



The Three Wishes

Swedish Fairy Tale

There was once a very poor man who lived with his wife in a humble little cottage. Every day he went into the forest to chop wood. One day when he was in the forest, he said to himself, "Oh, dear, I am so unhappy! I am poor, and I have to work so hard all day long. My wife is hungry, and I am hungry too. Oh, I am very unhappy indeed!"

At that moment a beautiful fairy appeared before him. She

WORDS TO WATCH

humble	disappeared	fortunate	granted
promise	empire	diamonds	prefer
insisted	sensible	patience	sausage

said to him, "My poor man, I heard everything that you just said. I am very sorry for you and would like to help you. Ask whatever you like, and your first three wishes shall be granted."

Then just as suddenly as she had come, the fairy disappeared.

The poor man felt very happy now, and he said, "I shall go home, and I shall tell my wife how the fairy has granted me three wishes."

He ran back to his cottage and called to his wife: "Wife, Wife, I am very fortunate. I saw a fairy in the forest, and she said I could have three wishes. 'Ask for anything you like,' the fairy said, 'and your wish shall be granted!' Oh, Wife, I am so happy."

"I am happy too," said the woman. "Come, let us go into the house, my dear, and let us decide what our wishes shall be."

The man went into the little cottage and sat down at the table. "I am hungry, Wife," he said. "I would like some dinner. While we eat, we can talk about the fairy and the three wishes."

The poor man and his wife sat down at the table and started to eat their dinner and to talk about the good fairy's promise.

"We can ask for great riches if we want to," said the man.

"Yes," the wife agreed, "we can ask for a beautiful house."

“We can even ask for a whole empire if we want to,” said the man.

And his wife replied, “Yes, we can ask for pearls and diamonds by the hundred.”

“We can ask for a big family,” the man added, “five boys and five girls.”

“Oh, I would prefer six boys and four girls,” insisted the wife.

The man and the woman went on talking like that, but they couldn’t decide what three wishes would be the most sensible of all.

The man ate his soup in silence and looked at the dry bread on his plate. “Oh, I wish I had a great big sausage for dinner!” he said.

At that very instant a great big sausage fell onto the table. Naturally the man was very surprised to see the sausage, and so was his wife.

“Oh, Husband,” the wife said, “you have been very foolish. You asked for a silly old sausage, and so one of the wishes has been granted. Now there are only two wishes left.”

“Yes,” said the man, “I have been very foolish. But we still have two wishes. We can ask for great riches and an empire.”

“Yes,” his wife agreed, “we can still ask for riches and an empire, but we can’t ask for ten children. And it’s your fault for demanding a sausage. You would rather have a sausage than a big family.”



The poor woman went on talking like that, complaining and saying over and over again, "It's all your fault for being so foolish!"

Finally the man lost his patience and said, "I am tired of your complaining! I wish that the sausage were hanging from the end of your nose!"

The next second the sausage was hanging from the end of his wife's nose. Naturally the poor woman was greatly surprised, and so was her husband.

The woman started to complain again, more loudly than before. "Oh, my husband," she said, "you have been very, very foolish. First you asked for a sausage, and then you wished that the sausage were hanging from the end of my nose. That makes two wishes. Two foolish wishes! Now we have only one more wish!"

“Yes,” the man agreed, “but we can still ask for great riches.”

“What good are riches,” the woman complained, “if I have a sausage hanging from the end of my nose? Why, I look ridiculous! And it’s all your fault!”

The poor woman started to cry, and the poor man said, “Oh, I wish that sausage weren’t here at all!”

Instantly the sausage disappeared, and the man and the woman were right back where they started, as poor as ever. They both complained, but it didn’t do them any good, for they had used up their wishes.

The three wishes had been granted, and still they had no riches, no empire, no pearls and diamonds, no little boys and no little girls.

And they didn’t even have any sausage for dinner!

QUESTIONS

1. What did the poor man and the poor woman want with their three wishes?
2. How did they use up each of their wishes?
3. Why didn’t the poor man and poor woman use their wishes for what they really wanted?
4. If you had been the poor man, how would you have used the third wish?
5. Write a story telling what you would wish for if you could make three wishes.



THE COW

Robert Louis Stevenson

The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream, with all her might,
To eat with apple-tart.

She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray,
All in the pleasant open air,
The pleasant light of day;
And blown by all the winds that pass
And wet with all the showers,
She walks among the meadow grass
And eats the meadow flowers.

The Sweet Pudding

Brothers Grimm

Once upon a time a little girl lived all alone with her mother. She was a very good girl, but they were so poor that they had nothing left to eat. The girl gathered berries and roots in the forest.

One day she met an old woman, who seemed to know how poor they were. She gave the girl a little pot and said, "If you want good sweet pudding just say to the pot, 'Little pot, boil!' It will cook the best pudding you have ever tasted. Then after you have had enough to eat, say, 'Little pot, stop!' The pot will stop cooking right away." The girl thanked the old woman and couldn't wait to try it out.

The girl ran home and showed her mother the magic pot. Now they were no longer poor nor hungry. They ate all the sweet pudding they could, day after day.

Once when the girl had gone for a walk, the mother said, "Little pot, boil!" It cooked pudding until she could not eat another bite. But the mother did not know how to stop the little pot from cooking pudding. So it cooked on and on, and on and on. The pudding came out of the pot and into the kitchen, into all the other rooms, out on the street, and into the next house.

Soon the street was filled with sweet pudding, and it ran into one house after another. It seemed as though the little



pot wanted to cook for the whole world. Nobody knew what to do, and it was a terrible mess.

Finally, when almost all the houses were filled with pudding, the child came home and said, "Little pot, stop!" Immediately the little pot stopped cooking. Anyone who wanted to go back into town, first had to eat his way through the sweet pudding.

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of pot did the old woman give the little girl?
2. What did she have to say to it to make pudding? To stop it from making pudding?
3. What happened when the mother did not know how to stop the little pot?



Thanksgiving Day

Lydia Marie Child

Over the river and through the wood,
To Grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river and through the wood—
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes
And bites the nose
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring,
“Ting-a-ling-ding!”
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river and through the wood,
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground
Like a hunting hound,
For this is Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river and through the wood,
And straight through the barnyard gate. . .
We seem to go
Extremely slow—
It is so hard to wait!

Over the river and through the wood—
Now Grandmother’s cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

Fruits and Vegetables

I. Read and Spell

plum	banana	apricot
beets	pear	lemon
orange	potato	corn
spinach	squash	peas
lime	grapefruit	carrots
apple	peach	beans

II. Read and Answer

1. Which of the words in Part I are names of fruits?
2. Which are vegetables?
3. Name four kinds of berries.
4. Name some more fruits and vegetables.
5. Which vegetables grow under the ground?
6. What kind of fruit do you like most?
7. What kind of vegetable do you like least?

III. Write

Write five sentences. Let each one tell something about a fruit or vegetable.



The Ox Who Won the Forfeit

Indian Tale

Long ago a man owned a very strong ox. The owner was so proud of his ox that he boasted to every man he met about how strong his ox was.

One day the owner went into a village. He said to the men there, "I will pay a forfeit of a thousand pieces of silver if my strong ox cannot draw a line of one hundred wagons."

The men laughed and said, "Very well, bring your ox, and we will tie a hundred wagons in a line and see your ox draw them along."

WORDS TO WATCH

owner
yoked

boasted
wretch

forfeit
rascal

hundred
garland

So the man brought his ox into the village. A crowd gathered to see the sight. The hundred carts were in line, and the strong ox was yoked to the first wagon.

Then the owner whipped his ox and said, "Get up, you wretch! Get along, you rascal!"

But the ox had never been talked to in that way, and he stood still. Neither the blows nor the hard names could make him move.

At last the poor man paid his forfeit and went sadly home. There he threw himself on his bed and cried, "Why did that strong ox act so? Many a time he has moved heavier loads easily. Why did he shame me before all those people?"

At last he got up and went about his work. When he went to feed the ox that night, the ox turned to him and said, "Why did you call me 'wretch' and 'rascal'? You never called me hard names before."

Then the man said, "I will never treat you badly again. I am sorry I whipped you and called you names. I will never do so any more. Forgive me."

"Very well," said the ox. "Tomorrow I will go into the village and draw the one hundred carts for you. You have always been a kind master until today. Tomorrow you shall gain what you have lost."

The next morning the owner fed the ox well and hung a garland of flowers about his neck. When they went into the village, the men laughed at the man again.

They said, "Did you come back to lose more money?"

"Today I will pay a forfeit of two thousand pieces of silver if my ox is not strong enough to pull the one hundred carts," said the owner.

So again the carts were placed in a line, and the ox was yoked to the first. A crowd came to watch again. The owner said, "Good ox, show how strong you are! You fine, fine creature!" And he patted his neck and stroked his sides.

At once the ox pulled with all his strength. The carts moved on until the last cart stood where the first had been.

Then the crowd shouted, and they paid back the forfeit the man had lost saying, "Your ox is the strongest ox we have ever seen."

And the ox and the man went home happy.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the ox not pull the wagons the first time?
2. Why did the ox pull them the second time?
3. What can you learn from this story?



The Busy Workers

Anonymous

Squirrel: Good morning, Cousin Beaver. What are you doing?

Beaver: I am making a dam. We must have a home where we can keep warm. It will be cold before long.

Squirrel: It is a pity that your tail is so flat and hard. See how thick and warm mine is! I can wrap it around me. When I am in my hole in the tree, I do not feel the cold at all.

Beaver: I thought you lived in the tops of the trees.

Squirrel: So I do in good weather. We stay there in the summer. In the fall we come down into our warm nests in the tree to spend the winter. All our nuts are there.

Beaver: We keep our nuts and twigs in our winter house, too. It is much safer than to leave them on the trees.

Squirrel: Why do you take so much trouble to build a dam? That hole in the bank must make a good house just as it is.

Beaver: Yes, but we like the water. And we like to build a high dam near our house, because if there is deep water around us, the wolves and other animals will leave us alone. Also, in wintertime the deep water cannot freeze to the bottom.

Squirrel: How will you make a dam?

Beaver: We will cut some trees, up there by the bridge, and float them down the stream.

Squirrel: Why do you not use these trees?

Beaver: We will use a few large ones if we can make them fall in the right place.

Squirrel: Won't the water run through your dam?

Beaver: No. We plaster it well with mud and grass.

Squirrel: Do you cut those big trees with your teeth?

Beaver: Yes. That is what our sharp teeth are for. We can cut large trees in that way.

Squirrel: I should think your teeth would wear off if you cut very large trees.

Beaver: They do wear off, but they soon grow long again. I see you have sharp teeth too.

Squirrel: Yes. That is so we can cut through the hard shell of a nut. I must go now. I have to get nuts enough for winter. Good-by.

Beaver: Good-by. I must go back to work, too.

QUESTIONS

1. How is a beaver like a squirrel?
2. How is he different from a squirrel?
3. How does a beaver make a dam?
4. Find out more about beavers.



The Raccoon's Tail

American Folk Rhyme

The raccoon's tail is ring-around,
The possum's tail is bare;
The rabbit has no tail at all,
Only a big bunch of hair.

Animals

I. Read and Spell

dog	seal	sheep	elephant
cow	camel	lion	gorilla
horse	donkey	bear	hippopotamus
cat	pig	monkey	leopard
deer	wolf	goat	chimpanzee
tiger	zebra	walrus	rhinoceros
fox	rabbit	giraffe	kangaroo

II. Read and Answer

1. Which of these animals would you find in a house or on a farm?
2. Which of these animals do not live in America?
3. What are the babies of these animals called?
sheep goats bears cats dogs cows
4. What is the name of the meat that comes from these animals?
cows sheep pigs
5. Which animal do you think is the most valuable to people?

III. Write

1. Write five sentences. In each one, use a word from Part I.
2. Write a story about an animal in Part I.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

I. A. You have read these stories in Part Two of your book.

Tell what each one is about.

A Parakeet Named Dreidel

The Tale of the Clever Deer

The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids

Seeds and Civilization

The Bird, the Mouse, and the Bat

The Fox and the Crow

Hot and Cold from One Mouth

The Three Wishes

The Sweet Pudding

The Ox Who Won the Forfeit

The Busy Workers

B. Which of these stories did you like best? Why?

II. A. Memorize a poem you read in Part Two and recite it to the class.

B. Copy the poem you like best in Part Two of your book. Copy it carefully.

Part Three

Fables and Folk Tales

We've read of birds and bugs
And lots of other things,
And now we're going to read
Of cabbages and kings.



The Boy and the Worm

Anonymous

One time a little boy was playing in his backyard. In the grass he saw a worm. He watched the worm for a long time. Then he said, "What an ugly thing you are! You have no hair, no legs, and I don't think you even have eyes."

"That doesn't matter," said the worm. "All worms are like that. We get along fine."

"But do you know how to do anything?" asked the boy. "The animals run about and the birds fly and sing. You cannot do any of these things."

"True," said the worm. "I cannot do those things."

"I know how to do everything," said the boy. "I even know how to read and write."

“I do not need to know how to read and write,” said the worm. “But, tell me, do you know how to live in the world all by yourself? Can you feed yourself and take care of yourself without the help of your parents?”

“No, but I am still very young,” said the boy.

“But I am much younger than you, and yet I can feed myself and take care of myself without any help. And besides, did you ever see a worm that could talk?”

QUESTIONS

1. What did the boy say to the worm?
2. What did the worm say to the boy?
3. Who is smarter, the boy or the worm? Why?

Kind Hearts Are Gardens

Anonymous

Kind hearts are gardens,
Kind thoughts are roots,
Kind words are blossoms,
Kind deeds are fruits.

The Bremen Town Musicians

Brothers Grimm

Once upon a time there lived an old donkey who had carried many a heavy sack of grain to the mill for his master. Now he was worn out and weary and could work no more. His master wanted to get him out of the way, but the donkey said to himself, "An ill wind is blowing! I had better get out of here while I can still use my four legs." And he started out for the town of Bremen, thinking that he might become a town musician to make a living.

He had not gone very far, when he came upon a big hunting dog who panted like one too tired to go one step further. "Now, now, old hound," said the donkey, "why are you panting so hard?"

"Ach," said the dog sadly, "I am old and getting weaker every day. I am not fit any more to go hunting with my master, and that's why he wanted to kill me. But I took to my heels and here I am. A lot of good it does me now, not knowing how to earn my food!"

"I have an idea, good friend," said the donkey. "I am on my way to Bremen, and there I plan to become a town musician. Come along with me and take up music too! I'll play the lute and you can pound the drum." The dog was content with this plan and the two traveled on together.

Before long they met a cat whose face looked as sad and long as a three day rain. "Well, old Whisker-wiper, what has crossed your path today?" asked the donkey.

“Who can be cheerful when his life is at stake?” answered the cat. “I am getting on in years, my teeth are no longer sharp, and I find it easier to sit by the fire and dream than to run after mice. That’s why my mistress wanted to drown me. I ran away and here I am, but what shall I do now?”

“Come along with us,” said the donkey, “we are going to Bremen to be musicians. You surely have talent for singing at night, so you can become a town musician like us.” The cat liked the idea and joined them.

Soon the three runaways came to a farmyard, and there on top of the gate sat a rooster, crowing away at the top of his lungs. “You crow loud enough to pierce our bones and marrow,” said the donkey. “What’s up?”

“My mistress told the cook to put me in the soup for Sunday dinner tomorrow. She will not have any pity on me, and my head will be cut off tonight. So now I am crowing at the top of my voice as long as I am still able.”

“Now, now, Redhead,” said the donkey, “you’ll find something better than death anywhere! Why don’t you travel with us to Bremen and be a musician? You have a fine lusty voice and when the four of us are making music together, it will be something to listen to!” The rooster agreed, and so all four of them traveled on together.

The town of Bremen, however, was far away and they could not reach it in one day. Towards evening they came to a forest where they decided to spend the night. The donkey and the dog lay down under a big tree, the cat climbed to the

lower branches, and the rooster flew up to the very top. Just before he closed his eyes however, the rooster once more took a long look in all four directions. All of a sudden he saw a tiny light glowing among the trees. "I can see a light," he shouted down to his companions. "There has to be a house not far away!"

"We must get up and go there," said the donkey. "These quarters here are none too comfortable."

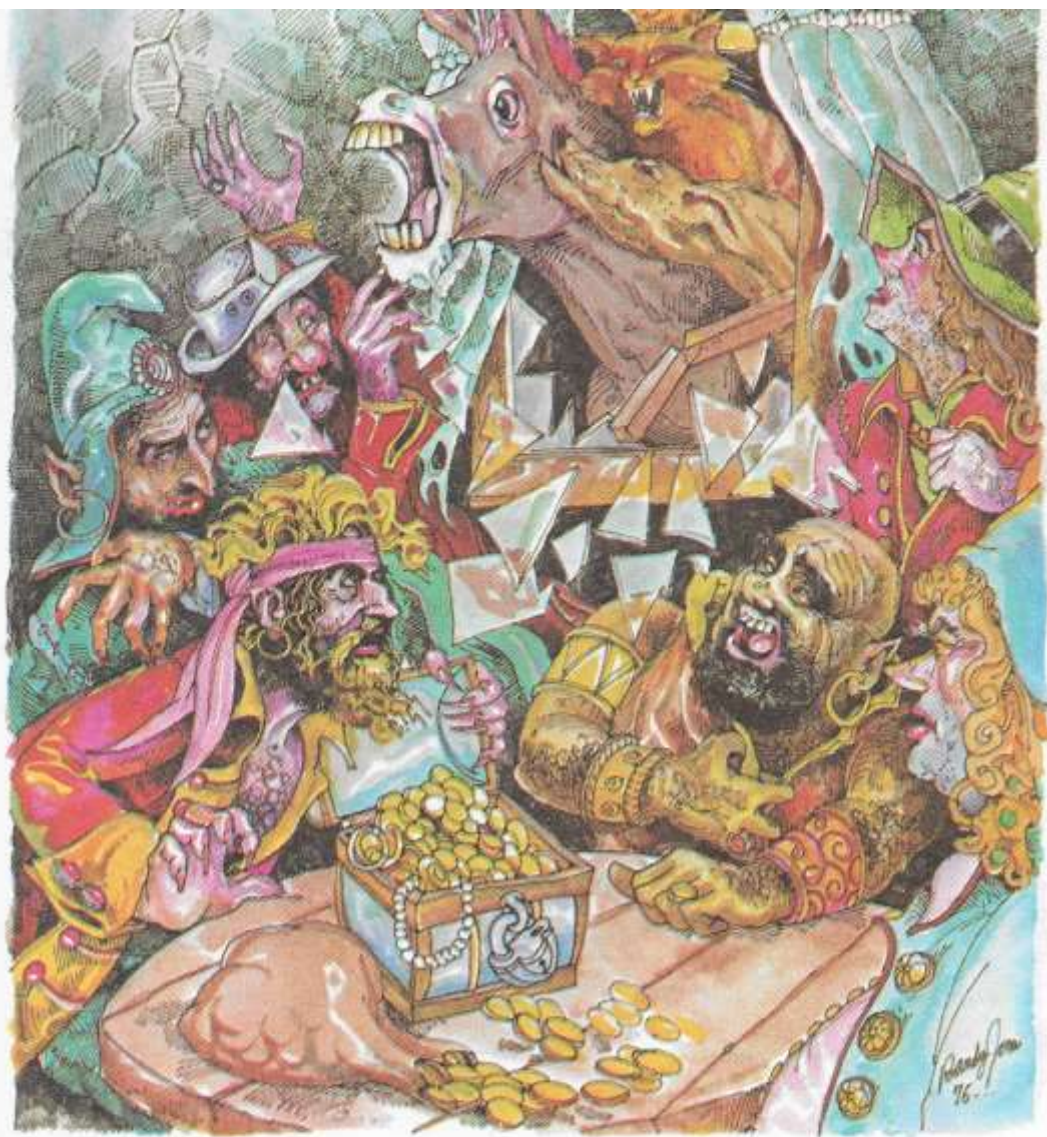
"I would not mind a few bones with a little meat," said the dog. So they started out toward the light, which became bigger and bigger, until at last they found themselves in front of a brightly lit house of robbers. The donkey, being the tallest, crept to the window and looked in. "What do you see, Long-ears?" asked the rooster.

"I see a table covered with delicious food and drink and robbers sitting around it and having a good time," answered the donkey.

"That would be just the thing for us!" said the rooster.

"Oh my, yes, if only we could be sitting in there," replied the donkey.

The animals put their heads together and tried to think of a way to chase the robbers away. At last they settled upon a plan. The donkey had to stand at the window with his forefeet on the ledge. The dog jumped on the donkey's back, the cat climbed on the dog's back, and finally the rooster flew up and perched himself on top of the cat. This done, the donkey gave



a signal and they all started to make their music—as loud as they possibly could. The donkey brayed, the dog barked, the cat meowed, and the rooster crowed! Then they burst through the window right into the middle of the room, the glass crashing and clattering all around them. The robbers, sure that the devil himself had broken into their house, jumped up and fled, terror-stricken, far into the forest. The four musicians, however, sat down at the table, well content with what was left and ate as though they had to eat enough



for four weeks. Then they blew out the light and looked for a place to sleep—each according to his nature and his own idea of comfort. The donkey went outside and lay down on top of the manure pile. The dog stretched out behind the back door. The cat curled up on the hearth next to the warm ashes, and the rooster perched himself on top of the roof. And as they were very tired after their long day's journey, they soon were fast asleep.

Some time after midnight, when the robbers could not see any more lights burning in their house, they came out from their hiding place in the woods. Everything seemed quiet and safe and the robber chief said, "We should not have let ourselves get frightened so easily." He ordered one of the robbers to go to the house and look around. The robber did as he was told and, finding everything peaceful and quiet, he went to the kitchen to light a lamp. Mistaking the glowing, fiery eyes of the cat for live coals, he held out his match to kindle it. But the cat did not think this a joke and sprang right



into his face, spitting and scratching. The robber, frightened out of his wits, started to run out of the back door, but the dog, who lay there, leaped up and bit him in the leg. And when the robber ran past the manure pile, the donkey gave him a hearty kick with his hind hoof. But the rooster, who had been awakened by all this noise and thought it was morning, lustily crowed, “Keekerikee! Keekerikee!” The terrified robber ran as though his life depended on it and did not stop until he reached his chief.

“What horrors!” he gasped. “In the house by the fire sits a dreadful witch. She hissed at me and scratched my face with her long fingernails. In front of the door stands a man with a knife, and he stabbed my leg as I ran out. In the yard lurks a black monster which beat me with a wooden club, and up on the roof sits the judge and he screamed, ‘Keep the thief here! Keep the thief here!’ That was too much for me and I took to my heels.”

From then on none of the robbers ever dared to go back to the house or even come near it. Our four town musicians, however, liked their new home so well that they lived in it happy and contented for the rest of their lives.



An Emerald Is as Green as Grass

Christina Rossetti

An emerald is as green as grass;
A ruby red as blood;
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;
A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone;
To catch the world's desire;
An opal holds a fiery spark;
But a flint holds fire.

WORDS TO WATCH

emerald
heaven

ruby
brilliant

sapphire
fiery

flint
opal

Antonyms

I. Read and Spell

up	down	heavy	light
over	under	poor	rich
in	out	true	false
off	on	hard	soft
light	dark	odd	even
good	bad	new	old
back	front	large	small
left	right	tall	short

II. Read and Answer

1. What are the antonyms of these words?

floor	raw	rough	open
now	beginning	go	fat
more	tight	all	high

2. Think of three more pairs of opposite words.

III. Write

Write five sentences. In each one, use a pair of words from Part I.



Christmas Is Coming

Marianne Carus

“Only two more weeks till Christmas,” says Mother.

“Hurray, hurray!” the children shout with joy.

Mother puts flour and dough on the table, and Joan kneads it and rolls it out. It is hard work, because dough has to be very thin. Jimmy and Edward help cut out cookies, and Mother puts them on the cookie sheet. They are lined up like soldiers: Christmas trees, angels, bells, stars, snowmen, and lots of other shapes. Now the cookies are baking, and the whole house smells like Christmas—cinnamon, ginger, honey—mmm!!

WORDS TO WATCH

dough

cookie sheet

cinnamon

ginger

Jingle Bells

reindeer

There are secrets everywhere. When Mother comes into the room, Joan quickly hides something under the table.

“Please don’t look, Mother,” she calls. She is working on a surprise for Christmas. All of a sudden when Father and Mother talk together, they start whispering. If the children could only hear what they are whispering about! Secrets, secrets, and nobody should find out about secrets before Christmas.

Snow is falling softly and silently. Streets and roofs and fences and cars are covered with white blankets. The children have to put food out for the birds.

In the evenings they sit in front of the cozy fire and sing Christmas carols: “Joy to the World,” “Jingle Bells,” “Away in a Manger.” The children talk about Santa Claus coming through the snow with his sled and his reindeer.

“You have to be good to each other,” Mother says. “Santa Claus comes only to good children.”

Joan and Jimmy are writing their lists for Santa. They know what they want. Edward cannot make up his mind. He wants to talk to Santa when he comes to school. After Santa has come, there will be no more school until the New Year has come.

In Sunday school they will have a Christmas party, and Joan will be an angel in the Christmas play. She will wear a long white gown and a silver crown and look like a Fairy Queen. It is exciting just to think about it!

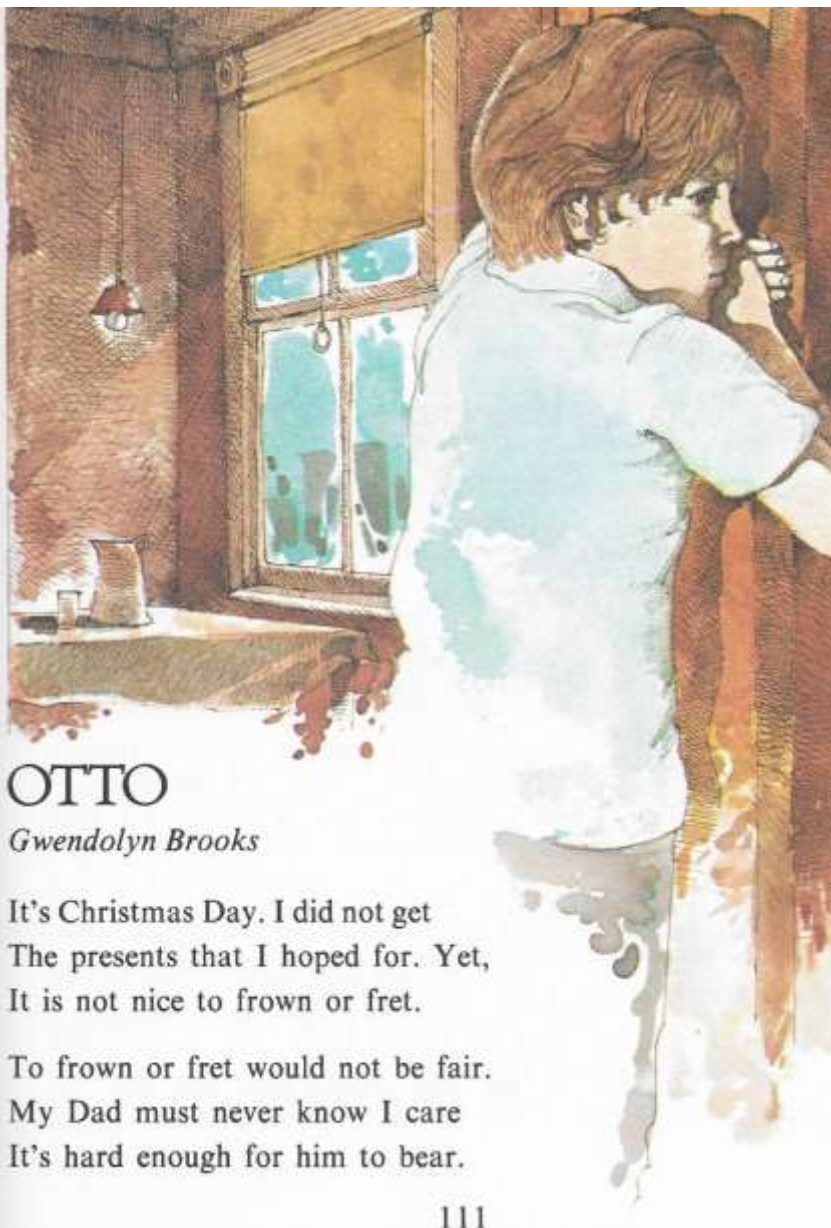


The children will all help decorate the tree and keep the house in order. They will hang up their stockings, put out cookies for Santa Claus, and then . . . Christmas morning!

“Still two more weeks till Christmas, Mother?” asks little Edward. “But why can’t time go a little bit faster just before Christmas?”

QUESTIONS

1. How are the children helping before Christmas?
2. Who has secrets and why?
3. What is the family doing in the evening?
4. What is going on in school before Christmas?



OTTO

Gwendolyn Brooks

It's Christmas Day. I did not get
The presents that I hoped for. Yet,
It is not nice to frown or fret.

To frown or fret would not be fair.
My Dad must never know I care
It's hard enough for him to bear.



Why the Bear Has a Short Tail

American Folk Tale

One cold morning when the fox was coming up the road with some fish, he met the bear.

“Good morning, Mr. Fox,” said the bear.

“Good morning, Mr. Bear,” said the fox. “The morning is brighter because I have met you.”

“Those are very good fish, Mr. Fox,” said the bear. “I have not eaten such fish for many a day. Where do you find them?”

“I have been fishing, Mr. Bear,” answered the fox.

“If I could catch such fish as those, I should like to go fishing. But I do not know how to fish.”

“It would be very easy for you to learn, Mr. Bear,” said the fox. “You are so big and strong that you can do anything.”

“Will you teach me, Mr. Fox?” asked the bear.

“I would not tell everybody, but you are such a good friend that I will teach you. Come to this pond, and I will show you how to fish through the ice.”

So the fox and the bear went to the frozen pond, and the fox showed the bear how to make a hole in the ice.

“That is easy for you,” said the fox, “but many an animal could not have made that hole. Now comes the secret. You must put your tail down into the water and keep it there. That is not easy, and not every animal could do it, for the water is very cold. But you are a learned animal, Mr. Bear. You know that the secret of catching fish is to keep your tail in the water a long time. Then when you pull it up, you will pull with it as many fish as I have.”

The bear put his tail down into the water, and the fox went away. The sun rose high in the heavens. Still the bear sat with his tail through the hole in the ice, for he thought, “When an animal is really learned, he will not fear a little cold.”

It began to get dark, and the bear said, “Now I will pull the fish out of the water. How good they will be!” He pulled and pulled, but not a fish came out. Worse than that, when he finally broke himself loose, not all of his tail came out, for the end of it was frozen to the ice.

He went slowly down the road, growling angrily, “I wish I could find that fox.” But the cunning fox was curled up in his warm nest, and whenever he thought of the bear, he laughed.

Tracks in the Snow

Marchette Chute

This was a mouse who played around
All by himself one night,
Dancing under the winter moon
Forward and left and right.

This was a pheasant walking by,
Out with a friend or two—
This was a rabbit running fast,
The way rabbits do.

This was a squirrel who found a nut—
This was a chickadee—
And this uncommon sort of track
I think was probably me.





The Garden Year

Sarah Coleridge

January brings the snow,
Makes our feet and fingers glow.

February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen lake again.

March brings breezes, loud and shrill,
To stir the dancing daffodil.

April brings the primrose sweet,
Scatters daisies at our feet.

May brings flocks of pretty lambs
Skipping by their fleecy dams.

June brings tulips, lilies, roses,
Fills the children's hands with posies.

WORDS TO WATCH

shrill

posies

pheasant

daffodil

gillyflowers

sleet

primrose

sheaves

blazing

fleecy

borne

treat



Hot July brings cooling showers,
Apricots, and gillyflowers.

August brings the sheaves of corn;
Then the harvest home is borne.

Warm September brings the fruit;
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.

Fresh October brings the pheasant;
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.

Dull November brings the blast;
Then the leaves are whirling fast.

Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.



QUESTIONS

1. Which month do you like best? Why?
2. Write a paragraph about the month you like best.

The Months of the Year

I. Read and Spell

January	May	September
February	June	October
March	July	November
April	August	December

II. Read and Answer

1. Which month do you think is the hardest to spell?
2. What is the shortest month of the year? What are the longest months?
3. How many months are in a year?
4. How many weeks are in a month?
5. What months are in these seasons of the year?
spring summer fall winter

III. Read, Write, and Memorize

Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Except February alone,
Which has four and twenty-four
Till leap year gives it one day more.

Androcles and the Lion

Classical Tale

Androcles was a brave soldier and one of the emperor's favorites. But once he displeased the emperor by shooting a deer that the emperor had missed. So the man was sold to be a slave and sent far from his home.

After he had been a slave for several years, he escaped. He wandered off into the hills and deserts trying to find his way back to his own land. One very hot day he crawled into a cave to get out of the sun. He was very hungry, but he hoped to find something to eat later in the day. While he was resting from his wanderings, he heard a strange sound. He knew that an animal was coming into the cave. But he could not tell what it was. The steps did not sound like the steps of any animal that he knew. But he was frightened, and he held his breath so as to make no sound.

As he waited, holding his breath, the animal came nearer. It was a lion. But he did not look fierce. He did not walk as if he were the King of Beasts. In fact, he was limping on three legs and holding one of his front paws in the air.

WORDS TO WATCH

Androcles	favorite	displeased	arena
emperor	recognized	desert	squeak
tongue	protected		prisoner

Androcles felt so sorry for the lion that he forgot to be afraid. The lion walked up to him and stopped right in front of him. He held up his paw and made a soft m-i-a-o-w, like a sad and hungry kitten, only louder. Then Androcles saw that the poor lion had a thorn in his paw.

Androcles bent over and gently pulled the thorn out of the lion's foot. The lion squeaked a little when the thorn came out. But then the lion saw that he could walk on all four feet again. He purred and shook his head gently at Androcles. Then he turned around and walked out of the cave.

Androcles wandered about for days and weeks. He lived as best he could on roots and berries and nuts. At last he came to a camp made up of many tents. He was very glad, because he thought that now he could get food and be safe from wild animals. But when he came to the camp, he saw that it was filled with the emperor's soldiers. The captain recognized Androcles. They made a prisoner of him and after a while brought him back to Rome.

The emperor disliked Androcles even more now, because he had run away from his master. So the emperor decided on a very cruel punishment. He ordered Androcles put into the arena, where a hungry lion would eat him. There Androcles stood, and the gate to the lion's cage was opened.

The lion came out growling and sniffing. He walked about as if he were looking for something to eat. Soon he came to where Androcles was standing and waiting, expecting to be attacked the very next minute. But when the lion looked at



Androcles, instead of springing on him, he began to lick his hand gently with his tongue. It was the same lion that Androcles had helped that day in the cave!

Everybody was amazed. Word was brought to the emperor that Androcles must be a strange magician, for the lion would not eat him. The emperor ordered Androcles brought before him and asked him to explain what his power was that protected him from the lion.

Then Androcles told the story of the lion in the desert and how he had removed the thorn from the lion's paw. When the emperor heard this story, he saw what a brave and good man Androcles was. The emperor forgave him and took him back into his favor.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Androcles sold as a slave?
2. Why was the lion limping?
3. What did Androcles do that showed he was brave?
4. Why was Androcles sent back to Rome as a prisoner?
5. How did the emperor plan to punish Androcles?
6. Why did the people think Androcles was a magician?
7. Why did the emperor take Androcles back into his favor?

THE MILKMAID AND HER PAIL

Aesop



One time a milkmaid was on her way to market with a pail of milk on her head.

As she was walking along, she said to herself, “With the money I get from this milk, I am going to buy some setting eggs. From the eggs I will get some chicks. Then I will raise the chicks until they are big enough to sell. With the money I get from the chickens, I will buy a beautiful gown. When I wear the gown, I will look so beautiful that everyone will admire me. But I shall act very proudly. I will shrug my shoulders like this.”

WORDS TO WATCH

market
money

admire
proudly

raise
shrugged

And as she shrugged her shoulders, she tossed her head back. The pail of milk tumbled down, and the milk spilled all over the ground.

“Oh dear!” exclaimed the milkmaid. “Now there will be no gown, and no one will admire me. I won’t even have any chickens or any eggs, and now I don’t even have the milk. But I have learned one thing: Don’t count your chickens before they are hatched.”



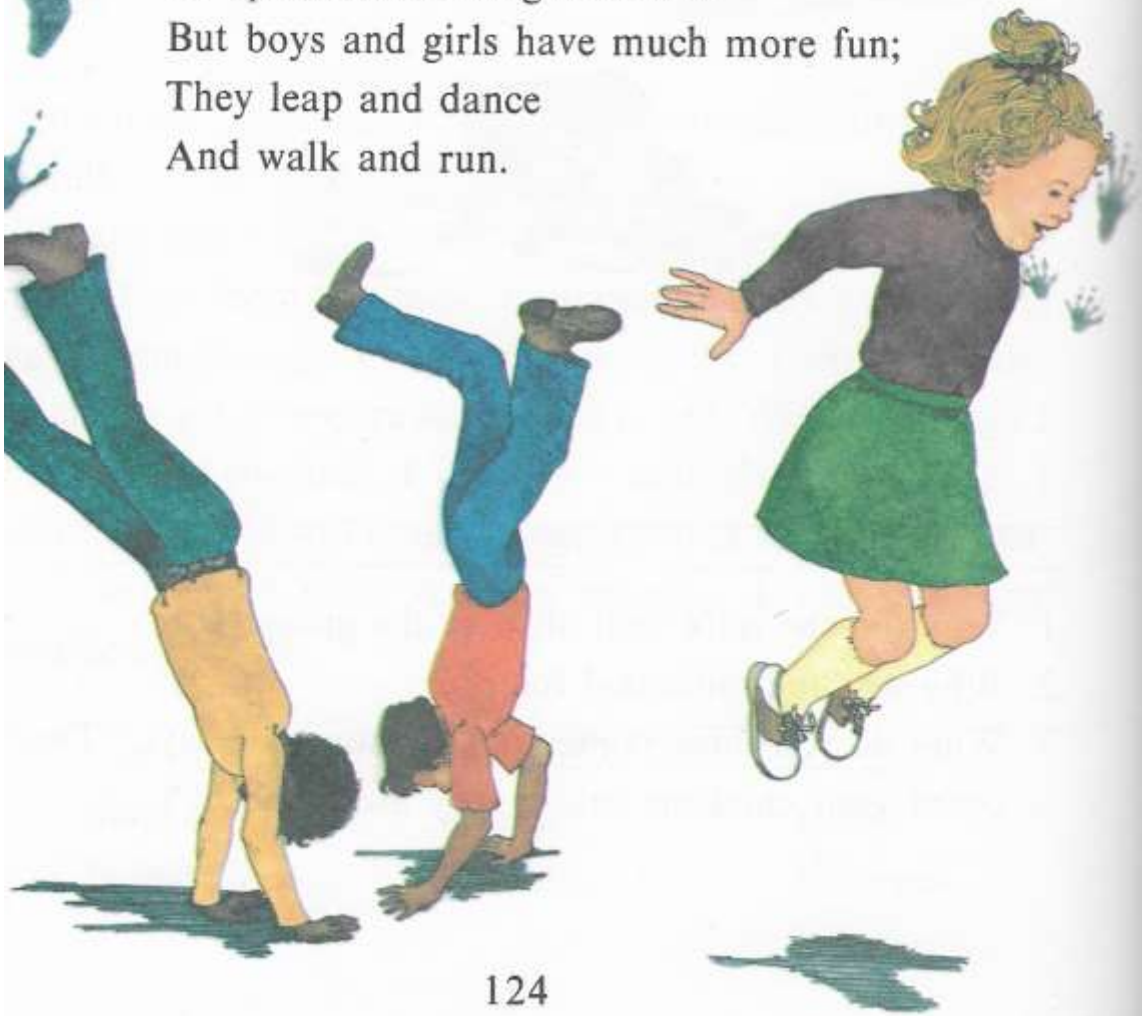
QUESTIONS

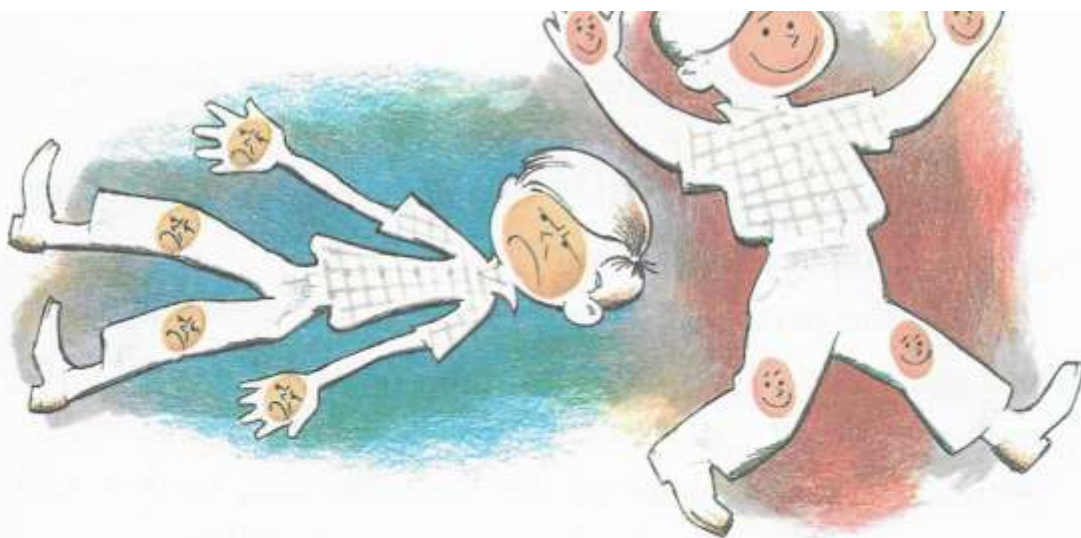
1. Why did the milk spill all over the ground?
2. Why was the milkmaid foolish?
3. What do you think is meant when someone says, “Don’t count your chickens before they are hatched”?

How Creatures Move

Anonymous

The lion walks on padded paws,
The squirrel leaps from limb to limb,
While flies can crawl straight up a wall,
And seals can dive and swim.
The worm, he wiggles all around,
The monkey swings by his tail,
And birds may hop upon the ground,
Or spread their wings and sail.
But boys and girls have much more fun;
They leap and dance
And walk and run.





THE QUARREL

Old Fable

One time the parts of the human body began to quarrel. They became very angry and decided that they would not help one another any more.

"We are not going to walk any more," said the legs to the other parts of the body. "You will have to get around as best you can," they said.

"We are not going to work for you any more," said the hands. "From now on, work for yourselves."

WORDS TO WATCH

quarrel
human

decided
members

healthy
friends

“Why should I feed you any more?” said the mouth, “After this, you can feed yourselves.”

“What do we care for you?” said the eyes. “We are not going to see for you any longer.”

And so the parts of the body would not help one another. The legs would not walk, the hands would not work, the mouth would not eat, and the eyes would not see.

Soon all the members of the body became weaker and weaker, and the body also became weak and thin.

Then the members of the body saw that they must not quarrel any longer. They decided to be friends again. The legs began to walk again, the hands went back to work, the mouth ate again, and the eyes began to see again. Soon the members became as strong as before, and the body became very healthy.

QUESTIONS

1. What happened to the body when the legs, the hands, the mouth, and the eyes would not help each other?
2. What can you learn from this story?

Parts of the Body

I. Read and Spell

ear	brain	elbow	mouth
nose	arm	wrist	ankle
face	cheek	hand	forehead
lips	chin	finger	skin
head	neck	throat	hair
eye	shoulder	heel	thumb
heart	stomach	leg	blood
lungs	tongue	knee	muscles
foot	toe	back	nerves

II. Read and Answer

1. Why are the heart, the lungs, the brain, and the stomach important to us?
2. The five senses are sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. What part of the body do we use for each of the senses?
3. Which of the five senses do you think is most important?

III. Write

Write a little story about what one part of your body does.



Sleeping Beauty

Brothers Grimm

Once upon a time there lived a king and a queen who wanted a child more than anything in the world. After many years when a little girl was born, they were overjoyed. The princess was so lovely that the proud king ordered a splendid feast.

Of the thirteen fairies living in his kingdom, he invited only twelve, as he had only twelve golden dinner plates. When the feast was almost over, each of the twelve fairies offered a special gift to the little princess.

WORDS TO WATCH

revenge

courtiers

parted

curse

spindle

sizzling

doves

kingdom

confusion

flax

pluck

grieve

"You shall be the fairest of all," said one fairy.

"And the happiest," said another.

"You shall be loved by everyone for your good heart and your kindness," said the third.

"Nobody will have more riches than you," said the next.

"You shall sing like a nightingale," said another.

When eleven of the fairies had given their gifts, the princess had everything that one could wish for. As the twelfth and last fairy was just about to speak, suddenly the door to the big hall opened. In came the thirteenth fairy, who wanted to get her revenge for not being invited. She bent over the sleeping child and hissed, "When the princess is fifteen years old, she shall prick her finger with a spindle and die."

Without saying another word, the angry fairy turned and left. Everyone was terrified, and there was great confusion. But then the twelfth fairy, who had not yet spoken, stepped forward quickly. "Do not grieve," she said to the king and queen. "I cannot undo the bad fairy's curse, but I can change it. The princess shall not die, but shall fall asleep for one hundred years after she pricks her finger with the spindle."

The next morning the king ordered all spindles in the country burned at once.

As the years went by, all wishes of the good fairies came true. The princess was so beautiful, kind, warmhearted, and happy that everybody who saw her loved her dearly.

One day when the princess was all alone in the castle, she climbed up into an old tower she had never seen before. There



was a little door with an old rusty key. The princess, who was now fifteen years old, turned the key. There was a little room, and in it sat an old woman with a spindle, busily spinning her flax.

“Good day, little mother,” said the king’s daughter. “What are you doing?”

“I am spinning,” replied the old woman. “Would you like to try it?”

“Oh, yes, please,” said the princess, delighted.

But no sooner did she pick up the spindle than the bad wish came true and she pricked her finger with it. At once she fell into a deep sleep.

A great quiet spread over the whole castle. The king and queen, who had just come home, fell asleep in the big hall, together with all their courtiers. The horses slept in their stables, the dogs in the backyard, the doves on the roof, the flies on the walls. Even the crackling fire became still and fell asleep. The roast stopped sizzling, and the cook, who just wanted to box his boy’s ear, let him fall asleep. The wind stopped blowing, and in the big trees no leaf stirred.

All around the castle a hedge of thorns started to grow. It became thicker and higher each year until finally the castle was completely hidden. One could not even see the flag on the roof any more. But all through the country people talked about the lovely princess who had fallen asleep, and they called her "Sleeping Beauty." Many a prince came and tried to get through the thorny hedge into the castle, but none succeeded. No man nor animal could get through the thick and thorny hedge.

At the end of a hundred years a handsome young prince came from far away. He had heard of the unbelievable beauty of the princess, and he wanted to cut the hedge and wake up Sleeping Beauty. People warned him not to go, but he said, "I am not afraid. I want to see Sleeping Beauty more than anything else in the world."

When he came close to the hedge, suddenly the thorns changed into beautiful flowers which parted to let him walk through. In the court of the castle he saw the horses and dogs sleeping. In the kitchen the sleeping cook still held out his hand to catch the boy, and the maid sat there with a chicken which should have been plucked one hundred years ago. The





prince saw all the ladies and gentlemen asleep and the king and queen next to their throne. Everything was so quiet that he could hear himself breathing. He went on and finally came to the tower. He opened the door to the little room in which the princess slept. There she lay and was so beautiful that he could not take his eyes from her. He bent over her and kissed her.

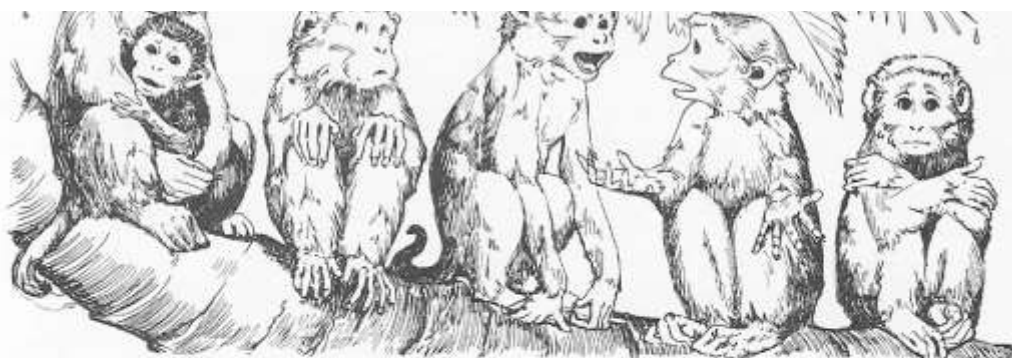
At the touch of the kiss the magic spell was broken. Slowly Sleeping Beauty opened her eyes and smiled up at the prince.

They went down hand in hand, and the king woke up, and the queen and all the people of the court looked at each other with big eyes. The horses in the yard got up, the dogs barked, the doves flew off the roof into the field, the flies started crawling up and down the walls again, and the fire in the kitchen woke up and crackled and cooked food once more. The roast started to sizzle. The cook boxed the kitchen boy's ear so that he screamed.

Then Sleeping Beauty and her prince were married in great splendor and lived happily ever after.

QUESTIONS

1. When the king and queen had a feast for the new princess, who was the guest that was not invited?
2. What was the gift of the uninvited guest?
3. What was the gift of the twelfth fairy?
4. How did the princess prick her finger?
5. What happened when the princess pricked her finger?
6. Why were the young princes not able to rescue the princess?
7. How was the princess finally rescued?



The Monkeys

Indian Folk Tale

Monkeys chatter all the time. At night they sit together on palm trees and sleep. When it rains the baby monkeys whine and cry because they are cold. Even the mother monkeys groan and complain. Then the father monkeys say, "Tomorrow we will build a house."

Another one says, "Yes, tomorrow for sure!"

When morning comes, the sun shines warmly, and everyone is happy again. Then one father monkey asks, "Shall we build our house now?"

"Let me eat first," answers one.

And another says, "I want to play a little bit first."

And all the others echo, "Me too! Me too!"

They eat and play all day long and forget all about building the house.

WORDS TO WATCH

chatter

groan

build

palm trees

complain

monkeys

But during the night, it starts raining again, and again the monkeys get very cold. They think of a nice, warm house and chatter, "We have to be sure to build our house tomorrow!"

And what do you think happens the next morning? They forget about it again. And so it goes, day after day, night after night.

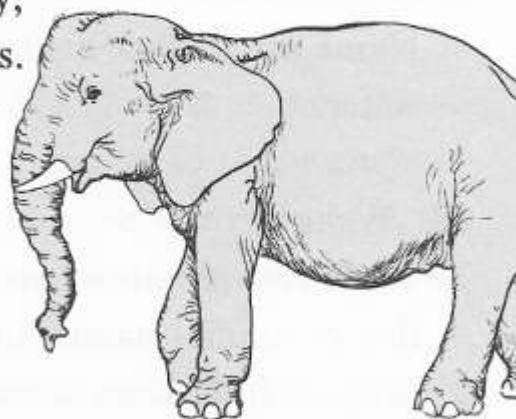
QUESTIONS

1. Why did the monkeys want to build a house?
2. Why didn't they build a house?
3. When you plan something, do you finish it?

The Elephant's Trunk

American Folk Rhyme

The elephant carries a great big trunk;
He never packs it with clothes;
It has no lock and it has no key,
But he takes it wherever he goes.



Animals of the Sea

I. Read and Spell

carp	shark	catfish
bass	clam	swordfish
goldfish	flying fish	salmon
trout	perch	tuna
sea horse	eel	starfish
sunfish	minnow	guppy
sucker	jellyfish	octopus

II. Read and Answer

1. Which of these is the largest? The smallest?
2. Which of these live only in salt water?
3. Which are good for pets?
4. Which of these do people like to eat?
5. Which of these can be dangerous to people?
6. Name some other kinds of fish or animals that live in the water.

III. Write

1. Write five sentences, each one telling something about a fish or animal named on this page.
2. Write a little story about one of these fish.



The Emperor's New Clothes

Hans Christian Andersen

Once there lived an emperor who was more interested in clothes than in his people. All day long he thought about new clothes. He had a coat for every hour of the day. He was so busy changing clothes that when one of his people wanted to see him, the servants would always say, "The emperor is in his dressing room."

One day two men, who were not as honest as they should have been, came to the land. They sent word to the emperor that they were weavers. "The cloth we weave is very unusual," they said. "It is entirely invisible to anyone who is silly or unfit for his job."

"This would be a fine cloth for me to have," thought the emperor. "Then I could learn much about the people who

work for me. If anyone could not see my clothes, I would know that he was either silly or not fit for his job.”

So he ordered the weavers to set up their looms and start making cloth for him.

The two dishonest men asked the emperor for money for the finest silk and the most expensive gold thread, but they never used the money at all. They put it in their pockets and sat there pretending that they were weaving.

After a while, the emperor thought he would go and see how the weavers were getting along with the unusual cloth they were making for him. When the emperor looked at the looms, he could see nothing, for there was nothing to see.

“Goodness me!” he thought. “Can it be that I am silly or unfit for my job? I must pretend that I can see the cloth.”

“Isn’t it beautiful?” said the two men who were not as honest as they should have been. “See the lovely pattern and the beautiful colors! You must admit that they are very unusual.”

“Yes, yes,” replied the emperor. “It is just as beautiful as you said. I shall give great honors to you weavers.”

And he gave each of them a medal to wear and the title “Knight of the Loom.”

“Why not have a big parade when you first wear the garments made from this wonderful cloth?” asked one of his courtiers.

“That’s a splendid idea,” said the emperor, who always liked to be flattered.



The night before the parade, the people saw the light of the weaving room burning all night. The weavers had stayed up all night pretending to be putting the finishing touches to the emperor's new clothes. They sewed and they sewed, but there was no need to put any thread in their needles because there was no cloth and no thread. At last they said, "Everything is ready."

One of the weavers held out the trousers to the emperor, and the other held out the coat. The emperor felt a little strange pretending to put on the trousers and the coat when he couldn't see them.

"And here is your cape," said the first weaver. The emperor pretended to put that on too.

Then the emperor started marching down the street at the head of the parade.

"Beautiful! Magnificent!" the people exclaimed as the emperor marched past them. They had all heard about the story of the unusual cloth, and they were ashamed to say that they could not see it, for no one wanted to be called silly or unfit for his job.

The emperor held his head high and felt very proud as he marched long. The two weavers laughed to themselves to think how easy it was to make people look silly.

Suddenly a little girl's voice rose above the murmurs of the crowd. "But he has nothing on!" she cried.

Soon her words reached everyone's ears, and others began to whisper and then to shout, "BUT HE HAS NOTHING ON!"

Then the foolish emperor felt very silly indeed. The people, too, began to see that they had been tricked, and they felt almost as silly as the emperor. But the little girl did not feel silly, for she had spoken the truth. Besides, she had made the people speak the truth, too.



I Had a Nickel

American Folk Rhyme

I had a nickel and I walked around the block.
I walked right into a baker shop.
I took two doughnuts right out of the grease;
I handed the lady my five-cent piece.
She looked at the nickel and she looked at me,
And said, "This money's no good to me.
There's a hole in the nickel, and it goes right through."
Said I, "There's a hole in the doughnut too."





The Riddle of the Sphinx

Greek Myth

A long, long time ago there lived a monster called the Sphinx. This Sphinx had the head of a woman, the body of a lion, and the wings of a bird.

The Sphinx lived near an old, old city named Thebes. Whenever a traveler passed by her, she would give him a riddle. If the traveler could not answer the riddle, the Sphinx would eat him up.

Here is the riddle of the Sphinx, "What walks on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, and three legs in the evening?"

WORDS TO WATCH

traveler
Oedipus

Sphinx
riddle

Thebes
upright

Many people in Thebes were eaten by the Sphinx because they did not know the answer to the riddle. They were very much afraid of the Sphinx, and they did not know what to do.

Then one day a very clever man came along. His name was Oedipus. As he passed by the Sphinx one day, she stopped him and asked him her riddle, "What walks on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, and on three legs in the evening?"

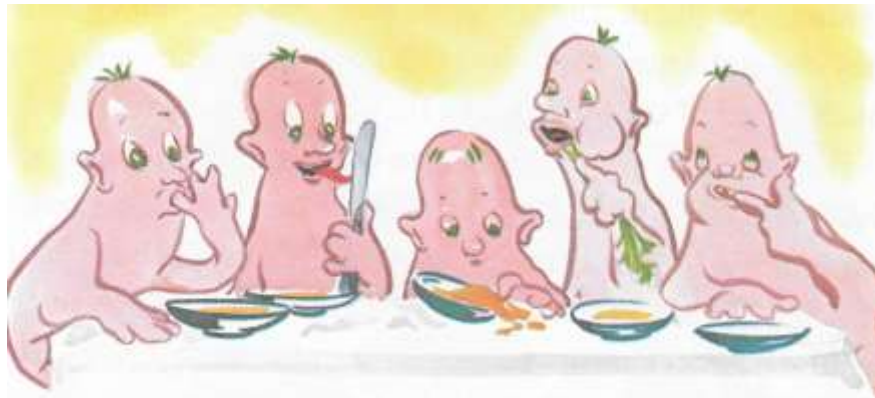
"That is easy," said Oedipus. "The answer is *man*, for man crawls on all fours when he is a baby, he walks upright when he is grown, and he uses a cane when he is old."

This was the right answer. The Sphinx became so angry that she jumped off a cliff and killed herself. Now travelers could pass in safety.

The people of Thebes were so happy and grateful that they made Oedipus their king.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the riddle of the Sphinx?
2. What is the answer to the riddle?
3. Why were the people of Thebes glad when Oedipus solved the riddle?
4. How did they show Oedipus that they liked what he did?



THE GOOPS

Gelett Burgess

The Goops they lick their fingers,
And the Goops they lick their knives;
They spill their broth on the tablecloth—
Oh, they lead disgusting lives!
The Goops they talk while eating,
And loud and fast they chew;
And that is why I'm glad that I
Am not a Goop—are you?

Habits

I. Read and Remember

Good Habits

brush your teeth	go to bed on time
obey your parents	read good books
say "please" and "thank you"	have good table manners
watch out for cars	get lots of exercise
be on time	obey your teacher
study hard in school	be neat and orderly
be polite	help with chores at home
do a good deed every day	obey the laws

Bad Habits

watching too much television	daydreaming too much
eating before meals	careless speaking and writing
playing with matches	being unkind to people

II. Read and Answer

1. Why are each of these good habits important?
2. Why are each of these bad habits bad?
3. Name some other good habits and bad habits.
4. What do you think is your worst habit?

III. Write

Write a story about a good habit, and tell why it is good.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- I. A. You have read these stories in Part Three of your book. Tell what each is about.

The Boy and the Worm

The Bremen Town Musicians

Christmas Is Coming

Why the Bear Has a Short Tail

Androcles and the Lion

The Milkmaid and Her Pail

The Quarrel

Sleeping Beauty

The Monkeys

The Emperor's New Clothes

The Riddle of the Sphinx

- B. Which of these stories do you like best? Why?

- II. A. Memorize a poem you read in Part Three of your book and recite it to the class.

- B. Copy the poem you like best in Part Three. Copy it carefully.

Part Four

For Readers Brave and Bold

We're readers brave and bold;
We know that reading's fun;
So if you want to hear,
We'll show you how it's done.



The Shoemaker and the Elves

Brothers Grimm

Once upon a time there lived a shoemaker. This shoemaker was a good man, and he worked very hard, but he could not earn enough money to live on. All he had left was one piece of leather which was just enough to make one pair of shoes.

Before he went to bed that night, he cut out the leather to make the shoes, for he wanted to get up early to finish them.

He then went to bed, said his prayers, and was soon asleep, for he had nothing on his conscience to trouble him.

WORDS TO WATCH

shoemaker
examined

leather
delighted

conscience
curtain

The next morning he awoke, said his prayers, and sat down to work. But to his great surprise, there stood the shoes upon the table already made.

The good man did not know what to say or think. He picked up the shoes, examined them closely, and saw that they were perfectly made. They were neat and shiny, and there was not a single bad stitch in them.

That same day a customer saw the shoes in the shop window. He was so delighted with these shoes that he paid the shoemaker a high price for them.

With this money the shoemaker bought enough leather for two more pairs of shoes. That night he cut out the leather with the idea of getting up early in the morning to finish the shoes.

He went to bed as usual. When he awoke the next morning, there on the table he found two more pairs of shoes, as perfectly made as the first pair.

And so it went. Every time the shoemaker cut out the leather for a pair of shoes, he found next morning that someone had made a perfect pair of shoes for him.

One evening at Christmas time, the shoemaker and his wife were sitting before the fire, and the shoemaker said, "I would like to sit up tonight and watch to see who makes the shoes for me every night."

"I will watch with you," said the shoemaker's wife.

And so the shoemaker and his wife hid behind the curtain that night. Just as the clock struck twelve, they saw

something so strange that they could hardly believe their eyes. Two little elves came into the workshop, climbed upon the table, and began to work on the shoes. Their nimble fingers tapped with the hammer and stitched with the needle. They worked so fast and so well that soon the shoes were finished and ready for someone to wear. Then, in a twinkling, they were gone.

After the wife had time to catch her breath, she said to the shoemaker, "Did you see how poorly dressed those little elves are? They had nothing on their backs but rags, and they were shivering from the cold. Those little elves have made us rich, and I am going to help them. Tomorrow I will make new shirts and trousers for them and good heavy coats besides."

"And did you see that they were barefoot?" replied the shoemaker. "I will make them some new shoes."

The next day the shoemaker and his wife made new clothes and shoes for the little elves and put them on the work table. That night they hid behind the curtain again, and at midnight the elves came in as usual.



When they saw the clothes lying on the table, they laughed and jumped about with glee. They put on the new clothes and saw that they fit perfectly. Then they sang merrily and danced about until they danced right out the door and over the hill.

The shoemaker and his wife never saw the little elves again, but they were very happy, and everything went well with them as long as they lived.

QUESTIONS

1. How were the elves helping the shoemaker?
2. What did the shoemaker's wife do to help the elves?
3. What did the shoemaker do to help them?
4. Why did the shoemaker and his wife hide behind the curtain the first time?
5. Why did they hide behind it the second time?

Good, Better, Best

Anonymous

Good, better, best.

Never rest

Till "good" is "better,"

And "better," "best."



The Table and the Chair

Edward Lear

Said the Table to the Chair,
"You can hardly be aware
How I suffer from the heat
And from chilblains on my feet.
If we took a little walk,
We might have a little talk;
Pray let us take the air,"
Said the Table to the Chair.

Said the Chair unto the Table,
"Now you know we are not able.
How foolishly you talk,
When you know we cannot walk!"
Said the Table with a sigh,
"It can do no harm to try.
I've as many legs as you.
Why can't we walk on two?"

So they both went slowly down,
And walked about the town
With a cheerful bumpy sound
As they toddled round and round;
And everybody cried,
As they hastened to their side,
“See! The Table and the Chair
Have come out to take the air!”

But in going down an alley
To a castle in a valley,
They completely lost their way,
And wandered all the day;
Till, to see them safely back,
They paid a Ducky-quack,
And a Beetle, and a Mouse,
Who took them to their house.

Then they whispered to each other,
“Oh, delightful little brother,
What a lovely walk we’ve taken!
Let us dine on beans and bacon.”
So the Ducky and the leetle
Brownny-Mousy and the Beetle
Dined and danced upon their heads
Till they toddled to their beds.

Scrambled Words

I. Unscramble

yob	eder	arhci	dnowwi
yda	rigl	srohe	arechet
gpi	ogod	uoseh	prsots
nma	ribd	rewat	lhosco
yee	ersto	roflo	tehmor
ylf	nosw	rheat	epnicl
ary	toba	tanip	klena

II. Read and Answer

1. Find another word that the letters in each of these words make:

rat	pool	peek	state
art	pest	leap	meat

2. See how many words you can make out of the letters in this word:

a u t o m o b i l e

More than thirty words are possible.

I Saw a Ship A-Sailing

Mother Goose

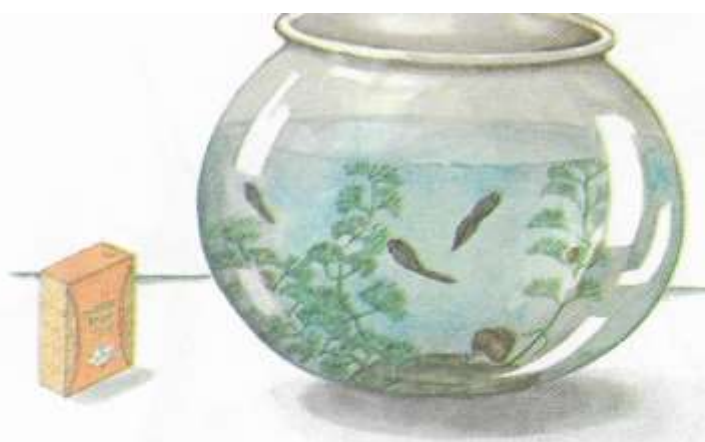
I saw a ship a-sailing,
A-sailing on the sea,
And, oh, it was all laden
With pretty things for me.

There were comfits in the cabin,
And apples in the hold;
The sails were made of silk,
And the masts were all of gold.

The four-and-twenty sailors,
That stood between the decks,
Were four-and-twenty white mice
With chains about their necks.

The captain was a duck
With a packet on his back,
And when the ship began to move,
The captain said, "Quack! Quack!"





A Birthday Surprise

Arther S. Trace, Jr.

"I know something very special," Dad said, and smiled at Mom as if he had a secret.

"Am I going to get an electric train?" asked Tom.

"I know something very special about your birthday," Dad said.

"Am I going to get a new baseball mitt?" asked Tom.

"Tom, you are going to get something special for your birthday."

Finally his birthday came. Tom didn't get any of the things that he had thought about. Instead, on the table was a high round bowl. It was filled with water and green plants that had

WORDS TO WATCH

feelers

flutters

greenish

bluish

tadpoles

scummy

reddish

breeding

earthworms

feathery leaves. Between the leaves Tom saw little black animals with small bodies and little wiggling tails. Then he saw two water snails. What a funny round house they carried around with them! Tom watched their long thin feelers and their mouths that opened and closed.

“What are they doing?” Tom asked his Dad.

“Those are your street cleaners. They eat everything to keep your bowl neat and clean.”

“And those little animals with the tails, Dad, what are they?”

“That is what is so special. It is a riddle for you. Look at them closely, and you will see that they are very young, fresh from the eggs. Very slowly they will change into something different.”

“They must be little birds,” called Tom’s little sister Cathy.

“Oh, no,” said Tom, “I think they are little fish.”

Dad laughed and said, “Many animals come from eggs and are not birds or fish. Look how fast they swim!”

Cathy went to the bowl for another look. “Now I know,” she called. “They are mice. That tail is like a baby mouse tail.”

No, they were not mice. They were not birds. They were not fish. But what were they? The children waited and watched each day, and each day they saw something new.

“Look, they have black eyes. I see how they are drinking. Then they go to the plants where the leaves are brown. They

are nibbling.” And one day, “Oh, Dad, their eyes are not black. They are gold. And the animals are not black any more. They are bluish and reddish with bright spots.” The children kept watching day by day.

“They are playing with each other. That big one always comes up to the others. Then they lean their heads on each other. The little tail flutters like a flag in the wind.” Then one day Tom got very excited and called his Dad.

“Look! Look! Next to his tail the biggest one has legs—new legs that were not there before. I can see them.” A few days later they were all like this. They all had real legs with a real knee and foot. But what animal has two legs and a tail? Then they got fatter and fatter and fatter.

Then one morning something very special was there. Two little arms had grown out of the fat part up front. Now they had four feet with a tail.

Now Tom knew. “Dad, now I know what they are. They are little frogs, and before they were tadpoles.”

“Yes,” Dad said. “We have been breeding frogs. Each one starts out as an egg. Then it turns into something like a fish but is not a real fish. Then it grows up and has legs and lungs. At first it could live in water like a fish. Now it can live in the air just as we do. We must put the frogs out in the fresh air. Look!”

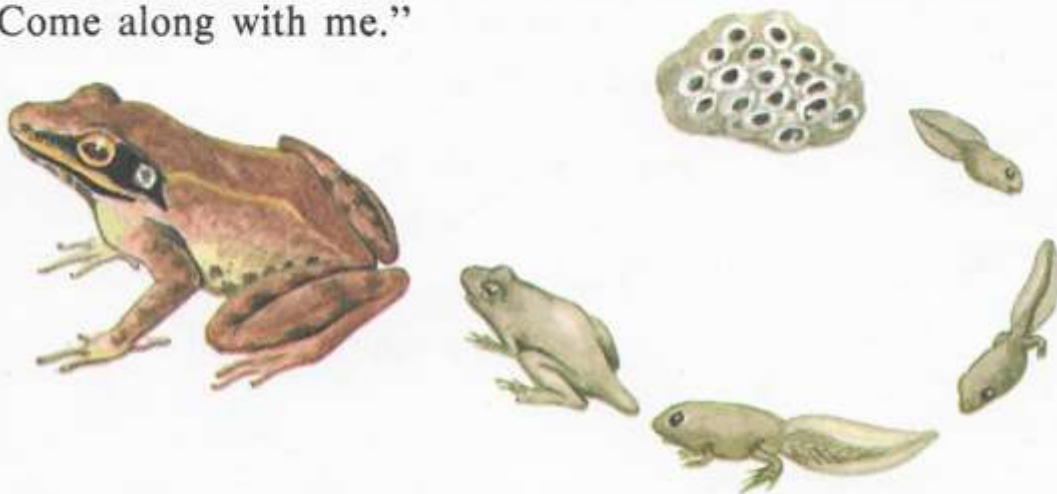
Dad put a small board on the water. One by one the little frogs climbed up on it. The children saw how their little chests moved up and down. The frogs were breathing through

their lungs. The children watched for several days until the tails shrank back and disappeared.

Then one day Tom asked his friend, "What are you doing after school, John?"

"I'm going to play baseball. Want to come along?"

Tom said, "No, but why don't you come with me? I know something special. We are going to the pond to put out our frogs. They are big enough and strong enough to go worm hunting on their own now. When they were still small, their food was stored in their tails. When they were growing, they needed that greenish scummy stuff that we found on the edge of the pond. Then when their tails were almost gone, I began to feed them earthworms, soft insects, flies, grasshoppers, and crickets. But now they are big and should be outside. Come along with me."



QUESTIONS

1. Why was this present a real birthday surprise?
2. Find out as much about tadpoles and frogs as you can and tell your class what you have learned.