

## THE FIRE ON THE HILL

Long, long ago there was a lake of cold water in Kenya. Many animals came at night to the lake to drink some water. But people never came to the lake at night because the animals could kill and eat them. Once a rich man who had a beautiful daughter said: "The young man, who will come to the lake in the evening and stay in cold water till morning, will have my daughter for his wife."

There lived a poor young man who loved the rich man's daughter very much. He said to his mother, "I will try to stay all night in the lake and then marry my dear girl".

"No, no", the mother said, "you are my only son!". The water in the lake is very cold, and the animals will eat you up. Don't go there!" She cried and cried, but her son said: "Mother, don't cry, I must try. I love her so much!"

So the young man went to the girl's father. He told him that he wanted to go to the lake and stay in cold water all night. The rich man sent his *servants* to the place where they could watch the young man.

When the night came, the young man went to the lake and his mother followed him, but he didn't see her. There was a hill forty paces away from the place where the young man went into the water. The woman climbed up the hill and made up a fire there. The wild animals saw the fire and were afraid to go near that place. The young man saw the fire too. He understood that his mother was there. He thought of his mother's love, and it was easier for him to stay all night in the very cold water. Morning came. The young man went to the rich man's house. The rich man saw him and said, "My servants say that there was a fire on the hill forty paces from the lake. It warmed you and that is why you could stay all night in the water. So you can't marry my daughter. Good-bye".

The young man was very angry. He went to the judge. "Well", the judge said, "this is a very simple *case*".

The next morning the young man with his mother and the rich man with his servants came before the *judge*. There were many people there who wanted to hear the case. The judge asked for a pot of cold water. Then he walked forty paces from the pot and made a fire. "Now", he said, "we will wait a little until the water is warm". The people cried: "But the fire is so far away, it can't warm the water in the pot". Then the judge said: "How could that young man warm himself at a fire forty paces away?"

So the case was over and the young man married the rich man's daughter. They lived happily for many years.

*New words:* *servant* - слуга; *case*-судова справа; *judge* - суддя

## THE FIRE ON THE HILL

*I Read the text and say if the sentences are TRUE or FALSE:*

1. There was a river of cold water in Kenya.
2. A rich man had a beautiful daughter.
3. A poor young man loved his daughter very much.
4. Mother wanted her son to marry the rich man's daughter.
5. The rich man sent his servants to the lake.
6. There was a hill thirty paces away from the lake.
7. The mother made a fire to warm the place.
8. At the end, the young man upset

*II Find the correct answer.*

1. What was the lake famous for?  
a) for its good clear water; b) for its animals living close to it; c) for the fact that people were afraid to go there at night; d) for the fact that the lake was very old.
2. What did a rich man want the young man to do?  
a) to go to the lake; b) to stay in the cold water; c) to stay in the river all night; d) to marry his daughter
3. Why did the mother cry?  
a) because she worried about her son; b) because she was afraid of animals; c) because the water was too cold. d) because she wanted her son to marry.
4. Where did the mother go?  
a) to the lake; b) to the forest; c) to the rich man; d) to the hill
5. What helped the young man to stay in the lake all night?  
a) wild animals; b) the servants; c) his mother's great love; d) his love to the girl
6. Who came before the judge?  
a) the young man, his mother, servants and the rich man; b) the rich man and his daughter; c) people who wanted to hear the case; d) the young man and the servants who watched him
7. What did the judge prove?  
a) that there was no fire on the hill; b) that the water in the lake was warm;  
c) that the young man loved the girl; d) that the fire couldn't warm the water in the lake
8. Did the judge help the young man?  
a) Yes, he did                      b) No, he didn't                      c) Yes, he does

### THE THREE WISHES

One winter evening a poor **peasant** sat near the fire talking with his wife about one of their neighbours who was a rich man.

"If only I had a little money myself", he said, "I should open my own shop".

"I", answered his wife, "would not be **satisfied with** that, I would be happy if I lived in a big house, and then, if I saw people like ourselves, I would help them and try to make everybody happy. But we are no longer in the time of fairies. If only I could meet one of them, it would not take me long to decide what to ask of her".

Hardly had she said these words when a beautiful young lady appeared in their room and told them she was a fairy *willing to grant their first three wishes*. But she said they should choose carefully as she could allow them no more than three wishes. Then the beautiful lady disappeared.

At first the husband and wife were **astonished**. Then they began discussing the first wish that it would be best to have. They **quarreled** for a long time and finally decided to wish for nothing for a while and **put it off** till the next day.

The woman looked at the bright fire and said without thinking: "Oh, it would be a good thing to have a good sausage for our supper". And a long thick sausage fell on their table. The husband got very angry and began **scolding** his wife. "Isn't that a fine wish? You're such a stupid woman! I wish this sausage would **stick to** your nose!" This was hardly said when the sausage jumped up and stuck to the poor woman's face.

The husband understood that he himself had been even more foolish than his wife, but no matter how he tried he could not tear the sausage off his wife's nose. "If you had not wished to have this sausage, I would not have wished it to stick to your nose", said the husband.

Finally they realized that they had only one wish left. They thought for a long time and agreed to have their last wish. They wished the sausage to fall on the table, which it did.

**New words:** *a peasant - селянин; satisfied with - задоволений чимось; willing to grant their first three wishes - готова виконати 3 бажання; astonished - приголомшений; quarrel - сваритися; put off - відкласти на потім; scold - сваритися; stick to - прилипнути до*

## THE THREE WISHES

### ***I. Say if the sentences are True or False:***

- 1 One spring evening a poor peasant sat near the fire talking with his wife.
- 2 They were talking about one of their neighbours who was a rich man.
- 3 They had their own shop.
- 4 The woman wanted to meet a fairy.
- 5 A young lady appeared in their room and told them that she was their neighbour.
- 6 They were surprised.
- 7 They began to discuss their first wish and were ready to tell about it in ten minutes.
- 8 They wanted to have supper first of all.
- 9 The husband understood that he himself had been even more foolish than his wife.
- 10 Finally they wished to have a beautiful house.

### ***II Choose the correct answer***

- 1) What were they talking about near the fire?  
A. about money                      B. about a rich man  
C. about a poor peasant    D. about winter
- 2) What would the peasant do, if he had money?  
A. buy sausage                      B. build a new house  
C. open his own shop    D. help poor people
- 3) What is happiness for a woman?  
A. to live in a big house    B. to have a rich neighbour  
C. to have a shop                      D. to have many wishes
- 4) Who could help them to become happy?  
A. a rich man                      B. a stranger  
C. a fairy                              D. relatives
- 5) What was a fairy willing to do?  
A. to get dinner for them                      B. to ask money  
C. to sit near the fire                      D. to realize their first three wishes
- 6) What does the word "*astonish*" mean?  
A. to be pleased                      B. to surprise  
C. to quarrel                              D. to satisfy
- 7) What did the husband and wife do when they heard the fairy's will?  
A. they quarrelled with her  
B. they decided to wish for something at once  
C. decided to make 3 wishes the next day  
D. they asked her to sit near the fire

