

Reading

AN OLD ENGLISH FAIRY TALE

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, "should not be satisfied with that, I should be happy if I lived in a big house, and then, if I saw people like ourselves, I should 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 beauty sausage, I should 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.

Task 1. Read the text and write is it 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 astonished. _____
- 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. _____

Task 2. 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 put it off till the next day
D. they asked her to sit near the fire
- 8) How did they feel when they got their first wish?
A. were happy B. angry C. frightened D. hungry
- 9) What was their first wish?
A. bright fire B. much money C. a big house D. a good sausage
- 10) What was their last wish?
A. to stick the sausage to the wife's nose B. to have good appetite
C. to tear the sausage off the wife's nose D. to fall on the table

Task 3. Complete the sentences

- 1 One winter evening a poor peasant sat near...
- 2 If only I had a little money myself I should...
- 3 At first the husband and wife were...
- 4 They quarreled for a long time and finally.....
- 5 Finally they realized that they had only one...