

01 Jack and the Worry Dolls

Jack worries about many things. He worries about shoes, clouds, rain, and even giant animals. His dad and mom try to help. They always say, “Don’t worry. Nothing can hurt you.” Jack still worries. He can’t sleep. His grandma comes to help. Grandma holds something in her hand. She says, “These are worry dolls. Tell each one of them your worries and put them under your pillow. They will do all the worrying for you. You can sleep well.”

Jack feels happy. He holds the worry dolls. He tells all his worries to them. The first night, he sleeps like a log. The next night, he tells all his worries to the dolls again. He sleeps like a stone. His dad and mom feel happy for him. But the night after that, Jack

worries again. He thinks, “I give all the worries to the worry dolls. They must be so worried. It is not fair.” Jack has an idea. He works all day at the kitchen table. It is difficult work. At first he makes a lot of mistakes. He starts again many times. Finally, Jack makes something special. Guess what? Jack makes some worry dolls for the worry dolls. That night, Jack and all the worry dolls sleep very well. After that Jack never worries about things and his friends don’t worry about things, either. Why? Because Jack makes worry dolls for all of them.

(235 words)

02 Larry and Mary

Larry and Mary are brother and sister. Their dad is a woodcutter. One night, Mom tells Dad, "We have no more food." Dad feels worried. Larry goes to his sister and says, "Mary, wake up. We have no more food." Mary cries and asks, "What can we do?" They plan to go to the forest to get more wood for their dad. They walk into the forest. It's quiet. Mary is scared.

She asks, "Can we find the way home?" Larry has an idea. He drops some bread on the ground to help them find the way home. But the birds eat up all the bread. They don't know how to get back home. They are lost in the forest. They feel hungry. They see a cookie house and go inside. They eat the chocolate window and candy door. A witch

comes in and shouts, "How dare you?" She grabs Mary and puts her in a cage. The witch wants to eat Mary so she tells Larry to light a fire. She asks Larry, "Is the stove hot?" Larry says, "Please come and check." The witch looks into the stove and Larry pushes her inside. The witch is on fire. Larry helps Mary out of the cage. They run away together.

On their way home, they see their dad and mom. They find more and more wood together. They work together and make more money. After that, they live a happy life.

(242 words)

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)

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)