



The Stories of the Whimsical Woods



Read on to find the stories you'll encounter in the Whimsical Woods Flip Flopped! You can revisit classic tales you know well, and you may even discover new favorites. Please note that longer stories have been summarized to save space.

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Goldilocks and the Three Bears

nce upon a time...

One day as young Goldilocks was walking in the forest, she came upon an empty house. She went inside and found three bowls of porridge sitting on the table. Boy, was she hungry! Goldilocks tried all three bowls and found that the third one was delicious, so she ate the whole bowl. She was tired from her walk, so she tried out the three chairs in the house – one of them was very comfortable! Just as she settled in to rest, the chair broke into pieces. Goldilocks went upstairs to the bedroom, where she found three beds. One was very hard, one was very soft, and the third was just right! She laid down in the third bed and fell asleep. As she was sleeping, the homeowners came home. They were three bears! They were shocked to find their porridge eaten, their chair broken, and someone sleeping upstairs! Goldilocks awoke and saw the bears. Terrified, she jumped up and left the house, never to return.

The end.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

by Mark Twain

nce upon a time...

Tom Sawyer was a mischievous and imaginative boy who lived in 1840s Missouri with his Aunt Polly. One day Tom skipped school and then dirtied his clothes in a fight, so he got in trouble with Aunt Polly and had to whitewash a fence as his punishment. Although he dreaded doing the work, Tom cleverly convinced his friends that whitewashing the fence was great fun! They all begged Tom to let them do the work for him and they gave him gifts in return. Tom's adventures continued when he and his friends Huck Finn and Sid decided to run away to an island and become pirates, but they come back when they heard that their friends and family think that they have died. Later Tom and Huck were looking for buried treasure in an abandoned house when they spotted the unsavory character Injun Joe hiding some treasure of his own! They spied on Joe for several days and had some close calls. Several days later Tom and Huck found Injun Joe's treasure in a cave where he had hidden it again. They brought the gold home, where it was invested for them to have in the future.

The end

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

by Mark Twain

nce upon a time...

Tom and Huck's escapades continue in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The story begins when Huck's father, a shifty character, fled Missouri with his son and kept him locked in a backwoods cabin in Illinois. Huck escaped his father and, while living in the wilderness, encountered a friend from home – Miss Watson's slave Jim. Jim ran away from his owner and wanted to make it to freedom so that he could buy the rest of his family out of slavery. The two decided to team up and stick together, taking a raft on the Mississippi River to find a new life.

Huck and Jim could not stay out of trouble! Huck disguised himself as a girl so that he could go in to town, where he found out that people were searching for the two of them – some even claiming that Jim murdered Huck! They moved down the river to escape the attention, but when their raft was destroyed by a passing steamship they were separated. Huck stayed with an aristocratic Kentucky family for a short time and then reunited with Jim on the river.

Huck and Jim took two passengers onto their raft, known as “the duke” and “the king.” The two were true con-artists and found opportunities to make money at every stop on the river. At one point they decided to sell Jim back into slavery without Huck’s knowledge. Huck was furious and immediately planned to help Jim escape. Jim’s new owners, Silas and Sally Phelps, mistook Huck for their nephew Tom when he came to free Jim. In a surprising plot twist, it is revealed that this “Tom” is in fact Tom Sawyer!

Huck spotted Tom Sawyer on the road to the house and brought him into the plan – Tom would pretend to be his own younger half-brother Sid, while Huck continued to act like he is Tom Sawyer. The boys tricked the Phelps family and shaped an elaborate plan for freeing Jim, involving secret messages, a hidden tunnel, and a rope ladder! In the course of the escape Tom was shot in the leg and Jim stayed behind to help him even though it meant he risked capture. Events resolved themselves as the boys returned to Missouri and Jim found that he was freed by Miss Watson in her will when she died two months earlier.

The end.

The Frog Prince

nce upon a time...

... a beautiful young princess was walking in the woods near her father's castle. As she walked she carried her favorite toy, a shiny ball made of gold. She tossed the ball into the air over and over and made a game of catching it. Unfortunately, she tossed the ball too high one time too many and it landed in a pool of water. As she watched, it rolled down into the depths where she could not see it. She began to cry and said, "Oh, I would give all my fine clothes and jewels and everything I have to have my ball back again!"

While she was crying she heard a voice asking, "Why are you weeping?" She turned and saw a frog with its head out of the water. "What can you do for me, you nasty frog?" she answered. "My golden ball has fallen into the water and I cannot reach it!" "Princess," the frog replied, "I do not want your fine clothes or jewels, but if you take me home, let me eat from your plate and sleep on your pillow, I will bring your ball back to you." The princess thought, "This silly frog! He can't even leave this pool, but he wants to come and live with me? I'll promise him what he asks." So that is what she did. The frog dove deep into the water and brought the ball back to the

princess. She was so excited that she ran all the way back home, never thinking of the frog she left behind.

The next day, the princess had just sat down to dinner with her father when they heard a ‘split, splat, splash’ on the castle steps, and then a knock at the door. The princess was surprised to see the frog at the door, waiting for her to keep her promise. She shut the door and ran to her father who asked what had frightened her. She told him, “I promised this frog that he could live with me if he retrieved my ball, but I thought he could not leave his pool. Now he is here at our door!” The king replied, “If you have made a promise, you must keep your word. Go and let him in.” So, the princess let the frog in, and he hopped to the table and ate his dinner from her golden plate. That night, much to her disgust, she carried him to her room and placed him on her pillow, where he slept all night.

The next morning, he hopped out the door and went away. The princess thought, “Thank goodness! I won’t see that nasty frog again!” However, that evening as they were sitting down to dinner, the princess and her father heard the same “split, splat, splash” on the steps as once again the frog knocked on the door. Again, he ate dinner from the princess’s plate and slept all night on her pillow. The next morning, he hopped away.

The third evening, just as before, the frog came in, ate from her plate, and slept on her pillow. However, when the princess woke up the next morning, she was surprised to see not the frog, but a handsome young prince. He told her that a spiteful

fairy had put a spell on him and turned him into the frog. The spell could only be broken by a princess who would let him eat from her plate and sleep on her pillow for three nights. By keeping her promise, she had broken the spell and he was a prince again. They were soon married, and they returned to his father's kingdom where they lived happily ever after.

The end.

The Little Mermaid

by Hans Christian Andersen



Deep below the surface of the ocean there was a wonderful palace made all of coral. It was the home of the Ocean King and his family – his six beautiful daughters and his mother, their grandmother (their mother had died many years before). They and their subjects were all mer-people. In other words, where we have legs, their bodies end in a tail like a fish. The king’s daughters were beloved by their subjects for their kind natures and beautiful voices. The youngest daughter had the most beautiful voice of them all. The palace was set in a vast garden filled with colorful flowers. The fish would swim in and out of the garden and the castle windows. They even allowed themselves to be petted.

All of the king’s daughters wondered about the world above the ocean where men lived. The youngest, especially, would ask her grandmother over and over to tell stories about the world of men. Each princess, on her fifteenth birthday, would be allowed to swim to the surface to see what it was like. When the oldest daughter had her turn, she returned telling her sisters all about the lights she saw sparkling from a nearby town at dusk. When the second sister had her turn, she returned telling about the beautiful sunset she had seen. And so it went – the third sister swam close to land and saw a group of children swimming in a river. The fourth was shy and stayed far from land, but

thought the blue sky was very beautiful. The fifth sister had her birthday in the winter and described amazing icebergs and how the ships were steering well away from them. All of these wonderful stories made the youngest daughter long to see the world of men even more.

Finally, the day arrived, and the youngest daughter turned fifteen. When she reached the surface, the sun had just set, and there was a large ship becalmed on the water. On board the brightly lit ship was a celebration with many very well dressed people. One of them was a young handsome prince. The celebration was for him – filled with fireworks and dancing. The little mermaid could not take her eyes off of the prince and stayed at the surface for hours watching the prince and the party. After many hours had passed, a storm began to blow fiercely. It destroyed the ship, and the prince fell into the ocean and began to sink. The little mermaid dodged the debris from the ship and dragged the prince to the surface. She kept his head above water all the night until they found a beach, and she pulled him to safety on the sand. The little mermaid hid behind some rocks as a young girl came to the beach and discovered the prince. She went for help, and the prince awoke as she returned and smiled at her. He never saw the little mermaid or realized that it was she who had saved his life.

The little mermaid went back to her home and was very quiet and sad. She knew that she loved the prince, but they could not live in each other's worlds. The prince would drown under the water, and she could not live on land. She found out where the prince lived and would go at night and watch his palace for hours hoping for a glimpse of him. She asked her grandmother if she could ever live with the prince. Her grandmother told her that while mer-people live three hundred years and turn into the foam of the sea when they die, men

live much shorter lives but they have an immortal soul which rises up through the clear pure air beyond the stars. The only way a mermaid could gain an immortal soul was to win the true love of a human and marry him. With her mermaid's fish tail, this would not be possible. Still, she longed to be with the prince she loved.

Finally, she decided to go to the Sea Witch to find out if there was a way for her to be with the prince. The Sea Witch told her that she could brew a potion that would turn her tail into legs. However, it would come at a terrible cost; she could never be a mermaid or live beneath the water again, every step she took would feel as if she were walking on knives, and the payment to the Sea Witch would be her voice. She would still be sweet, beautiful and graceful, but she would not be able to utter a sound. Moreover, if the prince did not fall in love with her, she would never gain an immortal soul, and the morning after he married another, the little mermaid would die. Despite all of this, the little mermaid gave the Sea Witch her voice in exchange for the potion.

After swimming to the prince's palace, the mermaid drank the potion. She felt terrible pain as her fish tail changed to legs, but the first person she saw was the prince. She could not tell him who she was or where she came from, but he took her back to the palace and cared for her. As the witch had said, every step felt as if she stepped on knives or needles. All of the court was taken with her beauty, graceful dancing, and sweet nature, but still she could not speak. The prince was fond of her as he would have been fond of a child or a friend, but he did not fall in love with her. He told the little mermaid that the only girl he could really love was the one he thought had rescued him from the shipwreck long before, but he had not seen her since that day. Even so,

the little mermaid went everywhere with him as a friend, and grew to love him more each day.

The time came for the prince to marry, and he had to travel to a far land to meet the princess his parents had chosen for him. To his surprise, the princess he sailed to meet was the girl he had seen on the beach after the shipwreck, the one he thought had saved his life. The wedding ship was prepared, and the ceremony took place immediately. The little mermaid was the bride's attendant. She knew that, since the prince had married another, this was her last day on earth. That evening after the wedding, when all was quiet on the ship, the little mermaid's sisters rose to the surface to see her. They had given their hair to the Sea Witch in exchange for a knife which would change her back to a mermaid if she used it to kill the prince. Then, she could go home again. The little mermaid loved the prince too much to do this, so she flung the knife overboard and dove into the ocean. Instead of dissolving into foam, she felt herself rising, with many beautiful transparent beings around her. Because she had suffered so much for another, she had become a daughter of the air and, by her good deeds, could eventually possess an immortal soul of her own.

The end.

The Donkey, the Dog, the Cat, and the Rooster

This traditional African American folktale was first published in the magazine *Southern Workman* in 1894. We have kept the text as it was originally printed.

nce upon a time...

... there was a man who owned a donkey, a dog, a cat and a rooster. They became discontented for some reason. The man was a cruel master, and he worked the donkey very hard from before sunrise until long after sunset. The donkey got mad and very discontented and said that if this was continued, he would leave. It was continued and so one morning when the man got up the donkey had gone. This made the man mad and he kicked the dog and he ran away into the woods. The next morning the cat was sitting in front of the fire and the man told it to get out of his way, so the cat ran off and did not come back.

The man used to get up very early but the next morning he got up a little later than usual which made him mad and he said the

rooster was to blame because he didn't crow at the right time, so he flogged the rooster and the rooster got mad and ran away.

After awhile as the donkey was wandering about in the wood looking for something to eat, he met the dog. "Hello what are you doing here?" he said. "Oh I ran away" answered the dog, "Master kicked me, so I couldn't stand it." "Well, let us go together," said the donkey.

After awhile they met the cat. "What are you doing here?" said they to her. "What are you both doing here?" she replied. "Oh the old man flogged us and we left." "Well, we will all three go together and get our living." As they were searching about for something to eat they ran across the rooster. "Well! What are you doing here?" they exclaimed. The rooster told his story, and then they decided to live together. If they were going to live together they must first have a house. The rooster said he knew of an old deserted house he had seen as he was coming down the road. "Now we will go there and take possession of it."

When they got there they found the door fastened and a little smoke was coming out the chimney and they could smell something good to eat. There was no roof on the house. The rooster said, "We must see what is inside. Now let the donkey stand close to the wall, the dog on his back, the cat on the dog's back and then I'll get on the cat's back and look over and tell you what I see." When the rooster looked over he saw some

gamblers sitting about the fire cooking their supper. This frightened the rooster and he fell in and scared the men so that they all ran off.

Then the donkey, the dog, and the cat came inside. They said “these men ran off but they will come back again, what shall we do?” The rooster, who seemed to be wiser than the others, said “I’ll tell you what to do. Let the donkey go down by the gate, the dog lie at the door, the cat at the hearth and I will go as usual to the roof. If the spy comes back he will come to the fire to make a light, then let the cat touch him; when he goes to the door let the dog touch him and as he leaves the gate the donkey can strike him and I will give the alarm.”

By and by the spy did come, but soon ran back to his companions crying that the house was haunted! For he said, when I went to take a light something slapped me on the face; then I ran out of the door and something cut me on the leg, and when I got to the gate something gave me an awful blow on the back with a stick and then the ghost cried “Hand him up here to touch! Hand him up here to touch!”

The end.

Humpty Dumpty

nce upon a time...

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall;
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,
All the King's horses
And all the King's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again!

The Three Little Pigs

nce upon a time...

Three brother pigs left their mother's home to seek their fortunes and begin lives for themselves. Each pig built a house for himself. One chose to build out of straw, another out of wood, and another out of bricks. A big bad wolf came through the neighborhood and threatened the pigs, blowing down both the straw and wooden houses and sending the pigs running to their brother's brick house for safety. When the wolf arrived at the brick house he tried to trick the three pigs into leaving the safety of the house, but they tricked him instead! The wolf could not blow this house down as easily as the other two, so he tried to climb in through the chimney. The three pigs had a big cauldron of water boiling in the fireplace to make soup, so when the wolf climbed down the chimney he fell right into the boiling water! The wolf leapt out of the chimney and ran away, never to bother the three pigs again.

The end.

Rumpelstiltskin

nce upon a time...

There was a poor old miller who bragged to the king, "I have a daughter who can spin straw into gold!" The king was intrigued and told the miller to bring his daughter to the castle. When the miller's daughter arrived, the king showed her to a room filled with straw and told her, "Now set to work, and if by tomorrow morning early you have not spun this straw into gold during the night, you must die."

The daughter was terrified and did not know what to do until a strange little man appeared in the room. He told her that he could spin all of the straw into gold, but wanted her to give him her beautiful necklace in return. She agreed, so the little man sat down at the spinning wheel and spun all of the straw into lovely gold.

The next morning the king was impressed, and the sight of all the gold made him greedy. He took the miller's daughter to a second, larger room, filled with even more straw, and again threatened to kill her if she did not spin the straw into gold. She was again devastated and broke into tears, but soon the little man appeared again. She agreed to give him the ring off of her finger in exchange for his spinning. That night he spun all of the straw into gold.

The next morning when the king again returned, he rejoiced at the sight of all the gold. He took the miller's daughter into a third, even larger room filled with straw, where he told her, "You must spin this, too, in the course of this night, but if you succeed, you shall be my wife." That night the daughter was glad to see the little man return, but she had nothing more to offer him in payment for his spinning. She was so desperate that she promised to give the little man her first child if she were to marry the king.

The next morning the king returned and was overjoyed to see the gold! The miller's daughter became a queen when they were married soon afterwards. She had not thought much of her deal with the little man until after she had given birth to her daughter and he returned, asking for his payment. She was horrified to think of giving up her child, so the little man agreed to a deal – she would have three days to find out the little man's name. If she guessed it correctly, he would leave her alone.

The queen sent messengers and spies across the land to try to find out the little man's name. For two days she had no luck, until finally one of her spies spotted the little man dancing around a fire, singing a song that revealed his name – Rumpelstiltskin! The queen freed herself from her promise to Rumpelstiltskin and lived happily ever after.

The end.

The Jungle Book

by Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* is a collection of seven short stories. Most are set in India, with one exception: "The White Seal" is set on the coast of Alaska. All of the stories feature animal characters, but only three of them tell stories of Mowgli, the little boy who was adopted by wolves and grew up in the jungle. "Toomai of the Elephants," the sixth story in the collection, does not include Mowgli, but it does tell the story of another brave boy who learns from the animals around him.

Toomai of the Elephants

nce upon a time...

When Kala Nag, a mighty elephant, was young, he was captured and taken to work for the Indian government. When he was younger, he marched and carried supplies for the military and hauled timber for building. As an older elephant, his job was to help catch and train new elephants to work for the government. His driver then was Big Toomai, whose family had driven elephants for generations. Big Toomai did not like working in the camps training young elephants, but his son, Little Toomai, loved life in the camps. He loved the excitement

of the stockade, where the elephant hunters drove the young elephants so they could be tied down.

One day, Little Toomai left his post overlooking the stockade to jump down to the ground among the wrestling elephants and elephant hunters. He grabbed a loose end of rope to hand to a hunter who was struggling with a strong calf. Kala Nag picked Little Toomai up and handed him off to his father, who was very upset—jumping into the stockade was very dangerous for a child. Petersen Sahib, who was in charge of all the elephant catching and training, heard about Little Toomai's actions. Petersen Sahib told him that maybe one day he too would be a hunter, but that he could not go back to the stockade. When Little Toomai asked how long until he can go back, Petersen Sahib replied, "When the elephants dance." The hunters around them laughed, because this was a saying that meant "never," for humans had never seen elephants dance in the jungle.

Later that night, after the other elephants and their drivers were asleep, Kala Nag escaped from the camp, making his way toward the jungle. Little Toomai ran after and begged the elephant to take him along. Kala Nag picked the boy up and they entered the jungle. Eventually they came to a circle of trees, and Little Toomai saw dozens of elephants arrive to join them. Even Pudmini, Petersen Sahib's elephant, had broken her chains to come there. Soon Kala Nag and the others began their

dance, stomping and shuffling their feet over and over for more than two hours.

When morning came, Kala Nag and Pudmini took Little Toomai back to Petersen Sahib's tent at the camp. Little Toomai told him of the elephants' dance and where to find their ballroom in the jungle. Petersen Sahib and his chief driver, Machua Appa, went into the jungle to find the ballroom, a very special occasion even for seasoned elephant drivers. When they came back to camp, Petersen Sahib declared a feast in honor of Little Toomai's adventure. Machua Appa declared to all the drivers and hunters that the boy would no longer be known as Little Toomai, but as Toomai of the Elephants. All the hunters and drivers and even the elephants saluted Toomai, who had seen what no other human ever had.

The end.

The Billy Goats Gruff

nce upon a time...

Three brother goats had eaten all of the grass in their home meadow, so they went looking for a new home. They spotted a lovely green hillside across the river where they would have all the grass they could eat. To cross the river they would have to travel across a bridge. Unfortunately, a fierce troll lived under the bridge and threatened to eat anyone crossing the river. When the smallest goat tried to cross, the troll threatened to eat him. The small goat convinced the troll to wait for the biggest goat to cross, since such a small goat would hardly be a meal at all. The next goat was just a little bit bigger. The troll wanted to eat him, but the medium goat also told the troll to wait for the biggest goat, who would have the most meat on his bones. When the biggest goat came to cross the bridge, the troll jumped up to eat him. The third goat was so big and strong that he easily pushed the troll into the river with his horns. He joined his friends on the other side of the bridge, and the bridge was safe for all travelers from then on.

The end.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

nce upon a time...

Snow White was the beautiful daughter of a kind Queen. The queen died, and Snow White's father married a new queen, who was evil and very jealous of Snow White's beauty. One day the evil queen's magic mirror told her that Snow White was the most beautiful in the kingdom, infuriating the queen. She ordered that Snow White be taken to the forest and killed, but her servant felt sorry for Snow White and allowed her to escape in the woods. Alone and hungry in the forest, Snow White stumbled upon the home of seven dwarfs. The dwarfs told Snow White that she could stay in their home if she would clean and cook for them. They all lived happily together until the day that the queen discovered that Snow White was still alive. The queen disguised herself as an old beggar and tricked Snow White into eating a poisoned apple. Snow White fell down, unconscious, and the dwarves built her a beautiful glass coffin in which to rest. One day a prince happened upon the home and saw Snow White. He could not believe her beauty and bent down to give her a kiss. When their lips met, Snow White was awakened and the apple's powers were broken. Snow White and the Prince were married and lived happily ever after.

The end.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

by Lewis Carroll

nce upon a time...

Alice's curiosity led her into an unbelievable adventure when she followed a white rabbit down a hole in a tree trunk and entered a different world! In Wonderland she encountered magic shrinking and growing potions, met strange creatures like the mysterious Cheshire Cat and the fierce Bandersnatch, and made many friends as well as enemies. The evil Red Queen was determined to hunt Alice down, but her new friends the Mad Hatter, the Dormouse, and the March Hare helped her to evade capture. Alice had to battle the Red Queen's vicious Jabberwocky in order to restore the good White Queen to power in Wonderland. When she found the courage to defeat the Jabberwocky, Alice gained the ability to return home to her world, wondering whether the whole adventure was just a dream!

The end.

Rapunzel

nce upon a time...

... there was a husband and wife who lived together happily. They longed for a child for many years until finally, their wish was granted and a baby was on the way. Near their home was a beautiful garden surrounded by a high wall. From her upstairs window, the woman could see into the garden, with its tall trees and colorful flowers. One day, she noticed a patch of fresh, green radish plants growing in the garden. She thought to herself, “Oh, how I would love to have some of those delicious radishes!”

For days and days, all she could think of were those wonderful radishes and how good they would taste. She grew sad and pale, until her husband asked, “What is wrong, my dear wife?” “Oh, my husband,” she replied, “All I can think of are the radishes in the garden! If I could only eat some of them, I know I would feel better!” This frightened her husband, because the garden belonged to a powerful enchantress. Still, he loved his wife, so that evening at dusk he climbed the wall and pulled up a few of the radishes. Once she had eaten those, however, she longed for them more and more.

The next evening, the man again climbed the wall to get some radishes for his wife. To his horror, the enchantress was there waiting for him. “How dare you steal from me! I will punish you

for this!” “Please!” the man begged. ”I only took the radishes because my wife wanted them so!” The enchantress then said, “Very well. Take all the radishes you want but, when the child is born, I will take it and raise it as my own.” The man was too terrified to argue, so he pulled many armfuls of radishes and took them home to his wife. Sure enough, as soon as the child was born, the enchantress appeared. She took the baby girl into her arms, named her Rapunzel, and vanished.

Rapunzel grew up to be a beautiful girl, with long flowing golden hair. When she turned twelve, the enchantress took her to live in a stone tower deep in the forest where no one could find her. The tower was very tall, with no doors and only one small window set near the top. When the enchantress visited, she would stand at the foot of the tower and call out, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let down your hair!” Rapunzel would drop her long, braided hair out of the window and the enchantress would climb up the tower to the window.

Rapunzel lived this way for four years, and each year she grew more beautiful. She passed the time with singing, and the beautiful songs could be heard all through the forest. One day, a young prince passing through the forest heard the marvelous music and wondered where it came from. He searched but did not find the tower. After this, he came through the forest every day to try and find the source of the beautiful music. Finally he came upon the tower, but could not see any way to enter. Still, he returned every day to hear the glorious singing.

One day, as the prince was listening to the music, he saw the enchantress approach the tower. He heard her call out, “Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Let down your hair!” The long braid came down out of the window, and the enchantress climbed up. The prince was delighted to find a way into the tower.

The next evening, he returned and called, “Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Let down your hair!” The braid dropped down out of the window, and up he climbed. Rapunzel was very surprised to find a prince climbing up her hair instead of the enchantress! She was a little afraid, because she had never met anyone other than the enchantress. However, when the prince told her how much he loved the singing and how he had longed to meet her, she believed him.

The prince visited her many times, always coming in the evening because the enchantress came during the day. Finally, he asked her to marry him. Since he was handsome and kind, Rapunzel said yes. However, she had no way to get down from the tower. Rapunzel told the prince to bring her a skein of silk every time he came to visit so she could make a ladder that she could climb down. The prince agreed, and each day the ladder grew longer.

One day, when the ladder was almost finished, the enchantress climbed up to see Rapunzel. Rapunzel carelessly said, “I wonder why you are so much heavier than the prince?” The enchantress became very angry because she knew she had been deceived. She picked up some scissors and cut off Rapunzel’s long braid. Then she took Rapunzel to a barren desert and abandoned her there.

After that, the enchantress returned to the tower. When the prince came that evening, the enchantress let down Rapunzel's braid as if she were there. The prince climbed up and found not Rapunzel but the enchantress waiting for him. She screeched at him, "Your true love is gone! You will never see Rapunzel again!" In despair, the prince fell from the window. Large thorn bushes broke his fall, but the thorns injured his eyes and he was left blind.

For a long, long time, the prince wandered the forest, alone and sad. He had to feel his way about with his hands because he could not see, and he ate roots and berries. All this time he searched for Rapunzel. After many years, he came to a barren land. One day in that desert, he heard a familiar voice. When he made his way towards it, the prince discovered that it was Rapunzel. She was overjoyed to see her prince again. She pulled him into her arms and, as she wept from joy, two of her tears touched his eyes. His eyes were healed, and the prince took Rapunzel back to his kingdom. They were married and lived happily ever after.

The end.

The Itsy Bitsy Spider

nce upon a time...

The itsy bitsy spider
Went up the water spout;
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out;
Out came the sun
And dried up all the rain;
And the itsy bitsy spider
Climbed up the spout again.

Little Boy Blue

nce upon a time...

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn
The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn.
But where's the boy who looks after the sheep?
He's under a haystack fast asleep.
Will you wake him? No, not I –
For if I do, he's sure to cry.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

by L. Frank Baum

nce upon a time...

Dorothy was a little girl who lived on a farm on the wide Kansas prairie with her Uncle Henry and Aunt Em. One day, a terrible tornado blew across the farm. While Uncle Henry and Aunt Em made it to the storm shelter, Dorothy's little dog Toto hid under the bed. Dorothy was trapped in the house when she stayed to look for him. The storm blew the house up and away from the farm with Dorothy and Toto still inside.

Hours later, the house landed and Dorothy and Toto found themselves in a beautiful country called Munchkinland in Oz. They were greeted by the Munchkins, who were delighted with Dorothy, because her house had landed on the Wicked Witch of the East and killed her. The Good Witch of the North gave Dorothy the Wicked Witch's pointed silver slippers. While the Munchkins were very friendly to Dorothy, all she wanted to do was go home to her family. The Good Witch suggested that she follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City to ask the Wizard for help.

As Dorothy travelled down the Yellow Brick Road, she passed a field where she saw a Scarecrow on a post. He asked for her help, and she helped him down. He complained of not having a brain and asked to travel with her to see the Wizard. As they went along, they rescued a Tin Woodman who had rusted in place while cutting down a tree. When he told them how sad he was to have no heart, they invited him to come and see the Wizard with them. Soon after this, Dorothy, Toto, the Scarecrow, and Tin Woodman were frightened by a huge lion roaring at them! However, the Lion soon admitted that he was actually a coward, and he decided to come along with the others to ask the Wizard to grant him some courage.

They continued on the yellow brick road, encountering many obstacles and adventures along the way. When they came to a deep ditch, the Lion had to jump over with his friends on his back. Another time, they travelled through a forest inhabited by strange bear-tigers called Kalidahs. They also had to cross a huge field full of beautiful poppies, which made Dorothy and the Lion fall asleep. Finally, they arrived at the Emerald City!

The friends were allowed to see the Wizard in his throne room, each on a different day. Dorothy saw the Wizard as a giant head, the Scarecrow as a beautiful woman, the Tin Woodman saw a frightening beast, and the Lion saw him as a ball of fire. The Wizard told the travelers that they must kill the Wicked

Witch of the West, ruler of the people known as Winkies, for him to grant their requests.

The adventurers travelled to the west. The Witch, who knew they were after her, sent wolves, crows, bees, and her frightened subjects against them. Dorothy and her friends managed to get by all of these, but the Witch then sent Winged Monkeys to destroy the Tin Woodman and the Scarecrow and carry Dorothy and the Lion back to the witch as slaves. After Dorothy became a servant in the witch's castle, the witch noticed the girl's silver slippers and tried to steal them. Dorothy got angry and threw a bucket of water on the witch. This melted the witch away. The grateful Winkies then found and repaired the Tin Woodman and the Scarecrow, and set the Lion free from his prison.

When Dorothy and her friends returned to the Emerald City, they soon discovered that the all-powerful Wizard was actually an old man, a circus performer whose hot air balloon happened to land in Oz. He did give her friends what they had asked for, after pointing out that they had shown themselves to already possess the brains, heart, and courage they thought they didn't really have. The Wizard offered to take Dorothy back with him in his balloon but, when the time came, Toto ran away, and Dorothy was left behind. Dorothy was very disappointed to think she could not go home, but a soldier in the Emerald city told her to go to Glinda, the Good Witch of the South, for help.

After another dangerous journey, Dorothy and her friends arrived at Glinda's castle in the southern country of the Quadlings. There, Glinda told Dorothy she had always had to power to go home. With the silver slippers, she only had to click her heels together three times and say where she wanted to go. After kissing her friends goodbye, Dorothy clicked her heels together and wished to go home to her Aunt Em. She flew back to her farm in Kansas, losing the slippers along the way.

The end.

Fun Facts:

You may have noticed some differences in our story and the Wizard of Oz story you know! That's because this station is based on the novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, written by L. Frank Baum and published in 1900. The difference that people notice most is Dorothy's slippers. In the novel, they are described as being "silver shoes with pointed toes." However, when the movie was made in 1939, the filmmakers decided to make the slippers red to look better on color film. Also, you may think of the man made of tin as the "Tin Man," or the "Tin Woodsman," but he is called the Tin Woodman in the novel.

Little Bo Peep

nce upon a time...

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find them.

Leave them alone and they'll come home, bringing their tails behind them.

Little Bo Peep fell fast asleep and dreamt she heard them bleating, But when she awoke, she found it a joke, for they were all still fleeing.

Then up she took her little crook, determined for to find them.

She found them indeed, but it made her heart bleed, for they left their tails behind them.

It happened one day, as Bo Peep did stray into a meadow hard by,

There she espied their tails side by side all hung on a tree to dry.

She heaved a sigh, and wiped her eye, and over the hillocks went rambling,

And tried what she could, as a shepherdess should, to tack again each to its lambkin.

The Story of Chicken Little

nce upon a time...

Chicken Little was scratching and pecking in the woods one day, when an acorn fell from a big oak tree and tapped her on her head. She said, “Oh, no! The sky is falling! I must run and tell the king!” So she immediately began to run and run.

As she ran, she met Henny Penny. Henny Penny asked her, “Chicken Little! Where are you going?” Chicken Little answered her, “The sky is falling! I am running to tell the king!” Henny Penny cried, “Oh my goodness, the sky is falling? I will come with you to tell the king!” So Chicken Little and Henny Penny ran and ran.

Soon they met Ducky Lucky. Ducky Lucky said, “Henny Penny! Chicken Little! Where are you running?” Henny Penny and Chicken Little said, “The sky is falling! The sky is falling! We are running to tell the king!” Ducky Lucky cried, “The sky is falling? I will come with you to tell the king!” So the three of them ran on together.

As they ran, they met Goosey Loosey. Goosey Loosey asked them, “Chicken Little! Henny Penny! Ducky Lucky! Where are you running?” They answered her, “The sky is falling! The sky

is falling! We are running to tell the king!” Goosey Loosey cried, “The sky is falling? I will come with you to tell the king!” So the four of them ran on together. As they ran, they met Turkey Lurkey. Turkey Lurkey asked them, “Chicken Little! Henny Penny! Ducky Lucky! Goosey Loosey! Where are you running so fast?” Goosey Loosey answered, “The sky is falling! the Sky is falling! We are running to tell the king!” Turkey Lurkey cried, “The sky is falling? I will come with you to tell the king!” So the five of them ran on to tell the king.

As they ran, the met Foxy Loxy. Foxy Loxy asked them, “Oh my goodness, Chicken Little, Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey! Where are you all running so fast?” Turkey Lurkey told him, “The sky is falling! The sky is falling! We are running to tell the king!” Foxy Loxy said, “Oh, this is terrible news! We must tell the king right away! Come with me, I know how to get to the king!”

So they all followed Foxy Loxy, and he led them right to his den. As you can guess, the king never did find out that the sky was falling.

The end.

The Jolly Giraffe of Jomb

by L. Frank Baum

nce upon a time...

Before Umpo arrived, there were no giraffes in the Land of Jomb. When the young giraffe crossed the grassy plains into Jomb, Varg the Bull and the other cattle were very nervous. When Umpo saw their fear, he bowed and laughed to show that he was friendly, but Varg still looked uncertain. Umpo asked why they would be afraid of a giraffe, and Varg replied that they had never seen anything like a giraffe before. Varg asked Umpo if he would fight.

Umpo laughed and said that he would not be silly enough to fight because Varg could easily kill him with his horns. Umpo offered to be friends, but he also said that he did not want to be ruled by Varg or anyone else. Varg accepted his independence as long as he followed the common laws of Jomb. He also told Umpo that there were others he would have to make peace with, like the hippopotami, red panthers, and ostriches. Umpo said he would be friends to all of them.

The most important law Umpo needed to obey, Varg told him, was to respect the Sacred Mimosa Tree, which brought good luck to all creatures in Jomb. Any who harmed even a leaf on it would be killed. Umpo wanted good luck in his new home, so he agreed to this. He went about his business in Jomb, often making jokes and playing tricks on other creatures, but never meanly. Most of the animals of Jomb came to adore Umpo for his good nature. The only one who did not was Slythe the Panther. Although he told Umpo that they were at peace, Umpo did not trust him. He thought that without the protection of Varg and his other friends the panther would happily eat him.

As Umpo grew into a tall and handsome giraffe, he found that he needed more and more leaves to eat. He traveled around to different clusters of trees around the plains, stripping them of their leaves and wishing for more to eat. Sometimes he wandered to the Sacred Mimosa Tree and wished to eat its beautiful foliage, but he respected the law of Jomb and did not touch the tree. Sometimes Slythe watched Umpo as he looked at the Sacred Tree, and often Slythe wished that he could eat Umpo.

One morning, a cry went up over the plains that someone had broken the branches and torn the leaves of the Sacred Mimosa Tree. Slythe yelled for the others to come see how Umpo had harmed the Sacred Tree. Varg the Bull, Pask the

Hippopotamus, and Feathro the Ostrich came at Slythe's call and the four chiefs decided that, as punishment for harming the Sacred Tree, Umpo must die.

Meanwhile, Umpo was lying under a tree far from the damaged Sacred Mimosa, unaware of what was coming. He heard a voice warn him that an enemy approached, but it said that if he was brave and cheerful, then all would be well in the end. He did not know that it was the good fairy of all giraffes who spoke to him, but he prepared for trouble as he saw a great swarm of animals rushing toward him.

The four chiefs demanded that Umpo be killed for spoiling the tree. Umpo agreed that anyone who harmed the tree should be punished, but he swore that he was not the traitor who had hurt it. He suggested instead that they look elsewhere for the culprit, but Slythe swore that he had seen Umpo chewing the leaves and breaking the branches. The others agreed that only Umpo would eat mimosa leaves, so it must have been him. Umpo accepted his punishment, but said he wanted to choose the place where he would be killed. He told them he wanted to go into the forest where Slythe ruled.

The chiefs followed Umpo into the forest. Slythe looked nervous and walked slowly towards his lair. Once they reached Slythe's hideout, they found a large pile of leaves that looked to be covering something. Slythe tried to keep Umpo from

uncovering his secret, but Varg held him back. Umpo found the torn leaves and branches of the Sacred Mimosa Tree. The other animals were enraged. In trying to bring down Umpo, he had harmed their sacred tree, and the other chiefs struck out at Slythe, killing him instead of Umpo. The animals walked back onto the plains together, and when they returned to the Sacred Mimosa, they found that it had magically repaired itself. All who witnessed this knew then that Umpo was protected by the fairies of the giraffes, and none tried to harm him again.

The end.

Jack and the Beanstalk

nce upon a time...

Jack and his mother were poor and hungry, so Jack was sent to sell their cow at the market in town. Along the way, Jack met a farmer who offered to trade him a handful of good luck beans in exchange for the cow. Jack's mother was furious when he returned home with the beans, and she threw them out the window. When Jack looked outside later, he saw that the beans had grown into a massive beanstalk that led straight up into the sky!

He climbed the beanstalk, hoping to find good luck at the top. Instead, he found himself in a giant's castle. Jack hid from the giant, who was counting his piles of money as he sang, "Fee, fie, foe, fum, I like children in my tum!" Jack spied a golden harp and a magic hen who laid golden eggs, which he learned used to belong to his father. The giant's friendly wife told Jack to play the harp in order to escape the giant. He played on the harp and the giant fell asleep, so Jack grabbed a bag of money and the magic hen as he ran away.

The giant awoke and chased Jack down the beanstalk. When he landed at the bottom, Jack chopped down the beanstalk with

an axe to protect himself from the giant. Now that they had the magic hen who laid golden eggs, Jack and his mother never went hungry again.

The end.

Hansel and Gretel

nce upon a time...

Hansel and Gretel were searching for food in the woods because their family was poor and hungry. As they traveled, they left a trail of breadcrumbs behind them so that they wouldn't lose their way. They stumbled upon a lovely little house made out of gingerbread. Starving, Hansel broke a piece of the house off to eat. Just as he did, an old woman came out of the house and invited the two children inside. There, she fed them many sweets and filled their bellies before tricking them into a cage where she held them captive for many days. The old woman planned to fatten up Hansel and Gretel so that she could use them as ingredients in her favorite dish – roasted child! The children finally broke out of their cage and pushed the old woman into the oven so that they could escape. They filled their pockets with food and used the breadcrumb trail to find their way back home, where they lived happily ever after with their family.

The end.

The Adventures of Pinocchio

by Carlo Collodi

nce upon a time...

There once was a lonely woodworker named Geppetto who built a lovely little wooden puppet that he named Pinocchio. One night Geppetto wished dearly that Pinocchio were a real boy when he went to bed. That evening a fairy came to the home and partially granted his wish. Pinocchio came to life, but had to prove himself before he could become a real live boy. The fairy warned Pinocchio that every time he lied, his nose would grow longer.

Geppetto sent Pinocchio to go buy some books for school, but a wily fox and cat tricked him into going to the circus instead, where he lost his money. Pinocchio had to learn many life lessons before he could become a real boy, and got tangled into trouble and kept away from home. Finally he was free and went to find Geppetto, who had gone to sea to search for Pinocchio.

A giant whale roaming the sea swallowed Geppetto, and Pinocchio found him in the whale's belly under the sea. Pinocchio bravely freed them both when he forced the whale to sneeze them back out to safety. This act proved that Pinocchio was worthy, and the fairy returned to turn him into a real boy. He lived happily with Geppetto for the rest of his days.

The end.

How Deer Won His Antlers

The Cherokee have been telling stories for countless generations. Some of their traditional stories form a part of their religious practices, while others may be intended for amusement or to teach lessons and traditions to children. The following tale is an example of a trickster story. Our summary is based on a retelling by Gayle Ross.

Once upon a time...

When the world was young, Deer had no antlers on his head. He was known to be a very good runner, and many admired Rabbit for being a good jumper. Many argued about who was the fastest, and it was decided that they should have a race to find out. Deer was not very interested in racing, but when he saw the beautiful antlers that were carved to be the prize for the winner, he changed his mind.

They decided the race would take place through a dense thicket of bushes. Whoever ran to one end and came back first would be declared the winner. Rabbit said he would like to examine the thicket to see what the race would be like. The others agreed, but soon they began to think that Rabbit was taking a

very long time. They sent Mole to tunnel underground into the thicket to see what Rabbit was up to. Mole found him chewing through branches to make a clearer path for himself.

When rabbit returned to the group, they told him what Mole had seen and accused him of cheating. Rabbit argued that Mole could not see very well and that he was really only examining the branches closely. When they all went into the thicket to see, they found the cleared path Rabbit had chewed for himself. They agreed that he had cheated and should not get to race. They gave the antlers to Deer, who still wears them to this day. Because Rabbit was so eager to chew those branches, it was decided that he would chew them for all his days.

The end.

Treasure Island

by Robert Louis Stevenson



Young Jim Hawkins was drawn into an adventure when he discovered that the old pirate Billy Bones was in possession of a trunk of gold and a pirate treasure map. Encouraged by Squire Trelawney and Dr. Livesey, Jim joined them for an expedition on the ship *Hispaniola* to search for the hidden treasure.

On their way to the island, Jim overheard the old pirate Long John Silver convincing the ship's crew to mutiny and kill Livesey and Trelawney after the treasure has been found! He reported this to Livesey and Trelawney, earning their trust and respect. The ship finally landed on the island, and the crew immediately set off in search of the hidden treasure.

The pirates planned to keep the treasure for themselves and take over the *Hispaniola*, so Livesey, Trelawney, and Jim had to defend themselves. They found a small stockade on the beach and filled it with the necessary provisions before abandoning the ship to the pirates. At night when the pirates came ashore, Jim heroically returned to the *Hispaniola* and cut it loose, sending it floating away from the pirates.

There was one pirate left on the ship, Mr. Hands, who agreed to help Jim sail the ship to the island's shore. Mr. Hands turned on Jim and tried to kill him, forcing Jim to shoot Mr. Hands in self-defense. Jim landed the ship securely on the beach and left to find his partners. He returned to the stockade, unaware that while he was gone Long John Silver and his men took over the stockade!

Silver captured Jim and held him hostage but was distracted by his men's threats to overthrow him as captain of the pirates. Once again the pirates set out in search of the treasure. When they finally arrived at the "X" they were furious to find that the treasure had already been looted and there was nothing left for them.

Just then they were ambushed by Dr. Livesey and his men, who accepted Long John Silver's surrender but planned to abandon the other pirates on the island. They led Silver and Jim to a cave where they had hidden the treasure, then loaded all of the gold coins and bars onto the *Hispaniola*. Livesey, Trelawney, Jim, Silver, and a few other loyal men began their return back home. Along the way, Long John Silver was able to escape along with some of the gold, but the rest of the crew finished their adventure safely.

The end.

Peter Rabbit

by Beatrix Potter

nce upon a time...

Peter Rabbit and his sisters Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail were forbidden by their mother from entering Mr. McGregor's garden; it was there that their father met an untimely end and became the main ingredient in rabbit pie. One day while Mrs. Rabbit was out shopping, Peter sneaked into the garden and stuffed himself with vegetables until he was sick to his stomach. Mr. McGregor discovered Peter and chased him around the garden! As he escaped Mr. McGregor, Peter lost his jacket and his shoes in the garden. Mr. McGregor found the clothes and used them to dress a scarecrow in his garden. Peter returned to try to retrieve the clothes, ending in another close encounter with Mr. McGregor! Finally Peter came back home to his mother, who soothed him with chamomile tea and put him to bed.

The end.

John Henry

Have you ever heard a song about John Henry, “the steel-driving man”? John Henry is an African-American folk hero who is famed for racing against a steam-powered drill to cut a railroad tunnel with a hammer and chisel. According to folk legend, John Henry beat the steam drill, but soon after the race he died as a result of his superhuman efforts. Historians aren’t sure if John Henry was a real person or where he lived if he was, but his story lives on in American culture.

Many songs have been written about John Henry since the late 1800s. Early songs about him were mostly work songs sung by people doing manual labor. Later on, many folk singers sang about John Henry, and even today musicians of different styles continue to record songs about him. Some familiar singers who have sung about him include Johnny Cash, Bruce Springsteen, and Gillian Welch.

Below you can read a few verses from one version of the song:

John Henry

When John Henry was a little fellow,
You could hold him in the palm of your hand.
He said to his pa, “When I grow up
I’m gonna be a steel-driving man.
Gonna be a steel-driving man.”

...

One day his captain told him,
How he had bet a man
That John Henry would beat his steam-drill down,

Cause John Henry was the best in the land,
John Henry was the best in the land.

...

John Henry said to his captain,
“A man ain’t nothin’ but a man.
But before I’ll let that steam drill beat me down,
I’ll die with my hammer in my hand,
Die with my hammer in my hand.”

...

John Henry hammering on the mountain
As the whistle blew for half-past two,
The last words his captain heard him say,
“I’ve done hammered my insides in two,
Lawd, I’ve hammered my insides in two.”

...

They carried him down by the river,
And buried him in the sand.
And everybody that passed that way,
Said, “There lies that steel-driving man,
There lies a steel-driving man.