

Fairy Tales and Fables

*30 stories
in English*

Materials designed
for “captive reading,”
a proven method for
boosting early literacy
and language ability

SAMPLE

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How to use these stories with your child

If your child has already attained a basic reading ability, the stories can be used as “captive reading” material in order to increase the child’s exposure to reading in English independently. Just print and post a story on the door or wall of the bathroom, or another suitable “captive location” where the child will pause long enough to read it. Then change the stories regularly.

With some stories, you may want to read them together first, or point out certain vocabulary that the child isn’t already familiar with.

If your child is still learning to read, the stories can first serve as material for shared practice. After that, you may wish to use them as “captive reading” material, too, for independent reading.

The stories can be used with children of any age, or even adults at a basic level of English ability. The determining factor is the reading level of the learner.

The stories are all roughly the same level, though they do vary in length somewhat, from about 200 to 300 words. I generally arranged them according to length, but feel free to use them in any order you prefer.

The stories have been formatted in a large, easy-to-read font, one story per page. They will print well on either 8½ x 11 paper (the “letter size” in North America) or A4 paper (the standard size everywhere else in the world).

To focus the reader’s attention on the text, no illustrations have been included with the stories. After all, the purpose of the material is *reading* and that purpose won’t be served if the child “zones out” by simply studying an illustration. At the same time, before posting a story, I do recommend that you take a colored pencil or crayon and highlight the title or add another sort of embellishment. By doing so—and varying the color each time—your child will more easily notice that a new story has been posted.

I hope you find these stories helpful for you and your child. And if you do, I’d love to hear about your experience.

Happy reading!

The Three Little Pigs

Once upon a time, there were three little pigs. The three little pigs built three little houses. The first little pig built a house of straw. The second little pig built a house of sticks. And the third little pig built a house of bricks.

One day a big, bad wolf came to the little house of straw. He huffed and puffed and blew the house down. "Help!" cried the first little pig. He ran to the second little pig's house.

Then the big, bad wolf came to the little house of sticks. He huffed and puffed and blew that house down, too. "Help!" cried the first little pig. "Help!" cried the second little pig. They ran to the third little pig's house.

Now the big, bad wolf came to the little house of bricks. He huffed and puffed, and huffed and puffed, but he couldn't blow the house down. So he climbed to the roof and went down the chimney...and landed in a big pot of hot soup! "Help!" cried the wolf.

The wolf ran away and the three little pigs never saw him again. They lived happily in the little house of bricks for a long, long time.

The Tortoise and the Hare

Once upon a time, there was a tortoise and a hare. The hare was very fast and the tortoise was very slow.

One day the hare saw the tortoise walking in the woods. "Slowpoke!" the hare shouted. The tortoise stopped. He was angry. "I'll show you!" he said. "Let's race!" The hare laughed. "You want to race? Okay, I'll race you!"

The next day was the race. All the animals were there. The hare and the tortoise stood at the starting line. "On your mark...get set...go!" said the bear.

The hare ran very fast. The tortoise walked very slow. The hare was far in front. He couldn't even see the tortoise. Then the hare stopped to rest. He sat under a tree and took a nap.

The tortoise walked on and on. He finally passed the hare, sleeping under the tree. When the hare woke up, the tortoise was almost at the finish line. The hare ran as fast as he could, but he couldn't catch the tortoise. The tortoise crossed the finish line first.

"The tortoise won the race! The tortoise won the race!" the animals cheered.

The hare never called the tortoise "Slowpoke" again.

Cinderella

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Cinderella. She lived with her two mean, lazy stepsisters who made Cinderella do all the work at home.

One day they heard that the prince was holding a ball at the castle. The stepsisters made Cinderella help them get ready for the ball. Cinderella wanted to go to the ball, too, but she was dressed in rags. The stepsisters laughed at her and left.

"I wish I could go to the ball!" Cinderella cried. Poof! The fairy godmother was by her side. She waved her wand and Cinderella was now wearing a fancy gown and glass slippers. She waved her wand again and a pumpkin became a coach, mice became horses.

"Have fun at the ball, but be back by midnight," said the fairy godmother.

Cinderella was the star of the ball. The prince danced with her all night. But when the clock struck midnight, Cinderella had to dash away. She lost one of her glass slippers on the castle steps.

The prince found the glass slipper and set out to find Cinderella. He went from house to house, and saw many girls, but the slipper did not fit their feet.

Finally, the prince came to Cinderella's house. First, her stepsisters tried to put on the slipper, but it wouldn't fit. Then the prince asked Cinderella to try on the slipper. When it fit her foot, the prince asked Cinderella to marry him. She and the prince lived happily ever after.