

01 Emily, the Rat Who Could Not Read

Once upon a time, there was a rat called Emily who could not read. She lived in a small town and every morning used to put on her glasses to read the local newspaper, but she wasn't able to read it.

"My glasses might be dirty," thought Emily. She met a squirrel one day and asked her, "Do you read every day?"

"Of course," said the squirrel.

"I can't because my glasses are too old and dirty," replied Emily

"You have to go to school to learn to read," said the squirrel before leaving.

Then Emily saw a rabbit.

"Can you read?" asked Emily.

"Of course. I'm coming from school and have my bag full of books," said the rabbit.

"I can't. My glasses are too old," said Emily, and left the place sadly.

She kept walking and when she met a dog.

"Have you read the newspaper today?"

"Yes, I do every day."

"Do you wear glasses?"

"No, I go to school."

Emily stood there thinking and decided to go to school. After a few weeks, she was so proud of what she had learned. One day, when she saw a hen walking past, she ran to ask her, "Can you read?"

"Of course. I read every day," said the hen. Emily was very happy and could finally say, "Me too!" She was so happy that she had a party and invited all her friends. She advised those who couldn't read to go to school to learn. She hoped that everyone can enjoy reading.

02 The Princess and the Pea

Once upon a time, there was a prince who wanted to marry a princess. He travelled all over the world to find one. But, he failed.

Then, one fateful evening, a terrible storm blew into the city. There was thunder and lightning, and the rain seemed to fall down in buckets. Suddenly, a loud knocking was heard, and the guard went to see who was seeking to enter the city on such a terrible night. On opening the gate, the guard was surprised to find a young woman standing in the pouring rain!

The guard took her straight to see the old king. The old king was shocked by the young woman's appearance. The rain and wind from the storm had made her look terrible! And yet she said that she was a real princess.

The old queen invited her to stay. Then,

she laid a pea on the bottom. After that, she took twenty soft mattresses and laid them on the pea. The princess had to sleep on top of this pile of mattresses all night.

In the morning, she was asked how she slept. "Oh, very badly!" she said. "I scarcely closed my eyes all night. Heaven only knows what was in the bed, but I was lying on something hard, and couldn't get to sleep."

Now they knew that she was a real princess, because she had felt the pea right through the twenty soft mattresses. Nobody but a real princess could be as sensitive as that. So the prince married her. And the pea was put in the museum, where it may still be seen, if no one has stolen it. (275 words)

03 The Three Wishes

Long, long, ago, a man and woman lived near a great forest. Every day, they went into the forest to cut wood. They worked very hard, but still they were poor and often went hungry. One morning they walked farther into the forest than ever. They saw a huge oak. “We could cut many logs,” said the man. “Then we would have enough money to buy food for many days.”

Suddenly, a beautiful fairy appeared. “Please don’t cut down my tree,” she begged. They were surprised and spare the tree. The fairy excitedly cried, “Thank you! For this, I will grant you three wishes.”

The couple was so excited. All day they talked about the wishes. A fancy coach, fine clothes, and a house with a lovely garden.

Then, they went home. “Ah! We could wish that we would never go hungry again,” exclaimed the woman. “Indeed,” said the man. “But right now, I wish we had some tasty sausages for dinner.” All of a sudden, a pan of sausages appeared!

“You fool!” the wife cried. “I wish those sausages were hanging from your nose!” It came true. “What have you done?” cried the man. He pulled at the sausages, but they stuck. They pulled and tugged, but it was no use. They knew what the last wish should be.

The sausages were back in the pan sizzling on the fire. Though the couple didn’t get a fancy coach, fine clothes, or a house with a lovely garden, they were still cheerful as they sat down to eat. “At least we have this fine dinner of sausages” said the wife and the husband.

(274 words)