crete?
2. Why did Minos put Daedalus and Icarus in prison?
3. How did Daedalus make the wings?
4. What did Daedalus tell Icarus not to do?
5. What happened when Icarus did not obey his father?
6. Do you feel more sorry for Daedalus or for Icarus? Why?
7. Write or tell about what you would do if you could fly.
8. Find out more about Crete.



## Compound Words

### I. Read and Spell

ladybug	outdoors	pancake
sidewalk	airplane	highway
something	penknife	newspaper
skyscraper	grandmother	railroad
tablespoon	strawberry	horseshoe
daylight	afternoon	cannot
bulldog	fireworks	crossroad
turtledove	sunflower	springtime
pigskin	notebook	sheepdog

### II. Read and Answer

1. What words are in each of the compound words in Part I?
2. Make three compound words using these words:  
bill    foot    ship    board    ball
3. Think of some more compound words.

### III. Write

Write five sentences, each one using a word in Part I.



## Love Like Salt

*Maria Leach*

One day an old king returned from a journey and asked his three daughters if they were glad to see him.

“Your return is like the return of the sun,” said the eldest.

“To see you again is like light to my eyes,” said the second.

“To have you back is as good as salt,” said the youngest.

“WHAT!” said the king to his youngest daughter. “That doesn’t sound as though you love me very much.”

“I love you as meat loves salt,” said the little girl.

This made the king angry, and he scolded her. She was impudent, he said. But she would not change her words.

---

### WORDS TO WATCH

---

value

journey

forgiven

impudent

banish

tended

shepherd

page

guest

sipped

knelt

saltcellar

So he drove her away. The old king told everybody in his kingdom that he was banishing his youngest daughter because she was impudent and did not love him as much as she should.

The young princess ran out of the house in the night, but she did not know where to go. Suddenly she remembered a little house on the side of a hill where lived a kind old man who tended her father's sheep. He took her in gladly and gave her a bowl of warm milk and bread for her supper and let her lie down to sleep on a soft white sheepskin before the fire. She stayed with the old shepherd a long time after that and helped tend the sheep on the hills.

One day she heard that the king was giving a big feast at the castle. And she decided that she would go and help serve at the table. So she dressed herself in the clothes of a young page and went to the kitchen.

The cook was an old friend of hers who had loved the little princess ever since she was a tiny girl.

"Don't put any salt in anything," she begged the cook. And because the cook thought the old king had it coming to him, he didn't.

When the feast was served, the soup was without salt. The guests sipped at it politely and said nothing. But the king was angry and decided he would have to speak to the cook. When the meat was served, it was tasteless; every dish was without flavor.

So the king did send for the cook. But instead of the cook, a young page came and knelt before the king. "It was my order," said the page. "I thought you did not care for salt."



“And who are you?” said the king.

“I am the child who loves the king like salt,” said the girl.

With that the king gave a shout and threw his arms around her. Now he knew the value of salt, and the little princess was forgiven. The servants brought in the saltcellars; the food was salted. The feast went on, and everybody was happy.

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#### QUESTIONS

---

1. Why did the king think that his youngest daughter did not love him?
2. Where did the princess go after the king turned her out of her home?
3. What did the princess tell the cook to do? Why?
4. What finally made the king know that his daughter really did love him?
5. Do you think that the youngest daughter loved her father more than her sisters did?





## The Owl and the Pussy Cat

*Edward Lear*

The Owl and the Pussycat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea-green boat.  
They took some honey, and plenty of money  
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.  
The Owl looked up to the stars above,  
And sang to a small guitar,

How charmingly sweet you sing!  
Oh! let us be married; too long we have tarried:  
But what shall we do for a ring?"  
They sailed away, for a year and a day,  
To the land where the bong-tree grows,  
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,  
With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose,  
His nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling  
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."  
So they took it away, and were married next day  
By the turkey who lives on the hill.  
They dined on mince and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;  
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,  
They danced by the light of the moon,  
The moon,  
The moon,  
They danced by the light of the moon.

# *David and Goliath*

## *The Bible*

Many, many years ago in the land of Israel lived a boy named David. David was very brave and loved God with all his heart.

In those days the people of Israel were at war with the Philistines, who had invaded their country to plunder and steal. The Israelites could not chase the Philistines out of their country, nor could they win a single victory over them. They did not even dare to attack them because they were afraid of Goliath, who was a terrible giant—a man as tall as a tree. His body was covered with armor, and he wore a brass helmet. Every day Goliath walked over to the Israelites and mocked them.

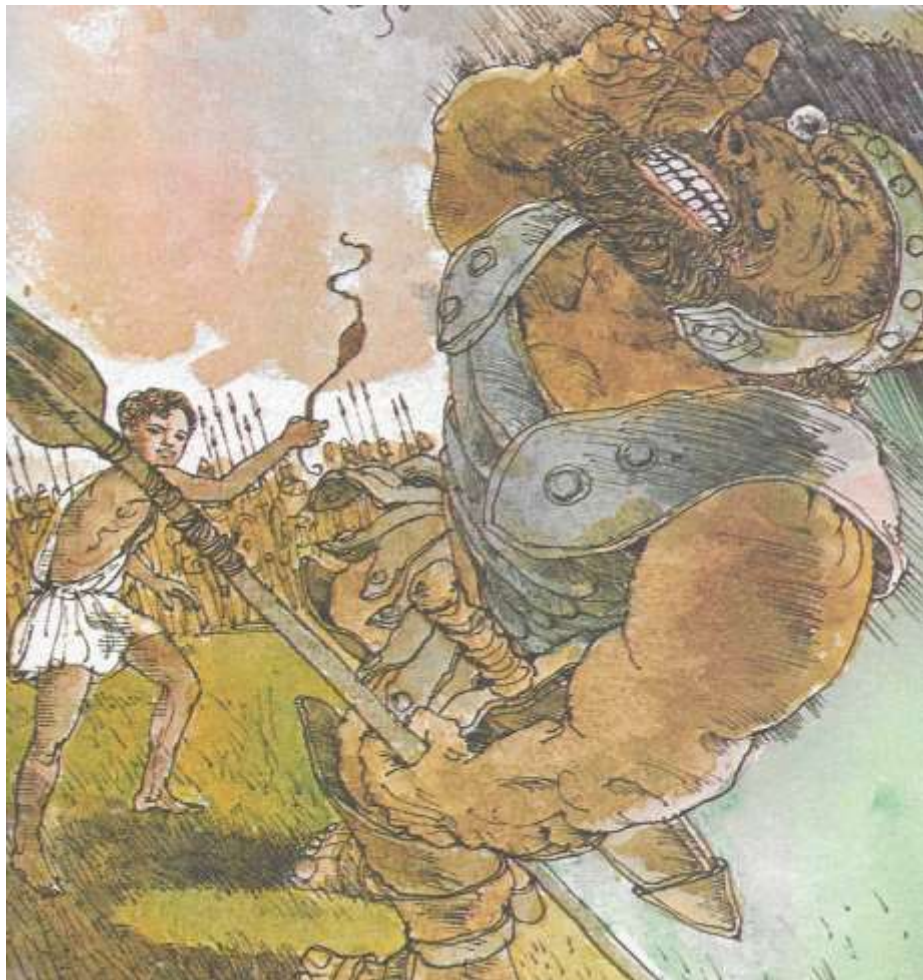
“Come on now,” he shouted, “why don’t you send over one of your great heroes to fight with me? Are you afraid, you cowards? I am stronger than all of you put together!” And he roared with laughter and cursed the Israelites and also cursed God. Nobody dared to chase him away because everyone trembled with fear just to look at him.

---

### WORDS TO WATCH

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Israel	Israelite	mock
Philistine	coward	champion
Goliath	sling	victory
insult	plunder	brass
cursed	fled	swayed



David's brothers were soldiers in the Israelite army. One day David went to visit them. Just when he arrived, Goliath was shouting his insults again. David heard him mock the soldiers and curse God, and he became very angry. "Why do you let this giant frighten you?" he asked the soldiers. "Have you forgotten that God is on our side? If no one will fight against Goliath, I will fight him myself."

The soldiers of the Israelites tried to stop him. "Goliath is big and powerful," they said, "and you are only a young boy. You do not even know how to fight."

But these warnings did not stop David. He trusted in God. He remembered when he had guarded his father's sheep. Sometimes a bear or a lion would come out of the woods to steal a lamb. But David had killed each lion and bear, and he knew that God had helped him. He thought to himself, "I will kill Goliath just as I did the bear and the lion, for God will protect me."

When the time came for the fight, Goliath came dressed in his armor and brass helmet, and he carried a spear. At his side he wore a huge sword.

But David did not wear any armor, and instead of a spear and a sword, he had only a sling and five smooth stones.

When Goliath saw David coming without sword or armor, he laughed and shouted, "Whom do we have here? Look at the little boy who cannot even carry a sword! Do you think I am a dog so you can chase me away with your stick? Come on, I'll show you! I'll kill you so that the wild beasts can eat you!" Everybody who heard him speak started trembling with fear, all except David.



David replied, "You come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you because you mocked God, and God will give me the victory over you."

Then David put a stone in his sling, took aim, and before Goliath could throw his spear, the stone had hit the giant squarely on the forehead. For a moment Goliath swayed back and forth, and then he fell to the ground.

When the Philistines saw that their champion had been killed by a young boy, they fled in terror. David won a great victory for the people of Israel that day, and years later he became their king.

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#### QUESTIONS

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1. Why were the soldiers of Israel afraid to fight Goliath?
2. Why wasn't David afraid to fight Goliath?
3. What did David do when he was guarding his father's sheep to show that he was brave?
4. What did David and Goliath use to fight each other?
5. Why did the Philistines run away?
6. How did the Israelites reward David for his bravery?

## Games Children Like

### I. Read and Spell

Cards	Chess	Hide-and-Seek
Hopscotch	Tag	Tic-Tac-Toe
Checkers	Gossip	Riddles
Musical Chairs	Hangman	Categories
You Are Getting Hot	Spelling Bee	Tiddlywinks
Dreidel	Jump Rope	Charades
Earth, Fire, Water, and Air	Red Light/ Green Light	Snake
Piñata	Stickball	Marbles
Red Rover	Four-Square	Simon Says
Capture the Flag	Captain, May I?	Jacks

### II. Find Out and Answer

1. How are these games played?
2. Which of these games have you played?
3. Which game do you like to play best?
4. Name some other kinds of games you like.

### III. Write

1. Write a story about the game you like most.
2. Explain the rules of one of the games of Part I that you like to play.



## *Pinocchio*

*Carlo Collodi*

Gepetto lived in a small room with no light except that which came through the doorway. The furniture in his room was very simple: an old chair, a bad bed, and a broken-down table. At the end of the room was a fireplace with a lighted fire, but the fire was painted. Beside the fire was a pot boiling merrily, but the pot was painted on too, and so was the steam that rose from the pot.

Gepetto lived all alone, and sometimes he was very lonely. One day he decided to carve a puppet out of wood so that he

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### WORDS TO WATCH

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Gepetto	earnestly	clog
fashion	smothered	bawl
puppet	numb	ungrateful
Pinocchio	cobblestone	Carlo Collodi

could have someone to talk to. He got out his tools and set to work to fashion a puppet.

“What name shall I give him?” he said to himself. “I think I will call him Pinocchio. It is a name that will bring him luck. I once knew a whole family by that name. There were Pinocchio the father, Pinocchia the mother, and Pinocchi the children, and all of them did well. The richest of them was a beggar.”

After Gepetto found a name for his puppet, he set earnestly to work to make it. First he made the hair, then the forehead, and then the eyes.

The very moment he finished the eyes, he was amazed to see that they moved and that they were staring at him.

“Wicked wooden eyes, why do you stare at me?” he asked.

There was no answer.

Then he began to carve the nose, but no sooner was the nose finished than it began to grow. It grew and grew and grew until it seemed that it would never end. Poor Gepetto kept cutting it off; but the more he cut it off, the more the impudent nose grew.

As soon as the mouth was finished, it began to laugh at Gepetto and make fun of him.

“Stop laughing!” said Gepetto, who was becoming angry. But he might as well have been talking to a wall.

“Stop laughing, I say!” Gepetto roared.

The mouth stopped laughing, but then it stuck out its tongue as far as it would go. Gepetto pretended not to see and went on with his work. After the mouth, he made the chin, then the neck, then the shoulders, the stomach, the arms, and then the hands.



Just as he finished the hands, he felt his wig being snatched from his head. He looked up, and what did he see? He saw his yellow wig in the puppet's hand.

"Pinocchio, give me back my wig!" cried the old man. "Give it back at once."

But instead of giving it back, Pinocchio put it on his own head and almost smothered himself. When Gepetto saw how rude Pinocchio was, he became sadder than he had ever been in his life. He turned to Pinocchio and said to him: "You naughty rascal! You are not even finished yet, and already you have begun to make fun of your poor father. That is bad, my boy, *very bad*." And he wiped away a tear.

Everything was made now, except the legs and feet. The moment that Gepetto finished the feet, he felt a kick on the end of his nose.

"I deserve it!" he said to himself. "I should have thought of it sooner! Now it is too late!"

Gepetto then picked up the puppet and set him on the floor to teach him to walk. Pinocchio's legs were stiff and numb at



first, and he could not move. But Gepetto led him by the hand and showed him how to put one leg in front of the other.

Soon Pinocchio was able to walk by himself and to run around the room. Suddenly he darted through the door, out into the street, and was gone.

Poor Gepetto rushed out after him, but he could not catch him because Pinocchio was running like a scared rabbit. His wooden feet clattered on the cobblestones like the sound of twenty pairs of peasants' clogs.

"Stop him! Stop him!" shouted Gepetto, but the people who saw the puppet running down the street like a race horse were too astonished to do anything. Then they laughed until they could laugh no more.

At last a policeman appeared. He heard the clatter, and thinking that a young horse had got loose, he planted himself in the middle of the street with legs apart. He was determined to stop the runaway and prevent worse things from happening.





When Pinocchio saw the policeman blocking the street ahead of him, he tried to take the policeman by surprise and run underneath his legs. But he failed.

The policeman caught him easily by his long nose and handed him over to Gepetto. Gepetto wanted to punish the puppet by slapping his ears, but to his surprise he discovered that Pinocchio had no ears. In his hurry to make him, Gepetto had forgotten to give him ears.

He then took him by the back of the neck and led him towards his house, all the while saying in a threatening voice, "I will take care of you, young man, when we get home. You can be sure of that."

When Pinocchio heard these words, he threw himself on the ground and would not take another step. Meanwhile a crowd of idle people began to gather around them, talking about Pinocchio. Several of them said, "Poor puppet. No wonder he runs away from home. Who knows how hard that bad old Gepetto beats him!" And others added, "Gepetto seems like a good man, but he doesn't like children. If we leave that puppet in his hands, he may tear him to pieces!"

When the policeman heard all this talk, he turned Pinocchio loose and led Gepetto away to prison. The poor old man could not make the policeman believe what had really happened. All he could do was bawl like a calf.

As he was being led away to prison he cried out, "Ungrateful boy! And to think how hard I worked to make him a good puppet. But it serves me right! I should have thought of it sooner!"

What happens afterward, you will not believe. Do you want to learn how Pinocchio almost gets killed, how he is rescued by a good fairy, how his nose grows longer when he lies, how he turns into a donkey, how he gets swallowed by a terrible whale, and how he turns into a real boy at last? If you do, you can read the whole story in the book called *The Adventures of Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi.

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#### QUESTIONS

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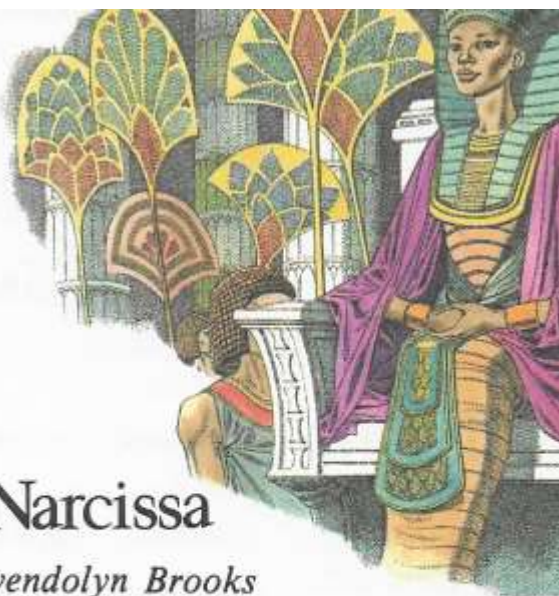
1. What happened when Gepetto made Pinocchio's eyes? What happened when he made his nose? His mouth? His hands? His feet?
2. When Gepetto was leading Pinocchio home, what did the people say?
3. Do you think the policeman made a mistake in setting Pinocchio free and putting Gepetto in jail? Why?

## *Peas*

### *American Folk Rhyme*

I always eat peas with honey,  
I've done it all my life;  
They do taste kind of funny,  
But it keeps them on my knife.





# Narcissa

*Gwendolyn Brooks*

Some of the girls are playing jacks.  
Some are playing ball.  
But small Narcissa is not playing  
Anything at all.

Small Narcissa sits upon  
A brick in her back yard  
And looks at tiger-lilies,  
And shakes her pigtails hard.

First she is an ancient queen  
In pomp and purple veil.  
Soon she is a singing wind.  
And, next, a nightingale.

How fine to be Narcissa,  
A-changing like all that!  
While sitting still, as still, as still  
As anyone ever sat!



## Animal Names

### I. Read and Spell

<i>Animal</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Baby</i>
bear	he-bear	she-bear	cub
cow	bull	cow	calf
deer	buck	doe	fawn
elephant	bull	cow	calf
fox	dog	vixen	cub
whale	bull	cow	calf
lion	lion	lioness	cub
goose	gander	goose	gosling

### II. Read and Answer

1. What are the babies of these animals called?  
cat dog horse pig swan sheep
2. What is the male of these animals called?  
cat duck pig sheep chicken horse
3. What is the female of these animals called?  
chicken tiger sheep horse pig

### III. Write

1. Write a story about your favorite animal.
2. Write the funniest story you can remember about your pet or the pet of someone you know.

# Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

*Brothers Grimm*

Once upon a time a queen sat sewing in front of a window with an ebony frame. It was the middle of the winter, and flakes of snow were falling from the sky like feathers. While the queen was sewing and watching the snow, she pricked her finger with her needle, and three drops of blood fell onto the snow. The crimson color on the white snow looked so beautiful that the queen said to herself, "Oh, if only I had a child with skin as white as snow, with lips as red as blood, and with hair as black as the wood of this ebony frame!"

Some time later she gave birth to a little daughter with skin as white as snow, with lips as red as blood, and with hair as black as ebony. She named the child Snow White. But soon afterward the queen died.

After a year had gone by, the king took another wife. She was beautiful, but proud and haughty and jealous of anyone who seemed to be more beautiful. She had a magic mirror, and whenever she looked at herself in it, she said,

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall,  
Who's the fairest one of all?"

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## WORDS TO WATCH

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envy	startled	falsehood
ebony	endure	rage
crimson	dwarf	mined
mourned	haughty	peasant



Then the mirror replied,

“Lady queen, so grand and tall,  
You are the fairest of them all.”

And she was satisfied, for she knew the mirror always told the truth.

As time passed, the little child named Snow White grew taller and more beautiful every day, until at last she was more beautiful than the queen herself. So once when the queen asked her mirror,

“Mirror, mirror, on the wall,  
Who’s the fairest one of all?”

it answered,

“Lady queen, you are tall and grand,  
But Snow White is fairest in the land.”

Then the queen was startled and turned green with envy. From that hour, she burned with secret envy whenever she saw Snow White.



Finally, she called a huntsman and said, "Take the child into the forest, for I will no longer endure her in my sight. Kill her, and bring back her heart as proof."

The huntsman obeyed and led the child away. But when he had drawn his hunting knife, Snow White began to cry.

The huntsman took pity on her because she looked so lovely and said, "Run away then, poor child!"

As he returned to the castle, the huntsman came upon a bear, which he killed. He then removed its heart and brought it back to the queen, who laughed wickedly when she saw it, believing it to be Snow White's.

The poor child was now all alone in the great dark forest, and she felt frightened as she looked around. She didn't know what to do, so she began to run. She ran over sharp stones and through thorn bushes. Wild animals passed close to her but did her no harm.

She ran as long as her feet could carry her, and when evening came, she saw a little house and went into it to rest.

Everything in the house was very small. There stood a little table, covered with a white tablecloth, on which were seven little plates. There were also seven little spoons, knives, forks, and seven little cups. Up against the walls stood seven little beds with sheets as white as snow.

Snow White was hungry and thirsty, so she ate a little of the vegetables and bread on each plate and drank a little from every cup, because she did not want to eat all of anyone's meal.

Then she grew sleepy, so she lay down in one of the beds, but she could not make herself comfortable, for each bed was

either too long or too short. Luckily the seventh bed was just right—so she stayed there, said her prayers, and fell asleep.

When it had grown quite dark, the masters of the house, seven dwarfs who mined for iron among the mountains, came home. They lighted their seven candles, and as soon as there was a light in the kitchen, they saw that someone had been there.

The first said, “Who has been sitting on my chair?”

The second said, “Who has eaten off my plate?”

The third said, “Who has taken part of my bread?”

The fourth said, “Who has touched my vegetables?”

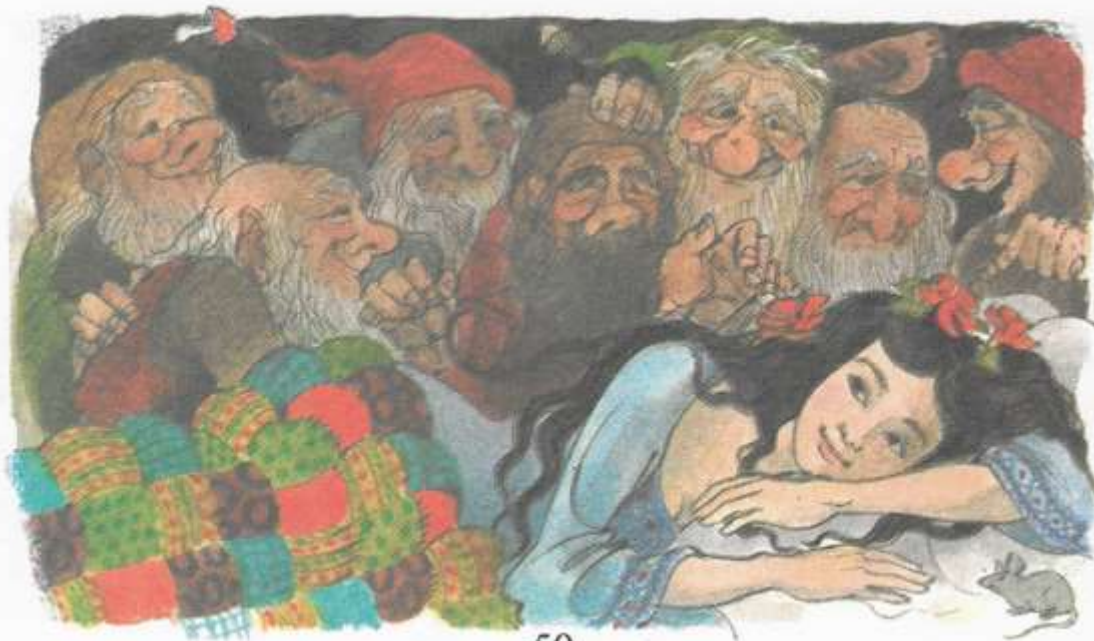
The fifth said, “Who has used my fork?”

The sixth said, “Who has cut with my knife?”

The seventh said, “Who has drunk out of my little cup?”

Then the first dwarf looked around and saw that there was a slight hollow in his bed, so he asked, “Who has been lying in my little bed?”

The others came running, and each called out, “Someone has been lying in my bed too.”



But the seventh, when he looked in his bed, saw Snow White there, sound asleep. He called the others, who flocked around with cries of surprise. They fetched their seven candles and cast the light on Snow White. "What a lovely child!" they cried.

The seven dwarfs were so pleased that they would not wake her but let her sleep on in the little bed. The seventh dwarf slept with the others in turn, an hour with each, and so they spent the night.

When morning came, Snow White woke up and was frightened when she saw the seven dwarfs. But they were very friendly to her.

"What is your name?" they asked.

"Snow White," she answered.

"How did you find your way to our house?" the dwarfs asked.

Snow White told them how her stepmother had tried to kill her, how the huntsman had spared her life, and how she had run all day till at last she had found their little house.

Then the dwarfs said, "If you will keep house for us, you may stay here with us."

"Gladly," said Snow White. And so it was agreed.

When the good dwarfs left for the mine in the morning, they warned Snow White. "Beware of your wicked stepmother," they said. "She may soon find out that you are here. Don't let anyone into the house."

The queen, back at the castle, had no doubt that she was again the first and fairest woman in the world. She walked up to her mirror and asked,

“Mirror, mirror, on the wall,  
Who’s the fairest one of all?”

The mirror replied,

“Lady queen, so grand and tall,  
Here, you are fairest of them all;  
But over the hills, with the seven dwarfs old,  
Lives Snow White, fairer a hundredfold.”

The queen trembled with rage, for she knew that the mirror never told a falsehood. So Snow White was still alive!

“Snow White shall die,” she cried, “if it costs my own life!”

Then she went to a secret and lonely room where no one ever disturbed her. For hours she stayed in there, making a poisoned apple. Ripe and rosy, it was indeed a beautiful sight to see, but it brought instant death to anyone who ate it.

When the apple was ready, the queen painted her face, disguised herself as a peasant woman, and traveled over the seven hills to where the seven dwarfs lived.

At the sound of the knock, Snow White put her head out of the window and said, “I cannot open the door to anybody. The seven dwarfs have forbidden me to do so.”

“Very well,” replied the peasant woman. “I only want to get rid of my apples. Here, I will give you one of them!”

“I dare not take it,” said Snow White.

“Are you afraid of being poisoned?” said the old woman. “Look here, I will cut the apple in two, and you shall eat the rosy side, and I, the white.”

Now the fruit was so cleverly made that only the rosy side



was poisoned. Snow White longed for the pretty apple, and when she saw the peasant woman eating it, she stretched out her hand and took the poisoned half. She had scarcely tasted it when she fell lifeless to the ground.

The queen laughed loudly and watched her for a moment; then she dashed away.

When she got home, she asked the mirror,

“Mirror, mirror, on the wall,  
Who’s the fairest of us all?”

The mirror at last replied,

“Lady queen, so grand and tall,  
You are the fairest of them all.”

When the dwarfs came home in the evening, they found Snow White lying on the ground without any sign of life. They lifted her up and washed her with water and wine, but nothing helped. They tried to waken her, but she did not breathe. She was dead.

They laid Snow White on a bed, sat around her, and wept for three days and three nights. Then they wanted to bury her, but since she looked so beautiful, they decided to place her in a glass case. They carried the case up to the mountain above, and one of them always stayed by it and guarded it. But there was little need to guard it, for even the birds and wild animals came and mourned for Snow White.

For many years Snow White lay unchanged in her glass case, looking as though she were asleep. Her skin was still white as snow, her lips red as blood, and her hair black as ebony.



At last the son of a king chanced to wander into the forest and come to the dwarfs' house for a night's shelter. He saw the case with the beautiful Snow White in it. Then he said to the dwarfs, "Let me have it. I will give you whatever you like for it."

But the dwarfs answered, "We would not part with it for all the gold in the world."

He said again, "Yet give it to me, for I cannot live without seeing Snow White, and though she is dead, I will prize and honor her as my beloved forevermore."

Then the good dwarfs took pity on him and gave him the glass case. The prince lifted it up, but as he did so, a tiny piece of the poisoned apple fell from Snow White's lips. Immediately she opened her eyes and sat up, alive once more. "Where am I?" she asked.

The prince answered joyfully, "With me," and he told her what had happened.

"I love you more dearly than anything else in the world," he said. "Come with me to my father's castle and be my wife." Snow White was well pleased when she heard these words. She went with the prince, and they were married amid much rejoicing.

The wicked stepmother was invited to the feast. She dressed herself in her richest clothes and stood in front of the mirror saying,

“Mirror, mirror, on the wall,  
Who’s the fairest one of all?”

The mirror answered,

“Lady queen, so grand and tall,  
Here, you are fairest of them all;  
But the young queen over the mountains old,  
Is fairer than you a thousandfold.”

The evil-hearted woman could scarcely believe her ears. But curiosity would not allow her to rest. She went to the wedding to see who that young queen could be, who was the most beautiful in all the world. When she came and found that it was Snow White alive again, she tore her hair and stamped away, never to be heard from again, and the handsome prince and Snow White lived happily ever after.

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#### QUESTIONS

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1. What did the huntsman do when the queen told him to take Snow White into the forest and kill her?
2. What did the seven dwarfs do to show that they liked Snow White?
3. How did the queen learn that Snow White was still alive?
4. How did the queen make the poisoned apple?
5. How did Snow White come to life again after she ate the poisoned apple?
6. What happened to Snow White in the end?
7. What happened to the queen in the end?

## Musical Instruments

### I. Read and Spell

drum	viola	clarinet
piano	trombone	tuba
flute	accordion	saxophone
trumpet	organ	English horn
cello	piccolo	oboe
harp	guitar	bassoon
kettledrum	French horn	bass viol
bugle	violin	snare drum

### II. Read and Answer

1. Which of these instruments are played with a bow?
2. Which of these instruments are played by blowing into them?
3. Which of these instruments are played by striking them?
4. Which of these instruments have keys?
5. Which of these instruments is the smallest?
6. Which is the largest?
7. Name some other musical instruments.
8. If you play an instrument, tell the class which one you play. If not, which one would you like to play?

### III. Write

1. Write five sentences, each using a word in Part I.
2. Write a little story telling about the musical instrument you like best.



# winnie-the-pooh

A. A. Milne

Edward Bear, known to his friends as Winnie-the Pooh, or Pooh for short, was walking through the forest one day, humming proudly to himself. He had made up a little hum that very morning, as he was doing his Stoutness Exercises in front of the glass: *Tra-la-la, tra-la-la*, as he stretched up as high as he could go, and then *Tra-la-la, tra-la—oh, help!—la*, as he tried to reach his toes. After breakfast he had said it over and over to himself until he had learned it all by heart, and now he was humming it right through, properly. It went like this:

*Tra-la-la, tra-la-la,  
Tra-la-la, tra-la-la,  
Rum-tum-tiddle-um-tum.*

*Tiddle-iddle, tiddle-iddle,  
Tiddle-iddle, tiddle-iddle,  
Rum-tum-tum-tiddle-um.*

Well, he was humming this hum to himself and walking along gaily, wondering what everybody else was doing and

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## WORDS TO WATCH

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stoutness

properly

scuffling

Winnie-the-Pooh

mug

greedy

larder

towel-horse

convenient

sigh

slenderer

relation



what it felt like, being somebody else, when suddenly he came to a sandy bank, and in the bank was a large hole.

“Aha!” said Pooh, (*Rum-tum-tiddle-um-tum.*) “If I know anything about anything, that hole means Rabbit,” he said, “and Rabbit means Company,” he said, “and Company means Food and Listening-to-Me-Humming and such like. *Rum-tum-tum-tiddle-um.*”

So he bent down, put his head into the hole, and called out:

“Is anybody at home?”

There was a sudden scuffling noise from inside the hole, and then silence.

“What I said was, ‘Is anybody at home?’ ” called out Pooh very loudly.

“No!” said a voice; and then added, “You needn’t shout so loud. I heard you quite well the first time.”

“Bother!” said Pooh. “Isn’t there anybody here at all?”

“Nobody.”

Winnie-the-Pooh took his head out of the hole and thought for a little, and he thought to himself, “There must be somebody there, because somebody must have said ‘Nobody.’ ” So he put his head back in the hole and said:

“Hallo, Rabbit, isn’t that you?”

“No,” said Rabbit, in a different sort of voice this time.

“But isn’t that Rabbit’s voice?”

“I don’t think so,” said Rabbit. “It isn’t meant to be.”

“Oh!” said Pooh.

He took his head out of the hole and had another think, and then he put it back, and said:

“Well, could you very kindly tell me where Rabbit is?”

"He has gone to see his friend Pooh Bear, who is a great friend of his."

"But this is Me!" said Bear, very much surprised.

"What sort of Me?"

"Pooh Bear."

"Are you sure?" said Rabbit, still more surprised.

"Quite, quite sure," said Pooh.

"Oh, well, then, come in."

So Pooh pushed and pushed and pushed his way through the hole, and at last he got in.

"You were quite right," said Rabbit, looking at him all over. "It is you. Glad to see you."

"Who did you think it was?"

"Well, I wasn't sure. You know how it is in the Forest. One can't have *anybody* coming into one's house. One has to be careful. What about a mouthful of something?"

Pooh always liked a little something at eleven o'clock in the morning, and he was very glad to see Rabbit getting out the plates and mugs; and when Rabbit said, "Honey or condensed milk with your bread?" he was so excited that he said, "Both," and then, so as not to seem greedy, he added, "But don't bother about the bread, please." And for a long time after that he said nothing . . . until at last, humming to himself in a rather sticky voice, he got up, shook Rabbit lovingly by the paw, and said that he must be going on.

"Must you?" said Rabbit politely.

"Well," said Pooh, "I could stay a little longer if it—if you—" and he tried very hard to look in the direction of the larder.



"As a matter of fact," said Rabbit, "I was going out myself directly."

"Oh, well, then, I'll be going on. Good-bye."

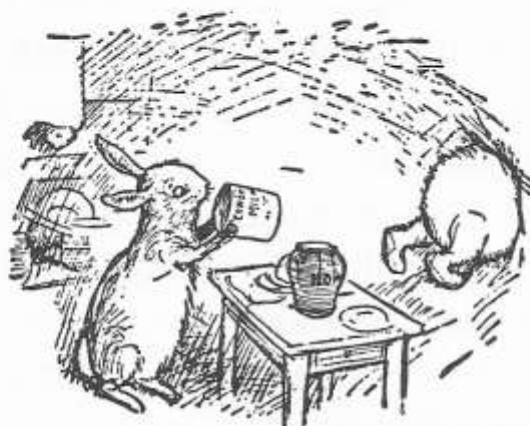
"Well, good-bye, if you're sure you won't have any more."

"Is there any more?" asked Pooh quickly.

Rabbit took the covers off the dishes and said, "No, there wasn't."

"I thought not," said Pooh, nodding to himself. "Well, good-bye. I must be going on."

So he started to climb out of the hole. He pulled with his front paws, and pushed with his back paws, and in a little while his nose was out in the open again . . . and then his ears . . . and then his front paws . . . and then his shoulders . . . and then—



"Oh, help!" said Pooh. "I'd better go back."

"Oh, bother!" said Pooh. "I shall have to go on."

"I can't do that either!" said Pooh. "Oh, help and bother!"

Now by this time Rabbit wanted to go for a walk too, and finding the front door full, he went out by the back door, and came round to Pooh, and looked at him.

"Hallo, are you stuck?" he asked.

"N-no," said Pooh carelessly. "Just resting and thinking and humming to myself."

"Here, give us a paw."

Pooh Bear stretched out a paw, and Rabbit pulled and pulled and pulled. . . .

"Ow!" cried Pooh. "You're hurting!"

"The fact is," said Rabbit, "you're stuck."

"It all comes," said Pooh crossly, "of not having front doors big enough."

"It all comes," said Rabbit sternly, "of eating too much. I thought at the time," said Rabbit, "only I didn't like to say anything," said Rabbit, "that one of us was eating too much," said Rabbit, "and I knew it wasn't *me*," he said. "Well, well, I shall go and fetch Christopher Robin."

Christopher Robin lived at the other end of the Forest, and when he came back with Rabbit and saw the front half of Pooh, he said, "Silly old Bear," in such a loving voice that everybody felt quite hopeful again.

"I was just beginning to think," said Bear, sniffing slightly, "that Rabbit might never be able to use his front door again. And I should *hate* that," he said.

"So should I," said Rabbit.

"Use his front door again?" said Christopher Robin. "Of course he'll use his front door again."

"Good," said Rabbit.

"If we can't pull you out, Pooh, we might push you back."

Rabbit scratched his whiskers thoughtfully and pointed out that when once Pooh was pushed back, he was back, and of

course nobody was more glad to see Pooh than he was, still there it was, some lived in trees and some lived underground, and—

“You mean I’d *never* get out?” said Pooh.

“I mean,” said Rabbit, “that having got *so* far, it seems a pity to waste it.”

Christopher Robin nodded.

“Then there’s only one thing to be done,” he said. “We shall have to wait for you to get thin again.”

“How long does getting thin take?” asked Pooh anxiously.

“About a week, I should think.”

“But I can’t stay here for a *week*.”

“You can *stay* here all right, silly old Bear. It’s getting you out which is so difficult.”

“We’ll read to you,” said Rabbit cheerfully. “And I hope it won’t snow,” he added. “And I say, old fellow, you’re taking up a good deal of room in my house—do you mind if I use your back legs as a towel-horse? Because, I mean, there they are—doing nothing—and it would be very convenient just to hang the towels on them.”

“A week!” said Pooh gloomily. “What about meals?”

“I’m afraid no meals,” said Christopher Robin, “because of getting thin quicker. But we *will* read to you.”



Bear began to sigh and then found he couldn't because he was so tightly stuck, and a tear rolled down his eye, as he said:

"Then would you read a Sustaining Book, such as would help and comfort a Wedged Bear in Great Tightness?"

So for a week Christopher Robin read that sort of book at the north end of Pooh, and Rabbit hung his washing on the south end—and in between Bear felt himself getting slenderer and slenderer. And at the end of the week Christopher Robin said, "*Now!*"

So he took hold of Pooh's front paws, and Rabbit took hold of Christopher Robin, and all Rabbit's friends and relations took hold of Rabbit, and they all pulled together. . . .

And for a long time Pooh only said "Ow!" . . .

And "Oh!" . . .

And then, all of a sudden, he said "Pop!" just as if a cork were coming out of a bottle.

And Christopher Robin and Rabbit and all Rabbit's friends and relations went head-over-heels backwards . . . and on the top of them came Winnie-the-Pooh—free!

So, with a nod of thanks to his friends, he went on with his walk through the forest, humming proudly to himself. But Christopher Robin looked after him lovingly, and said to himself, "Silly old Bear!"

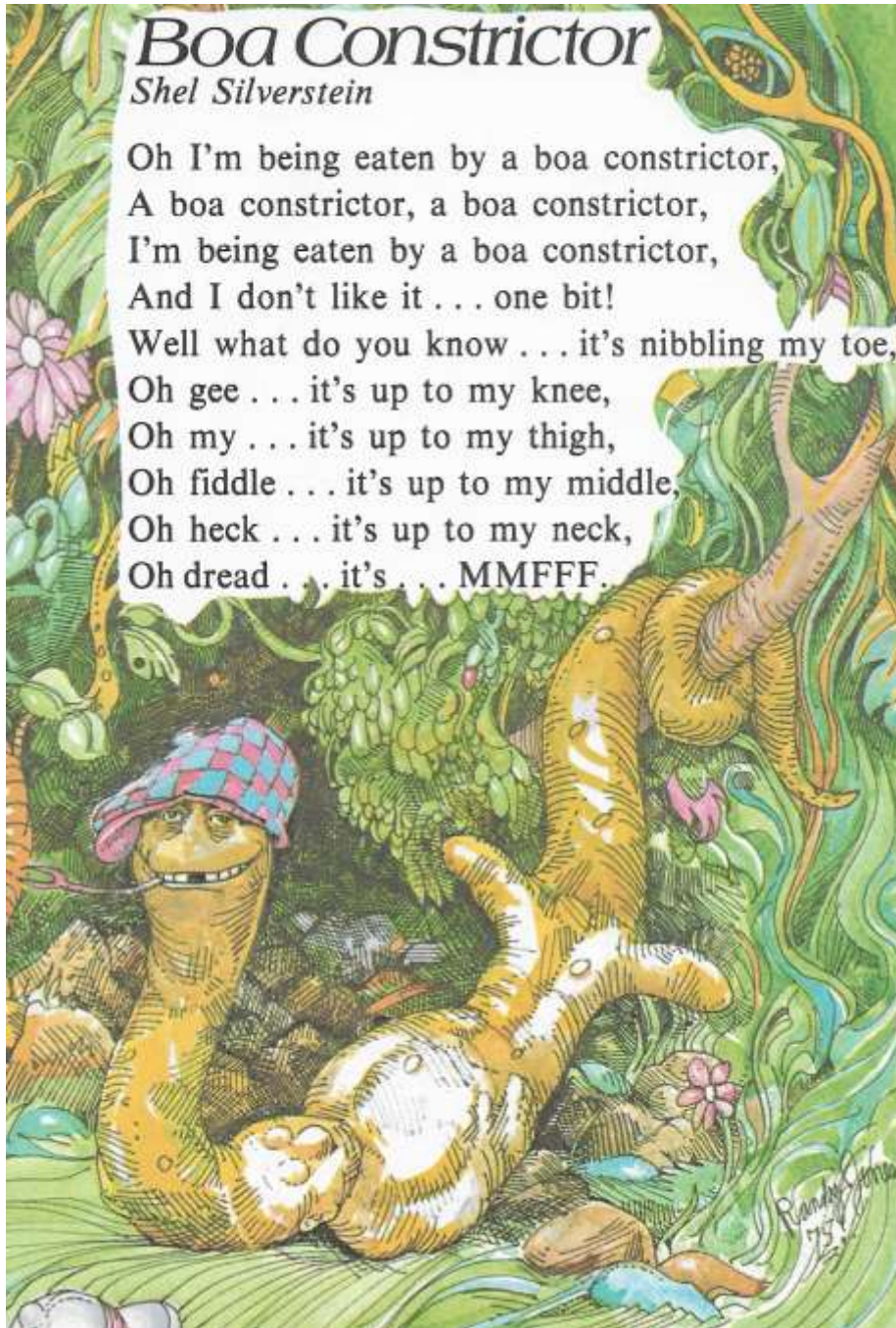




# Boa Constrictor

*Shel Silverstein*

Oh I'm being eaten by a boa constrictor,  
A boa constrictor, a boa constrictor,  
I'm being eaten by a boa constrictor,  
And I don't like it . . . one bit!  
Well what do you know . . . it's nibbling my toe,  
Oh gee . . . it's up to my knee,  
Oh my . . . it's up to my thigh,  
Oh fiddle . . . it's up to my middle,  
Oh heck . . . it's up to my neck,  
Oh dread . . . it's . . . MMFFF.



## Famous Books for Third Graders

### I. Read and Remember

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
Fables	Aesop
The Adventures of Pinocchio	Carlo Collodi
Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens	J. B. Barrie
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll
Just So Stories	Rudyard Kipling
Fairy Tales	Hans Christian Andersen
Heidi	Johanna Spyri
Robin Hood and Little John	Anonymous
A Child's Garden of Verses	Robert Louis Stevenson
Fairy Tales	The Brothers Grimm
Winnie-the-Pooh	A. A. Milne

### II. Find Out and Answer

1. Which of these books have you read?
2. Find out about these books and read one of them.
3. Tell the class about some parts or stories that you remember from one of these books.
4. Find out the titles and authors of other good books.

### III. Write

1. Write a report about a book you read and liked.
2. Read one of these books and write a report about it.



## Alexander and His Horse

### *Greek Legend*

A long, long time ago there lived a king named Philip. One day King Philip received a beautiful horse as a present. The king took his new horse out on a wide plain to ride him. He took some of his men with him and also his son Alexander.

But they soon found out that the horse was very wild. It kicked and reared so that no man could mount upon its back. The king was furious that so wild an animal should have been sent to him, and he gave orders for it to be taken back at once.

But Prince Alexander was sorry when he heard this.

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#### WORDS TO WATCH

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Philip  
Alexander  
reared

mount  
gallop  
plain

trot  
Bucephalus  
restless



“It is a pity to lose such a fine horse because no man is brave enough to mount it,” said he.

The king thought his son spoke without thinking.

“Your words are bold,” he said, “but are you bold enough to mount the horse yourself?”

The young prince went up to the restless animal. He took the bridle and turned its head toward the sun. He did so because he had seen that the horse was afraid of its own black shadow, which kept moving upon the ground before its eyes.

With its face to the sun, the horse could no longer see the shadow, which now fell on the ground behind it. It soon became quiet. Then the prince stroked it and patted it gently, and by and by he sprang quickly upon its back.

The horse at once set off at a gallop over the plain with the boy bravely holding on. The king and his men were in great fear, for they thought the prince would be thrown to the ground and killed. But they need not have been afraid.

Soon the horse grew tired of its gallop and began to trot. Then Alexander turned and gently rode it back. The men shouted, and the king took his son in his arms and shed tears of joy.

The horse was given to the young prince. It loved its master and would kneel down for him to mount, but it would not let any other person get upon its back.

At last, after many years, Alexander's horse was hurt in a fight. But it carried its master to a safe place. Then it lay down and died.

Alexander built a city at that place. He named the city Bucephalus because Bucephalus was the name of his horse.



## QUESTIONS

1. Who was Alexander the Great?
2. Why did Alexander's father not want to keep the horse?
3. Tell how Alexander tamed the horse.
4. How did Alexander show that he was brave?



## THE OWL

*Anonymous*

There was an old owl who lived in an oak;  
The more he heard, the less he spoke.  
The less he spoke, the more he heard.  
Why aren't we like that wise old bird?

# Cleopatra

*Helen Webber*

The kingdom of ancient Egypt lay in northeast Africa and Asia Minor. Its capital city, Alexandria, was a great center of learning. Egypt was called the *gift of the Nile* because each summer that great river flooded its banks and left black soil on the land. The Egyptian farmers planted their crops in this rich soil. Beyond the Nile River valley stretched the desert.

Now the queen of ancient Egypt two thousand years ago was Cleopatra. Cleopatra was the last of the Ptolemies, a family that had ruled Egypt for 300 years. She was intelligent, ambitious, and crafty. She was also so beautiful that she became a legend in her own time.

Cleopatra was just eighteen when she became queen. It was a time when Egypt feared the growing power of Rome. In her public life, Cleopatra wanted to keep power for herself and to keep Egypt strong and free. In her private life, she wanted luxury and love. She tried to make these two parts of her life work together. And, for a while at least, she succeeded. Two great Roman conquerors, Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, made alliances with her and helped to further her plans.

Julius Caesar had conquered much of Europe and then had chased his enemy into Egypt. When he came to the city of Alexandria he met Cleopatra and at once fell in love with her. He took her side in a civil war she was fighting and helped her gain more power in Egypt. They were united, and Cleopatra went back to Rome with Caesar. When Caesar died two years later, she returned to Egypt with their son, Caesarion.



Mark Antony had hoped to inherit all of Caesar's power as Roman emperor, but he had to settle for a part of it. Antony's share of the Roman Empire was in the East, and so he too came to Alexandria. When Cleopatra heard that he was coming, she decided to try to win his heart as she had won Caesar's. She hoped in this way to keep her power in Egypt and perhaps to rule in Rome as well.

She dressed herself as the goddess of love and her maids as nymphs and mermaids. Then she floated down the Nile to meet Antony in a boat so richly ornamented that the people lined the banks of the river for miles just to see her pass.

"The barge she sat in, like a burnished throne,

Burned on the water. . . .

Purple the sails, and so perfumed that

The winds were lovesick with them. The oars were silver,

Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke. . . ."

Antony liked luxury as much as Cleopatra did. And he was as charmed by her beauty and cleverness as Caesar had been. So Antony, too, fell in love with her.

After some years had passed, Antony's followers in Rome grew angry with him for staying in Egypt so long and for marrying Cleopatra. Another powerful Roman leader, Octavian, made war on Antony and Cleopatra. Octavian's fleet defeated the fleets of Antony and Cleopatra at the great naval battle of Actium. Then the couple fled to Alexandria, followed by Octavian. And here their ambitions and their love came to a bitter end.

Antony was led to believe that Cleopatra had taken her own life, so he threw himself on his sword. When he heard



that she was really alive, he had himself carried into her presence. Then he spoke to her: "I am dying, Egypt, dying. . . ." She took him in her arms and there he died. Then Cleopatra took a poisonous snake on her arm and let it bite her. She was buried beside Antony. Her death marked the start of Roman rule in Egypt.

Twenty centuries have passed since the time of Cleopatra, but poets and painters through the ages have been fascinated by her story and have told or pictured it in a great many ways. For as the greatest of our poets, Shakespeare, said of Cleopatra: "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety."

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#### QUESTIONS

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1. Why was Egypt called the "gift of the Nile"?
2. What did Cleopatra want in her public life? In her private life?
3. How did Cleopatra prepare to meet Antony?
4. How did Cleopatra and Antony die?
5. On a map, find Rome, Egypt, the Nile River, and Alexandria.
6. Find out more about the Roman Empire, Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and Octavian.

# William Tell

## *Swiss Legend*

Switzerland is a beautiful little country in Europe. A long time ago it was conquered by the Austrians, and a wicked, cruel Austrian named Gessler ruled over the Swiss people. Although Gessler had many soldiers, he could not make the proud Swiss bow down when he passed by.

Boiling with rage, he thought of a way to make them feel his power. In the market place of the village of Altdorf, he set up a high pole and placed his Austrian hat on top of it. He ordered every Swiss man, woman, and child to bow to the hat whenever they passed by it.

One day William Tell came down from his home in the mountains to visit friends in Altdorf. He was tall and strong, known as the finest archer in the country, who could shoot bears and wolves with his crossbow. With him was his only son, a boy ten years old.

They crossed the market place and passed by the pole, but they did not bow. At once several soldiers surrounded Tell and took him before Gessler.

“Why did you not bow to the hat?” asked Gessler.

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### WORDS TO WATCH

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market place	Europe	Altdorf
Austria	measured	tyrant
Switzerland	power	dungeon
crossbow	pale	rudder
paces	country	spared

"I am a Swiss," replied Tell. "I do not have to bow to an Austrian hat."

"Bow or die," shouted Gessler.

"I would sooner die than bow to it," replied Tell proudly.

Then Gessler, who could hardly control his mounting anger, thought of something else.

"They tell me you shoot very well," he said with a wicked smile. "I will not punish you. Instead, we will see if you are as good as people say you are. Let your son stand a hundred paces from you. Put an apple on his head, and shoot an arrow through the apple. If you fail, you shall be put to death; if you succeed, your life will be spared."

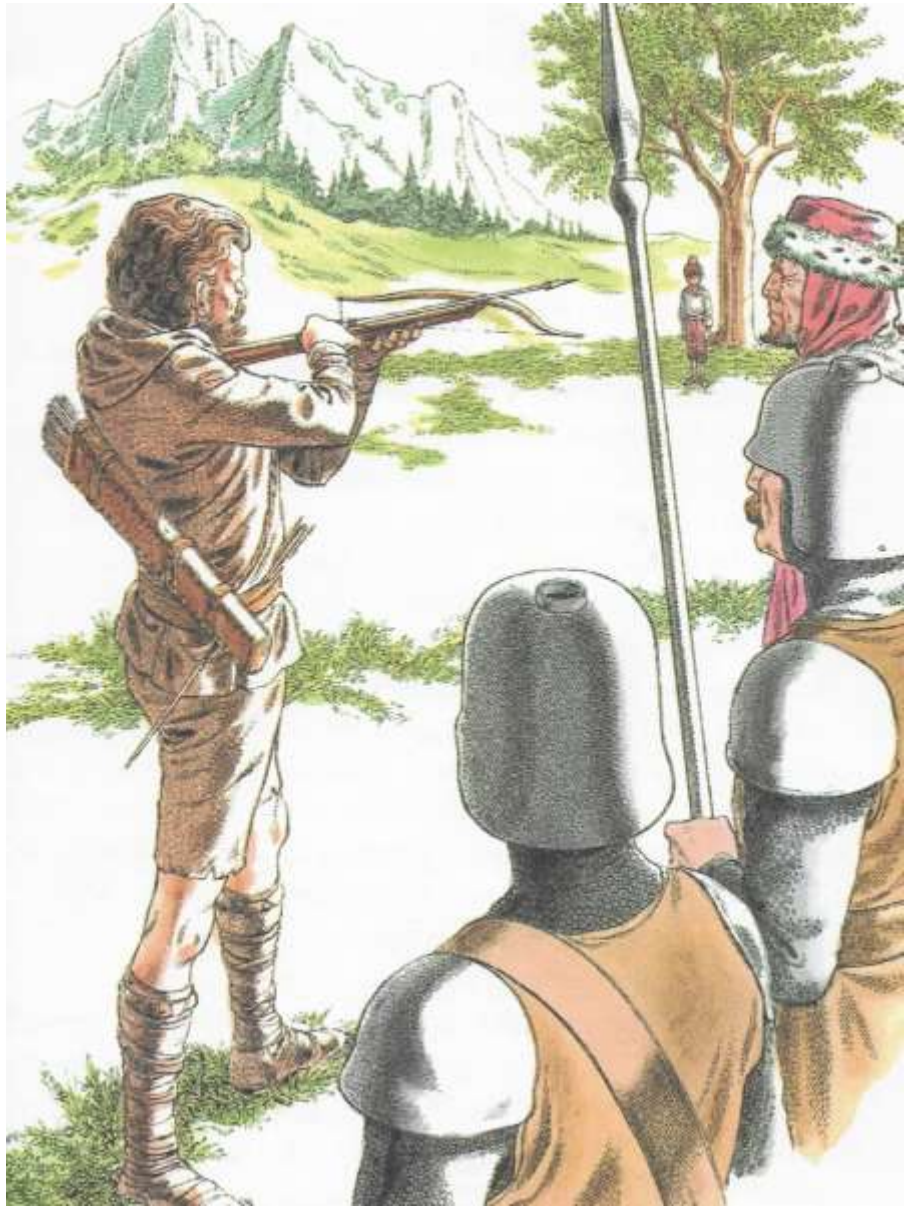
"I'd rather die than aim an arrow at my own son," cried Tell. "You cannot ask a father to do such a horrible thing."

"Do as I order," shouted Gessler furiously, "or I'll put both you and your son to death!"

All the people who heard these words turned pale with fear, and other fathers held their sons close to them. But the little boy whispered to his father, "I am not afraid, Father. I will hold very still, and I will not even breathe or blink an eye."

Gessler's soldiers measured off the hundred paces, led the boy to the marked spot, and placed an apple on his head.

William Tell slowly took out two arrows, slipped one under his belt, and fitted the other to his crossbow. His son held his head high and stood motionless while he watched his father bend the crossbow and take aim. The crowd did not dare to breathe. Zing! The arrow sped from the crossbow, straight to the apple, and split it in two pieces. Not a hair of the boy's head was touched. The crowd cheered; everyone was overjoyed.





"A master shot," cried Gessler, "but tell me, did you not put a second arrow under your belt?"

"The second arrow was for you, if my son had been hurt," replied Tell.

"I gave my word to spare your life," shouted the Austrian furiously, "but I will teach you a lesson. Bind him," he ordered, "and take him across the lake to my castle. Throw him in the dungeon, where he will see neither sun nor moon as long as he lives. Then I shall be safe from his arrows!"

The soldiers bound William Tell with ropes and threw him into the bottom of a boat. When they were in the middle of the lake, a terrible storm arose, and the soldiers set Tell free so that he could help them with the boat. He took the rudder and steered the boat toward the rocks. As soon as they were close enough, he suddenly sprang ashore, kicking the boat back into the wild waves of the lake.

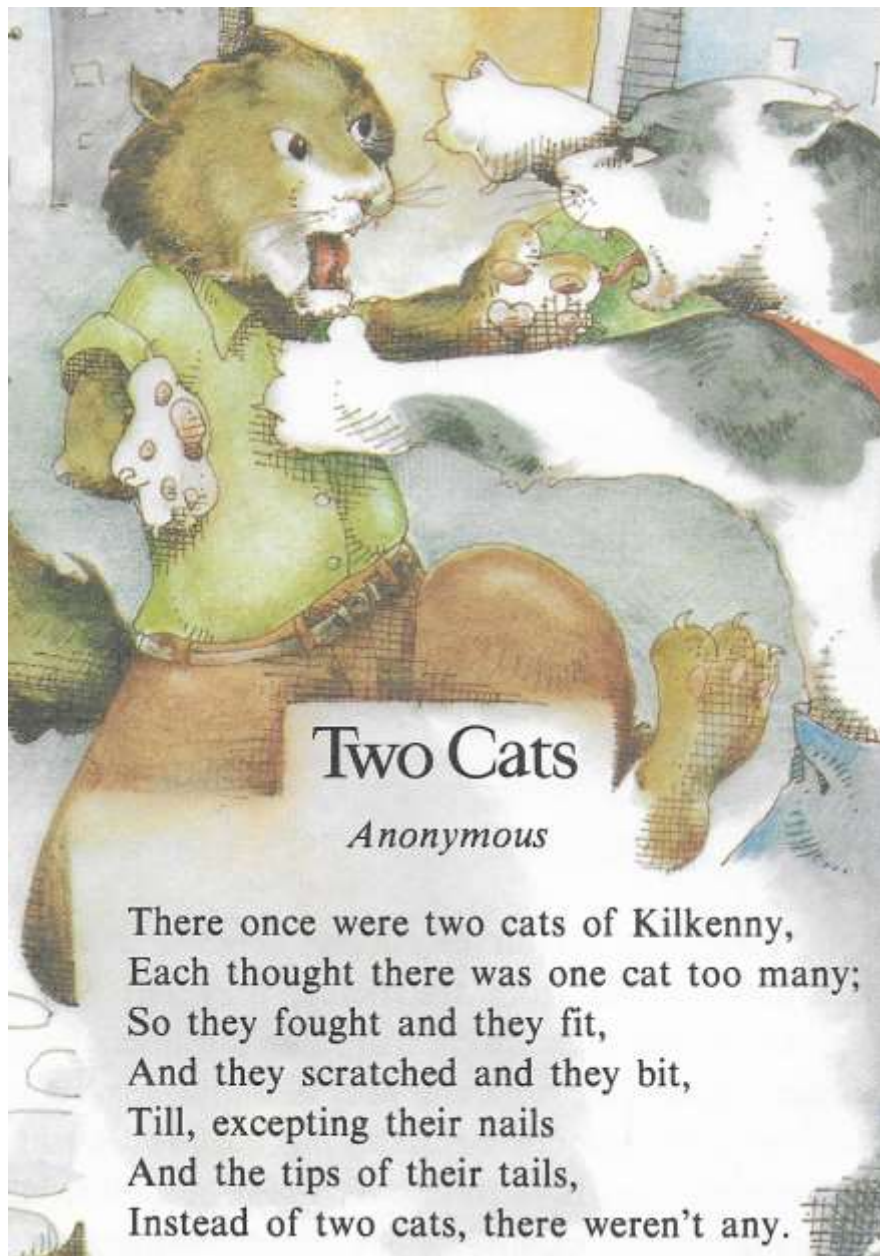
Tell escaped into the mountains, which no one else knew as well as he. He hid near the path which Gessler had to take to his castle, and he waited. His second arrow was ready, fitted to the crossbow. When Gessler passed by late that afternoon, the arrow did not miss, and the wicked tyrant fell dead.

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#### QUESTIONS

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1. Why was Gessler angry with the Swiss people?
2. How did Gessler make the Swiss people feel his power?
3. Why did William Tell not bow to the hat on the pole?
4. What did Gessler make William Tell do?
5. What did William Tell plan to do if his arrow had missed and he had killed his own son?
6. How did William Tell kill Gessler, the tyrant? Why?



## Two Cats

*Anonymous*

There once were two cats of Kilkenny,  
Each thought there was one cat too many;  
So they fought and they fit,  
And they scratched and they bit,  
Till, excepting their nails  
And the tips of their tails,  
Instead of two cats, there weren't any.