



4

# Stay Home Reader

Stories for Fun and Skills



VIVA EDUCATION

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**Stories for Fun and Skills**



**VIVA EDUCATION**

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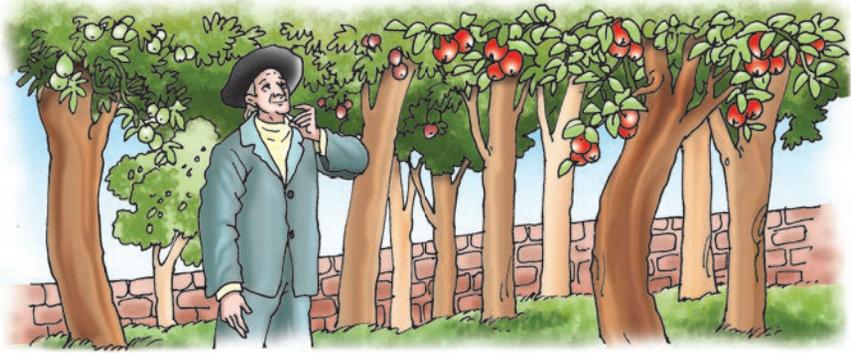
## HOW THIS BOOK WILL HELP YOU

Staying home and practising social distancing are simple yet decisive ways in which we all contribute to the epic battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. School closure is indeed the heavy price students and teachers have to pay as a result. However, this is no reason for learning to stop. As a committed provider of educational content, Viva Education has taken extraordinary steps to make learning accessible to every student via online means. We have released the vast range of online learning material on VivaDigital.in to learners and educators for unrestricted use.

Continuing this effort, we are proud to present our *Stay Home Readers* for classes 1 to 8, which have been specially compiled for home learning and remote teaching. Engagement is the key to better home learning, and this series adopts the route of stories to effective language-skill building. The content is enjoyable, stimulating and requires hardly any teacher supervision. We wish you safety and good health as you enjoy learning with these readers.

# 1

## A Strange Treasure

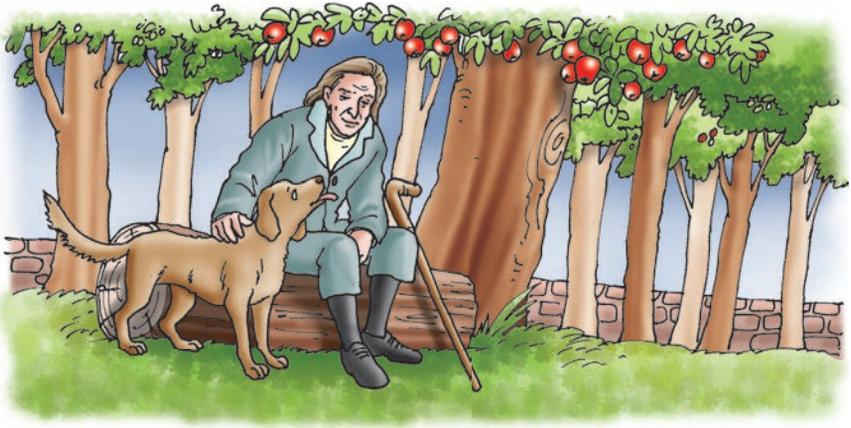


Old John Crabtree was the owner of the biggest orchard in his part of the country. He was also the father of three strong, but lazy sons.

Old John looked after his fruit trees with very little help from his sons. Early every morning, while they were still in bed, the old man could be found working alone in the orchard. He dug the soil, cut away all the useless branches from the old trees, carefully tended the young trees, and picked all the fruit at harvest time.

Every evening after his work, he would sit on a log and rest in the shade of his trees. Old John would gaze and gaze at the long rows of apple trees, pear trees and plum trees. Then he would sigh to think that soon he would be too old to give them all the care they needed.

“Dear me!” he would say to himself. “It is a great pity. I wish my sons would work in the orchard. If they did, I am sure that the fruit would bring them a fortune.”



There came a time when John no longer worked among his fruit trees, for he took ill and died.

Not long after his death, the three sons met to hear what money their father had left to them. The reading of his will amazed them, because there was only this one sentence:

“The orchard and the treasure which is there, I leave to my three sons.”

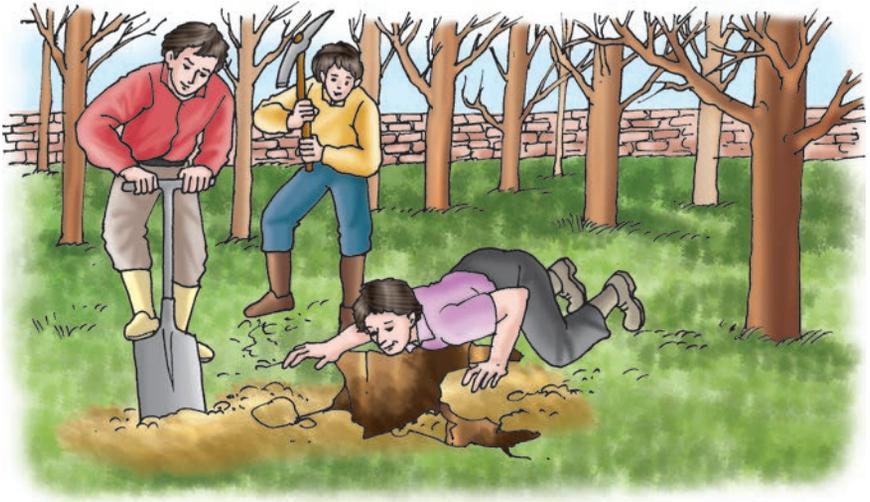
The sons stared at each other in astonishment. “Treasure!” they shouted. “Isn’t that wonderful? We will be rich! Father has hidden his money in the orchard!”

“We must be very careful,” said the eldest son. “If we tell others of this, they might steal the treasure from us.”

“What shall we do?” asked the youngest son.

“We must tell no one about the treasure,” said the middle son. “We will dig and search in the orchard until we find it.”

The sons then made their plans to find the treasure. They divided the orchard into three parts, and worked as they had never worked before.

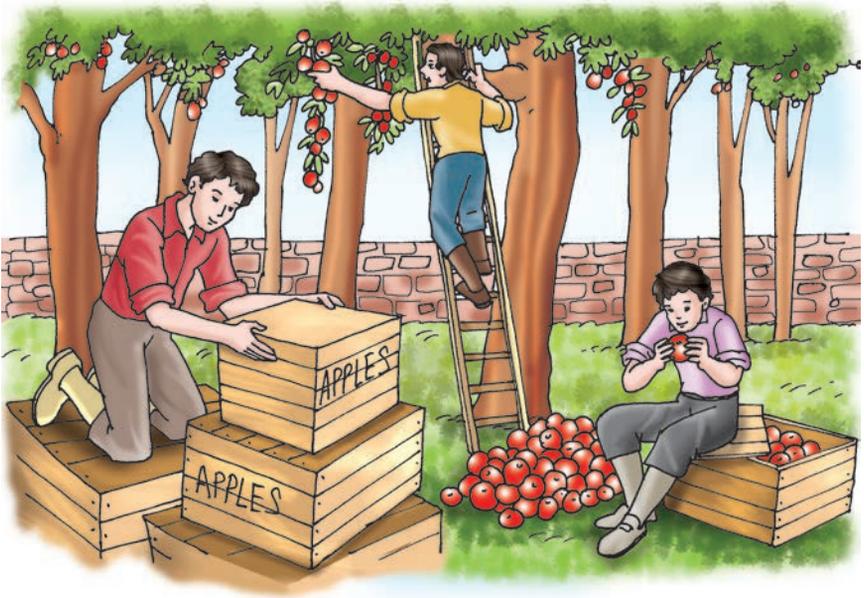


They carefully dug the soil from one end of the orchard to the other. They even turned over the earth around the roots. Not an inch did they miss. Alas! After days, and weeks, and months of digging and searching, no treasure was found.

That year, however, something happened which had never happened before. There was so much fruit on the trees that the branches were bent almost to the ground. The three sons were delighted. Never had they seen such a crop of apples, pears and plums.

When harvest time came, the sons were kept very busy. The youngest son picked the ripe fruit from the trees, the middle son cleaned it, and the eldest son packed it carefully into boxes. The fruit was then sold to merchants for a very good price.

So much money did they get, that they became quite rich.

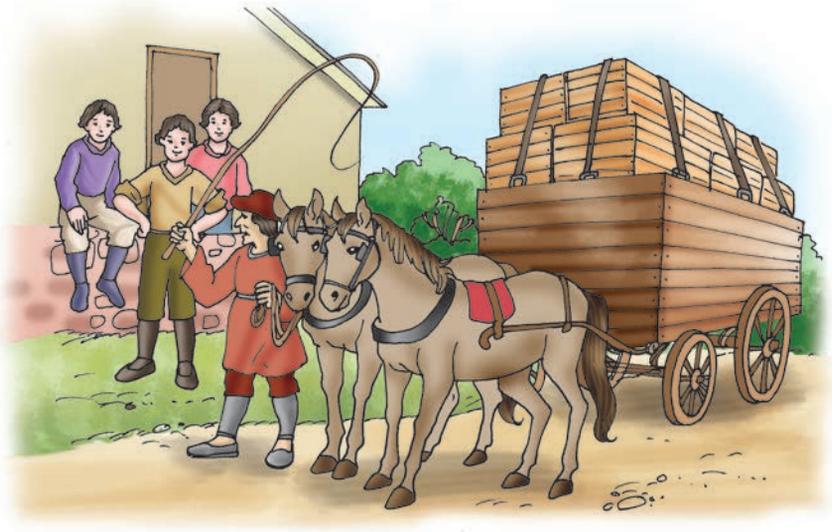


One day the eldest son said to his brothers, “I wonder what our father meant when he said that there was a treasure in the orchard?”

“Our father was a very wise and truthful man,” replied the youngest brother. “There must be treasure there, only we cannot find it.”

“Do you know what I think?” said the middle brother. “Father knew that we were very lazy, and would not take care of the fruit trees. If he said there was treasure in the orchard he knew that we would dig and search for it. By our digging, we helped the trees give us such a wonderful crop of fruit.”

“Yes,” replied the eldest brother. “I think that you are right. Father was very clever. The fruit has brought us a great deal of money and made us rich.”



Each year, the three sons worked hard in the orchard. They found no money hidden in a box below the ground, but each year the orchard gave them another kind of treasure.

*Aesop (Adapted)*

### ❑ Do You Remember?

1. What was the title of the story?
2. What was the father's name?
3. What did he own?
4. How many sons had he?
5. What kind of sons were they?
6. How did Old John look after his orchard?
7. What happened to him?
8. What did he say in his will?

9. Why were his sons so joyful?
10. What did they do?
11. What treasure did they find?
12. What happened for the first time that year?
13. How did the sons gather the fruit?
14. How did they become rich?
15. What treasure did the sons get from the orchard?

### Can You Tell?

1. Write which of these are **fruits**.  
carrot, orange, daisy, banana, rose, cabbage,  
mango, jasmine, cherry, aubergine, potato, water  
lily, sunflower, grape, onion, lemon
2. You can buy apples, potatoes and pears at a **fruit  
and vegetable shop**.  
Name six other items which you can buy in this  
shop.
3. What colour is a ripe (a) banana (b) apple (c) mango  
(d) strawberry (e) pear (f) guava?
4. *One*            *More than one*  
leaf            \_\_\_\_\_  
man            \_\_\_\_\_  
foot            \_\_\_\_\_  
daisy            \_\_\_\_\_  
tooth            \_\_\_\_\_

5. We say “an orchard of **fruit trees**”.

Put these words in their right places.

string, matches, jam, milk, cards, drawers

a jug of \_\_\_\_\_

a pack of \_\_\_\_\_

a pot of \_\_\_\_\_

a box of \_\_\_\_\_

a ball of \_\_\_\_\_

a chest of \_\_\_\_\_

6. Old John was **not lazy**.

Give one word instead of the two words given in red.

(a) The spelling was **not easy**.

(b) The door was **not open**.

(c) The sum was **not right**.

(d) The paper was **not clean**.

(e) The coat was **not wet**.

## 2

# The Lady with the Lamp

*A lady with a lamp shall stand  
In the great history of the land;  
A noble type of good  
Heroic womanhood.*

Florence Nightingale was born in Italy in 1820, and she was named after the town of her birth. Her parents were British, and she grew up in the countryside of Derbyshire and Hampshire. Even as a child she was kind and helpful to all in distress and she was very fond of the little creatures of the woods. The following story shows her kind nature.



Living in Derbyshire was a fine old shepherd named Roger, who had a splendid sheepdog called Cap. Every day they could be seen out on the hills from early morning till dusk; the shepherd carrying his long crook, and the dog following faithfully at his master's heels.

One day, as Florence and her pastor were out riding, they noticed that the sheep were running in all directions and that old Roger was having a hard time trying to keep them together. By the look of things he wasn't managing

very well so Florence and her pastor stopped to ask him what had become of his dog.

“Oh!” replied the shepherd, “I really don’t know what to do! Cap will never be able to help me any more. I am sorry that the poor fellow will have to be destroyed.”

“Destroyed!” said Florence. “Do you mean that you must put an end to him? How could you be so cruel? Where is he now and what has he done?”

“He has harmed nobody,” replied Roger, “but yesterday a cruel stupid boy threw a big stone at him and broke his right foreleg.”

The old man spoke in a very sad voice and Florence was quite sure she noticed a tear in his eye.

“Poor Cap!” said the shepherd. “He is as wise as a human being and such a true and faithful friend. He knew my every wish and was so obedient to my orders.”

“Would you mind if we called to see him?” asked Florence. “We might be able to do something for him.”

“It is very kind of you,” replied the shepherd. “He’ll welcome you, I’m sure. He must be feeling rather lonely just now, as I have been out on the hills all day.”

Florence and her pastor went on to the shepherd’s cottage and called in to see the poor dog. When they talked to him, he began to wag his tail. Then he crawled from under the table, and lay down at their feet. Florence took hold of one of his paws and patted his rough head while pastor looked at the injured leg.

It was badly swollen and it hurt him to have it touched; but he licked her hands for he knew she was trying to help him.



“It’s only a bad bruise. I’m glad to say there are no bones broken,” said the pastor. “If Cap rests for a few days he should be well again.”

“Thank goodness!” exclaimed Florence. “Can we do anything to ease his pain?”

“Yes. Bathe his leg with warm water. That should help.”

Florence lit the fire, readied some hot water, and began to bathe the poor dog’s leg. It was not long before he tried to show his thanks by wagging his tail.

On their way back they met the old shepherd coming slowly homewards.

“Oh Roger!” cried Florence. “You will not lose poor old Cap after all. We have found that his leg is badly bruised but not broken.”

“I am delighted to hear it,” said the old man. “Many thanks for going to see him.”

The next morning Florence rose early and went to bathe Cap's leg. The following day she bathed it again, and in two or three days the dog was as fit as ever and able to look after the sheep for his master.

Florence Nightingale was a young woman when war broke out between Britain and Russia. Most of the fighting took place in a part of Russia called Crimea. Hundreds of soldiers were killed or wounded, and many others died from sickness, cold or famine.

It was at this time that she made up her mind to help the weak and suffering soldiers, and she sailed with a band of nurses to Crimea. Everything was in a terrible mess when they arrived.

They started by making the hospitals as clean as possible. Windows were opened to let in fresh air. Food was well cooked and beds were kept clean and tidy. Everybody was eager to help her in her fight against dirt and disease.



Night after night, when her hard day's work was done, she passed from room to room with a lantern in her hand. She spoke a few kind words to one, smoothed the pillow of another, and tried to get them to sleep soundly and well. Soon she was called "The Lady with the Lamp" by the soldiers.

As she could scarcely find time to rest from her work, she became very ill. Luckily she got well again and was able to go back to help her brave nurses.

When Florence Nightingale returned to England, she did a great deal to improve their hospitals. Her life was spent in helping the sick and the poor and she received high praise from many lands for her noble work.



## People in Uniform Who Give Public Service



## □ Do You Remember?

1. What was the title of the story?
2. Where was Florence Nightingale born?
3. What was the old shepherd's name?
4. What was the dog called?
5. One day Florence and her pastor were out \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Why did they stop to speak to the shepherd?
7. Why were the sheep running in all directions?
8. What did the shepherd say was the matter?
9. Where did Florence and her pastor go?
10. What was wrong with Cap?
11. How did Florence help to ease the pain?
12. In what way did Cap show his thanks?
13. What happened as a result of her care and kindness?
14. War broke out between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Where did most of the fighting take place?
16. What did Florence make up her mind to do?
17. How did she make hospitals better?
18. Why did the soldiers call her "The Lady with the Lamp"?
19. Why did she become very ill?
20. What did she do when she returned to England?

## □ Questions on the Pictures

1. (a) What does a nurse do?  
(b) Describe her uniform.
2. (a) How does a policeman help us in many ways?  
(b) Why are bad people afraid of him?
3. (a) A postman delivers \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to your home.  
(b) What colour is a postbox?
4. (a) Why does the fireman wear a helmet and what colour is it?  
(b) Why does he wear thick-soled boots?
5. (a) What does a bus conductor give you when you pay your fare?  
(b) How do you signal “stop” to the driver?
6. (a) Where is a porter to be seen?  
(b) What is his work?
7. (a) Where does a lifeguard work?  
(b) What does he do when he sees a swimmer in distress?
8. (a) What does a pilot do?  
(b) Where do they sit when flying the plane?
9. (a) Where can you see a chef?  
(b) What does he wear?
10. (a) What does a soldier do?  
(b) Describe his uniform.

## □ Can You Tell?

1. What am I called?
  - (a) I type letters.
  - (b) I cut boys' hair.
  - (c) I draw and paint pictures.
  - (d) I make men's suits.
  - (e) I mend burst pipes.
2. Who sells the following?
  - (a) bread and cakes
  - (b) lamb and beef
  - (c) sugar and flour
  - (d) fish
  - (e) apples and bananas
3. A nurse uses **scissors and bandages**. Who uses the following?
  - (a) safety lamp and pick
  - (b) anvil and hammer
  - (c) weights and scales
  - (d) plough and tractor
  - (e) saw and plane
4. Cap was a sheepdog who worked for his master. Which of these animals have been tamed to work for man?

tiger, camel, giraffe, horse, lion, fox, ox,  
donkey, elephant, panther
5. The shepherd looked after his flock on the hills. Name two people who work in these places.
  - (a) in the open air
  - (b) in factories
  - (c) in shops
  - (d) in ships
  - (e) in railway stations

6. Cap's **foreleg** was badly bruised.

What do we call these parts of the body?

- (a) the part joining the head and the body
- (b) the middle joint of the leg
- (c) the middle joint of the arm
- (d) the joints between the hand and the fingers
- (e) the long bone down the middle of the back

7. **Nightingale** is also the name of a bird.

- (a) Give two other names of **birds** which are used as names for people.
- (b) Give two names of **animals** which are used as names for people.

8. Make signs with face and hands to show these emotions.

- (a) tired
- (b) thirsty
- (c) angry
- (d) sleepy
- (e) frightened
- (f) happy
- (g) sad
- (h) proud

### 3

## The Bell of Atri



A long time ago there lived the good king John, whose kingdom was spread over central Italy. He was well-loved by all because his heart was kind and true.

In king John's kingdom there was a town called Atri. Here many of the people were poor, and times were often hard. Sometimes the crop failed and they had very little food to eat. The mothers and fathers grew sick and thin, and even the plates of the children were often empty.

The good king John thought a great deal about the troubles of his people, and when they suffered hardship and hunger, his heart was moved to great pity. He built a little tower and placed a bell inside from which a long rope hung almost to the ground.

The king made it known to the people that any person who was in trouble, sick or hungry, need only ring the bell and summon the judges to ask for help. For many years the hungry came and rang the bell and were fed; the sick rang and were healed; the unhappy rang and were comforted. The rope was pulled so often that the

end of it frayed, and the keeper of the belfry tied up the loose threads with bits of straw.

Then everything changed. Better times came to Atri; the harvests were good; the people prospered; and soon, in all that fair town, there was no one who was hungry, sick or needy. The rope still hung from the bell but no hand came to pull it.

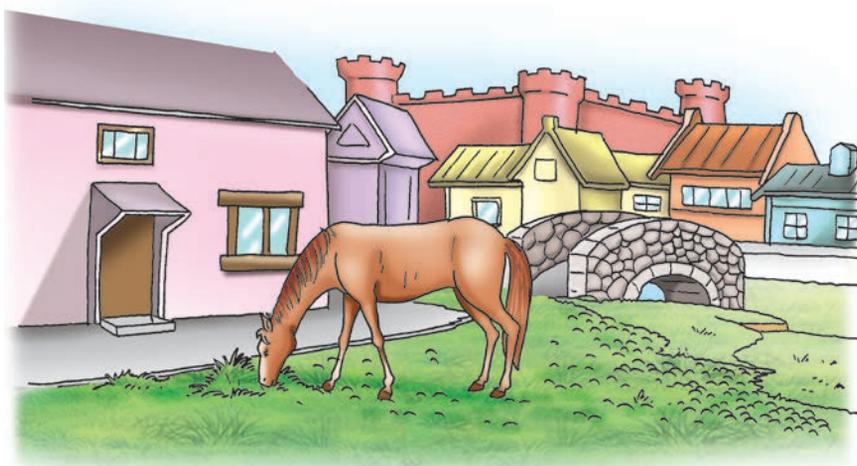
Now it so happened that at this time there lived in Atri a rich merchant whose business it was to carry goods from one part of the town to another. For many years his good horse Benito carried the heavy loads. Then it grew old and weak and half-blind and could not do the hard work that it had once done so easily. The merchant bought a young strong horse and then, very cruelly, turned poor old Benito out to fend for himself.

The old horse wandered sadly about the streets of Atri, peering with its dim eyes in search of something to eat. The days went by, and Benito grew thinner and thinner and weaker and weaker, for there was little food to be found, and no one thought to feed a useless old animal.

One evening, Benito limped slowly along the road to the bell tower. He reached the belfry and, seeing the straw at the end of the rope, began to eat it. Tug, tug, tug, went the worn old teeth of Benito and inside the tower the bell began to peal.

The judges heard it and went quickly to the tower.



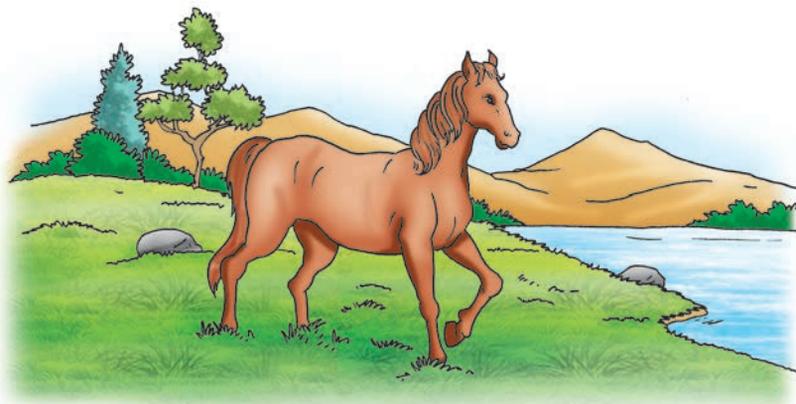


They saw the starving horse and summoned his owner. The judges scolded the owner harshly for not taking care of the faithful pet in his old age.

They ordered Benito's master to give him shelter, food and a green pasture, where he can live out his days.

Benito's master was very ashamed of how he treated his horse and did exactly what the judges had ordered.

The old horse happily spent most of his time grazing in grassy meadows. Certainly he never again had to fear hunger or cold.



## Interesting Facts about the Care of Pets

All boys and girls are fond of pets. If treated kindly, these creatures become very friendly and give you much happiness. No good boy or girl would ever make them angry or be cruel to them.

1. **A Pony** naturally feeds on grass. If kept in a stable it should have a deep bed of straw or shavings and should have a good supply of hay and a feed of a pony mix twice a day. It should have a constant supply of fresh water. Ponies need plenty of exercise and must be cleaned (groomed) regularly. Always speak quietly to a pony before patting him. If you want to make friends with a pony, give him a carrot or a piece of apple, but remember to keep your hand and fingers flat.
2. **A Dog** is perhaps the most friendly of all pets. No animal is more faithful and no pet will put so much trust in you. He needs at least two good meals a day and enjoys a bone, and make sure that he has a bowl of fresh water. Don't have him around the dining table to beg and eat scraps of food. Never interfere with him when he is eating or drinking. Train him in good habits when he is a puppy. A dog needs exercise and should have a cosy sleeping place which he knows is his own. Never keep him chained up for long and always see that he has a collar with his name and address on it. To clean a dog, wash him with lukewarm

water and dog shampoo, rinse him and towel dry, then brush his coat when it is dry.

3. **A Cat** is a very proud creature although she likes to be stroked and petted. Feed her twice a day and see that she gets plenty of water, meat and fish. Train her in good habits when she is a kitten. Give her a warm cosy place of her own near the fire and keep her indoors at night. Many cats are left to wander about the streets and must often be cold and hungry. Be sure that she always wears a collar with her name and address on it. She will keep herself clean by licking her coat with her tongue.
4. **A Rabbit** makes an interesting pet and should be looked after very carefully. He needs a good clean home (hutch) and must get a little ground in which he can run about safely. Feed him at least twice a day, morning and evening, on such foods as oats, bran, greens and vegetables. To clean a rabbit, rub him down with warm water and then brush him dry. Lift a rabbit with both hands and never hold him by the ears.
5. **A Goldfish** is a very good pet but he should never be kept alone. It is best to keep two or three of them in a large glass tank with fresh water, some sand, and small weeds. Feed them on bread crumbs, small worms and insects, but good food for goldfish can be bought at any pet shop. See that there is no danger to the fish from cats.

6. **Hamsters** are a breed of small furry creatures, nocturnal in nature. They are kept in cages or vivariums. Hamsters need clean water every day and they eat fresh grains, fruits and leafy vegetables. They are not given baths, but their cages have to be cleaned often.

### □ Do You Remember?

1. What was the title of the story?
2. Where did the story take place?
3. Why was the king loved by all the people?
4. Why had they sometimes little food to eat?
5. What did the king build for the people of Atri?
6. What was in the tower?
7. What did the king tell the people?
8. The rope was pulled so often that the end of it \_\_\_\_\_.
9. How did the keeper repair it?
10. In what ways did things change for the people?
11. What kind of business had the merchant?
12. What did he need for his business?
13. What was the old horse's name?
14. Why was the poor animal turned out of his stable?
15. What was Benito forced to do?
16. Describe how the old horse came to ring the bell.

17. Who heard the bell?
18. What did they do?
19. What did the horse's master do?
20. How did the old horse spend the rest of his days?

## ❑ Questions on the Interesting Facts

1. (a) What food should you give to a pony?  
(b) How should you offer him a piece of apple?  
(c) How should you clean a pony?
2. (a) When should you train a dog in good habits?  
(b) Never interfere with him when he is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.  
(c) What should he have around his neck?
3. (a) What food should you give to a cat?  
(b) Where should she always be kept at night?  
(c) How does a cat clean herself?
4. (a) What is the name given to a tame rabbit's home?  
(b) What food should you give to a rabbit?  
(c) How should you lift a rabbit?
5. (a) Where should a goldfish be kept?  
(b) What food should you give to a goldfish?  
(c) See that there is no danger from \_\_\_\_\_.
6. (a) What do you feed hamsters?  
(b) What are hamster homes called?  
(c) What do hamsters eat?

## □ Can You Tell?

1. If treated kindly, many creatures become friendly. Name three animals, two birds and a fish which will make good pets.

2. The bell pealed.

Put the name of a suitable object in each empty space.

(a) The \_\_\_\_\_ creaked.

(b) The \_\_\_\_\_ ticked.

(c) The \_\_\_\_\_ tinkled.

(d) The \_\_\_\_\_ rattled.

(e) The \_\_\_\_\_ chimed.

3. The horse carried heavy loads.

Name three other animals which man has trained to pull or carry heavy loads for him.

4. Find the missing word in each of the following. The first one is done for you.

(a) small, smaller, **smallest**

(b) beginning, middle, \_\_\_\_\_

(c) breakfast, \_\_\_\_\_, dinner

(d) \_\_\_\_\_, afternoon, evening

(e) sun, moon, \_\_\_\_\_

(f) metres, centimetres, \_\_\_\_\_

5. The horse **limped** slowly along the road.

In each of the sentences below, replace the word **walked** by a better word from this list:

prowled, marched, toddled, stamped, hobbled

(a) The little child **walked** towards his mother.

(b) The soldiers **walked** smartly down the street.

(c) The burglar **walked** through the house.

(d) The injured man **walked** painfully across the room.

(e) He **walked** out in a terrible rage.

6. Write short sentences, one for each word, to show correct use of these words.

almost, already, all right, although, always

7. The king was **kind** but the merchant was **cruel**.

Rewrite the following sentences giving the **opposites** of the words in red.

(a) The road was **long** and **narrow**.

(b) The horse became **thin** and **weak**.

(c) The weather was **warm** and **dry**.

(d) The shawl was **light** and **soft**.

(e) The well was **shallow** and **empty**.

8. The old horse lives in a **meadow**.

Write what each of the following is.

(a) a meadow

(b) a forest

(c) a beach

(d) a marsh

(e) a moor

(f) a plantation

## 4

# The Brownie

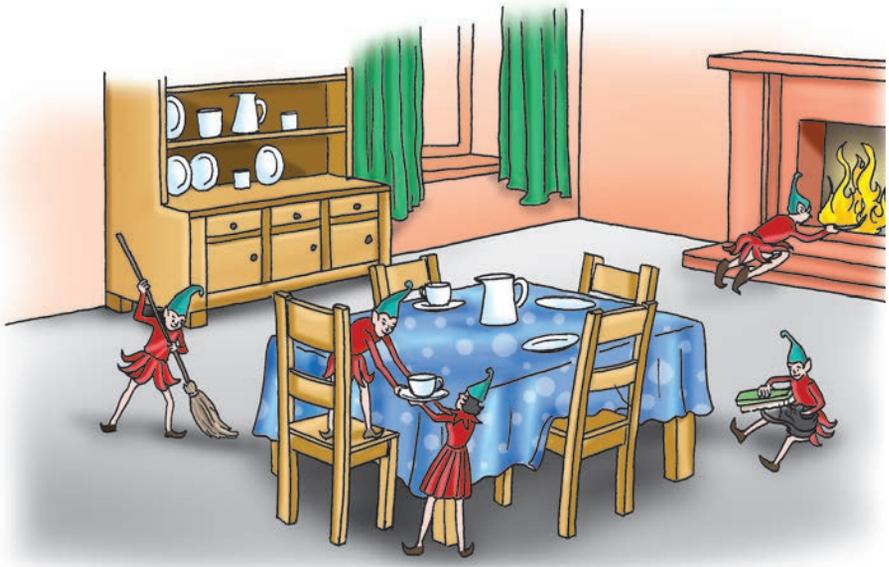
“Tu-whit-tu-who!” A dear old brown owl sat on a branch in the soft moonlight crooning her strange cry. She had great big deep eyes that could see even through the dark, and though many people were afraid of her, she was really quite harmless and full of fun. She could see a joke and her “Tu-whit-tu-who” often ended in a gurgle of laughter.

In a little house nearby there lived a man and his wife and their two children, Tommy and Betty. Though the mother loved both her children, she often had to find fault with them, because they were lazy, forgetful and untidy. They used to rush about the place, yelling and playing their games, upsetting the furniture, breaking the crockery, spoiling their clothes, and causing a great deal of trouble. They never thought what a bother they were to other people so long as they had a good time.

Then one day mother told them how different it had been in years gone by, when the Brownies used to visit the house.

“What is a Brownie?” they asked.

“A Brownie,” answered the mother, “was a little fairy, either a boy or a girl, who came to the house early every morning before anyone was awake. He swept the floor, lit the fire, drew the water, and made ready the breakfast. He also tidied the rooms, weeded the garden, cleaned



the boots and shoes, and put the children's clothes into neat bundles. The Brownie did every kind of work, but nobody ever saw him as he slipped away before the people of the house awoke. Everybody was happy and the home was always bright and clean.”

Tommy and Betty wanted to know how they could get a Brownie to come and help in their house so as to save them from doing many odd jobs. Mother told them to seek and ask the wise old owl, as she knew everything about fairies, and could tell them where to look for a Brownie.

After dark, the two children went into the woods to find the brown owl. Tommy led the way very bravely at first, but as the path in the silent woods became darker and darker, he began to feel sorry that he had started on the adventure. Presently they heard the hooting of

the owl among the trees. It sounded so queer that for a moment they wanted to turn and run back home. Gathering all her courage, Betty went forward to the tree in which the owl was sitting.

“Mrs Owl! Mrs Owl! We have come to see you!” she cried.

“I am delighted to hear it,” replied the wise old bird. “What can I do for you?”



Betty and Tommy told her their troubles; how they were always bothered by having work to do when they wished to play, and how they had heard of the Brownies and wanted to get one to do all the odd jobs for them.

“Tu-whit-tu-who!” chuckled the owl. “Do you see that pool down there, Betty? Go to it when the moon is bright, turn round three times, and then say:

*Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.*

*I looked in the water and there saw . . .*

To get the missing word look down into the water and there you will see the Brownie.”

Next evening when the moon was up, Betty went to the pool, turned herself round three times and cried:

*Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.*

*I looked in the water and there saw . . .*

When she looked in the pool she saw nothing except her own reflection. She went back to the owl and told her that she had seen no one there. She had hoped to find the Brownie who would come to the house and do all the work.

“Did you see anyone whose name would fit the words that I gave you!” said the owl.

“No one,” answered Betty.

“Whom did you see in the water?” asked Mrs Owl.

“No one but myself,” replied Betty.

“Tu-whit-tu-who!” cried the owl. “Would not the word *myself* fit?”

Betty repeated the lines again:

*Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.*

*I looked in the water and there saw **Myself**.*

“But I am not a Brownie!” she exclaimed.

Mrs Owl replied, “No, but you can be one if you try. You are a strong and smart little girl. You could sweep the floor; you are clever enough to lay a fire and light it; you could fill the kettle and put it on to boil; you could tidy up the room and set out the breakfast things; you could make your bed and clean your shoes and fold up your clothes. You could do all these things before anyone

else was up, so that when your father and mother came down, they would be surprised and delighted.”

Next morning Betty and Tommy slipped out of their beds before anyone was up. They cleaned the house, lit the fire, prepared the breakfast, and crept quietly back to their rooms. When their father and mother came down, expecting to have to do all the work as usual, they were astonished to find that everything was already done for them.

Day after day this went on, and the children had far more fun and enjoyment out of doing their duty like Brownies than they had ever got out of playing rowdy games or being idle. Their home was always bright and clean, and everybody was happy.

*(Adapted)*



## Interesting Facts on Helping in the House

### Warning!

Ask your parent before making tea, using electricity or preparing a coal fire.

Do not play with matches.

1. **Washing:** Before washing your face, bare your arms and neck. Rub your face, neck, ears, hands, wrists and arms with warm soapy water. Rinse off the soap and dry with a clean towel.
2. **Head:** Wet your hair with warm water, add some shampoo and rub until it is thoroughly clean. Rinse well with water to get rid of the shampoo. Rub well with a dry towel. Keep your hair tidy by combing and brushing it as often as possible.
3. **Teeth:** Wet your toothbrush and put on some toothpaste. Brush gently up and down, making sure you clean all space between your teeth and also the backs of the teeth. Rinse the brush and give a final clean. Rinse your mouth with cool fresh water.
4. **Clothes:** At night-time fold your clothes and place them in a neat pile, ready for the morning. Take off wet clothing as soon as you can, because you may get a chill.
5. **Shoes:**
  - (a) Wipe your shoes on the doormat before you enter any place.
  - (b) Take off your shoes and place them neatly on the shoe rack when you enter the house.

- (c) Take off all dust or dried mud with a hard brush.
  - (d) Polish your school shoes every day so that they are clean and shiny.
6. **Floor:** Brush or vacuum the floor gently but firmly. If brushing, sweep all the dust and dirt to one spot where it can be collected easily with a dustpan. Make sure that you go into all the corners and remember to clean under the table and chairs.
7. **Dishes:**
- (a) Put all scraps of food and tea-leaves or tea-bags into a bin.
  - (b) Fill basin with hot water and add a little detergent.
  - (c) Put in dirty dishes and allow them to soak for a minute to two.
  - (d) Rub dishes in the water with a soft cloth or dish mop.
  - (e) Take out dishes after cleaning, rinse and leave to dry.
  - (f) Wipe dishes with a soft dry clean cloth.
8. **Making Tea:** Be sure to ask your parents before doing this.

Fill the kettle with fresh water and bring it to the boil. Wash the clean empty teapot by rinsing it with hot water. Take the teapot to the kettle **not** the kettle to the teapot as it is much safer. When the water is boiling in the kettle, put tea, one teaspoonful for each person and then one more,

into the pot. Carefully pour the boiling water into the teapot, and leave to brew for two minutes. The tea is then ready to be poured into the cups. Or after the water has boiled pour it into cups and place the teabags in the cup.

9. **Bonfire:**

- (a) Be sure to ask your parents before doing this task. Bring a bucket of water to put out the fire with.
- (b) Pick out the black cinders and place them to one side.
- (c) Build a fire pit by removing all flammable materials near your fire. Dig down till about twelve inches using a shovel.
- (d) Put on some crumpled paper.
- (e) Place some sticks or firelighters criss-cross on the paper.
- (f) Put the cinders on top of the sticks or firelighters.
- (g) Add some small lumps of coal.
- (h) To start the fire, set the paper alight.

10. **Shopping:** When you are asked to go errands to the shops, see that you go and return as quickly as possible. Don't talk to strangers, delay or play games on the way. Remember what you were asked to get; how much the goods cost; how much money you were given; and make sure that you have the right change. If you have to get a number of things, make a list of them on a piece of paper.

## □ Do You Remember?

1. What was the title of the story?
2. Describe Mrs Owl.
3. Give her strange cry.
4. Who lived in the little house near the wood?
5. What were the names of the two children?
6. Why was their mother often angry with them?
7. What is a Brownie?
8. When did a Brownie visit a house?
9. What work did he do?
10. When did the Brownie slip away?
11. Why did the children want to speak to Mrs Owl?
12. When did they visit her?
13. What did the wise old bird tell them to do?
14. When did Betty visit the pool?
15. Repeat the two lines of the spell the owl gave Betty.
16. What did Betty see in the pool?
17. What did she expect to see in the pool?
18. What was the missing word?
19. How could the children be like Brownies?
20. What change did it make in their home?

## ❑ Questions on the Interesting Facts

- (a) When washing, what is needed with water to remove the dirt?
  - (b) How should you dry yourself?
- (a) To clean your hair, you should wash your hair with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) How can you keep your hair tidy?
3. What are the things you use for cleaning your teeth?
- (a) What should you do with your clothes before going to bed?
  - (b) Why must you take off wet clothing as soon as possible?
5. What do you do with your shoes before you enter any place?
6. When sweeping a floor, why should you brush all dust and dirt to one spot?
7. When washing dishes, why should the water be hot?
8. Describe the best way to make tea.
9. What should you remember when you are asked to go on an errand?
10. If you have a number of things to get, what should you do?

## □ Can You Tell?

1. Rewrite the following sentences changing all masculines into feminines.

- (a) The **man** saved the little **boy**.
- (b) **Father** and **uncle** were laughing.
- (c) The **prince** bowed to the **king**.
- (d) My **brother** waved to **him**.
- (e) **He** spoke to the **husband**.

2. The owl says, “Tu-whit-tu-who.”

What do the following creatures say?

- (a) cat
- (b) dog
- (c) cow
- (d) sheep
- (e) duck
- (f) cock
- (g) cuckoo
- (h) rook

3. The owl could see in the dark.

Name any other creatures which can see quite well in the dark.

4. What should you use to clean the following?

- (a) face and hands
- (b) teeth
- (c) clothes
- (d) shoes
- (e) floor
- (f) dishes

5. In what ways can you be polite and well-behaved at these places?

- (a) at home
- (b) in school
- (c) in the street
- (d) in public transport

6. Explain the difference.
  - (a) pen and pencil
  - (b) shoes and boots
  - (c) clock and watch
  - (d) pin and needle
  - (e) shadow and reflection
7. Tell what you do from the time you wake up in the morning till the time you go to school.
8. You have all heard of “Girl Scouts”. What else can young people join?
9. Make a list of things your parents do at home every day. Then tick the things in which you can help them.
10. What are the mechanical, electrical and electronic equipments in your house that you can safely use? What are the ones only adults should handle?