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THE GOLDEN BIRD

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## THE GOLDEN BIRD

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THE GOLDEN BIRD

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# THE GOLDEN BIRD

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## I. THE WOODCUTTER

Once there was an old woodcutter. He lived near a big forest. Every day he went out into the forest and cut wood. He took it to the town and sold it. In this way he lived happily.

The woodcutter had three sons. The first was a young man of twenty. The second son was sixteen years old. The third was a little boy of ten. The woodcutter loved his youngest son very much. But the boy's mother did not like him.

"He is a fool," she said.

She called him Dummling. It means fool.

"The boy may not be very clever," said the woodcutter. "But he is loving and kind."

The days went by and the woodcutter fell ill. He called his eldest son to him

and said, "Dear son, I am ill. So I can't go out today and cut wood. Take my axe and go out into the forest. Cut wood and take it to the town. Sell it and buy food for us."

"Yes father," said the boy. He took the axe and went out.

Then his mother called him and said, "Dear boy, you must take something with you to eat."

Then she took a large cake and gave it to him.

"It is a fine cake," she said, "you can eat it when you are hungry."

Then she took a large bottle and filled it with milk.

"Take this with you," she said, "you can drink it when you are thirsty."

The boy took the bottle and put it into a bag. He put the cake also into it. Then he threw the bag on his shoulder and went out.

The forest was only a mile away. The boy walked quickly and soon came to it. He went into the forest and looked round. There he saw a big tree. It had many branches dry.

"I shall cut down this tree," said he to himself.

So he took his axe and went up to it.

Just then he saw an old man. His hair was white. He had a stick in his hand and he walked very slowly.

He walked up to the boy and said, "Dear boy, I am very old and I am very hungry. Give me something to eat."

The boy looked at the man.

"He is old and weak," said the boy to himself. "But I won't give him anything. I have only this cake and I want it for myself. I have only this bottle of milk and I want it for myself."

So he turned to the old man and said, "I have a cake and some milk. But I

won't give them to you. I want them for myself."

"Won't you give me a little milk and some cake?" The old man asked again. "I am very hungry and very thirsty."

"No," said the boy, "I won't give you anything. Go away."

Then the old man went away from there without a word.

The boy climbed up the tree. He climbed on to a branch and took his axe. Then he began to cut it.

Just then he heard a sound. He looked that way and saw a large bird. The bird came flying to him. The boy saw it and was afraid.

Then he lost his hold and fell down.

The axe fell on his arm and cut it. Blood came out. The boy saw it and was afraid.

"Oh, oh," he cried.

He looked at the cut. It was deep. It gave him great pain. "I can't cut wood now," said he to himself. "So I shall go home."

He took the bag and the axe and went home.

The boy came home. His mother saw him. She saw blood on his arms.

"Did you cut your arms?" she asked him. "How did this happen?"

"The axe fell on my arm and cut it," he answered.

"Poor boy," said his mother, "I shall tie up the wound."

She took some water and washed it. Next she put some medicine on it. Then she took a piece of clean cloth and tied it up. "It will be all right in a day," she said.

Dummling saw his brother.

"Poor brother," said he. "It gives him great pain."

He was very sad.

TEST: Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. An old woodcutter had — — sons.  
(one, two, three)
  2. The last boy was called — — .  
(Dummer, Dummling, Lilling)
  3. One day the woodcutter sent the—boy  
to the forest.  
(first, second, third)
  4. His mother gave him a— —and a  
bottle of — — .  
(bread, cake, water, milk)
  5. An old— —met him .  
(man, woman, fox)
  6. The old man wanted something to— —.  
(read, write, eat)
  7. But the boy gave him— —.  
(something, nothing)
  8. When he was cutting wood, he fell down  
and cut his— — .  
(leg, neck, arm)
  9. So he— —home.  
(did not go, went)
-

## 2. THE OLD MAN

On the next day the woodcutter called his second son to him and said, "Dear boy, I am ill and can't go out. Your elder brother fell down and cut his arm. He too can't go out. So you must go out to the forest and cut wood."

Then the second boy took the axe and went out. His mother gave him a large cake and a bottle of milk.

"Keep it in your bag," said she. "When you are hungry you can eat the cake and drink the milk when you are thirsty."

"Be very careful," said the woodcutter. "Don't fall down and cut your arm."

"I shall be very careful," said the boy.

He took the axe and went out to the forest. Before long he too came to the tree.

"This is a fine tree," he said. "Its branches are big and I will cut it down."

Just then he heard a noise and looked round. He saw the old man standing beside him. He seemed to be hungry and thirsty.

“Dear friend,” said the old man, “I am very hungry. Won’t you give me something to eat?”

“No,” answered the boy. “I have a cake. But I want it for myself.”

“Won’t you cut out a small piece for me?” The old man asked again.

“No,” said the boy. “I want it all for myself.”

“Then please give me some milk,” said the man, “for I am very thirsty.”

“I’m sorry,” said the boy. “I won’t give you milk.”

So the old man turned away from there.

The boy climbed up the tree. Then he began to cut a branch.

Just then he heard a sound from above. He looked up. A large bird came flying down. It came down on to the tree.

The boy saw it and was afraid. He lost his footing and fell down.

The axe fell on his foot and cut it. It was a deep cut and blood came out.

The boy got up and tried to walk. But he could not get up. So he sat there and stopped the blood. Then he got up and walked home slowly. He came home in the evening.

His mother saw him. "What is wrong with your foot?" she asked him.

"The axe fell on my leg and cut it," said he. "It gives me pain."

She took the boy in and tied it up.

"Poor boy," she said, "does it give you great pain?"

"It does," said the boy.

"Lie down and sleep," said she. "You will be all right by to-morrow."

Dummling saw his brother's foot and was sad for him.

"Poor brother," said he. "He suffers great pain."

Next morning Dummling went to his father and stood before him.

"Father," said he, "my brothers are ill. They can't go out to cut wood. Let me go to the forest and cut wood."

The woodcutter heard his words and laughed heartily.

"No, no," said he, "I won't send you to the forest. You can't cut wood."

"I can, father," said the boy. "Give me the axe and I will show you I can."

"Dear Dummling," said he, "You are only a boy. So I won't send you to the forest."

But Dummling wanted to go to the forest.

"Let me go," said he again and again. "I shall cut wood and bring it home."

At last the woodcutter said, "Well, I shall let you go. Take the axe and go

out into the forest. Be very careful. Don't cut your feet and arms."

Dumpling was very happy. He took the axe and went out.

Then his mother saw him.

"Where are you going?" she asked him.

"To the forest, to cut wood," he answered.

"Fool," said she. "Stop, don't go. You will cut your feet and arms."

But Dumpling would not stop. She saw that he wanted to go.

"Take some food with you," she said. "You can eat it when you are hungry."

Then she went in and took some bread for him.

"Take this bread," said she. "Take also a bottle of water."

She gave him the bread and some water in a bottle.

"Thank you," said Dumpling and went out.

He walked quickly and soon came to the forest. He looked round and saw the tree.

"This is a good tree," he said. "I will cut it down."

So he took the axe and began to climb up. Just then the old man came there.

"Sir," said he, "I am hungry. Won't you give me something to eat?"

Dumpling turned round and saw the old man worn out with hunger and thirst.

"Poor man," said he, "he is very old and weak. I must give him something to eat."

So he opened his bag and took out the bread.

"This is bread," said he. "Take it and eat it."

He gave the bread to the old man.

"Have you anything to drink?" he asked.

"Yes," said the boy. "I have some water. Won't you have some?"

He took the bottle and gave it to the man.

The old man took the bread and broke it.

"Eat a piece," said the man and he gave it to Dummling.

He ate it. It was not bread. It was sweet cake!

"How sweet!" said the boy

Then the old man opened the bottle. At once the water turned into milk!

The old man drank some milk and then gave the bottle to him.

The boy drank some milk "It is sweet milk," said he.

Then the old man turned to Dummling and said, "My good boy, you are very kind and I like you very much. So I will help you."

"Thank you," said Dummling.

“Climb up the tree,” said he, “and cut down that branch. Then you will see a hole in it. Look inside and you will find something in it. Take it, for it is yours.”

“Thank you very much,” said Dummling.

Then the old man went away from there.

TEST: Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. The next day the woodcutter sent his —boy to the forest.  
(first, second, third)
2. He met the—but did not give him anything.  
(bird, old man, woman)
3. He fell from the tree and cut his—.  
(leg, arm, finger)
4. On the third day—went to the forest.  
(the woodcutter, Dummling, the woodcutter's wife)

5. His mother gave him some bread and a bottle of—.

(honey, milk, water)

6. He met the old man, and gave him—.

(nothing, bread, milk)

7. Then the bread became—and water became—.

(honey, cake, milk, sugar)

8. The old man was—.

(happy, pleased, angry)

9. He told the boy to cut down the tree and take what was in the—.

(tree, branch, hole)

---

### 3. THE BIRD

Dummling then climbed up the tree. He took the axe and cut down the branch. It fell down.

“Is there a hole in it?” Dummling asked himself.

He looked under the branch and saw a big hole.

“I will look inside,” said the boy to himself “and see what is there.”

He looked into the hole and saw something there.

“It is yellow in colour,” said he. “What is it?”

He put his hand into the hole and took it out.

It was a bird!

Its wings were of gold!

It was like a swan.

“What a beautiful bird!” said the boy. “It is mine. I will take it home.”

He put the bird under his arm and walked. When he came out of the forest it was night.

“Oh,” said Dummling, “It is night and I am alone. What shall I do now?”

He walked quickly and came to a house by the roadside. He saw three girls sitting in the front room.

“I will go in,” said the boy, “and sleep there for the night.”

The boy went in. The girls saw him.

“What do you want?” they asked him.

“I want some food and a bed,” said he. “I am tired.”

“Come in,” said they. “We will give you food. Then you can go to sleep.”

“Thank you,” said the boy.

Then Dummling walked into the room. The girls saw the golden bird.

“What a beautiful bird!” said the first girl. “I must get it for myself.”

When Dumpling went to bed, the girl went into the room. She saw the bird. She put out her hand to take it. When she touched the bird, she could not take off her hand. So she stood there and could not move.

Before long the second girl came there  
"Sister," she said, "What are you doing there?"

"Come," said the first girl. "Help me to take off my hand."

The second girl caught her sister by the arm and tried to help her.

"I'll pull you off," she said.

She pulled and pulled. But the hand would not come.

She could not take off her hand!

"I can't take off my hand," she cried.

Before long the third girl also came to the room. She saw her sisters.

"Come away," she said. "Let us go to sleep."

She ran to her sister and took her by her skirt.

“Don’t touch us,” said the two sisters.

But the third girl had touched her sister’s skirt. She too could not take off her hand.

“What shall we do now?” the three girls asked one another.

They could not move off. All night long they stood there.

In the morning, Dummling woke up.

“It is morning,” said he. “Now I can go home.”

So he got up and put the bird under his arm. Then he walked off.

The three girls could not move off. So they followed the boy.

When the boy stopped the girls also stopped. When he turned left, they too turned left.

When he turned right, they also turned right.

It was Sunday and people were going to church.

They saw the three girls running after the boy.

"What are you doing?" one of them asked. "Why do you run after the boy?"

"We can't take off our hands," they said. "Please help us."

Then he tried to pull off the girls from the bird. When he touched the girl, he could not take off his hands. Then the others tried.

Soon a long line of them followed Dummling!

It was a funny thing to see. There was a long line of girls and men going after the boy. When he stopped, they too stopped. When he turned to the right or left, they too turned in the same way.

The people who saw them laughed and laughed.

“What a funny thing!” they cried.


Men and women came out of their homes to see it.

And they laughed and laughed.

TEST: Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Dummling saw a—in the tree.  
(flower, hole, branch)
2. Inside it there was a golden—.  
(hare, swan, crow)
3. Dummling put it under his—and went away.  
(coat, arm, hair)
4. Three girls tried to take the—  
(boy, bird, wood)
5. They could not take their—off the swan.  
(eyes, hands, hair)
6. Some men tried to—them off.  
(drive, pull, put)

7. They too could not—off.  
(run, move, jump)
  8. All of them—the boy.  
(ran away, followed, pulled)
  9. People saw it and—  
(cried, laughed, wept)
-



#### 4. THE PRINCESS

Before long they came to the gates of the city. The king of the land lived there. His palace was near the gate.

The king had a beautiful daughter. But there was something wrong with the princess. She was always sad. She would never laugh. She had never laughed till then.

“What is wrong with the princess?” the king asked. “I never saw her laugh.”

The king called the wise men of the land and asked, “Why does not the princess, my daughter, laugh?”

They thought about it. But they could not find an answer.

“Can you make her laugh!” the king asked them.

“We shall try,” they said.

They tried, but she did not laugh.

Then the king said, “Who can make her laugh? I will give her to him.”

People heard the king's words. Many came to the palace and each said, "I shall make her laugh."

They tried and tried. But the princess did not laugh.

Then Dummling came to the city.

"Take him to the princess," said a wise man. "He will make her laugh."

They went to the boy and said, "Come this way. The princess wants to see you."

So Dummling followed the wise men.

They came to the palace gate. The princess was sitting in her room. She was looking out.

Then Dummling came there. He began to run. Then the three girls and all the men began to run. After some time he stopped. They too stopped. Next he began to walk. Then they too walked. After that he turned to the left. Then all of them turned to

the left. Next he turned to the right. Then they too turned to the right.

The princess saw it. "Ha, ha, ha," she laughed and laughed.

It rang through the palace. The king heard it. "Who is laughing?" he asked. "Is it the princess?"

"Yes," said the wise men. "The princess is laughing."

The king and queen came running in to see her laugh.

Then they saw Dummling and the long line of men and women behind him.

"Ha, ha, ha," they laughed.

They laughed and laughed.

Then the wise men said, "The boy has made the princess laugh. So you must give her to him."

So the king turned to the boy and said, "My dear boy, come here."

Dummling went up to the king.

"God save you," said he.

"Who are you?" he asked.

"I am the son of an woodcutter," said the boy. "We live near the forest."

"What is your name?" the king asked.

"Dummling," said the boy.

"Dummling!" said the king to himself. "It means fool. So the boy is a fool. How can I give my daughter to a fool?"

The king thought about it for a long time.

Then he said, "Dummling, I will give you my daughter. But before that you must do something. You must bring me a ship. It must sail on land and on water."

"How can a ship sail on land and on water?" said the wise men. "There is no such ship. So he won't get the princess."

But Dummling said, "I shall go and bring you the ship. It will sail on land and on water."

Then he went away from the city.

“He won’t come back,” thought the king. “For no ship can sail on land and on water.”

Dummling went back to the forest.

“Where is the tree?” he asked. “I must go to the old man. He will help me.”

He went up to the tree and sat down. Before long he heard a noise and looked round about him.

It was the old man!

“Dummling, my boy,” said the old man. “Why have you come back?”

Then the boy told him the story.

“Give me the ship that sails on land and on water,” he said.

“You shall have it,” said he.

Then the old man took him to the sea shore. There he saw a ship.

The old man saw it and called out, “Come to me.”

The ship came sailing. "Come on to the land," said the old man, "Come sailing up."

Then the ship sailed on the land and came to them.

"Get into the ship," said the old man to Dummling, "and sail to the city."

"Thank you," said he to the old man.

Then Dummling got into the ship.

"Sail to the palace," said he.

Then the ship sailed on land. It sailed to the city. People saw the wonderful ship.

"There comes the wonderful ship that sails on land and on water," they said.

The king came out to see the ship

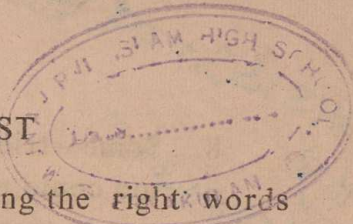
"There comes Dummling in the ship!" said he in astonishment.

So he welcomed the boy and gave the princess to him. They lived happily in the palace. When the king died, Dummling became king and the princess became queen.

TEST: Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Soon Dummling came to the gates of the —.  
(village, city, house)
2. A wise man saw him and took him to the—.  
(house, palace, garden)
3. The king had a— who never laughed.  
(son, daughter, sister)
4. He said he would give her to the man who made her—.  
(cry, laugh, speak)
5. The—saw the long line of men running after Dummling and laughed.  
(king, princess, queen)
6. Then the king told him to bring the —that sailed on land and water.  
(boat, bird, ship)

7. The old—gave the ship to Dummling.  
(women, king, man)
  8. Dummling took it to the king who gave  
him the—.  
(princess; crown, palace)
-



## FINAL TEST

Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets:

1. Dummling was the son of—.  
(a farmer, a king, an woodcutter)
2. His brothers went to the forest to cut—  
but cut their arm and foot.  
(wood, trees, branches)
3. Dummling gave bread and water to  
the—.  
(princess, king, old man)
4. Then the bread became—and water  
became—.  
(suger, milk, honey, cake)
5. The old man told him that there was a  
— in the hole under the tree.  
(here, bird, princess)
6. Dummling took the bird and met three—  
(boys, girls, women)
7. They touched the bird and could—their  
hands.  
(take off, not take off)

THIS IS GOOD BOOK  
BY K. K. SMILEY  
12-2-1979

8. Some—tried to pull them off; but they too could not move off.

(women, men, boys)

All of them ran after Dummling and all the people—.

(cried, laughed, slept)

10. The—saw it and laughed.

(king, princess, queen)

11. She had never—in her life before.

(spoken, cried, laughed)

12. The king said he would give her to the man who made her—,

(read, write, laugh)

13. The king asked Dummling to give him ship that sailed on water and on—.

(land, air, sea)

14. The old man gave the wonderful ship to—. (the king, the queen, Dummling)

15. Then the king gave the—to Dummling.

(city, princess, ship)

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