

Ben's wish

I have an uncle who writes books for children. I didn't see my uncle very often when I was a child because he lived in Africa, but he came to see us sometimes. When he visited us, he usually told me one of his stories. I loved them all but "Ben's wishes" was my favourite. My uncle told it to me one winter when it was very cold outside. I was about ten, I think.

A boy called Ben had two older brothers. The older boys often felt hungry and often got angry because they were so poor.

"Go and work in the fields", they said to Ben early each morning. "Then bring home some vegetables and make an enormous bowl of soup for our dinner."

Ben always answered in the same way. "But I want to go to school and learn all about the world."

Ben's unkind brothers just laughed and said, "Don't be silly!" You aren't clever enough to go to school like us." So Ben didn't go anywhere. He just worked in the fields in the rain, digging and planting and planting and digging.

One cold morning, Ben was planting some onions when he saw an old silver cup on the ground. He picked it up, sat down under a tree and cleaned it with his scarf. Then, very carefully, he put it down on the grass next to his backpack.

Ben was tired and hungry but he only had five little olives to eat. He looked at the cup and said, "I'm so lucky to have these olives, but I'd like a lovely warm drink, too."

Suddenly, the silver cup was full of hot chocolate. Ben was surprised. He drank it all, but he still felt cold. He looked down at his old jacket and at the cup again and said, "I'm so lucky to have a jacket, but there are hundreds of holes in it. I wish..... I wish..... I could have a new coat."

A wonderful coat made of wool suddenly appeared from somewhere in the sky. Now Ben was really surprised. He put it on. It felt soft and warm.

Then he opened a little book that belonged to one of his brothers. Ben looked at the cup one more time and said, "I'm so lucky to have one book to read, but I'd like one hundred more books so I can learn all about the world, please."

Suddenly, a hundred books fell from between the leaves in the tree above him. Ben couldn't believe it. He was so pleased. He laughed and laughed, put the old cup in his pocket, carried the books home, sat down by the fire and read them all.

When Ben's older brothers came in through the door, Ben was still reading. They were angry. "Where's our dinner? Where's our vegetable soup?" they shouted.

Ben looked up and said, "I found an old cup in the field today. I think it understands about wishes. It gave me a hot chocolate, a warm coat and 100 really interesting books. I'm learning all about the world. I'm amazing! I know all about its lands and its oceans and about all the creatures that live on the Earth as well now. So, ask the silver cup for your dinner."

The two older brothers looked at Ben's new coat, his new books and then at the silver cup on the table. One of them picked it up. He was angrier now. "We have a wish, too. Give us our dinner. We want it this minute!" he said.

The empty bowls were suddenly full of delicious vegetable soup. The brothers couldn't believe it.

"Cup", the oldest brother shouted. "Give me a room full of money."

"Give me more money than my brother and a room full of candy," the other brother said.

Suddenly, there was candy and money everywhere. The brothers began to fight. "Give me that cup," one shouted.

"No! the other one said. It's mine. It's not yours. Give it to me!"

The cup fell on the ground and broke, and all the candy, the money, the delicious vegetable soup, Ben's warm coat and interesting books disappeared. They were nowhere in the house.

I felt really sad when my uncle told me that part of the story. But then he added, "But the cup couldn't make all the stories about the world disappear from Ben's head. And when Ben was a man, he visited all the countries in the world and wrote lots of stories about the animals and people who lived there to tell to children."

I never knew my uncle's first name. I just called him Uncle. Perhaps, just perhaps, it was Ben.

Answer the questions

1. Who writes books for children?
2. How old was Ben when his uncle told him a story?
3. How many brothers does he have?
4. Where did Ben want to go?
5. What did Ben do in the field?
6. What did Ben find on the ground?
7. What did Ben want to drink?
8. What clothes did Ben want to have?
9. How many books did he get?
10. What dish did the boys want to eat?
11. What did older brothers wish to have?
12. What happened to a silver cup?

Read and write True(T)/ False(F)

1. The girl heard this story in the summer.
2. Ben was the youngest of the three brothers.
3. Ben's brother were kind to him.
4. The cup that Ben found was made of gold.
5. Ben got 100 books and he could read them by the fire.
6. The cup broke when it fell on the floor.

Complete each answer with one of the words

winter minute Earth creature fire money hole ocean
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1. What is the matter with your sock? There is a _____ in it.
2. What do you use to buy things with? I use _____ of course.
3. What is the coldest time of the year? It is _____.
4. What is bigger than a sea? An _____. I think.
5. What is another word for an "animal"? A _____.
6. Has our world got a name? Yes. We call it he _____.

Read and draw lines

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. My uncle lived in Africa but | all the things disappeared. |
| 2. One cold morning Ben found | the leaves in the tree above him. |
| 3. Ben was tired and hungry but | he came to see me sometimes. |
| 4. A hundred books fell from between | delicious vegetable soup. |
| 5. The two older brother looked at | an old silver cup on the ground. |
| 6. The empty bowls were suddenly full of | he only had five little olives to eat. |
| 7. The cup fell on the ground and broke, | Ben's things and then at the silver cup on the table. |

Put the sentences in order

- a. I found an old silver cup on the ground.
- b. My brothers began to fight, the cup fell on the ground and broke, and everything disappeared.
- c. I have two older brothers.
- d. I worked in the field in any weather.
- e. I have an uncle who writes books for children.
- f. The silver cup was magical and it made my wishes came true.
- g. My uncle told me an interesting story, when I was about ten.
- h. When I was a man , I visited all the countries in the world and wrote lots of stories about the animals and people who lived there to tell to children.
- i. My brothers were rude and unkind to me.
- j. I got 100 books and I could learn all about the world.
- k. My brother took my magic cup and made a wish.
- l. They said that I was silly and not clever enough to go to school.

Match words with pictures

fight wool bowl wish grass onions holes
backpack pocket scarf Earth disappear





Complete the sentences with the word

fight	wish	onions	Earth	bowl	grass	wool
disappeared	scarf	backpacks	holes	pocket		

1. She always cries when she chops _____.
2. My grandmother is knitting a _____ for me.
3. The sheep in the field are eating _____.
4. He has _____ in his clothes.
5. Sheep provide us with _____.
6. My wallet is in my _____.
7. The soup in the _____ was very delicious.
8. The sun _____ behind a cloud.
9. I _____ I were a millionaire.
10. Most students carry _____ to school.
11. _____ is a beautiful planet.
12. I don't want to _____ with you.

Choose the best answer. Write a letter (A-H)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Paul: Why didn't you make our soup?
Ben: _____ | a. It's mine. |
| 2. Paul :You can't read!
Ben: _____ | b. I was too busy. |
| 3. Paul: What are you reading about?
Ben: _____ | c. All right. Hold it carefully |
| 4. Whose coat is that?
Ben: _____ | d. It's full of hot chocolate |
| 5. Paul: Where was the silver cup? Ben: _____ | e. Creatures that live in oceans. |
| 6. Paul: Give that silver cup to me! Ben: _____ | f. Soft and warm. |
| | g. Yes, I can. |
| | h. I found it in the field. |