

2 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)