

36

GEM'S SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

2

# FAMOUS FABLES

Selections from Grimms



Ratna Sagar

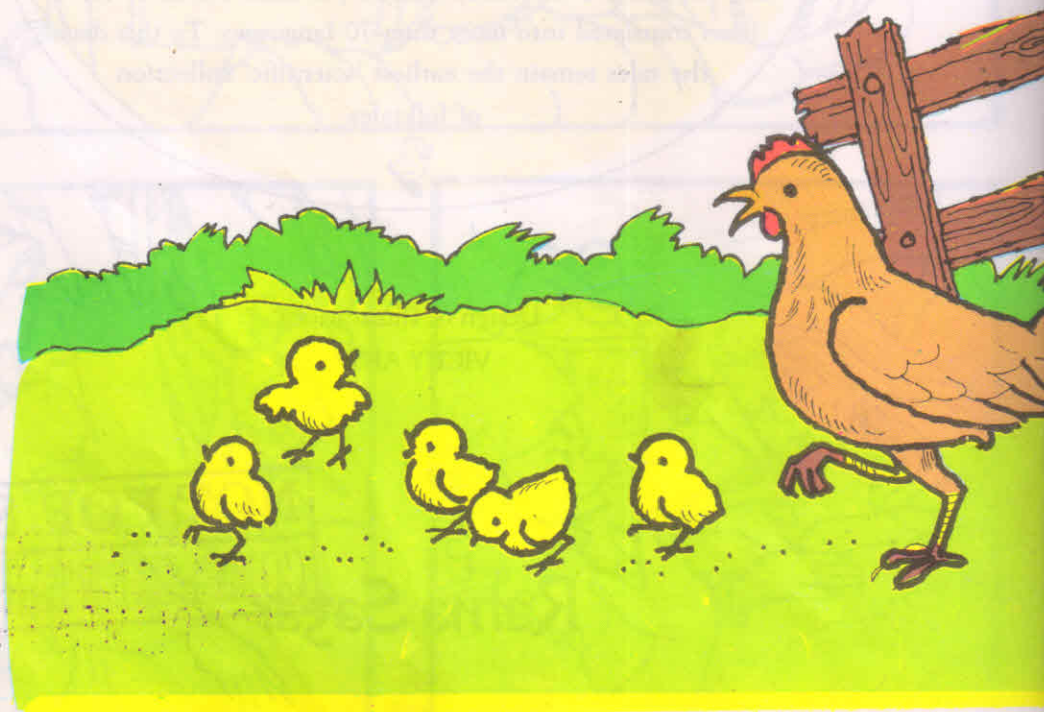


SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS



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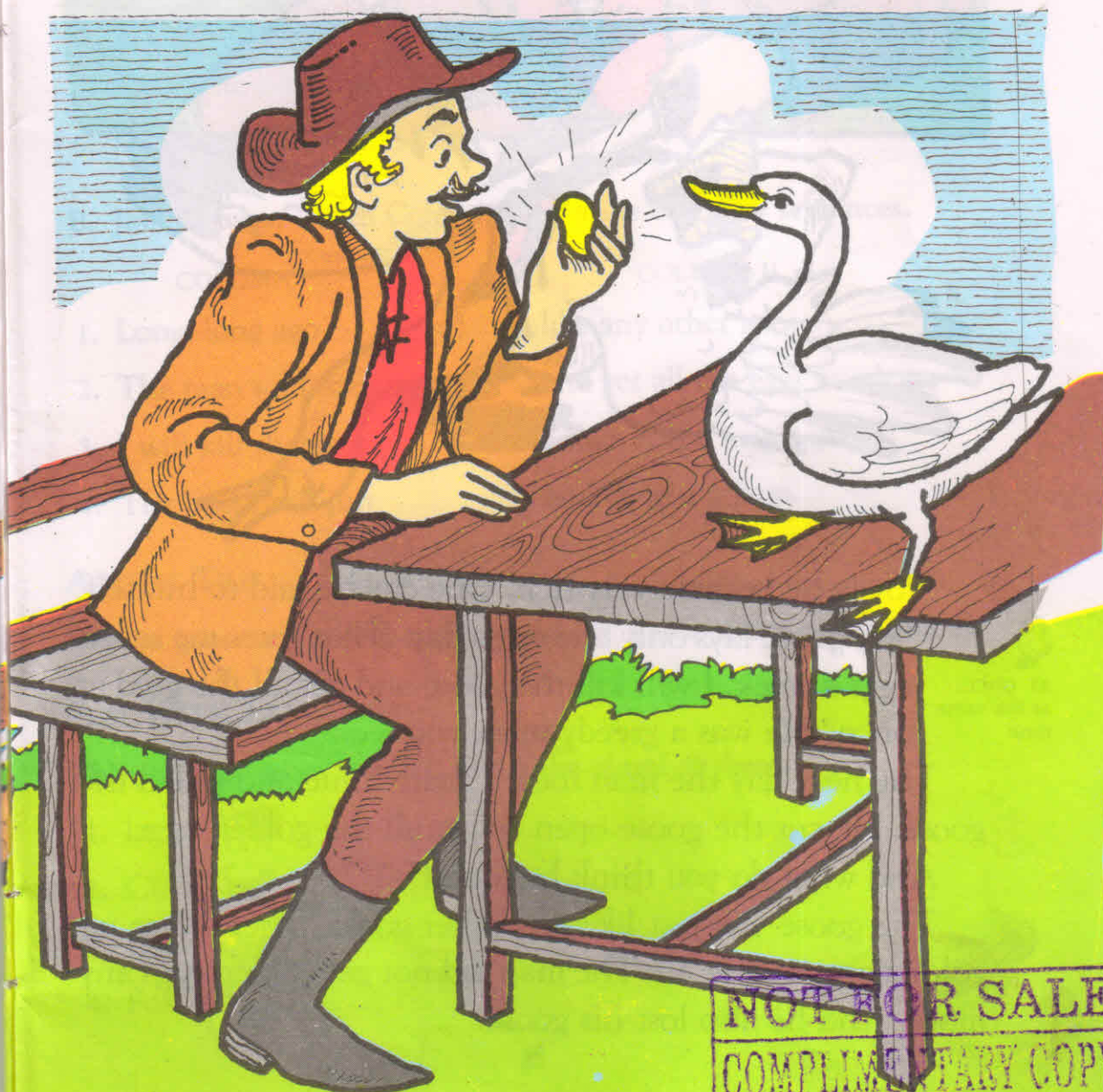


## THE GOOSE THAT LAID GOLDEN EGGS

Long, long ago, a man had a magic goose. The goose laid a golden egg every day. The man sold the eggs and bought a farm. Then he bought a beautiful house for himself and his wife.



BEAUTIFUL:  
very pretty



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AT ONCE:  
at the same  
time

Slowly he became very rich. One day he said to himself, 'My goose lays only one egg a day. That gives me seven eggs a week. I will kill the goose and get all the gold at once.' He was a greedy man, you see.

The next day the man took a sharp knife and killed the goose. He cut the goose open to get all the golden eggs.

And what do you think he found?

The goose was just like any other goose. There were no golden eggs in it at all. The man did not get golden eggs any more. And he also lost his goose.

## EXERCISES

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A. Circle the right answer.

1. A man had a magic fly/goose.
2. The goose laid a golden/purple egg every day.
3. The man sold the eggs and bought a T.V./farm.
4. Slowly he became very fat/rich.
5. He was a greedy/kind man, you see.

B. Join Column I with Column II to make complete sentences.

#### COLUMN I

1. Long, long ago
2. The man sold the eggs
3. I will kill the goose
4. The goose was just

#### COLUMN II

- like any other goose.
- and get all the eggs at once.
- a man had a magic goose.
- and bought a farm.

### ACTION TIME

Draw a goose and colour it. Draw an egg. Paste golden paper over it.

### FUN WITH LANGUAGE

The plural of goose is geese. Write the plural of these.

1. Lion



\_\_\_\_\_

2. Cat



\_\_\_\_\_

3. Deer



\_\_\_\_\_

4. Fox



\_\_\_\_\_



## THE COBBLER AND THE ELVES



### CHARACTERS

REX (the cobbler), HIS WIFE, FIVE ELVES and NARRATOR.

*(Rex's workshop. Rex and his wife are seated near his tools.)*

REX: My last piece of leather and no money left. We will have to go hungry now, I fear.

WIFE: God will help us, as always. Do not worry, dear.

NARRATOR: Cutting his last piece of shoes that night a worried Rex went to bed, only to awake to a wonderful surprise next morning.

REX: Wife, wife! Look at this!

A new pair of shoes, shining bright!

WIFE: They are beautiful!

I knew everything would be alright.

NARRATOR: Excited, Rex sold the shoes and bought more leather with the money. The same thing happened again. He cut leather for shoes every night, and morning found them stitched, polished bright!

(A few days later)

REX (to his wife): This is too good to be true. Let us hide behind the door tonight and find out who our friends are.

NARRATOR: So they hid. That night, they saw:

(Enter five elves carrying tiny cobbler's tools in their hands, dancing and singing as they sat down to work.)

We are the five busy elves  
We like to help  
The needy

We like to feed every poor body  
Except the ones  
Who are greedy.

(They finish their work and go away. Enter Rex and wife.)

WIFE: Such kind, wonderful little people. I will make them some clothes just to say 'thank you'.

NARRATOR: And that is just what she did. The next night, the elves were thrilled to find five sets of bright clothes on the





floor in place of leather. Happily, they put them on and danced out of the shop. They never came back but Rex and his wife never forgot their kindness.

*adapted from the story by*

RITU SINGH

## EXERCISES

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A. Give one-word answers.

1. Who was Rex? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many elves came to his house? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the cobbler's wife make for the elves? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the elves do after they put on their dresses? \_\_\_\_\_

### ACTION TIME

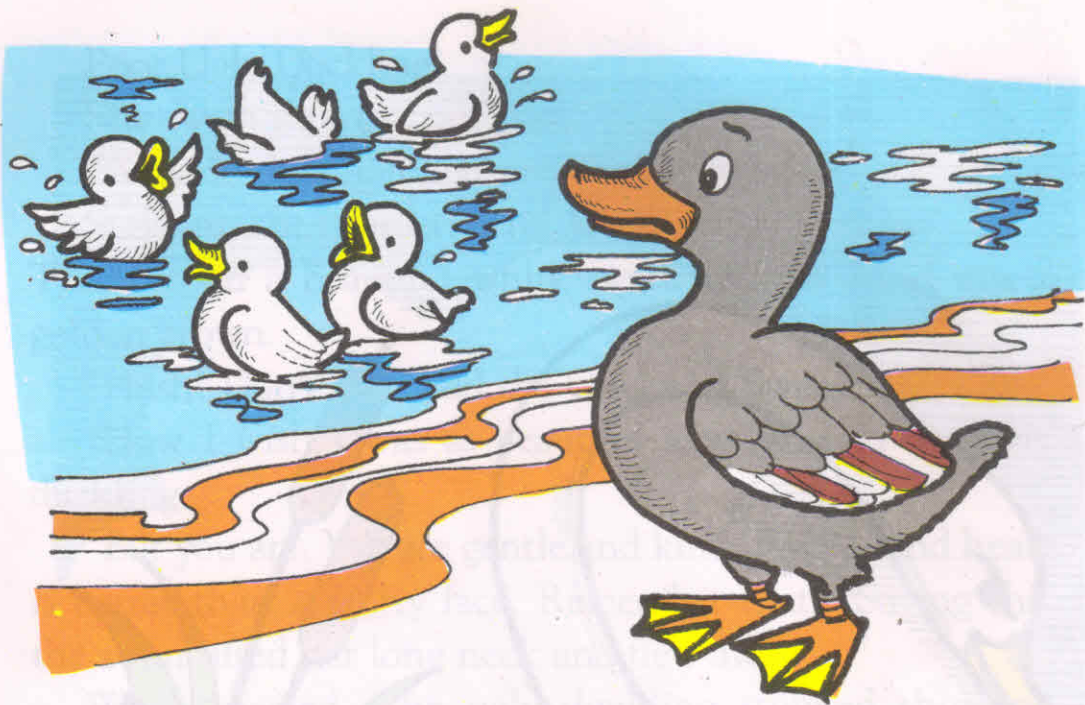
Can you find which shoe belongs to which elf?



### FUN WITH LANGUAGE

The word elf can be taken out from the word shelf. Can you take out words from these bigger words?

-plate    chair    when    pencil    ribbon    sunk    locket



## THE UGLY DUCKLING

Ugly Duckling hid under Mama Duck's wing.

"Why am I ugly and grey, Ma?" she asked.

"Who said you were?" quacked Mama Duck.

"My brothers and sisters," said the duckling.

"Don't listen to those naughty ducklings. You are special. I love you." And Mama Duck kissed her.

The little duckling felt better. So what if she was ugly! Her mother loved her.

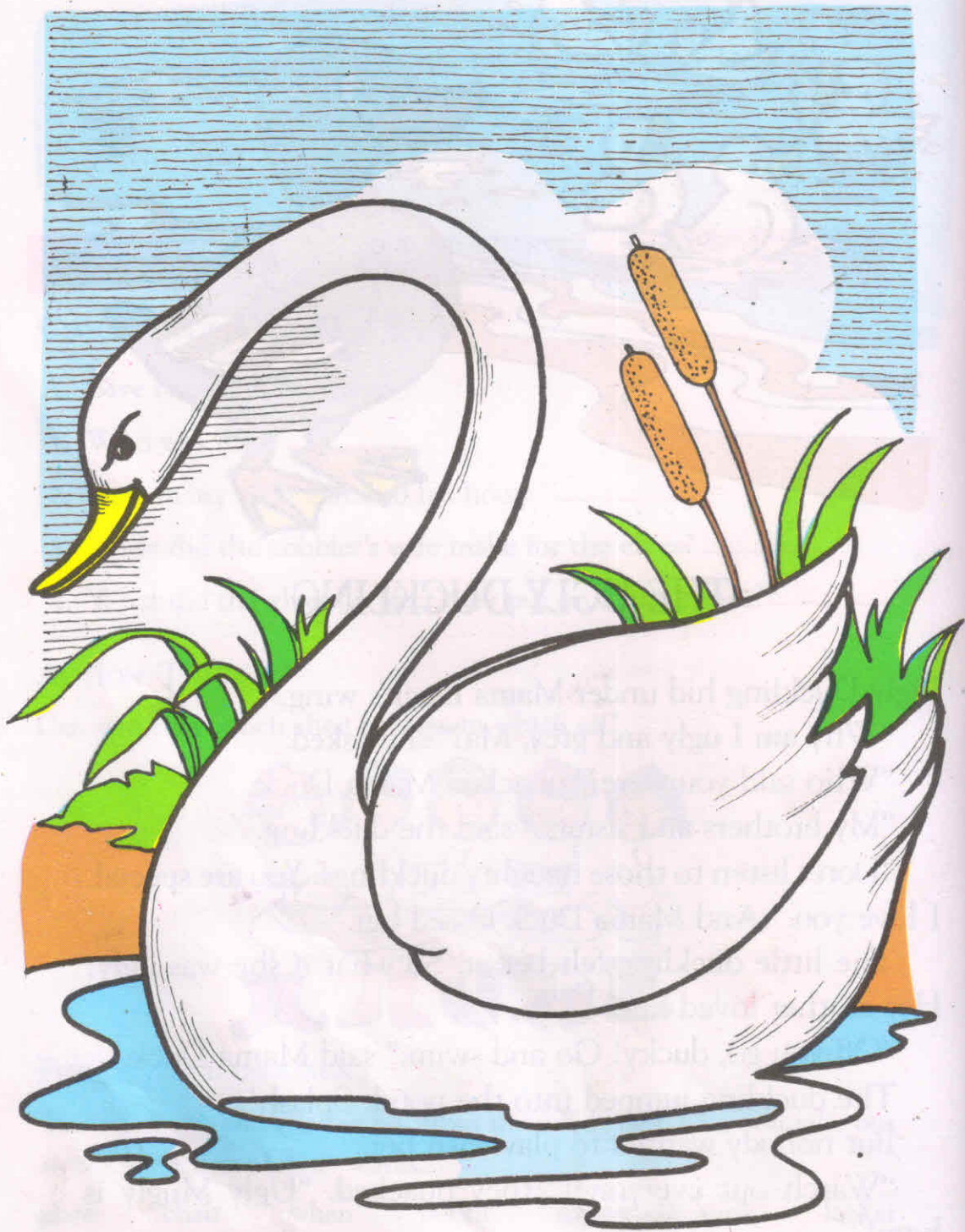
"Off you go, ducky! Go and swim," said Mama Duck.

The duckling jumped into the pond. Splash!

But nobody wanted to play with her.

"Watch out everyone!" they quacked. "Ugly Mugly is here!"





Poor Ugly Duckling.

She swam into the tall grass.

"Why do they hate me so?" she sobbed.



SOBBED:  
cried very hard

Suddenly she heard a sound. It was a flap of wings.  
There stood a beautiful white swan. On her head was a golden crown.

"Hush! Don't cry," said the Queen of Swans.

"How I wish I was as beautiful as you," said the ugly duckling.

"But you are. You are gentle and kind. And a kind heart is better than a pretty face. Remember that." Saying this the swan lifted her long neck and flew away.

Weeks passed. The ugly duckling stopped thinking about how she looked. Her brothers and sisters stopped being mean. They let her join in their games. Splash! Every morning they would swim. Splash! Every afternoon they would play hide-and-seek in the reeds.



MEAN:  
unkind

One day, the ugly duckling came home early.  
Mama Duck was cleaning the nest.

REEDS:  
tall grass growing  
near rivers

"Let me help you, Ma," said the ugly duckling.

Mama Duck let out a big quack!

"Why, ducky! Is that you? You are beautiful!" exclaimed Mama Duck.

The duckling looked in the water. Who was this beautiful bird looking back at her? She could not believe her eyes.

She was no more an ugly duckling! She was a lovely swan. She slowly spread her new white wings. She flew into the blue sky.



## EXERCISES

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A. "You are gentle and kind. And a kind heart is better than a pretty face."

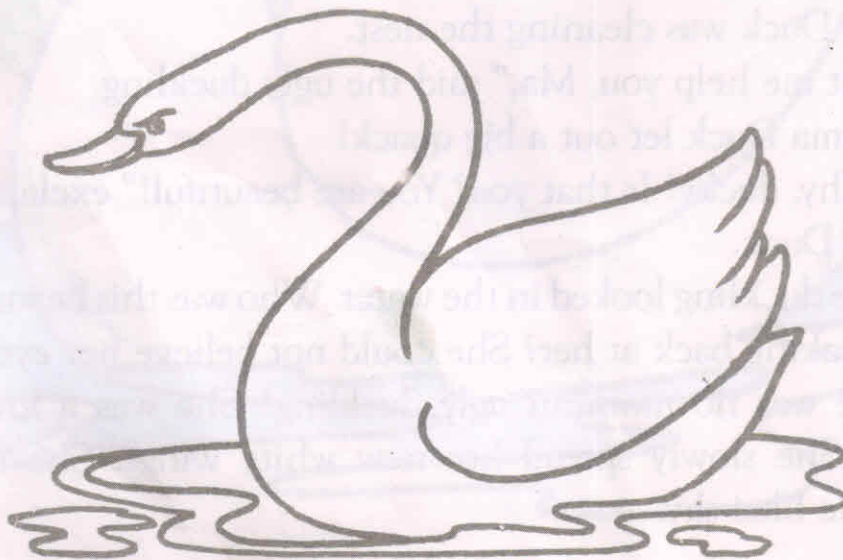
1. Who said this and to whom?
2. Why did the speaker say these words?
3. Do you agree with these words? Give reasons for your answer.

B. Circle the correct word.

1. "Off you go, ducky. Go and cycle/swim," said Mama Duck.
2. A kind/cruel heart is better than a pretty face.
3. Mama Duck was cleaning the nest/road.
4. The swan spread her white wings/teeth and flew away.

### ACTION TIME

Colour this picture of the Queen of Swans.



## HANSEL AND GRETEL



Hansel and Gretel were brother and sister. One day they went to the forest. It was dark. They lost their way. How would they get home? They were scared.



SCARED:  
afraid

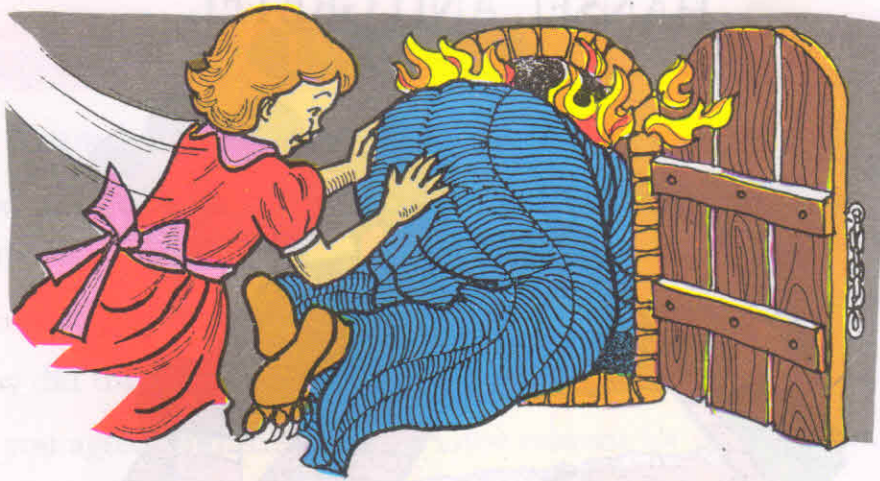
Holding hands the children walked on. The path led to a house. It shone in the moonlight. It had chocolate doors. The windows were made of lollipops. The roof was made of biscuits. The walls were of pineapple cake.

Hansel and Gretel were hungry. They ran to the house. They began to eat bits of the pineapple-cake walls.

The house belonged to a wicked witch.

"Come in, children," she said. "There is much more inside."





DELICIOUS:  
very tasty

Hansel and Gretel followed her into the house. As soon as they were inside the witch locked the door.

"What a delicious pair of children," she cackled. "You'll be my dinner, boy. And you, my girl, will be my maid."

Poor Gretel began to cry. She had never been so scared.

"Hush!" said Hansel. "We will try to escape tomorrow."

But in the morning Hansel was thrown into a cage.

"Fatten him up, girl!" said the horrible witch. "I will cook him next week."

A week later the witch ordered Gretel to light the oven.

"Tell me when it gets really hot," she said.

In a while Gretel went to the witch.

"The oven is really hot now," she said.

As soon as the witch opened the oven door, Gretel pushed her in and locked the door. The witch was burnt to ashes.



JUMPED WITH JOY:  
were very happy

Gretel unlocked the door to Hansel's cage. Hansel hugged his sister. They jumped with joy and shouted, "Yippee! Now we can go home!"

## EXERCISES

## CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A. Answer these questions:

1. How did Hansel and Gretel get lost?
2. Why did Hansel and Gretel run to the house?
3. To whom did the house belong?
4. Why didn't the witch plan to eat Gretel?

## FUN WITH LANGUAGE

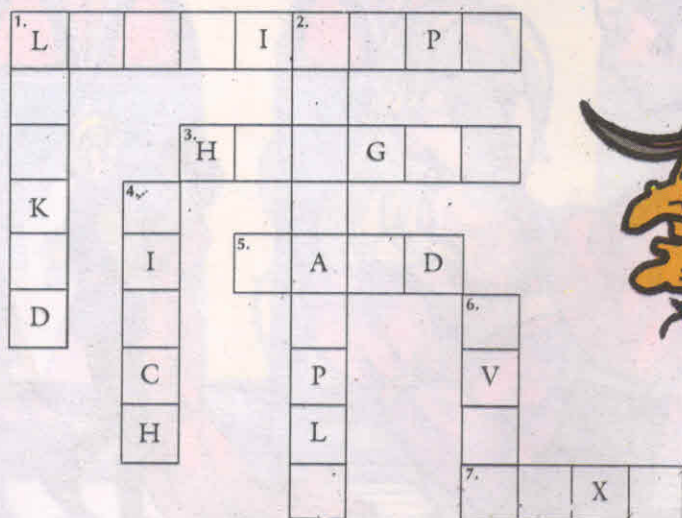
Here is a delicious crossword for you.

Across Down

Down

1. The windows were made of \_\_\_\_
3. You are \_\_\_\_ when you want food.
5. The witch wanted Gretel to be her \_\_\_\_
7. "I will eat him \_\_\_\_ week," said the witch.

1. Gretel pushed her in and \_\_\_\_\_ the door.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ cake is very soft and creamy.
4. A wicked old thing.
6. Used for making biscuits and cakes.





## CINDERELLA

Cinderella's stepsisters could talk of nothing else but the Royal Ball. When she wanted to hear what they were saying, they would shoo her away. "Go away, Cinders! Go, clean the kitchen or something!"



CINDERS:  
burnt-out coals

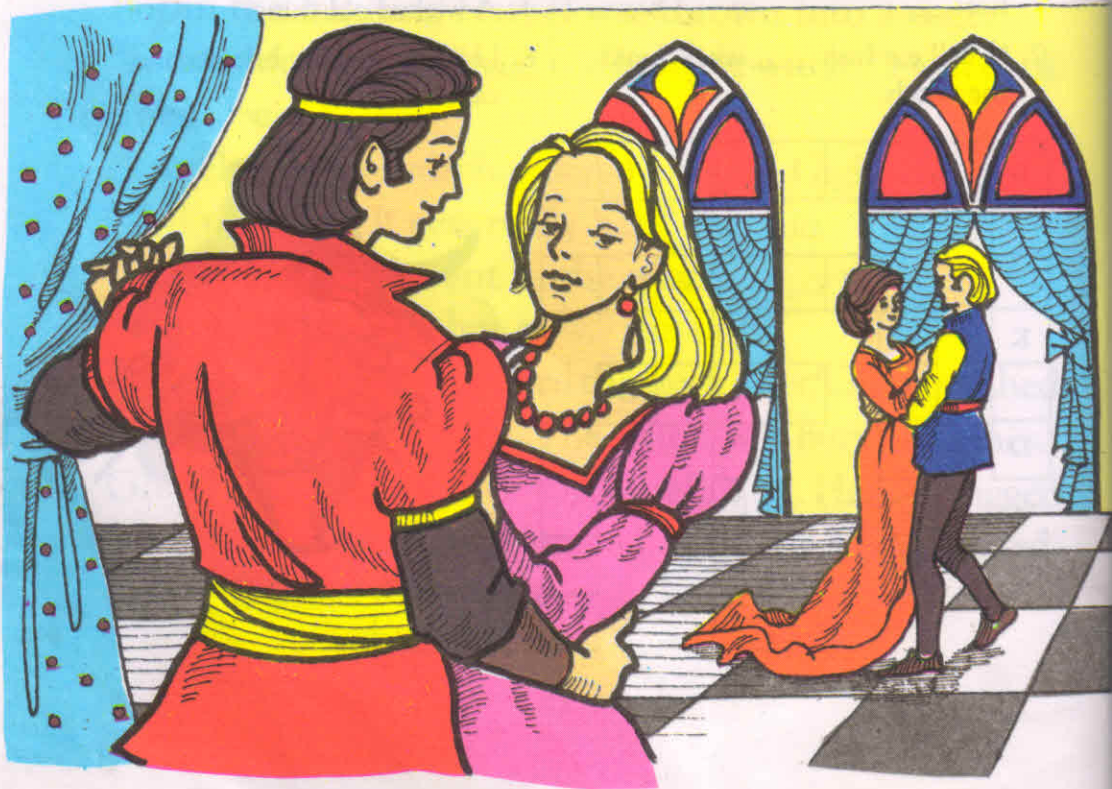
'I wish I was going to the ball too,' thought Cinderella as she swept the big fireplace clean of cinders.

On the day of the ball, long after her stepsisters had left, Cinderella stood sadly at the door.

"Do not be sad, my child," said a gentle voice. "I am your fairy godmother. Stop crying now, and fetch me six white mice, four lizards, and the biggest pumpkin you can find."

Taken by surprise, Cinderella did as she was told.

The good fairy waved her magic wand. In a flash the





pumpkin turned into a golden coach. The lizards became footmen. And the mice turned into white horses! As for Cinderella she was wearing the most beautiful dress she had ever seen!



FOOTMEN:  
men who attend  
on a coach

"Remember," warned her fairy godmother, "when the clock strikes twelve you must come home."

"I will, Godmother," replied Cinderella.

At the ball, no one recognized Cinderella. Not even her stepsisters! The prince thought the new girl was lovely. He danced with no one but her. Cinderella felt she was in a dream. Suddenly she heard the clock strike the hour. It was midnight! She must leave. Quickly!



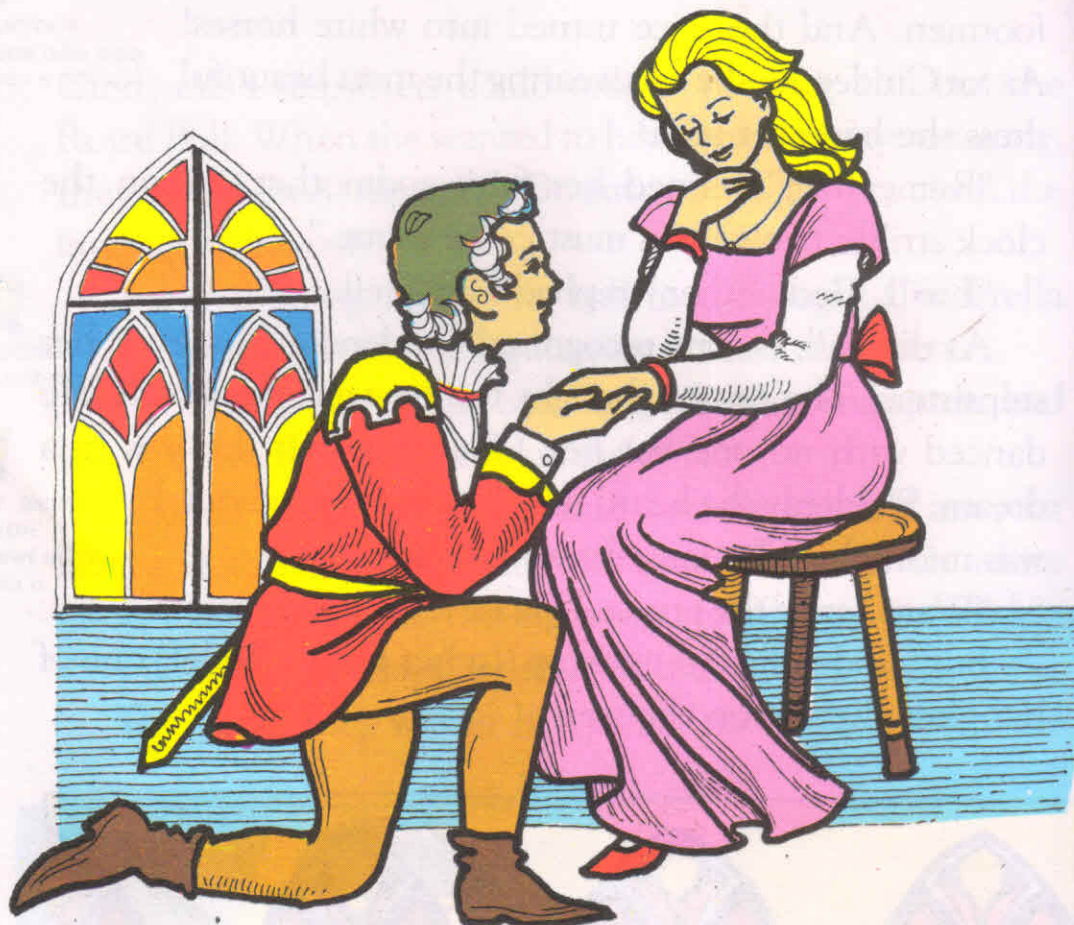
STRIKE THE  
HOUR:  
strike twelve  
o'clock

"Wait!" cried the prince. "Please tell me your name."

But Cinderella did not stop. In her haste, she left one of her glass slippers on the steps.







In the street there was nothing left but a pumpkin.



STOLEN HIS HEART:  
won his love

Next morning the prince went in search of the beautiful girl who had stolen his heart. The only clue he had was her glass slipper. Every young girl in town wanted to try on the slipper. But it fitted no one.



THRILLED:  
happy and  
excited

Then it was Cinderella's turn. The slipper fitted her easily. The prince was thrilled.

"Marry me, Cinderella," said the prince.  
She did! And they lived happily ever after.

## EXERCISES

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions.

1. What did Cinderella's sisters tell her when she wanted to hear about the Ball?
2. What all did the fairy godmother ask Cinderella to fetch?
3. What happened to the things Cinderella brought?
4. What helped the prince to find Cinderella?
5. What would you wish for if you had a fairy godmother?

### ACTION TIME

Stage Cinderella as a play.

### FUN WITH LANGUAGE

Ball here means a grand dance party. Bawl means to cry and shout. Homophones are words which sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. Make sentences with the following homophones.

1. see, sea   2. fair, fare   3. pane, pain   4. wait, weight   5. ate, eight





## THE MUSICIANS OF BREMEN

On a farm lived four good friends. A donkey, a dog, a cat and a cock. They all loved to sing.

"Hey," said the donkey one day, "I've just had a great idea! Why don't we all go to Bremen? It is a good place for musicians."



FAME AND FORTUNE:  
name and money

CAME ACROSS:  
found by chance

His friends agreed. So they left in search of fame and fortune. It was a long way to Bremen. By sunset, the four friends were hungry. They came across an old farmhouse.

"Let's go in," said the cat.

"No! No!" said the donkey. "It might be a trap. Cock, stand on my back. Tell us what you see."

The cock saw a band of thieves. They were having a feast. All over the floor were gold coins and jewels.

"Let's scare them away," said the dog. "Then we can eat their food. With the treasure we will buy a house in Bremen."

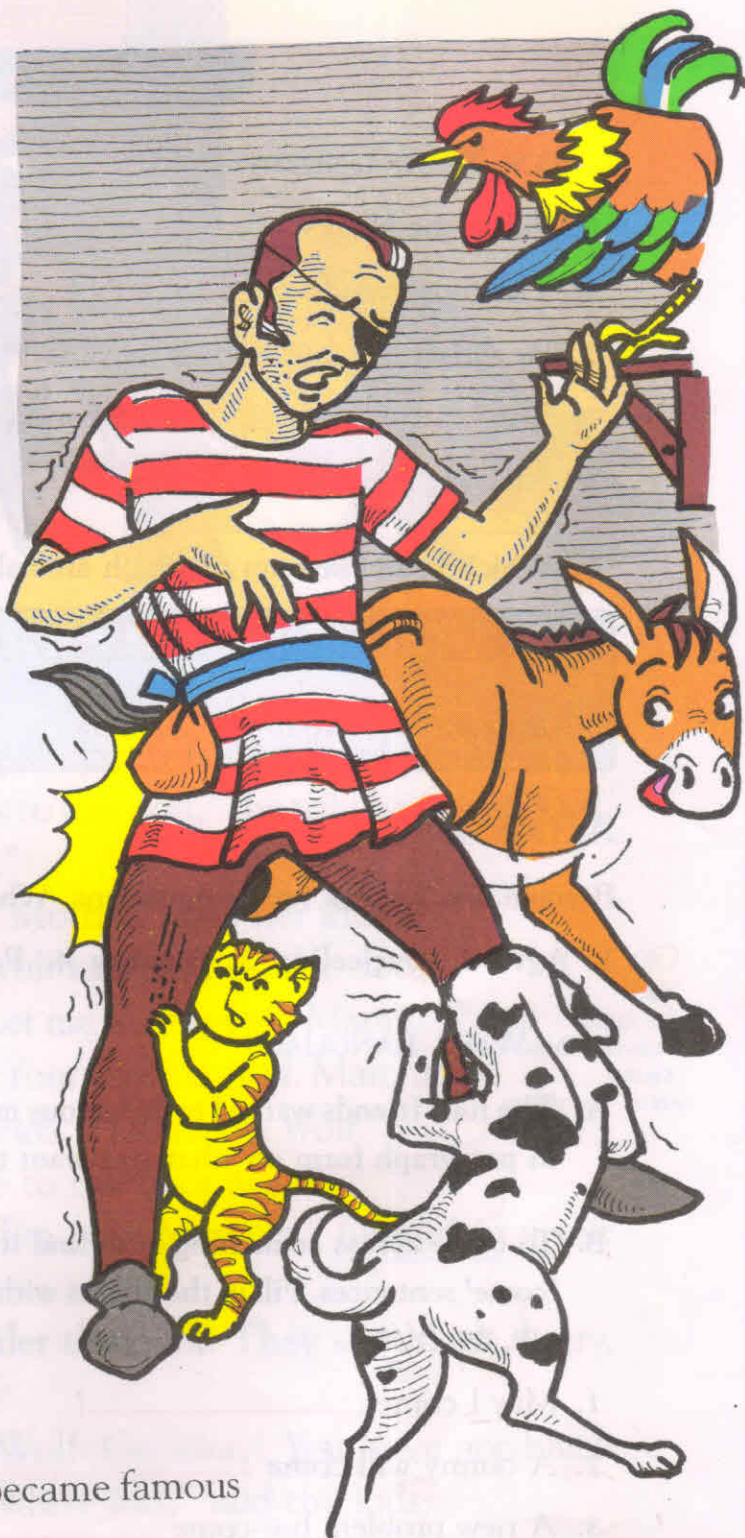


So each one began to sing. The donkey brayed. The dog woofed. The cat miaowed. The cock crowed loudly. The noise scared the thieves. They ran away.

After the animals had eaten, they went to sleep. The thieves came back for the treasure. The four friends did not hear them. One of the thieves crept in through the door. It was dark. He tripped on the cat. It spat and scratched him. The dog sprang up and bit him on his leg. The donkey kicked him hard. The cock cried cock-a-doodle-doo!

The thief ran out, bleeding. He told his friends there was a wicked monster in the house. This time the thieves ran away, never to be seen again.

Soon the four friends became famous musicians in Bremen.





## EXERCISES

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. The four friends loved to \_\_\_\_\_
2. By sunset the four friends were \_\_\_\_\_
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ saw a band of thieves.
4. All over the floor were gold \_\_\_\_\_ and jewels.

B. Which sound belongs to which animal?

DONKEY

CAT

MOUSE

TIGER

ELEPHANT

squeak

roar

meow

trumpet

bray

### ACTION TIME

Bremen was famous for its musicians. What are these famous for?

1. Agra 2. Darjeeling 3. Bombay 4. Pondicherry 5. Moradabad

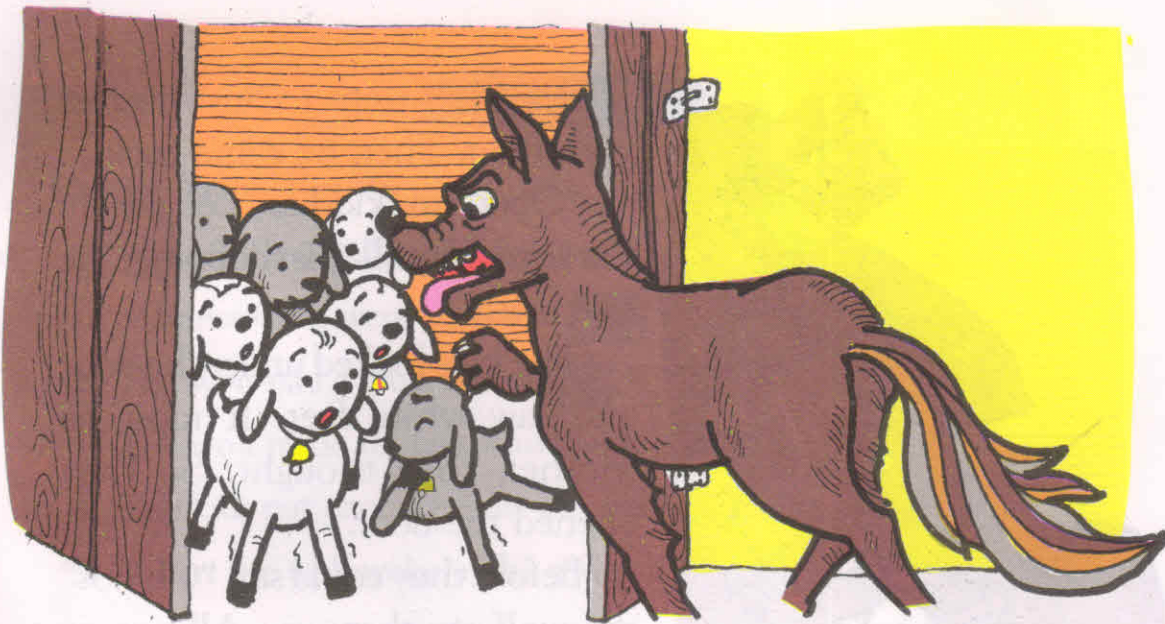
### FUN WITH LANGUAGE

A. The four friends wanted to be famous musicians. Write 5 sentences in paragraph form on what you want to be when you grow up.

B. To come across something is to find it by chance. Here are some 'come' sentences. Fill in the blanks with the following prepositions.

UP, IN, OUT.

1. May I come \_\_\_\_\_?
2. A bunny will come \_\_\_\_\_ of the magician's hat!
3. A new problem has come \_\_\_\_\_



## THE WOLF AND THE SEVEN KIDS

Mother Goat was going shopping.

"Don't open the door to the wolf," she told her seven kids.

"He will eat you all up."

"We will be careful, Mother," said her kids.

An hour later, the wolf knocked on the door.

"Open up, kiddies! Let me in. I'm your Mamma."

"Oh no, you are not. Your voice is gruff. Mamma's voice is soft," said the kids. "You're the wolf."

Later, the wolf came to the door again.

"Open up, kiddies! I'm your Mamma," he said in a soft voice.

The kids looked under the door. They saw black, hairy, wolf paws.

"It's you again, Mr Wolf. Go away! You have got black paws. Mamma has got white feet," said the kids.



OPEN UP:  
open the door  
GRUFF:  
rough and heavy





The wolf went to dust his feet with flour. Then he came back.

"Open up, kiddies! Let me in. I'm tired from all this shopping," he said softly.

The kids looked under the door and saw white feet. It must be Mother, they thought. So they opened the door.

Before they could say, "Oh no!" the wolf ate them up. All except one. The smallest kid had hidden behind a curtain.

When Mother Goat returned she knew what had happened. She took a pair of scissors, a needle and some thread. She set off with her seventh kid to find the wicked wolf.

They found him sleeping on the bank of a river. Mother goat cut open his stomach with her scissors. Six baby goats skipped out. They put large stones in the wolf's stomach. Mother Goat sewed up his stomach. Then she took her kids home.

When the wolf woke up he was thirsty. He leaned into the river for a drink. His stomach was heavy with stones. He fell in and drowned.

## EXERCISES

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A. Write T for TRUE and F for FALSE.

1. Mamma Goat went to office. ☐
2. The wolf had a gruff voice. ☐
3. The wolf made his feet white with coal. ☐
4. The kids put chocolates in the wolf's stomach. ☐
5. When the wolf woke up he was thirsty. ☐

B. Write in your own words how Mother Goat saved her kids.

### ACTION TIME

It is not at all safe to open the door when you are alone at home unless you are very sure. Have a discussion in class on how to be safe at home.

### FUN WITH LANGUAGE

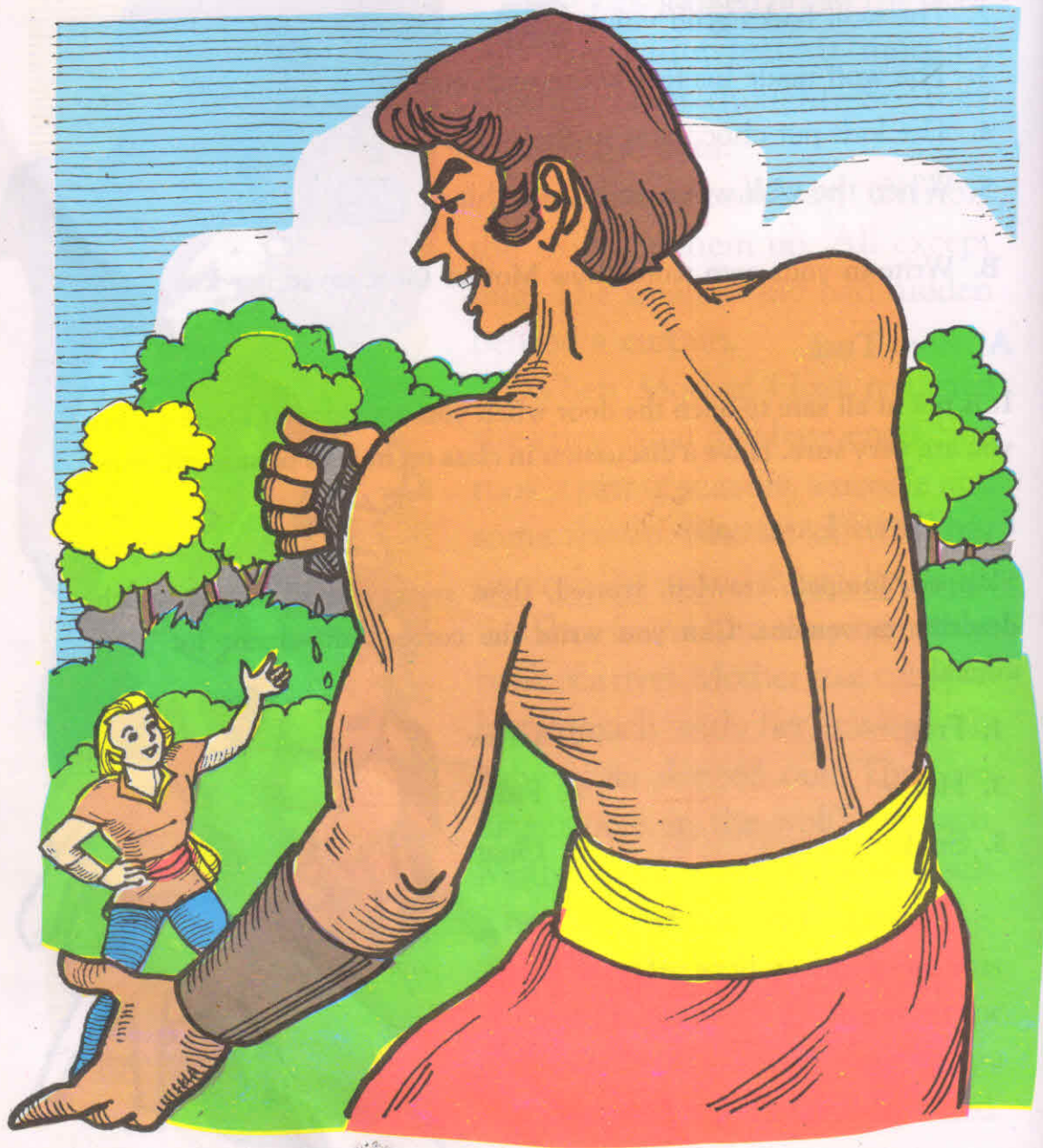
Skipped, jumped, crawled, trotted, flew, swam are all words which describe movement. Can you write the correct movement for each animal?

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Frog _____  | 2. Crow _____ |
| 3. Horse _____ | 4. Fish _____ |
| 5. Snake _____ | 6. Goat _____ |



## THE BRAVE TAILOR

Jem was a tailor. But he wanted to be a soldier. One morning, ten flies sat on his lunch. This made Jem very angry. He threw a cloth bag on them. Seven flies died. Jem was pleased. "I killed





AT A BLOW:  
with one hit

seven at a blow!" he said to his friends. How could they know he had killed only flies?

One day, the king called for Jem and asked him, "I hear you have killed seven at a blow. Is this true?"

Jem bowed his head. "It is true, O King."

"We need your help," said the king. "A giant has come to our city. He is very wicked. Only you can kill him."

"I will, O King!" said Jem. He put a bird in one pocket. He put some cheese in the other. Then he set off to find the giant.

"Hah!" said the giant. "You do not scare me. I can squeeze water out of stone. Can you?" He picked up a small stone and squeezed it hard. Water ran through his fingers.

"That's easy," said Jem, taking the cheese out of his pocket. He squeezed it. Water dripped on to the grass.

The giant stood up. "Ah! But can you do this?" He threw a stone high in the air. It took thirty minutes to fall to the ground.

Jem took the bird out of his pocket. He threw it high into the sky. The giant waited for it to fall. But the bird had flown away.

"You are strong. You could be my brother," the giant growled.

He took Jem to meet his friend, a genie.



FOR A WHILE:  
for some time

The giant and the genie were good friends. They talked for a while. Then they fell asleep under a big tree. Jem filled his pocket with stones. He climbed onto the tree. He threw a stone at the genie.

"Hey!" said the genie to the giant. "Don't hit me!"





"I didn't touch you!" said the giant.

When they were asleep again, Jem threw a stone at the giant.

"How dare you hit me so hard!" said the giant to the genie.

"I was sleeping. I didn't touch you," yelled the genie.

"Oh yes, you did!" screamed the giant.

They began to fight. They scratched. They bit. They kicked. Soon they both dropped down dead.

The king was happy. He made Jem a soldier in his army. Jem's wish had come true.

## EXERCISES

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A. Answer these questions.

1. Who was Jem? What happened one morning?
2. What did the king ask Jem to do?
3. How did Jem fool the giant?
4. How did Jem make the giant and the genie kill each other?

B. Circle the correct answer.

1. Jem wished he was a soldier/baker.
2. Jem put a handkerchief/bird in his pocket.
3. Jem killed seven flies/tigers at a blow.
4. The giant fought with a fairy/genie.



### FUN WITH LANGUAGE

He climbed onto the tree. 'Onto' is different from 'on'. The book is on the table. In and into are also different from each other. Put it in my bag. Water changes into ice on cooling.

Fill in the blanks with on, onto, in, into.

1. The clown climbed \_\_\_\_\_ the hippo's back.
2. Go \_\_\_\_\_ the room.
3. A tiny rabbit lives \_\_\_\_\_ the hole in my garden.
4. I will put this \_\_\_\_\_ the table.



## THE FISH AND THE WISH

One day, a fisherman caught a big fish. He was happy. He could sell the big fish for a lot of money.



GRANT:  
give

"Wait," said the fish. "I am a prince. I have been changed into a fish by magic. Please don't kill me. I will grant you a wish."

"I will ask my wife what she wants," said the fisherman.

"Come back by evening. I will wait," said the fish.

In the evening the fisherman came back to the river.



COTTAGE:  
a pretty country  
house

"What is your wife's wish?" asked the fish.

"She wants to live in a cottage," said the fisherman.

"It will be done," promised the fish.

When the fisherman went home he saw that his hut had gone. In its place stood a lovely cottage. He was very



GAVE HIM HIS LIFE:  
saved him from dying

happy. But his wife was not. "Just a cottage? You gave him his life. He should give you another wish. Go! Ask him to give us a palace."

The fisherman went back to the river. He called out to the fish. "O Prince, could you grant me another wish?"

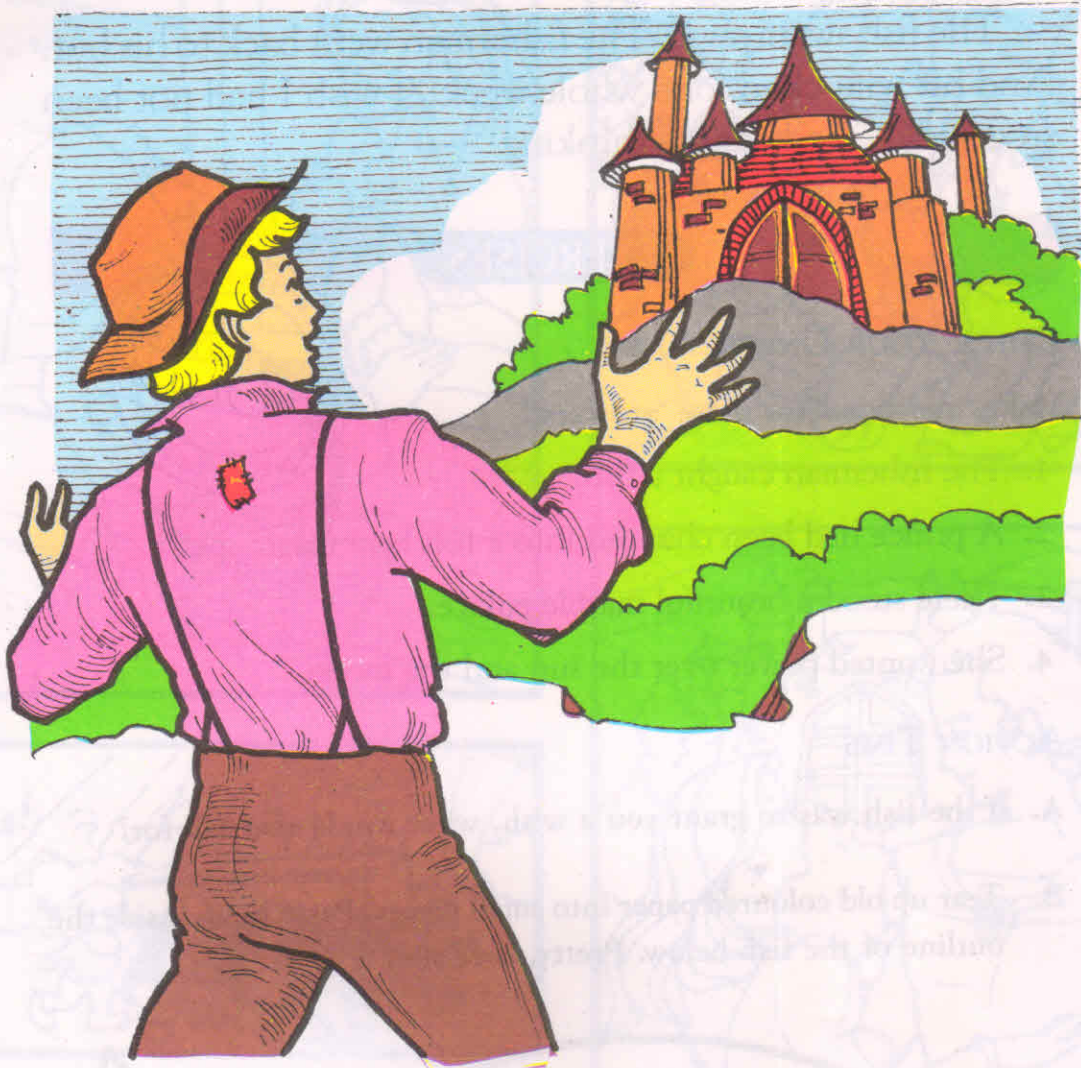
"Don't you like your cottage, Fisherman?" asked the fish.

"I do. But my wife wants to live in a palace now."

"It will be done," said the fish.

The fisherman went home. There stood a beautiful marble palace. His wife was the queen.

"Come here," called his wife. "Go and ask for another wish. I want to have power over the sun and the moon. Ask for that. Go on."



The fisherman went yet again to the river bank.  
“Could you kindly grant me one last wish?” asked the fisherman.

“What now, Fisherman?” said the fish.

He told the fish what his wife wanted.

“So, she wants to rule the universe, does she? For that she must live in her hut again.”



The fish swam away. The fisherman went back to his hut. And his wife cried for a whole week! 'I wish I had not been so greedy!' she kept on thinking.

## EXERCISES

### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Make 'questions' for these 'answers'!

1. The fisherman caught a fish.
2. A prince had been changed into a fish by a magic spell.
3. There stood a beautiful marble palace.
4. She wanted power over the sun and the moon.

### ACTION TIME

- A. If the fish was to grant you a wish, what would you ask for?
- B. Tear up old coloured paper into small pieces. Paste them inside the outline of the fish below. Pretty, isn't she?

