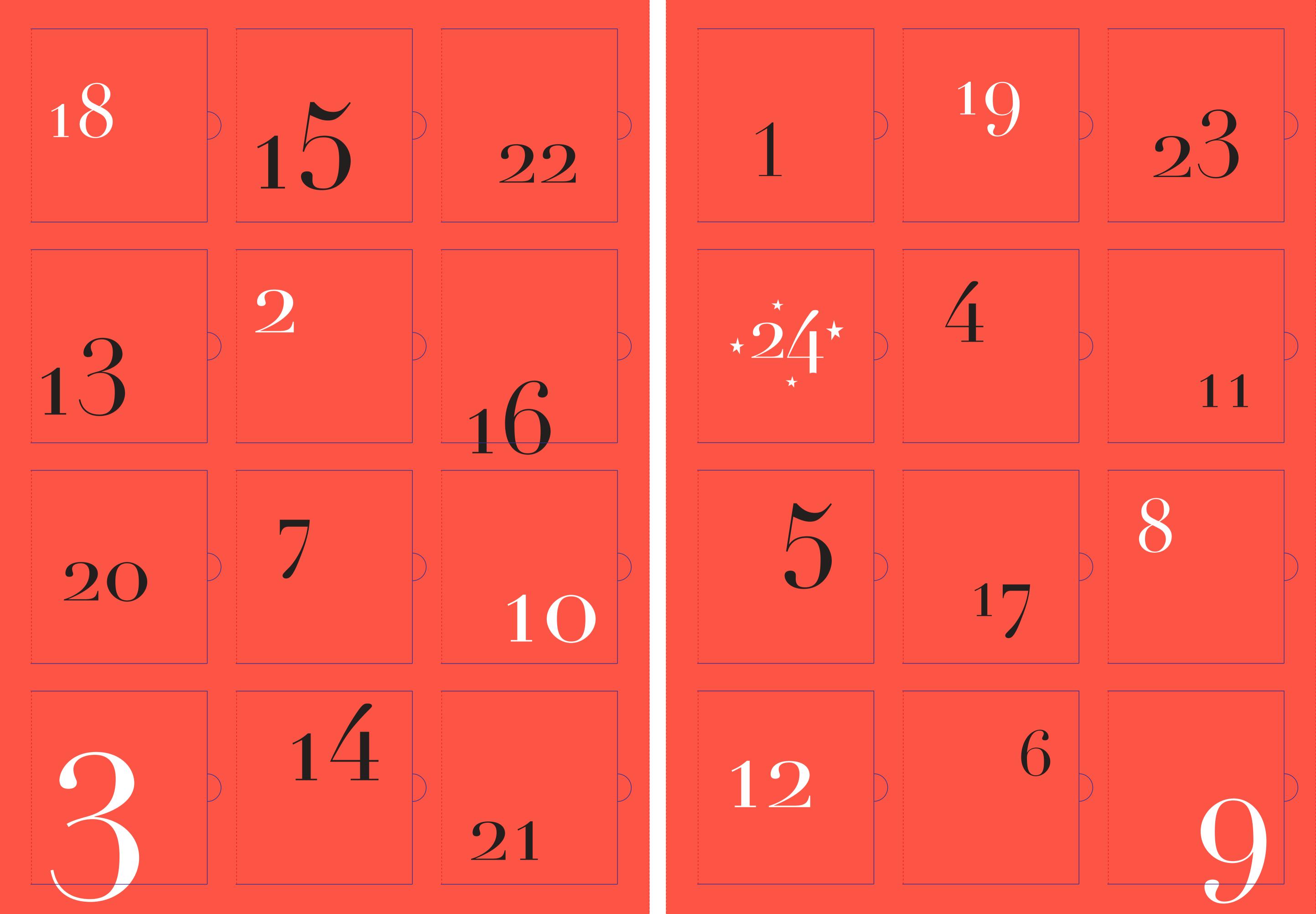
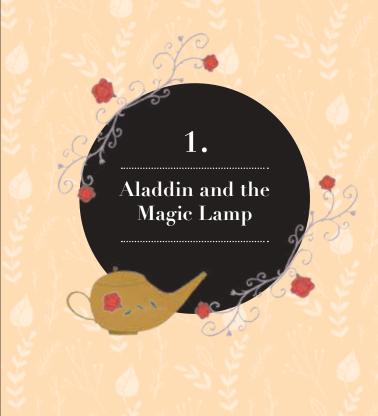
Illustrated by Tereza Konupčíková An Advent Calendar of Fairy Tales Twenty-four December evenings till Christmas. Twenty-four fairy tales from around the world for the very young and some a little older... So many wonderful characters, so many princesses and animals, all of them waiting for you! You will find Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf, Snow White and the dwarfs, the Doughnut, Masha and the Three Bears, and the Three Little Pigs. But where? Once you have read all the stories, follow the instructions to thread them together with two ribbons to make your very own book of fairy tales for your bookshelf. And how about breathing new life into this folder by adding things to it? Your own fairy-tale drawings, for instance. An Advent Calendar of Fairy Tales An Advent Design and typography: Veronika Kopečková © Albatros Media a. s. Albatros Calendar of Illustrations © Tereza Konupčíková Text © Šárka Krejčová Editor: Lucie Hášová, Petr Eliáš Fairy Tales All rights reserved. www.albatrosmedia.eu









a city far, far away, a boy called
Aladdin lived with his mother.
They did not live well, for they
were among the poorest of the poor. One
day, the boy was out looking for work when
he was stopped by a stranger.

"Are you not Aladdin, my brother's son?" asked the man. "How glad I am to have found you, my heir, at last!" They went together to Aladdin's mother. The stranger explained that he was her brother-in-law, who had once gone off to seek his fortune, and whom everyone believed to be dead. He gave the widow money to buy good

clothes for her son, saying that he would return for his nephew that evening to take him into his care.

Evening came and with it the man, with an invitation to Aladdin to join him in the great wide world. The young man bade his mother farewell and left with the stranger. Just beyond the city, the man made a fire, tossed incense into the flames, and stepped into the smoke, where he made strange movements and mumbled strange words. A chill went up Aladdin's spine. Had he known the man to be a sorcerer with wicked intentions, he would have

fainted for fright. The sorcerer had read in an ancient book of the whereabouts of a magic lamp that would make him the most powerful man in the world. To claim the lamp, he needed a boy pure of heart and soul.

There was a sudden flash, after which the earth moved and opened in front of them. Aladdin fell to the ground, his head in his hands. The stranger grabbed the boy and cried: "Now do as I tell you. It is for your own good! In this opening there is a stone with a loop of iron in it. Pull on the loop and lift the stone."

Aladdin obeyed. At his feet, steps leading into the earth appeared. "Go down," commanded the sorcerer. "Look at nothing in the first three chambers you pass through. In the fourth, take down the lamp that hangs there, and bring it to me." He placed a ring on the boy's finger. "Should something go wrong, turn this ring," the sorcerer said.

Aladdin did as he was instructed. In the last chamber, he found an ordinary oil lamp, which he lifted from the wall. As he was making his way back, he was dazzled by a bright light. He saw some magnificent

vases. Curious, he reached for one. It was inlaid with huge gems. The boy peeled one of the gems from the vase and hid it against the lamp. Then he mounted the steps.

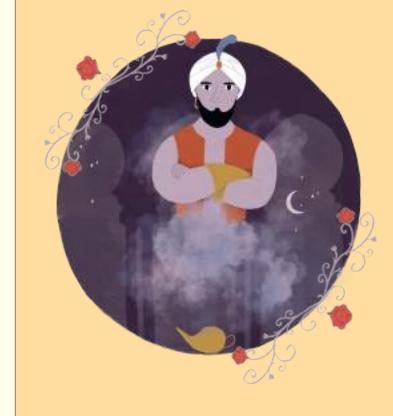
"What kept you?" asked the sorcerer angrily. "Give me that lamp!" Aladdin was so afraid, he couldn't move.

Made impatient by the long wait, the sorcerer cursed and swore. When the boy appeared at last, he spoke an oath that caused the ground to close over Aladdin. Now the boy was more afraid than ever.

genie to return them to their palace in the city of their birth.

How everyone there rejoiced! As they no longer needed either lamp or ring, they dropped them in the deepest well they could find.

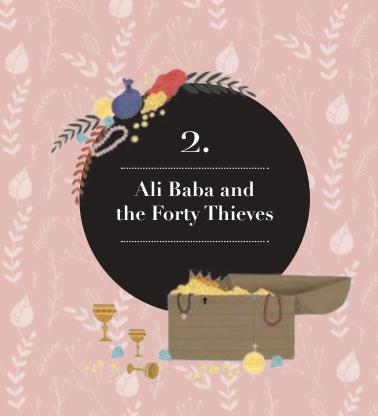
Perhaps the lamp and the ring are still there today...



Who did the wicked sorcerer pretend to be?

And what did he tell Aladdin to fetch for him from underground?









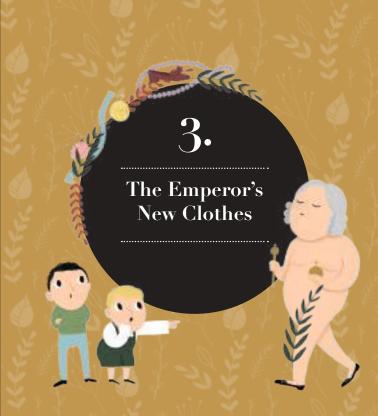
asim and Ali Baba were brothers. Kasim owned a vineyard and was rich, but Ali Baba's pockets were empty. Each morning, Ali Baba took his donkey to the mountains to gather firewood, which he then sold. Even so, Ali Baba and his wife often went to bed hungry. One day as he was working, Ali Baba heard the thud of horses' hooves. Startled, he climbed a tall tree. The next thing he knew, forty fearsome horsemen thundered into the clearing. They dismounted before pulling off their heavy saddlebags and dragging them to a nearby rock. The leader reached into a bush and parted it, revealing an iron gate. "Open sesame!" he demanded.

How many thieves were there?

What were the magic words?



The End.





very country has its rulers. Some countries are ruled by a king or an emperor. Some rulers are wise and good, others are silly and bad. The emperor in our story was of the second kind. He took no care of his empire and people, and he had no interest in culture or sport. The only thing he enjoyed was fashion. He spent most of his time at the tailor's and in trying on new garments. He demanded new clothes every day.

One day, two swindlers came to the city. These swindlers were smart and cunning What did the emperor in the story like to do?

Who was the first to say out loud that the emperor had no clothes?







Once upon a time...



a little house with a flimsy roof and rickety walls, there lived La poor, widowed basket-weaver and her daughter, Helen. In summer, they would go to the woods to gather mushrooms, strawberries, bilberries and raspberries. From the money they earned from selling their baskets, mushrooms and berries at market, they barely earned a living, and sometimes they went hungry.

One summer's day, the widow awoke with a headache, so Helen went to the woods with her jug alone. For her lunch, she took

Who did Helen meet in the woods?

And what did he give her for her kindness?



The End.





Once upon a time...



the land of a wicked sorcerer called Abbador was a mill in which a poor miller lived with his three sons. They owned nothing but the mill, a mule and a tomcat, which the youngest son had saved from drowning. Whereas the two eldest sons were lazy, the youngest boy John was hard-working. He was also a dreamer with a vivid imagination. When the old miller died, the eldest lazybones inherited the mill and the middle son was given the mule, so that all that remained for the third-born was the black tom Puss.

What did the sons inherit from their father?

What was the last thing the ogre changed into in the cat's presence?



The End.





Once upon a time...



here was a rich merchant who had three daughters. All were beautiful, but the youngest had a lovely face and a good heart. She was known to all as Beauty. Queues of young male suitors would form at the sisters' door. The elder two sisters were vain, proud and jealous. As they desired wealth above all, they were waiting for an offer of marriage from a duke or a count. They liked to show themselves in society, and they made fun of Beauty, who preferred to stay at home, reading or helping with housework. As the two elder sisters were jealous of the younger, they were forever finding fault with her.

As we know, good fortune sometimes alternates with bad. One day, the merchant's family learned that their ship had been lost in a storm, along with all the goods it was carrying.

The once-wealthy merchant was now a poor man. He lost all his property but a small farm in the country. Yet his elder daughters refused to leave the city and give up their hopes of landing a rich husband. Only Beauty accepted her fate with humility. Despite her great sorrow over the loss of their fortune, she tried to comfort her father. "It will do us no good to weep and wail," she said. "I believe we will be happy even though we are poor."

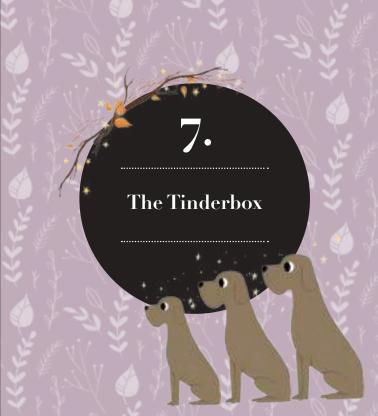
Beauty joined her father at the farm, where she rose early in the morning to keep and clean the house, cook and do many other jobs until late in the evening. Although the work made her tired at first, soon she became stronger and healthier. And she still found time to read and to sing. Things did not go so well with Beauty's sisters. Now that they were poor, their suitors lost interest



What were Beauty's sisters like?

What did the merchant pluck in the castle gardens?







ong, long ago, before people invented matches, they used a tinderbox to start a fire. In a tinderbox, steel strikes stone and the resulting sparks ignite the tinder. The tinderbox in our story is no ordinary tinderbox, however.

A veteran soldier came back from the war, with a knapsack on his back and a sabre in his hand. He was walking along briskly when he met an ugly old woman.

"Good evening, young man," she greeted him.
"I see by your green knapsack and sabre that you are a soldier. Would you like to earn a lot of money?"

What did the old woman ask the soldier to fetch?

How many magic dogs were there?



The End.





the middle of an ocean lay a sea kingdom, with the palace of the Mer-King at its deepest point. This exalted building was covered in seashells and amber and surrounded by a flower garden filled with fishes of bright and beautiful colours, just as the skies are filled with birds.

The king lived with his mother, the wise old queen, and she helped him bring up his six daughters. The princesses were all beautiful, and so happy in each other's company that they spent all their time together. Only the sixth-born, who had shining eyes and a delightful voice, sometimes swam alone,

deep in thought, dreaming of adventure in unknown places. Her grandmother told her about the human world, ships and towns on land. How she looked forward to seeing all this for herself!

On her fifteenth birthday, every mermaid may visit land for the first time. The Little Mermaid's sisters sometimes told her about what they had seen on their visits. The eldest had liked the town on the coast. The second eldest had been most impressed by the colour of the clouds at sunset. The third-born had swum from the sea into a river, all the way to a forest, where she had seen human children swimming, although they had no fins. The fourth-born had stayed in



How many daughters did the Mer-King have?

What did the Little Mermaid wish for above all?







Once upon a time...



asha was a bright little girl.
She often stayed with her grandma and grandpa, who lived in a cottage by the woods. Masha loved the woods and was not afraid to walk some distance from the cottage, especially in summer. She would pick mushrooms, and bilberries, raspberries and blackberries to put in cakes.

One morning she set out very early for her normal walk. Maybe her mind was on mushroom-picking, or maybe she crossed the blarney stone... Suddenly she didn't know her way home. Who did the smallest bowl belong to?

Where did Masha cleverly hide so that Daddy Bear would carry her home?







here lived a father and his son in a village. The young man was work-shy and not very bright. He liked nothing more than to listen to people telling scary stories, and he loved horrors above all. He had no fear of the dark woods or the graveyard at night. In fact, he couldn't understand why anyone would fear them.

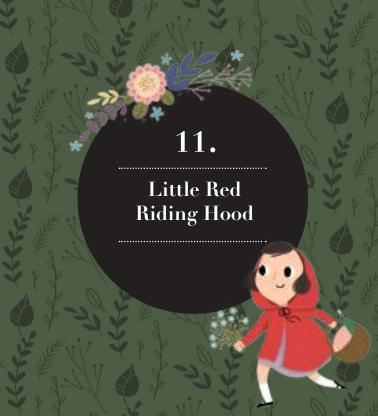
One day, his father ran out of patience with him. "Son, you're growing very fast and you have the strength of three men, but you're useless to me here," he said. "Go out into the world and learn."

What did Fearless wish to learn?

What did the king ask Fearless to do?



The End.







here was once a little girl who wore a red hood. That's why everyone called her Little Red Riding Hood.

One day her mother called to Little Red Riding Hood: "It is Grandmother's name day today. Here's a basket with a strawberry tart and some wine in it. Take it to Grandmother. But be sure not to stray from the path and don't speak to strangers!"

What did Little Red Riding Hood take to her grandmother?

Who saved them both?



The End.







n old man and an old woman lived happy and contented in a cosy little cottage. Through their window they saw across a garden to a meadow. Beyond the meadow was a mysterious forest.

The old man had a sweet tooth, as was plain from his figure. He was hardworking, too, so the old woman liked to prepare good things for him to eat. One day, the old man said: "Fry me some doughnuts, my dear."

What did the old man like to do?

Which animals did the doughnut meet in the forest?



The End.







ong, long ago, or perhaps it was yesterday, a hen and a cock lived in harmony. They fed on worms, beetles and grain in the earth. Although the hen always shared what she had with the cock, the cock sometimes forgot to offer food to the hen. One day, the cock saw a big, beautiful seed. Forgetting all about the hen, he gobbled it up. The seed stuck in the cock's throat and he started to choke. The frightened hen ran quickly to the well for water.

What did the well want for its water?

What did the shoemaker want for his shoes?









farmer and his wife lived in a sad, quiet, childless home.
"How I would love to hear a child's laughter!" said the farmer one winter evening. "Me too," said his wife.
"Just one child would be enough for us, even a very small one."

Some months later, as the farmer was ploughing their field, his wife gave birth to a beautiful, healthy child. But this child was only as big as a human thumb. His mother began to call him Tom Thumb. The little boy was lively, clever and very strange. Although no one could see him

What was the greatest wish of the farmer and his wife?

At the end, for what is Tom given an award?



The End.







here was a woodcutter who lived in a forest. His wife had died, leaving him alone with his children, Hansel and Gretel.

They lived in a little house by a brook, far away from other people. The woodcutter spent his days in the forest, but the children stayed close to home. While their father was at work, brother and sister played together, watching woodland animals and catching fish in the brook.

Only occasionally did Hansel and Gretel join their father in the forest, where they

Who climbed a tree in the forest?

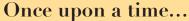
What did the witch want to do with the children?



Illustrations: Tereza Konupčíková









Ithough this is a very old story, people still tell it today.

A young prince travelled here, there and everywhere, looking for a girl to make his wife.

He was determined to find the right one, and she had to be a true princess. After many months on the road, he came home alone and disappointed, for his search had been in vain. Although the prince had met many princesses, none had pleased him. What kind of princess was the prince looking for?

And how did he find her?









here lived three friends in a village.
They played together, made
mischief together, learned about
the world together. But each of them was
different. They were known as the Three
Little Pigs.

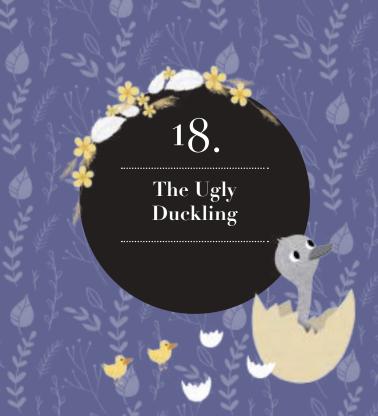
When they were grown, so as not to end up in sausages, they left home to find their fortunes. They walked up hill and down dale, through woods and across fields. With the approach of autumn, the weather began to change. The little pigs didn't like the wind and rain.

What did the first and second little pigs build their houses with?

How were the little pigs saved?



The End.





ummer ruled the earth. Nature made the trees and the grass green, the grain yellowed in the fields, the meadows changed colour with the flowers, and the water was full of life. On the bank of a river, under an enormous burdock, a duck sat on her eggs.

The duck was grumpy – no one ever visited her, and all the other ducks were swimming. Why were her eggs refusing to hatch? And then something happened. Tap tap, peep, peep! One after another the eggs cracked, and little yellow heads emerged.

Which animals did the ugly duckling meet at the beginning of his journey?

And what did he grow into?



The End.







here was a courtier whose wife had died, leaving him alone with his daughter. The courtier remarried, but his new wife was proud and unkind. Besides, she and her two daughters were like peas in a pod. The daughters were lazy, too, and they treated their stepsister like a servant – perhaps because they were jealous of her beauty and kindness.

Sadly, the courtier soon died. After her father's death, the lovely girl's homelife became difficult to bear. Her stepmother accepted her daughters' every whim and

What were Cinderella's sisters like?

What did Cinderella lose at the ball?



The End.







king and a queen lived in a beautiful palace. A daughter was born to them whose skin was as white as snow and whose hair was as black as coal. They gave her the name Snow White. After the birth, the queen fell sick, and within the year the king and the princess were left alone.

When he got over his grief, the king took a new wife, who was very beautiful but proud. She also knew magic and charms. The land gained a new queen and Snow White gained a wicked stepmother. The queen owned a magic mirror. She would

What magic object did the wicked queen own?

What did the wicked witch sell to Snow White?









ong, long ago, there lived a king and a queen in their own kingdom. Although they were happy, for their happiness to be complete they needed children. And how they longed for them! "One would be enough!" the queen said often, over many years. At long last, fortune smiled on her. As the daughter born to the king and queen was as lovely as a rose, they called her Briar Rose.

To mark the christening the king held a magnificent banquet for many friends, relatives and other guests, including wise, good fairies, all of whom wished the child

What did the wicked fairy predict?

Who saved Briar Rose at last?



The End.







here was a mother goat who had seven kids. Like every good mother, she cared for them well and with love, even when they were fidgety and naughty, as all children sometimes are.

One morning, Mummy Goat had to go out to fetch food. So she called her kids to her and told them, "I'm going to the market for grass. Maybe I'll bring back some sweet carrots, too. I won't be home until evening. Don't go out. Be good, play nicely together, and open Who cunningly pretended to be Mummy Goat?

Did he succeed in fooling the kids?



The End.







poor widower and his small daughter Anna lived in a cottage with a tiny garden. In summer, they grew potatoes in the field behind the cottage. In winter, the father wove cloth on his loom and the daughter wove baskets. Although they did all they could to make a living, times were bad: the harvest was poor for two years, and they had so little money that they couldn't pay their taxes. One day, the bailiffs came to confiscate all their property, including their animals.

In the evening after the terrible day, Anna and her father sat in the room with their

Which animals travelled together?

What happened when they met the brigands?



The End.







hen a wicked witch's curse was nothing unusual, there was a kingdom ruled by an old king. The king had a daughter whose beauty was spoken of far and wide. The princess was good-hearted and cheerful, and she was forever singing and playing with her friends. The kingdom was bordered by a dense forest, on the edge of which, under a tall oak, was a spring with delicious water. In the hot days of summer, the princess liked to sit in the shade of the oak, looking at her reflection in the water. The princess' favourite toy

What did the princess most like to play with?

Who did she meet by the spring?

