

# Boadicea

*Judith Barnard*

More than 1,900 years ago, in 62 A.D., a huge army fought its way across Britain. The army was from Rome. It was part of an even greater army that was conquering countries all over Europe and even in Africa and Asia.

At that time, Britain had small, crowded towns instead of cities. Groups of people lived in tribes, each with its own name, each with its cluster of huts separated from other tribes by rough ground or marshes. Until the Roman soldiers came, there were few roads. The Romans built roads for their armies to move quickly as they defeated one tribe after another. When Roman soldiers marched along the roads, the earth shook, and the tramp-tramp-tramp of heavy feet could be heard for miles.

Roman troops became known for their cruelty to the people they had conquered. They took money and animals and food, often leaving nothing for the families they robbed. When crops were ready for harvest, the soldiers moved in and took what they wished from the fields; they left behind stripped plants or the poor crops they didn't want.

The soldiers made free with the people's homes, walking into huts where people ate or slept, taking women and children. There were no laws to protect the people; the only law was Roman force of arms. The people were always afraid, always angry—and always helpless.

But the people of the Iceni tribe thought they might not be



so helpless after all. They were one of the largest tribes; and they were a proud and hard-working people. Often they refused when Roman soldiers demanded food or higher taxes. For a while, their refusals brought only harsher treatment from the Romans. So the Iceni went to their queen to tell her they wanted to rebel.

The queen was Boadicea. The king had died the year before. After his death, the Romans became bolder in their

demands, as if they felt a widowed queen could do nothing to stop them.

But Boadicea knew that a king or queen sometimes *follows* the people, as well as leading them. When her people talked of rebellion she could not ask them to be patient. And besides, she too was angry. She stood and held out her hands. "We will make our own weapons," she said. "Others we will steal from the Romans while they sleep. And we will drive out every Roman soldier. The land will be ours again!"

Thousands of Iceni men and women armed themselves with battering rams, catapults, stones, javelins, swords, and daggers. People from other tribes joined them. Howling great war cries that echoed in the cool dawn shadows, they attacked the Roman camp near London.

By nightfall, as the sun disappeared, twisted bodies covered the ground. Bushes were red with the blood of Roman and Iceni soldiers. The air was heavy and hushed; no birds sang, no dogs barked. Boadicea led her survivors back to camp. "We won this battle," she thought, "but we will lose in the end. Too many of our fighters were killed. The Romans have smaller armies but they have better weapons and they have training; we have none. But what else can we do?"

There was nothing else they could do. They fought on, and at first they won several important battles. The Iceni drove the Romans out of London, out of Colchester, out of Verulamium (later called St. Albans). A feeling of freedom and victory was everywhere. People slept at night without trembling at every sound, without wondering when Romans would steal women or children, or take all the food and animals for themselves.

But as Boadicea had foreseen, the victories did not last. Suetonius Paulinus, a Roman general, alarmed by the Iceni march that was driving Roman soldiers into retreat, led his army against Boadicea's army. The Romans crushed the Iceni; they crushed the tribal army beneath their feet. It seemed they would crush the last living things in Britain.

Finally the Roman soldiers reached Boadicea's camp and killed the Iceni guarding her. The Romans captured the queen and made plans to take her to Rome.

But Boadicea had no intention of going to Rome. Her armies were defeated, her land lay in ruins. Roman troops occupied every town. There was no escape, there would be no freedom, no more victories. But she belonged in Britain, not in Rome.

That night, alone in her prison hut, Boadicea took from a hiding place a poison she had been saving for the defeat she had foreseen. She held it up and then, without taking a moment to think, quickly swallowed it all.

In the morning, when the soldiers came to take her to the ship, she lay on the floor, very cold, very still. There was nothing the soldiers could do. Boadicea was dead; she would never be a slave of Rome.

---

#### QUESTIONS

---

1. Was Boadicea wise to keep fighting after she knew the Iceni could not win?
2. Why was the Roman army better than the Iceni army?
3. Find out more about the Romans in Britain. Who was Julius Caesar? What is Hadrian's Wall?



4. Was Boadicea brave when she used poison to kill herself?  
Why or why not?
5. What would you do if a foreign army conquered your  
land?
6. Was Boadicea like Cleopatra?

## *Happy Thought*

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

The world is so full of a number of things,  
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

## Occupations

### I. Read and Spell

teacher	lawyer	plumber
doctor	police officer	physicist
nurse	chemist	carpenter
engineer	scientist	fire fighter
librarian	politician	banker
office worker	mechanic	photographer
professor	journalist	salesclerk
executive	veterinarian	farmer
astronaut	factory worker	interpreter
writer	merchant	soldier
architect	artist	pilot
sailor	musician	actor

### II. Read and Answer

1. Tell what people do in each of these occupations.
2. What kind of education do you need for each of these occupations?
3. Name some other occupations.
4. What do you think you might like to be?
5. How would you prepare yourself for your work?
6. Can a woman be a police officer, a physicist, or a carpenter?

### III. Write

1. Write five sentences, each using a word in Part I.
2. Write a story about what you want to be when you are grown up.

# Mary Queen of Scots

Mary Stuart was born in Scotland over 400 years ago, in the days when Scotland and England were still separate kingdoms. She was crowned Queen of Scotland upon the death of her father, the king, when she was only one week old.

At the age of five, the child-queen was sent to the court of France to be educated. There she met the crown prince of France, who was to be her future husband. The two children grew up together as friends. They were married when Mary had become a tall and lovely girl of 15. The French people loved her for her sweetness and beauty. Many French poets wrote verses in praise of her.

By the time Mary was 16 her young husband had become king, and she had become the queen of France as well as of Scotland. But before a year had passed she was a widow. Mary had led a happy and protected young life. What lay ahead of her now was sorrow and tragedy.

She decided to return to the Scotland she had almost forgotten. There she missed the mild weather of France. She missed the music and dancing and other pleasant customs of the French court. Most painful of all, she found that her Catholic faith was out of favor in Scotland, which was becoming Protestant during her years in France.

Queen Mary tried to allow freedom of religion to all her people. But the people had not yet learned to respect each other's beliefs. The leader of the Protestants frowned on Mary, her church, and her customs. He complained that wicked Mary had "danced past midnight out of glee." The





Catholics, for their part, wanted Mary to restore their power and drive the Protestants out. Nothing she did really satisfied either side.

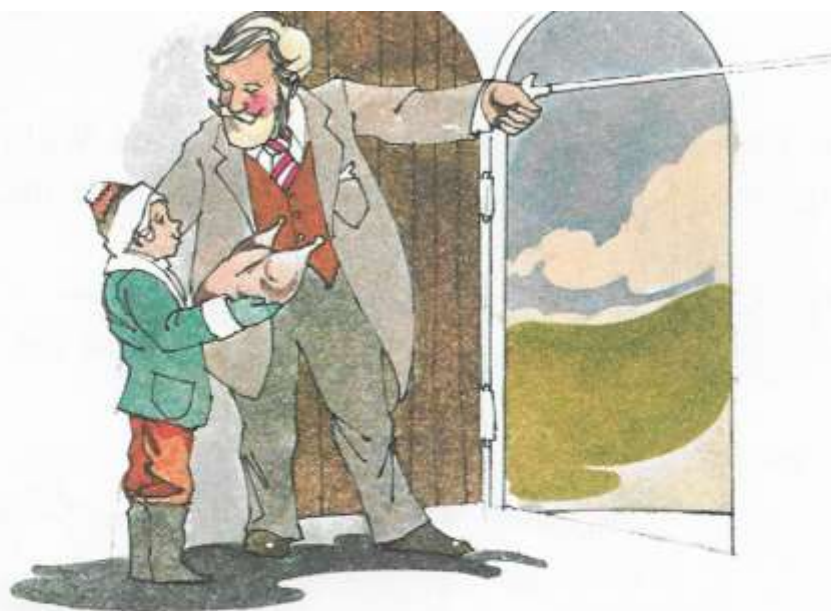
The troubles in Scotland turned into violent rebellion. Mary was captured by some of the Protestant nobles. She was imprisoned in a dark, grim castle on an island in the middle of a lake.

In disguise, Mary escaped from the island. She quickly raised a small army. But her army was defeated, and she had to flee. She might have fled to France, where she had friends and property. Instead, she sailed to England in a fishing boat and asked protection from her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. This was Mary's worst mistake. Once in England she was drawn into Queen Elizabeth's spider web.

Elizabeth feared that Mary was plotting to make herself queen of England. So she had Mary put in prison. Mary suffered 19 long years in prison, broken in health. It was there that her religion became a great comfort to her. She gained peace of spirit at the cost of much pain.

At last, Elizabeth charged that Mary had plotted against her life. Mary was tried, found guilty, and beheaded. The courage and dignity with which she faced death has since become a legend.

The motto of Mary Queen of Scots was: "In my end is my beginning." Although Mary herself died an outcast, Scotland and England were united under the rule of her son, King James I. Every ruler of Britain since that time has been descended from her. So the end of Mary Stuart was the beginning of a long line of Stuart kings and queens.



## *A Good Thanksgiving*

*Marian Douglas*

Said old Gentleman Ray, "On Thanksgiving day,  
If you want a good time, then give something away."



So he sent a fat turkey to Shoemaker Price,  
And the shoemaker said, "What a big bird! How nice.

"With such a good dinner before me, I ought  
To give Widow Lee the small chicken I bought."



“This fine chicken, oh, see!” said the pleased Widow Lee,  
“And the kindness that sent it, how precious to me.

“I would like to make someone as happy as I—  
I’ll give Washerwoman Biddy my big pumpkin pie.”



“And oh sure!” Biddy said, “ ’tis the queen of all pies!  
And to look at its yellow face gladdens my eyes.

“Now it’s my turn, I think; and a sweet ginger cake  
For the motherless Finigan children I’ll bake.”



Said the Finigan children—Rose, Denny, and Hugh—  
“It smells sweet of spice, and we’ll carry a slice  
To poor little lame Jake, who has nothing that’s nice.”



“Oh I thank you, and thank you,” said the little lame Jake.  
“What a beautiful, beautiful, beautiful cake!”

“And such a big slice! I will save all the crumbs,  
And give them to each little sparrow that comes.”



And the sparrows they twittered, as if they would say,  
Like old Gentleman Ray, “On Thanksgiving day,  
If you want a good time, then give something away.”



## Holidays

### I. Read and Remember

New Year's Day

Lincoln's Birthday

Valentine's Day

Passover

Easter Sunday

Memorial Day

Flag Day

Washington's Birthday

Martin Luther King's Birthday

Hanukkah

Independence Day

Labor Day

Rosh Hashanah

Christmas Day

Halloween

Columbus Day

Thanksgiving Day

Chinese New Year

St. Patrick's Day

### II. Read and Answer

1. Why are these holidays celebrated?
2. When are these holidays celebrated?
3. How are these holidays celebrated?

### III. Read and Write

Write a story about your favorite holiday.

# *Father Hidalgo*

*Helen Webber*

In Mexico, our neighboring country to the south, September 16 is Independence Day. Each year on the eve of that day, the people of Mexico City gather in front of the president's palace. The president rings the liberty bell and gives the famous call, "Long live independence! Long live Mexico!" The people answer, shouting "*Viva Mexico!* Long live Mexico!" Then, perhaps, parents will tell their children why the liberty bell was brought to the palace from the church in Dolores, and how the priest of that church, Father Hidalgo, became the father of his country.

Father Hidalgo was the son of a Spanish family, and the Spanish had ruled Mexico for three hundred years. But he had been born in Mexico, and his heart was with the Mexican people. Although he was an educated man who had taught in a college, he chose to be a priest in the little village of Dolores. There the people were poor and hungry. Father Hidalgo was a strong and lively man, and one who loved a joke. But he was no longer young when he began the great work of his life.

He had many good ideas for helping his flock to learn trades that he hoped would lift them out of their poverty. He taught them how to grow grapes for making wine and how to grow mulberry trees and stock them with silkworms for making silk. But when the Spanish rulers heard of the priest's work, they sent men to destroy the crops. Mexicans were not



to be allowed to make wine and silk. Instead, they had to buy these things from Spain, at high prices that none but the rich could pay.

Then Father Hidalgo started a blacksmith's shop. He also taught brickmaking and pottery and other crafts to the people of Dolores. But progress was slow, and they still did not have enough to eat. He began to believe that Mexico must free herself from Spain. Other men and women shared his belief. Talk of freedom was everywhere. Together with his friends, the priest started to plan an uprising, but the Spanish found out about these plans. It was dangerous now to delay.

Father Hidalgo decided to act at once. His first thought was to ask the Virgin of Guadalupe, a saint much loved by poor Mexicans, to bless his attempt to free Mexico. Ringing his church bell—the same bell that became Mexico's liberty bell—he called the people from their homes to meet at the church. There he prayed to the Virgin and then spoke to the people he loved. He ended his speech with the call to in-



dependence that would be shouted throughout Mexico every September for years to come. "*Viva Mexico!*"

Then the priest, followed by a dozen men of Dolores, set out to raise an army. They walked from town to town, and soon the ragged band numbered eighty thousand men. They were armed mostly with sticks, stones, knives, and axes. Under the banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe, they fought the Spanish army. It is said that some of the Mexicans knew so little about fighting that they tried to stop the Spanish cannons by holding straw hats over the mouths of the cannons. But their desire for freedom made them fight on.

At first the Mexicans won battle after battle. Later, however, they could not stand up against the well-trained and well-armed Spanish soldiers. After a year of fighting, Father Hidalgo was captured and put to death. But the fight for freedom did not die with him. After ten more years, the Mexicans finally won their independence.

Although he did not live to see Mexico free from Spanish rule, perhaps Father Hidalgo guessed that Mexicans would one day govern themselves and would remember him as the father of their independence. Not only have the Mexicans remembered Father Hidalgo, they have also brought his church bell from Dolores to their capital city and made it their liberty bell.

---

#### QUESTIONS

---

1. Describe the Independence Day celebrations in Mexico.
2. How was Father Hidalgo's uprising against the Spanish like the American Revolution?
3. Find out something about the American liberty bell, which is now in Philadelphia.



# The Lady with the Lamp

Margaret Leighton

*Already as a little girl, Florence Nightingale took care of her sick dolls and pets. When she was a bit older, she visited and nursed the sick and poor people in her village. She loved her parents and her sister dearly, but she did not care about beautiful clothes, elegant parties, travel, and all the other things that her family enjoyed. More than anything she wanted to become a nurse! At that time, though, there were no nurses as we now know them. Hospitals in England and all over the world were the most horrible places one can imagine. Sick people would not think of going there if they could find anyone to nurse them at home. Hospitals were dirty and overrun by lice and fleas. The women who worked in them were uneducated and looked down upon. That's why Florence's parents did not allow her to work in a hospital. But Florence was strong-willed and determined. She secretly read and studied all she could find about hospitals and nursing. After many unhappy years, Florence got her way. She managed one hospital in London so successfully that she was called to serve when war broke out between England and Russia. She took 38 nurses to the Crimea to organize hospitals and nursing for the wounded soldiers. The following story begins the day after their arrival in the Crimea.*

Florence Nightingale and her nurses slept very little that night. They were all cold and hungry. Fleas bit them, the wooden benches were hard, and rats ran about the room all night.

Florence rose in the early dawn and looked out at the bright sky.

Already she had made her plans. "We will set up the portable stoves which we brought from Marseilles in here," she told her nurses. "We will make hot, nourishing drinks and have them ready for the wounded when they are brought here from the ships."

The stretchers, loaded with sick and wounded soldiers, soon began to pour into the hospital. Miss Nightingale and her nurses were working in the wards, cleaning, dressing wounds, and caring for the sick.

The commander of the army sent word that five hundred more wounded men were being sent down from the fighting front to the Scutari hospitals.

"But there's no space left even on the floor!" exclaimed the officer in charge of the hospitals, when he heard this news.

"A whole wing of the Barrack Hospital is not in use," Florence said quietly. "I'm told it was destroyed by fire. Why not repair it?"

The officer shook his head. "That fire happened before we took this place over," he exclaimed. "I have no right to have repairs made there. I'd have to get permission from the War Office in London."

"I shall have it done myself, then," said Florence Nightingale. She hired workmen, bought lumber and supplies, and drew up plans. By the time the ships arrived bringing the wounded, the new wing was ready for them.

But still the disasters grew. The British Army had failed to supply its troops with warm clothing or proper food. Winter came. The men suffered cruelly in the icy trenches from



hunger and cold. The cholera increased. More than half the Army lay wounded and sick. The Nightingale nurses worked from before dawn to after dark with quiet heroism.

But night did not bring an end to Florence Nightingale's labors.

One night a young transport sailor named William lay restless and wakeful in his cot. It was almost midnight. The great echoing wards of the Barrack Hospital were dark. The only sound was the slow step of the sentry pacing the stone floor.

William's throat burned with thirst. The pain of his shattered leg seemed more than he could bear. Worst of all was the fear growing in his heart.

"Tomorrow we'll operate," the surgeon had said.

"What does that mean?" William wondered. "Will they cut my leg off? I think I'd rather die, here and now!"

Suddenly he noticed shadows sliding along the ceiling. A light was moving, far down the ward. A whispered murmur passed from man to man. "It's *her*! It's Nurse Nightingale," they said.

She came as quietly as a shadow. When she reached William's cot she set the lantern down and bent over him. Her cool hand touched his forehead. "You're hot and thirsty, William. Here's a drink for you."

Her arm steadied him while he gulped the water. "There, is that better?" she asked. In the lantern light her face was pale, but as kind and gentle as his own mother's.

"Nurse Nightingale," William said hoarsely, "are they going to cut off my leg tomorrow?"

Florence Nightingale's face was grave. "I don't know, William," she said. "But I promise you that I shall be there with you all the time. If they can save your leg, they will, you may be sure of that. And will you promise me something?"

"What do you mean, ma'am?" he asked doubtfully.

"Promise me that you will bear whatever they decide like the brave British sailor that you are," she asked.

He could not refuse *her*. "Yes, I'll promise," he said.

She smiled. "Now try to sleep." She touched his eyelids and he closed them. But when she moved on, he raised his head and watched the light of her lantern flickering down the long room. She spoke to a soldier here, and smiled at another there. William saw a brawny fellow turn his head and kiss her shadow as it lay for a moment on his pillow.

"She seems to know, somehow, whenever a fellow is a bit low, and she comes to cheer him up," the man next to William said. "She's an angel, and no mistake."

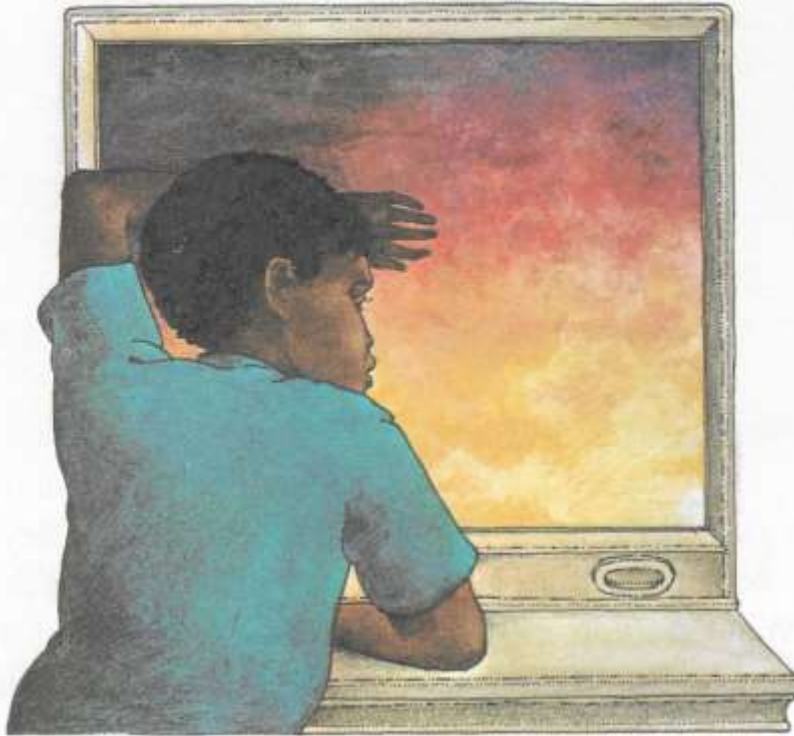
William turned over on his side. He could still feel the touch of her fingers on his eyelids. And what Florence Nightingale did for him that night she did for hundreds, yes, thousands of other men during that terrible and tragic winter.





# The Coming of Morning

*Emily Dickinson*



Will there really be a morning?  
Is there such a thing as day?  
Could I see it from the mountains  
If I were as tall as they?

Has it feet like water lilies?  
Has it feathers like a bird?  
Is it brought from famous countries  
Of which I have never heard?

Oh, some scholar! Oh, some sailor!  
Oh, some wise man from the skies!  
Please do tell a little pilgrim  
Where the place called morning lies!

# Martin Luther King

Every American child learns in school that black people were first brought to this country as slaves. It took a bloody civil war to set them free. But perhaps not everyone knows that a hundred years after the Civil War, black Americans still did not have the right to live and work and play and go to school where they liked. The story of how they worked to gain these rights—which we call *civil rights*—is partly the story of a young minister named Martin Luther King. He became a hero to black people, as well as to a great many other people who care about freedom and peace. The events that were to make Martin Luther King a fighter for civil rights began in Montgomery, Alabama, on a winter day in 1955.

That day a black woman named Rosa Parks was riding a bus home. She was tired after a long day's work. In 1955, the law in Montgomery was that black people had to sit in the back of the bus. They also had to give up their seats if white passengers were standing. When the bus that Rosa Parks was riding became crowded, the driver ordered her to give her seat to a white man. With quiet courage, she refused. Then the police came and arrested her.

---

## WORDS TO WATCH

---

civil

boycott

weary

nonviolence

injustice

racial

content

refuse

Montgomery

Black people were very angry to hear how Mrs. Parks had been treated. They knew that the law was wrong. They were tired of being treated unjustly because of their race. They decided to *boycott* the buses—to refuse to ride in them at all. If all the black people of Montgomery refused to ride in the buses, the bus company would make a lot less money.

Martin Luther King led this boycott, talking to his followers to give them strength and hope whenever they grew weary. For a whole year, thousands of blacks refused to ride the buses. Instead, they went to their jobs any way they could—some even riding mules, and many walking for miles. News of the Montgomery bus boycott spread all over America. Many people everywhere agreed with the blacks of Montgomery and did what they could to help change the laws. And, of course, the bus company made less money. At last the fighters for civil rights won, and the unjust bus laws were changed. Martin Luther King was proud that his people had won their victory without using any violence.

His belief in *nonviolence*—in the power of using peaceful means to attack injustice—was the idea that ruled his life. No matter how often he was the target of hate and violence, he never allowed himself or his followers to use violence in return. The fighters for civil rights went from victory to victory over racial injustice, both in the South and in the North. Martin Luther King went with them, walking at the front of his peaceful army wherever there was danger to face and a wrong to make right. He was even willing to go to jail many times for breaking those laws that he knew to be unjust. By the time his short life was over, there were people all over the





country—indeed, all over the world—who believed in his ideas and wanted to carry on his work.

In 1963, the fighters for civil rights had a March on Washington to mark the hundredth anniversary of the freeing of the slaves. They wanted to remind the government that much work was still to be done. On that summer day, a quarter of a million people, black and white, stood before the Lincoln Memorial and heard Martin Luther King say:

I have a dream today. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. . . . When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every town, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up the day when all of God's children, black men and white men, . . . will be able to join hands and sing in the words of that old Negro song, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

## Some Famous People of the World

### I. Read and Spell

Plato	Dante	Mozart
Aristotle	Shakespeare	St. Frances Cabrini
Cleopatra	Leonardo da Vinci	Goethe
Julius Caesar	Bach	Darwin
Archimedes	Newton	Jane Austen
Napoleon	Marie Curie	Chief Joseph
Confucius	José Martí	Helen Keller
Chopin	Pablo Casals	Gregor Mendel
Mahatma Gandhi	Golda Meir	Max Planck
Geronimo	Lao-tze	Nefertiti
Joan of Arc	Lady Murasaki	Garibaldi
Toussaint L'Ouverture		Yuri Gagarin
Joseph Jenkins Roberts		Michelangelo

### II. Find Out and Answer

1. Find out why ten of these people are famous.
2. Think of some other famous people.
3. Find out the names of some people who are famous as:
  - a. poets
  - b. scientists
  - c. world leaders
  - d. painters
  - e. composers
4. What makes people famous?
5. Can a person be great without being famous?

### III. Write

1. Write a story about a famous person you like.
2. Write a story about what you would most like to be famous for.

A B C D E F G  
H I J K L M  
N O P Q R S T  
U V W X Y Z

## THE WONDERFUL ALPHABET

Did you know that one of the most wonderful inventions in the world is our alphabet? Who would ever imagine that these twenty-six little letters could be so important?

Do you think you could write a letter to a friend inviting him to visit you if you could not use the alphabet? Perhaps you could do it with pictures, but it wouldn't be very easy. Your friend might even misunderstand the letter and think that you were coming to visit him!

Yet thousands of years ago, people did write with pictures because no alphabet had been invented. Instead of writing "sun," they would draw a circle. A few straight lines might

---

### WORDS TO WATCH

---

misunderstand  
Chinese  
alpha  
beta

Phoenician  
Spanish  
French

German  
Roman  
Russian  
Hebrew



mean “trees” or “forest.” A few wavy lines might mean “water,” or “lake,” or “ocean.” This is writing the hard way, and many ideas were not easy to write with pictures. For example, it would be hard to say with pictures, “the boys looked like good boys but were really bad boys.”

The ancient Egyptians could do many amazing things, but they also used picture writing because they did not have an alphabet. So did many Indian tribes in America.

Some of the peoples of the world wrote with signs instead of pictures. Sometimes the signs looked a little bit like the thing they stood for. In Chinese, for example, the sign for

man is 人 , which looks a little bit like a man walking;

and 木, which means “tree” or “wood” in Chinese,

looks a little like a tree with some branches. But in Chinese and some other languages like Chinese, there are thousands and thousands of these signs, all different. Most of them don’t look at all like the things they stand for.

Did you ever stop to think how our alphabet was invented? The word “alphabet” comes from the words “alpha” and “beta,” which are the Greek letters for A and B. But the Greeks did not invent our alphabet. The Phoenicians invented it. The Phoenicians lived a long time ago and were great sailors and traders. They traded with many countries across the seas, and in buying and selling, they needed a fast way of writing things down. So they invented signs that stood for the sounds of their language. In this way our alphabet

began. The Greeks learned the alphabet from the Phoenicians, and the people of western Europe learned it from the Greeks.

Today most languages have alphabets. Many alphabets are quite different from ours, but they are just as useful. In recent years, the Chinese have made their own alphabet. People in Russia, Iran, India, and elsewhere each have their own alphabets. The alphabet of English and Spanish and French and German and many other languages is called the Roman alphabet because it hasn't changed much since the days of ancient Rome.

In German the word "tree" is written "Baum"; in French it is written "arbre"; and in Spanish it is "arbol," but the letters are written the same way that they are in English.

But no matter what the language may be, if it has an alphabet, it is easier to write the word for tree than to draw a picture.

---

#### QUESTIONS

---

1. How did people write before an alphabet was invented?
2. Where does the word "alphabet" come from?
3. How was our alphabet invented?
4. Name some languages that have the same letters as English.
5. Name some languages that have letters different from English.
6. Would you rather write with pictures or with the alphabet? Why?
7. Write a sentence using only pictures, and see if the rest of the class can read what you wrote.



## The Invention of Printing

Hundreds of years ago there were no printed books like the one you are reading now. In olden times books were written in “manuscript,” which means that they were written by hand.

The books were copied carefully and were very beautiful. It often took a person two to three years to finish one handwritten book. Therefore books were expensive, and only a few people could buy them and learn about the world the way you can today.

Though the people of Europe didn’t know it, printing had been invented by the Chinese. The Chinese would carve the symbol for a word on a block of wood. This symbol had to be carved backwards. Then the wood was dipped in ink or paint, placed on a piece of paper, and pressed down. When the block was raised, the word would be on the paper—right side around.

---

### WORDS TO WATCH

---

Johann Gutenberg  
manuscript  
movable type

expensive  
weight

printing press  
improvement



Years later in Europe, printers would carve an entire page on wood. Every letter, word, and sentence had to be backwards! Then the whole page was covered with ink. Large machines worked by hand were built to hold these wooden pages and to press them to paper. These machines are called printing presses.

Different printers began making small, separate blocks for each letter of the alphabet. The letters were then put together to spell words. If enough letters were made for the words on a page, the whole page could then be inked and printed. By using more ink, many copies of a page could be printed. Then each letter was removed and used over again to form new words for another page of a book. Books were now much easier and cheaper to make.

In time, the letter blocks were made of metal. We call these blocks “type.” What these printers were using was “movable type”—just as the Chinese had been doing for years.

A German named Johann Gutenberg was one of the first printers in Europe to use movable type and the printing press. Some of the oldest printed material in Europe was made by





him. He is often thought of as the inventor of the printing press, mainly because we don't know the names of many other early European printers.

The first book that we believe Gutenberg and his helpers printed was the Bible. It is a very beautiful example of the printer's art. Today a copy of the Gutenberg Bible is very valuable.

Soon books were printed all over Europe. For the first time, many people could read about faraway places, and the poets and thinkers of long ago were brought back to life.

The Gutenberg Bible was printed a little before Columbus discovered America. Since then, many improvements have been made on printing presses. Today printing presses can print thousands of books in an hour. Books, magazines, and newspapers are all printed on printing presses.

For very little money, you can buy enough newspapers and magazines and books to keep you busy reading for a whole week. And for nothing at all, at your public library you can read books on every subject you can think of.

Did you ever think that one invention could be so important?

---

#### QUESTIONS

---

1. How were books made before the printing press was invented?
2. What is movable type?
3. Why was the invention of the printing press important?
4. How could the printing press bring the poets and thinkers of long ago back to life?
5. Did you ever visit a library to see all the interesting books?
6. Why is the letter on a piece of type backwards?

## The International System of Units (Metric System)

### I. Read and Spell

<i>Length</i>	<i>Weight (Mass)</i>	<i>Volume</i>
millimeter	milligram	milliliter
centimeter	centigram	centiliter
decimeter	decigram	deciliter
meter	gram	liter
dekameter	dekagram	dekaliter
hectometer	hectogram	hectoliter
kilometer	kilogram	kiloliter

### II. Find Out and Answer

1. What does the prefix *milli-* mean? What does the prefix *kilo-* mean? What do they both mean in the Metric System?
2. What do the prefixes *centi-*, *deci-*, *deka-*, and *hecto-* mean? What meaning do they have in the Metric System?
3. How many cents are there in a dollar?
4. How many centigrams are there in a gram? Centimeters in a meter? Centiliters in a liter?
5. How many meters are there in a kilometer? How many grams are there in a kilogram?
6. What does the word *decathlon* mean? What does the word *millipede* mean?
7. Why is the Metric System of Units easy to use?



## Copernicus and Galileo

On the morning of a clear day, you can see the sun rising in the east; and in the evening, you can see it going down in the west. This makes you think that the sun is going around the earth. And this is why, long ago, most people used to think that the sun went around the earth. They thought that the stars and the planets moved around the earth in big circles. They thought that our earth was the center of these circles.

---

### WORDS TO WATCH

---

planet  
Copernicus

movement  
Galileo

telescope  
Venus

But a man named Copernicus did not believe that the sun went around the earth. He traveled from university to university and studied mathematics, geography, astronomy, and as much as he could about the heavens. He observed very closely the movement of the sun, the planets, and the stars. Like certain ancient Greeks, he believed that the earth and the planets went around the sun.

After studying the movements of the sun, the planets, and the stars for a long time, he told other people that the earth goes around the sun. They did not believe him. They said, "If you are right, then why does the sun rise in the east and set in the west?"

Copernicus replied, "Because the earth spins like a top, and the sun stands still. It only seems that the sun is moving."

Copernicus explained his ideas in books for everyone to read, but people still would not believe him.

Another very wise man named Galileo helped prove that this new idea was right. He improved the telescope, so that at last people could see the sun, the planets, and the moon much better. He was the first man to see the moons circling around Jupiter and many other interesting things. He wrote a book about his new discoveries. He explained why Copernicus was right, even though many people still thought the sun went around the earth.

Today we have bigger and better telescopes to look at the stars, and we know that Copernicus and Galileo were right. These men were great men because they believed what they observed instead of what other people said. They did not discover a new world on earth as Columbus did, but they learned



many things about other worlds in the sky that nobody had known about before.

Today, even though we know that the earth moves around the sun, we still talk about the sunrise and the sunset.

---

#### QUESTIONS

---

1. Why does the sun seem to be moving around the earth?
2. What did Copernicus try to show in his book?
3. Why could Galileo find out more than Copernicus about the sun, the planets, and the moon?
4. Why were Copernicus and Galileo great men?
5. Find out who Johannes Kepler was and what he did.
6. Who was Sir Isaac Newton?
7. Find out more about the movement of the earth, the moon, and the planets.
8. What is a solar system? A galaxy?

## THE MOON

People have always liked to look up at the moon on a clear night. When the moon is full, sometimes it looks like a giant lantern that lights the night sky. Sometimes there seems to be a person in the moon looking down on us, and sometimes there seems to be a witch or a donkey in the moon.

Since olden times, people have sung songs and told many different legends about the moon, for it was the most popular of all the heavenly bodies. Above all, people have wondered at its beauty and wondered why it is forever changing. They thought that these changes had something to do with the birth, growth, death, and rebirth of many things on Earth. That is why people of olden times were careful to see whether the moon was in the right spot in the sky before they were going to do something important. They wanted the moon to bring them good luck.

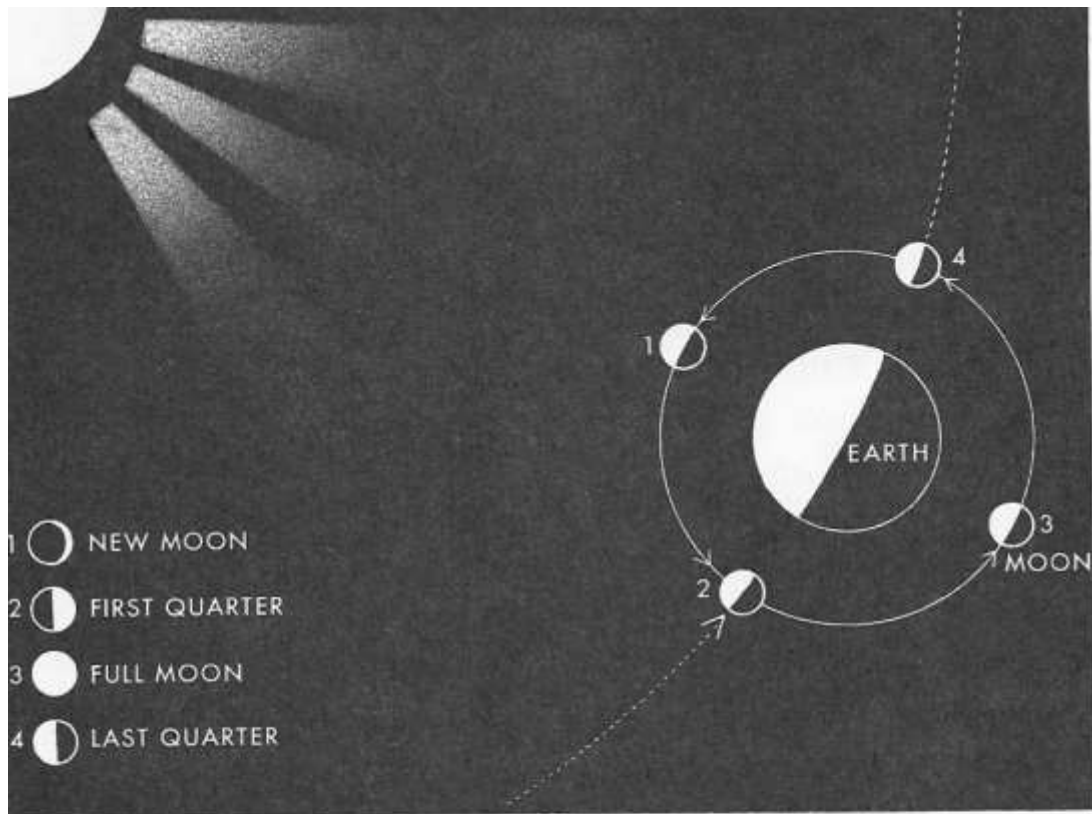
Long ago people did not have calendars, but they wanted to count the days in some way. They noticed that about once every twenty-eight days there was a *new* moon, so they called this length of time a *moonth*. In some places a man would blow a trumpet when he first sighted the *new* moon so that everyone would know a new *moonth* (or month) had begun.

---

### WORDS TO WATCH

---

Soviet	Eagle	manned spacecraft
calendar	orbit	Honolulu
Tranquility Base	moon rocks	telescope
mankind	rebirth	heavenly bodies



In the last few hundred years, people have looked at the moon through telescopes and learned more about it than ever before. We know that the moon is not changing its shape each night, as people used to think, but that it is traveling around the earth, and that the sunlight shines on it a little differently each night.

It is a *new* moon when the moon is between the earth and the sun so that we can hardly see the side that the sun is shining on. It is a *full* moon when the moon moves to the other side of the earth. Then the moon is on one side of the earth, and the sun on the other side so that we can see all of the moon that the sun is shining on.

Because of the way in which the earth and moon move, one side of the moon always faces earth. Until 1959 when a Soviet spacecraft traveled around the moon and took pic-

tures, no one knew what the other side looked like. Since then, men too have traveled around the moon.

On Sunday, July 20, 1969, one of humanity's oldest dreams came true. On that day at 4:17 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin safely landed America's manned spacecraft *Eagle* on the moon. Eight hundred million people were thrilled to hear Neil Armstrong's now-famous words: "Tranquility Base here. The *Eagle* has landed." And 800 million people watched, by television, one of the most exciting adventures in history; the first human step onto the surface of the moon. No one who watched will ever forget the moment when Neil Armstrong's ghostly white figure appeared outside *Eagle*, when his heavy-booted foot made the first human footprint on the moon, and when his voice was heard once again, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

After two hours and twenty minutes of exploring and gathering moon rocks, the men climbed back into *Eagle*. They guided their spacecraft back to the waiting mother ship *Columbia* in which Michael Collins, the third man of the team, had orbited the moon. Together they returned to earth exactly as planned, splashing down 950 miles west of Honolulu on July 24.

When we look up at the moon now, it somehow does not seem so far away and strange any more. We know that somewhere on its surface stands our flag and, not far from it, on the historic landing spot, a plaque signed by the astronauts and President Nixon which reads:

HERE MEN FROM THE PLANET EARTH FIRST SET FOOT UPON THE  
MOON JULY 1969, A.D. WE CAME IN PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND

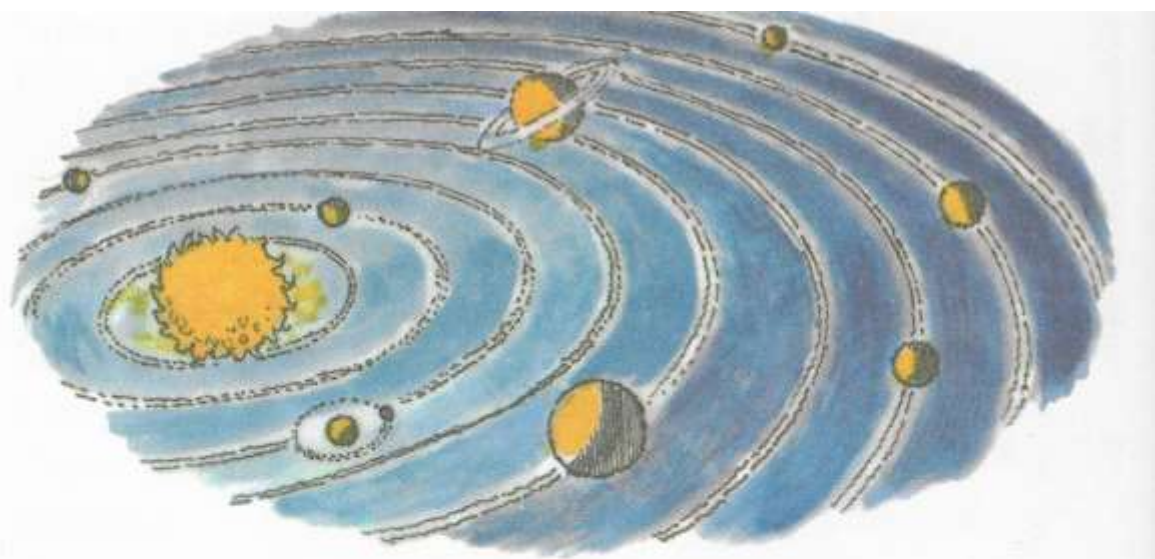




## The Man in the Moon

*Anonymous*

The Man in the Moon, as he sails the sky,  
Is a very remarkable skipper.  
But he made a mistake  
When he tried to take  
A drink of milk from the Dipper.  
He dipped right into the Milky Way  
And slowly and carefully filled it.  
The Big Bear growled  
And the Little Bear howled,  
And frightened him so, he spilled it.



## The Nine Wanderers

The word *planet* comes from the Greek language, and it means “wanderer.” At night, when the people of long ago looked up into the sky, they noticed that these planets had wandered to a new spot. They could see five of them with their naked eyes, and they named them after their gods.

These five planets that were known long ago are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. Most people did not know where these planets wandered. Then, hundreds of years later,

---

### WORDS TO WATCH

---

Mercury

Venus

Mars

Jupiter

Copernicus

Galileo

Uranus

Neptune

Pluto

Saturn

sun

moon

planet

god

goddess

telescope

North Pole

Earth

Copernicus and Galileo proved that they wandered around the sun. They knew that Earth was a planet and that it also wandered around the sun. That made six planets.

Later, three more planets were discovered. They were also given the names of the ancient people's gods: Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. Today we know that there are at least nine planets all traveling around the sun, and that Earth is one of them.

The sun and the stars are like giant fireballs with giant flames leaping out from them. But planets are not like fireballs.

The smallest planet is Mercury. Because it appears to travel faster than the other planets it was named for the god that carried messages swiftly. It travels closer to the sun than any other planet.

Venus was named for the goddess of beauty. At night it shines brighter than any star in the sky. It is called the Evening Star when it shines in the western sky after the sun sets. And it is called the Morning Star when it shines in the eastern sky just before the sun rises.

Mars was named for the god of war. It looks like a red star in the sky. If you look at Mars through a telescope, you can see that it has poles with white caps, like the North Pole and the South Pole of our earth. Of all the planets besides Earth, Mars has an environment that seems most likely to be able to support forms of life.

Jupiter was king of the gods, and the planet named Jupiter is the largest of all the planets. More than one thousand planets the size of Earth could fit into Jupiter if it were



hollow inside. There is only one moon that goes around the earth, but twelve moons go around Jupiter.

Saturn looks different from other planets because it has rings around it. Our earth takes only one year to travel around the sun. But Saturn takes about thirty of our years to go completely around the sun. If you lived on Saturn, you would have to wait about thirty years before you could have a birthday.

Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are so far away that you cannot see them without a telescope. People did not know about these planets before the telescope was invented. Nobody can live on these planets because the temperature is much too cold. On Pluto you would have a birthday only once in every 248 years.

The more you learn about other planets, the happier you will be that you live on this one.

---

#### QUESTIONS

---

1. Why are planets thought of as “wanderers”?
2. How many planets are there? Name them.
3. Which planets did the ancient Greeks know about?
4. Which planet besides Earth is most likely to support life?
5. Read and spell the names of the planets listed on the next page and tell what you know about each planet.



## Astronomy

### I. Read and Spell

sun	moon	star
planet	Earth	Mercury
Venus	Mars	satellite
cosmic ray	Neptune	observatory
Saturn	meteor	galaxy
Pluto	telescope	Jupiter
the Milky Way	the Big Dipper	comet
North Star	constellation	the Little Dipper
light year	Orion	eclipse

### II. Find Out and Answer

1. Find out about one of these, and tell the class about it.
2. What is the difference between a star and a planet?
3. What is the difference between a comet and a meteor?
4. Why do you think astronomy is important?

### III. Write

1. Write a story about why you like to see the stars at night.
2. Write a story about a subject listed in Part I.



## *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*

*Robert Frost*

Whose woods these are I think I know  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

---

### QUESTIONS

---

1. Why did the driver stop his horse?
2. How does this poem help explain the difference between a man and a horse?

# Marie Curie

*Anonymous*

Today scientists use modern equipment in their work. Special tools help scientists to find new things and to learn new facts.

In 1898, Marie Curie used huge iron kettles to melt tons of ore. Her work took four long years. At the end of all that time, she had a few grains of something that looked like table salt, but glowed in the dark. Yet those few grains gave doctors a way of saving the lives of thousands of people suffering from cancer. Studying them led to atomic power.

Marie Curie's long search began while she was studying in Paris, France. She read that uranium compounds had been found to give off strange rays. Scientists could not explain what these rays were. The rays acted something like X-rays. They could not be seen, but they left marks on camera film.

Marie wanted to learn more about the strange rays. Her husband, Pierre Curie, who taught physics, said that he

---

## WORDS TO WATCH

---

Marie Curie	compound	ore
radium	Pierre Curie	element
uranium	Nobel Prize	physics
radioactive	thorium	Irène
exposed	chemistry	chemicals
diseased		

would like to help her on this project. They both wanted to solve the mystery of the rays.

They had very little money, so they could not afford a real laboratory. But a school agreed to let Marie use an old shed. The roof leaked. The shed was full of machinery and lumber, but there was room for the equipment she needed. She started to work.

She knew that uranium compounds gave off rays all the time. The rays never stopped. Marie tried using light and heat on these compounds. She mixed them with other chemicals. But nothing stopped or changed the rays. Pierre invented a machine that Marie used to measure the strength of the rays.

Uranium is an element. Elements are the simplest forms of matter. Iron, gold, and lead are elements. Two or more elements go together to make compounds. Salt, sugar, and rust are compounds. Scientists had found 80 elements in 1896. Marie wondered if any other elements had the power to send out these rays.

Patiently Marie tested every element known, either by itself or as a compound. Only thorium compounds gave off rays the way uranium compounds did.

Marie made up a new word—*radioactive*—to describe the chemicals that gave off rays all the time. And she called the rays *radioactivity*.

She decided to test minerals and ores. At first she found what she expected. Only those ores that contained uranium or thorium gave off the rays. If the ores contained a lot of uranium, they gave off many rays. If they had only a little uranium, they gave off only a few rays.



One day, Marie found an ore that gave off many rays. She measured the uranium in it. There was only a small amount. She thought that she made a mistake. But when she did the test over, she knew she was right. The ore gave off more rays than it would if the uranium were the only radioactive element in it. There could be only one answer. Some unknown element, one that was far more radioactive than uranium, had to be in the ore.

She wrote about her discovery. Some scientists agreed that there must be a new element they didn't know about. Other scientists didn't believe her. They said they knew exactly what elements were in the rocks. If there was another element there, Marie would have to show it to them.

Marie said that she would. Pierre was so excited that he gave up his own studies to work only with Marie.

They knew that the element would be very hard to find, because it had never been found before. They knew there was very little of it in the ore, so they would need a lot of ore. Uranium ore was very expensive, and they did not have enough money to buy all they needed.

One day they realized that the element they were looking for must still be in the ore after the uranium had been taken out. The used ore was just dumped in piles, because nothing could be done with it. The Curies were given a ton of the used ore for their work.

When the big sacks of ore arrived they were piled in the yard outside the shed. There was no room inside for the huge iron pots needed to melt it, so they were put outside too. Marie stood in the yard stirring the melting ore with a large

iron rod. After the ore melted, Marie added other chemicals that helped her find the new element.

For months Marie and her husband worked. They got more ore. They borrowed some money and got more equipment. After four years of hard work in the leaky shed, Pierre became sick. He had to give up for a while. Marie worked on alone.

In 1902, she succeeded. In the bottom of a test tube were a few tiny grains containing an element no one had ever seen before. Marie named the element radium.

It was an amazing element. It was five million times more radioactive than uranium. The rays could pass through wood and even steel. Only a thick screen of lead could block them.

They could act on a person's body. Marie's fingers had been badly burned by them. Pierre had purposely exposed himself to the rays, to see what would happen.

When doctors heard of these new rays, they wondered whether the rays could destroy diseased cells in the human body. They tried and found that the rays could. And after the diseased cells were destroyed, healthy cells often grew in their place. Because the rays worked this way, they could be used to treat some kinds of cancer.

At once, radium was wanted all around the world. Only the Curies knew how to get it out of the ore. The secret belonged to them. They could sell the secret in countries everywhere. They could become rich.

A letter came from America. People wanted to produce radium there. Pierre asked Marie what she wanted to do. Did

she want to sell their secret, or did she want to give it away free?

"We did our work so scientists would have more knowledge," Marie said. "It would be wrong to sell what we know."

Pierre nodded. "You're right," he said. "I'll write back tonight and tell them everything they want to know."

Although the Curies chose not to profit from their work, they could not avoid fame. News of their discovery went everywhere. When she and Pierre were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1903, Marie Curie became world famous. When Pierre died in 1906, Marie was asked to take Pierre's place as a teacher. It was the first time that a woman had held this job.

Marie still worked on the radium compounds. She wanted to take radium out of the compounds and see it by itself. In 1910, she succeeded. Again she had done something so important that the news went everywhere. And in 1911 she was awarded another Nobel Prize. She was the first person to receive this famous award twice.

In 1921, Marie Curie visited the United States. She was asked what gift she would like most. Her reply was, "A gram of radium that would be mine to use." So the women of the United States raised \$100,000 and bought a gram of radium. They gave it to Marie Curie.

Marie died in 1934, just one year before her daughter Irène was to receive a Nobel Prize. Irène had gone on with her mother's work on radioactive chemicals.

---

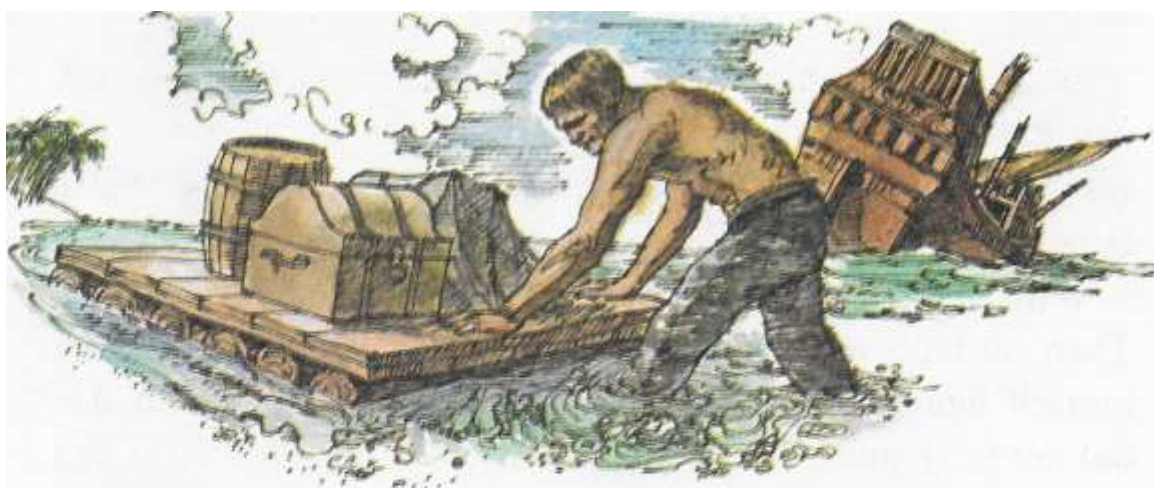
## QUESTIONS

---

1. How long did it take Marie to find the new element?
2. Why were doctors happy to learn about the new element?
3. How many times did Marie Curie win the Nobel Prize?
4. What did the women of the United States give Marie Curie?
5. Find out more about radioactivity.
6. Find out more about the Nobel Prize.







# Robinson Crusoe

*Adapted from Daniel Defoe*

Robinson Crusoe was an English sailor who loved the sea. One time as he was sailing near South America, his ship struck a reef during a storm and was shipwrecked. The sailors climbed into a lifeboat, but that was soon dashed to pieces on the rocks. Everyone was drowned except Robinson Crusoe, who was luckily washed to the shore of a deserted island. There was no one to help him find food or shelter, and there was no way to leave the island.

But Robinson Crusoe knew how to do things for himself. He swam out to the broken ship, which was stuck in shallow

---

## WORDS TO WATCH

---

Robinson Crusoe	shelter	barley
South America	ammunition	diary
reef	crew	Bible
ashore	lumber	savages
island	racks	cannibals

water. From the ship he took food, guns, ammunition, water, clothes, tools, sailcloth, and lumber. Then he built a crude raft and returned to the island. He was able to make twelve trips to the ship before another storm destroyed it.

With the sailcloth he made a tent on the side of a small hill. Then he built a fence with sharp-pointed stakes to protect himself against enemies that might come to the island. He did not have much food, but with his guns he killed birds and small animals which he could cook and eat. He also found several springs on the island which gave him all the water he needed.

After a while, he made a bigger and stronger shelter in a cave that he found near the tent. The cave protected him from bad weather. He built shelves and racks for his guns, and he built a table and a chair.

He was able to grow corn and rice and barley so that he could make bread. He carefully saved the new kernels so that he could plant more grain the next year. He also found some wild goats on the island. He tamed the goats, and they gave him all the milk and meat he could eat.

On the ship he had found a pen and some ink, and he kept a diary of what he did every day. The diary also helped him keep track of the days and months and years. He also had found three Bibles on the ship, and he read them carefully. Every day he thanked God for all that he had.

One day he took a walk along the shore of the island. Suddenly he saw some strange footprints in the sand, and he became frightened. Someone else must be on the island! He went back to his shelter and prepared for an attack, but no one came. He searched the island, and he could find no one.





Some time later as he was looking around the island, he found many bones lying on the sand. They were human bones! Robinson saw where a fire had been made, but the men who had made it had left.

Robinson Crusoe lived alone on this island for twenty-four years. Many times he felt lonely, and he wanted someone to talk to, but no one came to visit him.

Then one time Robinson saw on the beach a group of savages from another island. They were cannibals who were preparing to eat their prisoners.

When Robinson Crusoe saw what was happening, he shot some of the cannibals, and the rest ran away. He was able to rescue one of the prisoners, and they became friends. Now Robinson Crusoe had someone to talk to. He called his new friend Friday because Friday was the day on which he had found him. He taught Friday to speak English, and Friday became his faithful companion.

Four years later, a ship passed near the island, and Robinson Crusoe and Friday were rescued. Together they sailed back to Robinson Crusoe's home in England.

# The Umbrella

Two sages of Chelm went out for a walk. One carried an umbrella, the other didn't. Suddenly, it began to rain.

"Open your umbrella, quick!" suggested the one without an umbrella.

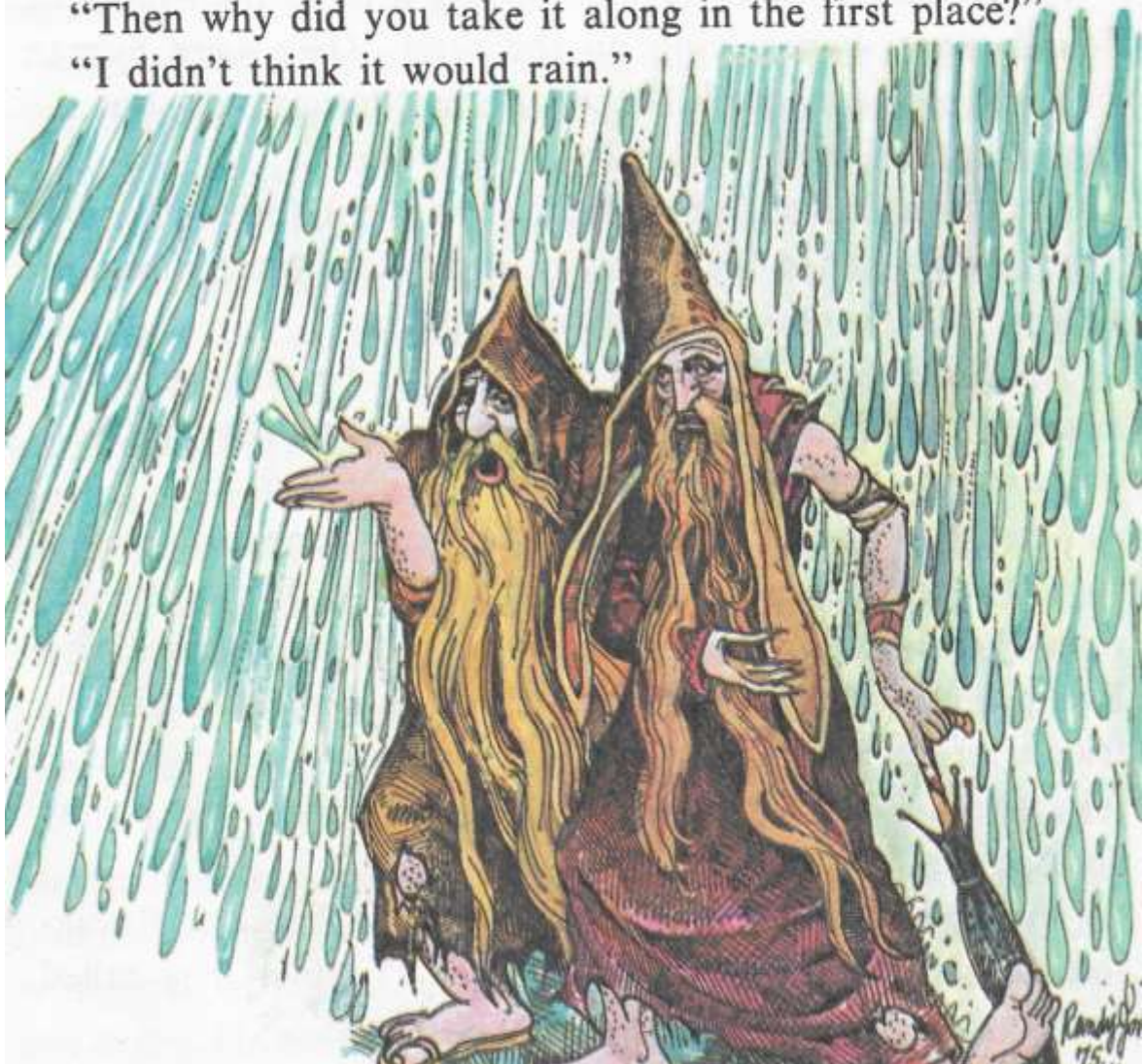
"It won't help," answered the other.

"What do you mean, it won't help? It will protect us from the rain."

"It's no use, the umbrella is as full of holes as a sieve."

"Then why did you take it along in the first place?"

"I didn't think it would rain."





## Important Inventions

### I. Read and Pronounce

wheel	rocket	radar
alphabet	airplane	gunpowder
printing press	automobile	compass
telephone	camera	electric motor
radio	steam engine	telescope
telegraph	gasoline engine	microscope
phonograph	electric light	typewriter
television	motion pictures	thermometer

### II. Find Out and Answer

1. Why do you think each of these inventions is important?
2. Find out who invented these things:  
the radio    the steam engine    the electric light
3. Name some other important inventions.
4. Why do people say, "Necessity is the mother of invention"?

### III. Write

Write a little story about an invention and why you think it is important.

---

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

---

- I. A. You have read these stories about science and nature in Part Three of your book. Write or tell what each story is about.

The Wonderful Alphabet

The Invention of Printing

Copernicus and Galileo

The Moon

The Nine Wanderers

Marie Curie

Robinson Crusoe

- B. Write or tell the class which story you liked best and why you liked it.

- II. A. Write or tell the class which story you like best in the whole book and why you like it.

- B. Which poem did you like best in the whole book? Why?

- III. A. Memorize a poem in this book and recite it to your class.

- B. Write a short poem of your own.

# Part Four For Readers Brave and Bold



# The Night Before Christmas

*Clement C. Moore*

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And Mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.



Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the luster of midday to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name,  
“Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!”  
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,  
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas, too.  
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all covered with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.  
His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,





And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly  
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.”



## Winter in the Mountains

*Johanna Spyri*

Suddenly a lot of snow fell during the night, and in the morning the whole meadow was white with snow. Not one single green leaf could be seen anywhere. Heidi was amazed as she looked through the little window, for now it started to snow again, and the heavy flakes fell on and on, until the snow was so high that it reached up to the window and then still higher so that you could not even open the window.

Heidi thought this was so funny. She ran from one window to the other, wondering whether the snow might soon cover the whole hut so that they would need to light candles in the middle of the day. Finally it stopped snowing, and the next day Grandfather went outside and shoveled around the whole house, making big piles of snow. The hut looked as if it were surrounded by snow-capped mountains. The windows and the door were cleared once again, and this was good, for in the afternoon a visitor was coming.

Heidi and Grandfather were sitting by the fire, when all of a sudden they heard a loud thumping and something rapping against the door again and again. Finally the door opened, and in came Peter. It was not out of naughtiness that he had rapped against the door, but to get the snow off his boots, which were still all covered. All of Peter was covered with snow, because he had to battle through high drifts on his way up. In the bitter cold, big chunks of snow had frozen onto his coat and pants. But he did not give up. Today he wanted to visit Heidi, whom he had not seen for a whole week.

"Good evening," he said as he came in, and he stood by the fire as closely as possible, not saying another word. His whole face beamed with pleasure that he was there. Heidi looked at him in amazement, for as he was now so close to the fire, everything on him started to thaw, so that all of Peter looked like a small waterfall.

Grandfather got up and brought the supper out of the cupboard, and Heidi moved the chairs to the table. Peter opened his round eyes wide when he saw the big piece of good dried meat which Grandfather put on his thick slice of bread. Peter had not had it so good for a long time.

When the cheerful meal was over, it started to get dark and Peter had to think of going home. He said "Good night" and "God thank you" and was already outside when he came back once more. "Next Sunday I'll be back again, a week from today," he said. "And my Grandmother told me that you should come and visit her sometimes."

Now this was a completely new idea for Heidi, that she should visit someone. But she liked the idea very much, and



the very next morning Heidi's first words were, "Grandfather, now I surely will have to go down to Grandmother; she is expecting me."

"There is too much snow," Grandfather replied. But Heidi was determined to go, because Grandmother had given her the message to come, so it had to be. She had to do it. Not a single day passed but that Heidi would say five or six times, "Grandfather, now I will have to go for sure; Grandmother is waiting for me!"

On the fourth day when it was so cold outside that every step creaked and crunched and the whole big blanket of snow all around was frozen hard, the beautiful sun peeked into the window just onto Heidi's big chair, where she was eating her lunch. Then she started her little story again. "Today I really have to go to see Grandmother. Otherwise she just will have to wait too long." Then Grandfather got up, climbed up into the hayloft, brought down the heavy sack which was Heidi's blanket, and said, "So come now!"

Heidi jumped for joy and skipped out after him into the sparkling snow. Now it was very quiet in the old fir trees. The white snow covered all their branches, and all trees glittered and sparkled in such splendor that Heidi jumped with delight and shouted again and again, "Come out, Grandfather, come out! There is nothing but silver and gold on the fir trees!"

Grandfather had gone into the shed and now came out with a wide sled: it had a board fastened to one side, and you could sit on the sled. Putting down your legs on both sides, you could steer it by dragging your feet in the snow. Grandfather sat down on it, after Heidi and he had looked at the glistening



fir trees all around. He took the child on his lap, wrapped the heavy blanket around her so that she would be nice and warm, and held her closely with his left arm. This was necessary for the coming trip. Then he held onto the sled with his right hand and gave a jerk with both his feet. Right away the sled shot down the mountain with such speed that Heidi thought she was flying in the air like a bird, and she shouted loudly for joy.

All of a sudden the sled came to a stop just in front of Peter's hut. Grandfather lifted Heidi off the sled, unwrapped the blanket, and said, "Now, go inside, and when it begins to get dark, come out again and start back home!" Then he turned around with his sled and pulled it back up the mountain.

This story is from a book called *Heidi* written by Johanna Spyri. Heidi had a quiet and happy life with Grandfather on the mountain, but something happened to change her life. You can read more about Heidi if you borrow the book from your library.

---

#### QUESTIONS

---

1. Why was Heidi amazed when she looked out of the window of the hut?
2. What happened after it stopped snowing?
3. What did the visitor look like, and why did he come?
4. Did Heidi like the invitation? Why?
5. How did the fir trees look in the sunshine?
6. Tell how Heidi and Grandfather got down the mountain.

# The Dead Tree

*Alvin Tresselt*

It stood tall in the forest. For a hundred years or more, the oak tree had grown and spread its shade. Birds nested in its shelter. Squirrels made their homes in bundles of sticks and leaves held high in the branches. And in the fall they stored their winter food from acorns that fell from the tree.

Tucked under its roots, small creatures were safe from the fox and the owl. Slowly, slowly, over the years the forest soil grew deeper as the dry brown leaves, brought down by the autumn winds, decayed under the snow.

But even as the tree grew, life gnawed at its heart. Carpenter ants tunneled through the strong oak. Termites ate out hallways from top to bottom. A broken limb let a fungus enter the heartwood of the tree. A rot spread inside the healthy bark.

Year by year, the tree grew weaker as its enemies worked inside it. Each spring fewer and fewer leaves unfolded. Its great branches began to turn gray with death. Woodpeckers covered the limbs with holes, looking for the tasty grubs and beetles that had tunneled the wood. Here and there they dug bigger holes to hold their babies.

In winter storms, one by one, the great branches broke and crashed to the floor of the forest. Then there remained only the proud trunk holding its broken arms up to the sky.

Now it was the autumn weather. The days were long and lazy. Yellow-gray and misty mornings, middays filled with false summer warmth, and sharp frosty nights.



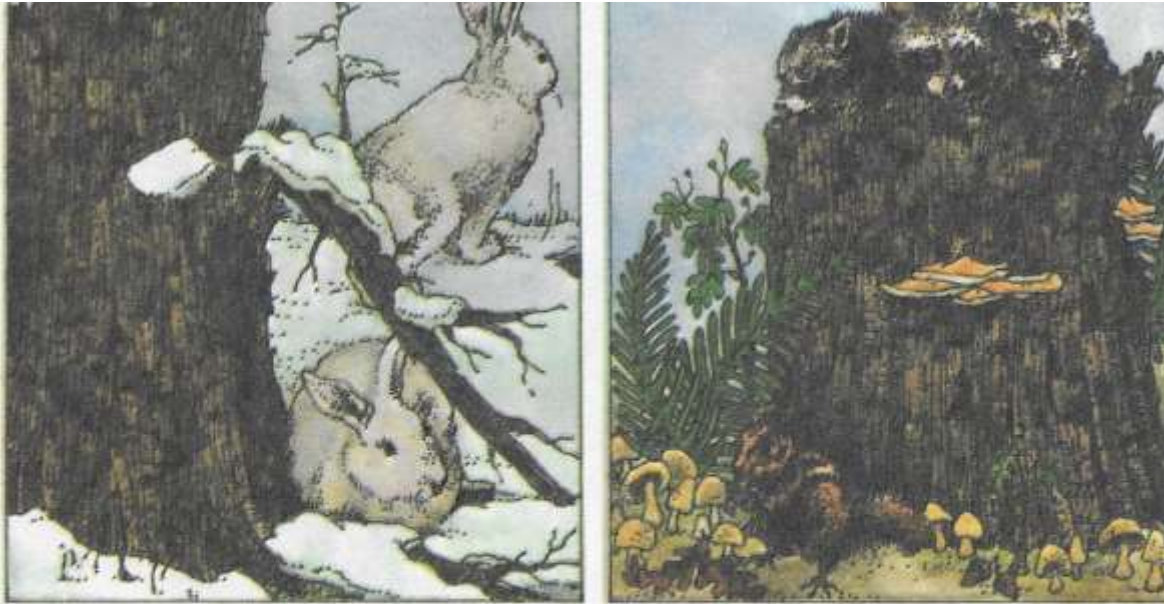
Then came a day of high wind and slashing rain. As the fierce wind shrieked through the forest, the tree split off and crashed to the ground. There it lay in pieces, with only a jagged stump to mark where it had stood for so long.

The cruel days of winter followed. A family of deer mice settled into a hole that had once held a long branch. A rabbit found shelter from the cold wind in the rotted center of the trunk. The ants and termites, the sleeping grubs and fungus waited out the winter weather, under the bark and deep in the wood.

In the spring the sun warmed the forest floor. Last year's acorns sprouted to replace the fallen giant. Now new life took over the dead tree.

Old woodpecker holes made snug homes for chipmunks. A family of raccoons lived in the hollow center of the trunk. Under the bark, the wood-eating fungus spread a ghostlike





and sulphur-yellow coat. And deep inside, the carpenter ants and the termites continued their digging and eating.

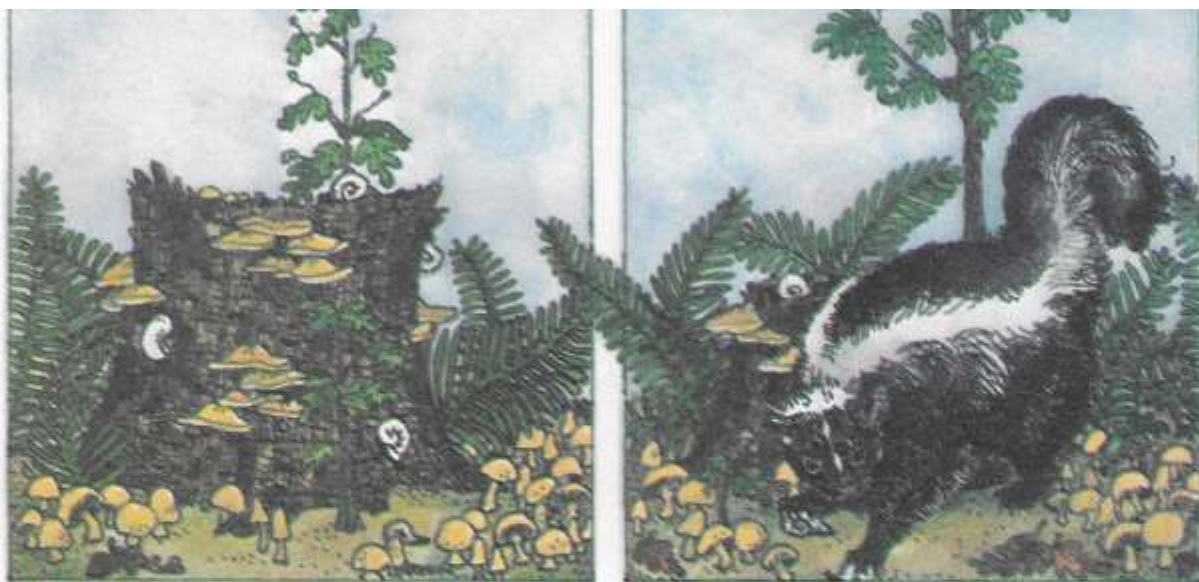
On the underside, where the trunk lay half buried in the damp leaf loam, the mosses formed a soft green carpet. Fragile ferns clustered in its shadow. Mushrooms popped up out of the decaying mold. Scarlet clumps of British soldiers sprinkled the loose bark.

The years passed. The oak's hard wood grew soft. A hundred thousand grubs and beetles crawled through it. Many-legged centipedes, snails, and slugs fed on the rotting wood. And earthworms made their way through the feast. All these creatures helped to turn the tree once more into earth.

Pale shelf fungus grew on the stump like giant clamshells, eating away and growing as the tree decayed.

A skunk came by with her babies. Sniffing at the wood, she ripped into the softness to uncover the scrambling life inside.





Eagerly the skunk family feasted. Quiet forest birds scratched and picked for grubs and worms, pulling the tree apart bit by bit. The melting winter snows and soft spring rains helped to speed the rotting of the wood.

In this way, the great oak returned to the earth. There remained only a brown ghost of richer loam on the ground where the proud tree had come to rest. And new trees grew in strength from acorns that had fallen long years ago.

---

#### QUESTIONS

---

1. What did the *living* oak tree provide for other living things? How?
2. What did the *dead* oak tree provide for other living things? How?
3. Why was the dead, decaying tree as important to nature as the living tree?



# The Judgment of Solomon

*The Bible*

A long time ago a great king named Solomon ruled over Israel. When he first became king, God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Solomon, you are a good man. What gift would you like most to have?"

"I would like most of all the gift of wisdom to rule my people well," said Solomon.

God was pleased that Solomon asked for great wisdom rather than great wealth or great power, and he said to Solomon, "You shall be wiser than any man on earth, and you shall be richer than any other king."

---

## WORDS TO WATCH

---

Solomon  
ruler  
spare

wisdom  
complaints

Israel  
judgment  
sword

In those days kings often listened to the complaints of their people, and then the kings would judge who was right and who was wrong. One day two women came before Solomon. They told Solomon that they both lived in the same house. Each of them had a very young child. In the night one of the children died. The mother took her dead child and put it in the bed where the living child was sleeping and took the living child away with her.

When morning came the other awoke and saw what had happened. She tried to get her living child back, but the woman who had stolen it would not give it back. So both women went before King Solomon, and each said that the living child was hers.

Solomon had to decide who was the real mother. He ordered a servant to bring him a sword. Then he ordered some other servants to cut the living child in two with the sword and give each woman half.

The woman who stole the child did not object to this plan. But the real mother of the child cried out, "Give the child to this woman, but spare its life!"

Then the wise Solomon knew that the mother who cried out was the real mother. He knew that she loved the child so much that she would rather give it to the other woman than to see it killed.

Solomon said to the servants, "Give the child to her, for she is the real mother."

When the people of Israel heard about this judgment of Solomon, they knew that he was the wisest of men.

---

## QUESTIONS

---

1. When God asked Solomon what gift he would most like to have, what did Solomon ask for?
2. Why was God pleased with Solomon's answer?
3. What did one of the mothers do that was bad?
4. How did Solomon decide who was the real mother?
5. Why was this judgment of Solomon a wise judgment?