

The Magic Slippers and other stories

NEW METHOD SUPPLEMENTARY READER STAGE 2

THE MAGIC SLIPPERS

AND OTHER STORIES



6848.

Good Novels

1-50.

THE MAGIC SLIPPERS
AND OTHER STORIES

by

B. LUMSDEN MILNE

Within the vocabulary of
New Method Reader 2

Illustrated by
Rosemary Brown

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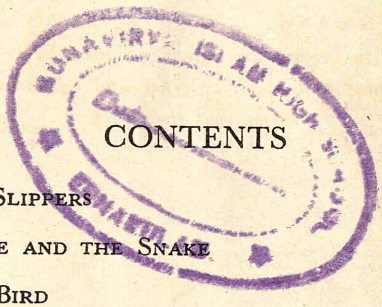
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LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO LTD
48, Grosvenor Street, London W.1.
Associated companies, branches and representatives throughout the world

This edition first published 1951
First Hong Kong impression (*7th printing*) 1959
Seventh Hong Kong impression 1964

This book is written within the 750 word vocabulary of New Method Reader 2 Alternative Edition. All extra words are explained either in a footnote or in a picture where they first appear.

PRINTED IN HONG KONG
BY THE HONGKONG PRINTING PRESS LTD



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TO

ANTHONY JOHN

THE MAGIC SLIPPERS *

A. Many many years ago there lived a king and queen. They loved each other very much and were very happy. They were still more happy when a little son was born.

Soon they began to think they would like to have a daughter; but the second child was also a boy. The queen said:

"Now there are two brothers waiting for our daughter."

But the third child was also a boy, and this time they were a little sad. But they were sure that the fourth child would be a girl.

But no, another son was born.

And another.

And another.

And five more.

When their twelfth son was born, the king and queen were really very sad. They loved all their sons, who were big and strong and good, but they did want a little daughter so much.

* Slippers are soft and pretty shoes.

At last, when their thirteenth child was born, it was a girl.

B. Words cannot tell how happy they were.

The queen called her twelve sons and showed them their beautiful little sister.

The king gave a great *feast* for everyone, rich and poor. (A feast is a meal of very rich food.) He gave the feast in his *palace* (a king's home is called a palace).

During the feast, the little princess was carried in for all the people to see.

Then the great door of the palace opened, and three fairies came in. No one spoke. They all knew that the fairies had come to give presents to the king's little daughter.

The first fairy said:

"I give her this: in all her life she shall never have any illness."

The second fairy said:

"I give her beauty: in all her life she shall be beautiful to look upon."

The third fairy said:

"I give her goodness: in all her life she shall do nothing bad."

Then there was a great light and they were gone.

Everyone began to talk, but soon the door opened again, and in came a little old woman dressed in black.

She ran across the floor, crying:

"Wait! Wait! Wait! We haven't finished yet!"



So everyone was quiet again.

The little old woman took out of her *pocket* two very small silver slippers. She put them on the feet of the little girl.

Then she said:

"These are magic slippers. With these she will walk into people's hearts. Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!"

Then she was gone, but for quite a long time they could hear her laughing: "Ha! Ha! Ha!"

C. All the people said:

"Walk into people's hearts? What does that mean?"

The king said to one of his wise men:

"Can you walk into people's hearts?"


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The wise man looked down at his big feet and said:

"No, O King, I can't."

So the king said:

"What does it mean, then?"

And the wise man answered:

"I don't know."

Then he asked another wise man:

"What does it mean?"

And the other wise man answered:

"I don't know."

And the second wise man asked a third wise man, but even he didn't know.

D. So the king told them to go away and think about it, and tell him the answer before night.

The wise old men were not very pleased at being sent away from the feast, because they hadn't finished eating; but they had to go because the king told them to go.

They went into a room where there were many books; and they thought that perhaps they might find the answer in one of these books. But soon they began to quarrel about it, and their beards went up and down and left and right; and two of them came too close

to each other and their beards got mixed up. It took the others quite a long time to undo them. They had just finished when they heard a voice laughing.

"Ha! Ha! Ha!"

And there was the little old woman.

E. So the wise men asked the old woman what to walk into people's hearts meant, and she said:

"To walk into people's hearts means that she will make everyone love her."

"Everyone?"

"Everyone! Men, women, boys, girls, dogs, cats and elephants!"


DOGS

Then she went, but she did not stop laughing:

"Ha! Ha! Ha!"

When the last "Ha!" was finished they looked at each other. The oldest one spoke:

"Now we can go and tell the king," he said.

Another wise old man said:

"Shall we say that the old woman told us?"

Then all of them said:

"Ahem!"

The oldest one spoke again.

"No," he said, "we must not say that a woman knows more than we do; if we say that, no one will believe we are wise."

F. So they went to the king and said:

"O great king, we have looked in all the books, and we have thought about it very carefully; and the meaning is this: the princess will make everyone love her."

The king said:

"Everyone?"

"Everyone! Men, women, boys, girls, dogs, cats and elephants!"

The king was pleased and said the old men could go on eating. The food was cold, so the cook brought some more.

Then the little princess was taken away to her mother, and everything went on as before.

G. Many years passed.

The queen died.

The little princess grew up as the fairies said. She was strong and beautiful and good. She always wore the little slippers, and because they were magic slippers they grew with her. As she grew bigger, the slippers grew bigger too.

The little old woman's words came true.

She walked into people's hearts. Everyone loved her.

Everyone. Men, women, boys, girls, dogs, cats and elephants.

H. When the princess was nearly fifteen, a prince who lived in a far country heard about her. He heard how everyone loved her, and he thought he would like to marry her.

So he set out on his long journey. He travelled alone, and he rode a white horse. After many days, he came to the country where the princess lived.

It was late. He was riding through a forest. His horse was very tired. He did not know where to stay the night. Then he saw a light through the trees, and soon he came to a little house.

He called : " Is anyone there ? "

A voice said : " Come in ! "

I. So he went in. Inside the house there was a little old woman dressed in black. The prince said :

" Please let me stay here to-night ? "

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J. When they ha
said:

"You want to marry

The prince jumped. He

"How do you know?" h
must be a fairy!"

"Yes, I am," she answered. "T
about it; perhaps I'll help you."

So the prince told her. When he had finished, she said:

"Young man, it will be very hard for you to win the princess."

"But I'll do it," he said.

"Don't be too sure," said the old woman. "Do you know why it will be hard?"

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the old woman. " I don't
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e anyone. You love her, and you
never seen her, but she won't love you.
nat is part of the magic."

K. " Then what can I do ? " he asked.

" First," said the old woman, " you must bring me the magic slippers. Then I will tell you what to do next."

" How can I get them ? " asked the prince.

" In the morning," she answered, " I will

give you a little blue flower. This is a magic flower, and with it you can put anyone to sleep. You must go to the king's palace, and when the soldier tries to stop you, touch him with the blue flower. Then he will fall asleep. After that you must find the princess, put her to sleep with the magic flower also, and take the slippers."

So the next morning the old woman went out of the house, and found a little blue flower which grew in the forest. The prince took this, thanked her very much, and rode off to the palace.

The soldier cried out:

"Who goes there?"

The prince touched him with the flower, and he fell asleep. The prince rode into the palace garden. He hid his horse among some trees, and walked on.

L. Then he heard laughing and talking, so he quickly climbed a tree and hid himself. Then he saw the princess and her ladies. She was very beautiful, and he loved her very much.

The princess and her ladies were playing a game called "Hide-and-Seek". In this game, one of the players hides, and the others must

try to find her. Soon the princess went to hide among some very high flowers.

The prince came down from his tree, and went to the flowers where the princess was hiding. He came up behind her, and so she did not hear him. He threw the magic blue flower at her, and she fell asleep at once. Then he took her slippers and put them in his pocket.

He found his horse again, and rode back to the old woman's house.

The old woman said:

"You must not wear the slippers yourself. If you do, all the ladies will fall in love with you."

"No, no!" said the prince, shutting his eyes.

"You must keep one slipper in your pocket, then the magic will work on one person only. I will keep the other slipper."

M. Now I will tell you what happened to the princess.

Her ladies looked for a long time, but could not find her. At last they did find her, asleep among the flowers.

They woke her very gently. When she sat up, she said:

"Where are my slippers?"

No one knew.

They all went back to the palace and told the king that someone had taken the princess's silver slippers. He was very angry. He sent his twelve sons, each with a company of soldiers, to travel all over the land and find out who had taken their sister's silver slippers. But they found nothing.

The princess was very unhappy. Every day she wept for her lost slippers. At last the king said that he would give the princess in marriage to any prince who could find the lost slippers. He didn't feel very sure about this, because the princess liked to do what she wished and perhaps she would not wish to marry the prince who found the slippers. But he knew she would be very happy if she got the slippers back; and so he thought she would marry any prince who found them for her.

N. One day, servants came to the king and said there was a singer at the gate. The king said:

"Let him come in. Perhaps he will make the princess happy again."

So the singer was brought in. It was the prince, really, and he had one of the silver

slippers with him; it was in his pocket, but no one knew this.

The prince began to play and he sang songs



of war and songs to make you laugh and songs of love.

Soon the princess began to laugh. When he stopped, she said:

"Sing again! Sing again!"

When the king saw her laughing, he was very

pleased. The twelve brothers were also very pleased. The king said:

"Give this man a hundred pieces of gold."

But the prince said:

"O King, I do not want gold."

"You do not want gold!" said the king. "Everyone wants gold."

"You do not want gold!" said the twelve brothers.

"No," said the prince.

"Then what do you want?" the king asked.

The prince looked at the princess; and she looked at him; and he knew that the magic slipper had done its work.

So he said:

"There is only one thing in the world that I want."

"And what is that?" said the king.

"The hand of the princess in marriage."

O. "WHAT?" cried the king.

"WHAT?" cried the twelve brothers.

"You, a singer who goes from house to house, you want to marry the princess?"

"Let's throw him out!" said the twelve brothers.

" Take him away," ordered the king, " and cut off his head."

But the princess began to weep again.

" Oh, all right, all right! " the king said. " Let him keep his head."

So the princess stopped weeping. The king did not know what to do. He said to the princess:

" What shall I do with this man? "

And she answered:

" Let him marry me."

" WHAT? " cried the king.

" WHAT? " cried the twelve brothers.

" Bah! " the king said angrily, " you shall marry the prince who finds your slippers. Even now many princes are on their way to try."

The princess said:

" I don't want the old slippers any more, I only want to marry the singer."

The prince said:

" May I speak? "

" No! " cried the king.

" No! " cried the twelve brothers.

" Yes! " said the princess.

P. Then the prince said quietly:

" I will bring back the slippers."

"But you are not a prince," said the king.

"The princess does not want a prince."

The king said:

"Hmmmmmmmm!"

The king thought the singer wouldn't find the slippers. He still didn't know the singer was really a prince.

"Well," said the king, "go and find the slippers, and when you have found them we'll see what can be done."

"No," he said, "I will marry the princess first, and then I will give her the slippers."

"WHAT?" cried the king.

"WHAT?" cried the twelve brothers.

Then they all began to talk at once. There was a great noise. Every time the king said the words "Cut off his head" the princess began to cry, so he had to stop saying it. At last he said:

"HO!"

And everyone was quiet.

"The marriage will be to-morrow. After that there will be a feast. You, singer, will give the princess her silver slippers before the feast begins. If you don't, your head will be cut off."

This time the princess did not weep. She laughed. Then she looked at the prince, and the prince looked into her eyes, and laughed too.

"Do you hear?" said the king, "if you haven't got the slippers to-morrow, you will lose your head."

Then he marched out of the hall, and the twelve brothers marched after him.

Q. The next day there were fifty cooks cooking in the king's kitchen. There were fifty gardeners bringing in flowers. There were fifty servants helping the princess and her ladies to dress.

All the people put on their best clothes. The twelve brothers put on their best clothes. The king put on his best crown, but he looked very angry. The twelve brothers looked very angry.

So the prince and the princess were married.

After the marriage everyone went to the great hall. First came the ladies and gentlemen, then the twelve brothers; then a man carrying an axe; then the king; and lastly the prince and princess.

When they were all there, the king said:

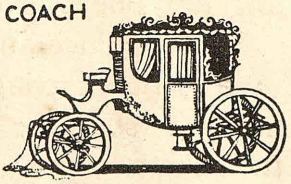
"Now, cut off his head. Then take away the body and we can get on with the feast."

He said this because he was sure the singer had not found the slippers. The man raised his axe and walked slowly across the hall to the prince; but just as he was going to cut off his head, the prince laughed and took the silver slipper out of his pocket.

R. The man with the axe was so surprised that his face went black and he couldn't speak, and they had to take him outside and give him a drink of water.

"Bah!" said the king, "that's only one slipper. Where's the other?"

"Here it is!" said a voice, and there was the little old woman with the other slipper. "Open the door," she said, "and you will see something else. Ha! Ha! Ha!"



So they opened the door, and there they saw a golden coach. The prince's father and mother were in it.

The king asked them to the feast. He was very glad that his daughter had married a prince after all.

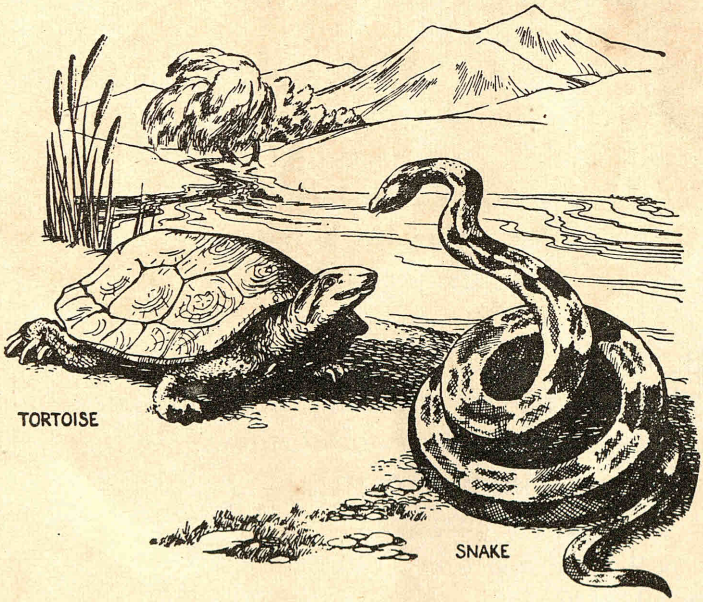
Then the prince took the princess back to his own country, and his father and mother went too; and they all lived very happily.



THE TORTOISE AND THE SNAKE

A. Many years ago, a *tortoise* and a *snake* lived beside a river. They were not friends. Each wanted to be king of the river.

The snake often tried to bite the tortoise, but the tortoise pulled back his head and his



feet inside his *shell.* (The shell of the tortoise is his very hard skin.) The snake could only bite the shell, and this was so hard and strong that the tortoise was not hurt.

One day after the snake had tried to bite him, the tortoise said:

"Ha! Ha! I am the king here! I am so strong that nobody can bite me."

The snake was very angry, but he said:

"How did you become so strong?"

The tortoise said:

"I am strong, and all my friends are strong, because we cut off our heads at night."

The snake said:

"That is a very fine thing. If I call my friends will you show us how to do it?"

"Yes," said the tortoise; "I'll show you."

B. So the snake and the tortoise called together all their friends and families. On one side there were hundreds of tortoises, and on the other side hundreds of snakes.

Then the first tortoise held a piece of hard wood with his foot, and seemed to cut off his head. All the tortoises did the same. But

they did not cut off their heads; they pulled their heads inside their shells.

The snakes thought this was fine. Late the next day, they came to the tortoise again and said:

"We should like to cut off our heads every night, but we have no feet, so we cannot hold the hard wood."

The tortoise said:

"That's very sad. If you could cut off your heads, you would become as strong as we are. What can we do?"

"Well," said the snakes; "you have feet; so will you do it for us?"

"Yes, gladly," said the tortoise.

So each of the tortoises took a piece of hard wood, and cut off the head of one of the snakes. Of course all the snakes died, and then the first tortoise became king of the river.

THE HONEY BIRD

A. In the forests of Africa there lives a little bird who likes honey. *Honey* is what the *bees* make. It is very sweet. The bees live in a



bees' *nest.* When he finds a nest of bees with honey in it, he flies away until he meets a man. Then he sings, and flies about from tree to tree, and the man follows him to see what is the matter. In this way, he leads the man to the nest. Then the man makes a fire and burns some green wood under the nest. This makes the bees fly away; and the man takes out the honey. But he always gives some honey to the bird. He puts it on the tree, and the bird eats it and is very happy.

The people of the country say that if a man does not give the bird some of the honey, something bad will happen to him.

B. One day a man was cutting wood in the forest, when he saw a honey bird. The bird began to sing and fly from tree to tree, and the man said:

"Ah! Now I shall find some good honey."

So he followed the bird and found a nest of bees. He made a fire under the nest. Then the bees flew out and did not hurt him. So he took the honey, and the bird sat on a tree near and watched him. The bird waited for some honey. But the man said to himself:

" I shall not give the bird any honey. I shall keep it all for myself."

He took the honey back to his house.

A week later he was working in the forest, when he saw the honey bird again.

" Ah," he said, " now I shall find some more of that beautiful honey."

So he followed the bird until he came to a tree with a hole in it. He could not see any nest, and no bees flew out when he made the fire, so he thought:

" Perhaps the bees have gone away, and left this nest. I'll see what I can find inside the tree."

He put his hand inside the hole. There was no honey there. But there was a snake, which bit him. Very soon he was dead.

Then the bird flew away.

THE BEAUTIFUL HORSE

A. Once upon a time there was an old Turkish *merchant.* (A merchant is a man who buys and sells things.) His name was Abdul Hamid. He had a very beautiful Arab horse, and he wanted to sell it.

This horse could run faster than any other horse in the country. But the merchant wanted to sell it for three hundred pieces of gold. No one could pay this.

One day a young man came to the merchant. His name was Aziz. He said:

"I am of good family. Yet I am very poor and I cannot buy the horse. But please give the horse to me. I am going into a far country, and whatever I get there I will give you."

Abdul Hamid thought for a long time and pulled his beard. Then he said:

"Go! You can take the horse."

So Aziz got on the horse and rode away into a far country. After a time he came to a great city. As he rode past the palace, the king was

standing at the window. The king saw the beautiful horse. At once he wanted to have it.

So he sent servants to bring Aziz to the palace.

The king said:

"How much is that horse? I wish to buy it."

Aziz answered:

"It is nine hundred pieces of gold, O King."

The king said:

"That is too much. But go away now, and come again to-morrow: then we can talk about this again."

B. When Aziz had gone, the king called his wise men together. He said:

"The horse is the finest I have ever seen, but the cost is too high."

They all said the same thing. But there was one man who wanted to please the king. He said:

"When the king speaks to the young man to-morrow, let all the young ladies in the palace be there. Surely he will fall in love with one of them, and then he will not care about the horse. In this way the king can buy it for much less."

Next day when Aziz rode into the palace

garden there were many ladies there. They were all very beautiful. Aziz did not look at them. But some of the ladies fell in love with him. Aziz still asked for nine hundred pieces of gold for his horse.

Then the king called his wise men again, and the man who wanted to please the king thought of another plan.

" My plan," he said, " was good, but it was not enough. But if he once sees the king's daughter, he will remember nothing. Then the king can buy the horse."

So the next day the king sat at the gate of the palace with his daughter. At noon Aziz came again to show the beauty of the horse. As he rode before the king he saw the king's daughter. She looked at him. They fell in love with each other. She came nearer to look at the horse. Aziz told her quickly that if he sold the horse he must give the money to Abdul Hamid.

C. The princess looked up at him and said:

" O, my love! In my father's palace I have a *cloak*. (A cloak is a kind of coat.) It is covered


CLOAK

with gold and jewels. It has nine pockets, and in each pocket there are nine hundred pieces of gold. It is very hot now. Say ' It is very hot. I feel ill.' Then I will fetch water."



So Aziz said, " I feel ill," and asked for water. The wise men saw this. The king's daughter went into the palace. She came out again wearing her golden cloak and carrying a golden cup of water.

Aziz quickly raised her on to the horse in front of him. Then he rode out of the city.

All the king's men called for their horses and rode after Aziz. They tried to catch him, but they could not; for no horse could run as fast as his. So they came back to the palace. The king was very angry.

Aziz and the princess rode on. The country was very beautiful, and they were very happy. One day Aziz remembered Abdul Hamid and cried:

"Ah! I am an unhappy man!"

The princess asked:

"What is the matter?"

D. He told her about Abdul Hamid.

Then he said:

"I said I would give him everything I won with the horse. So the pieces of gold belong to him and the coat and the golden cup and even you, my love."

And she answered:

"What is this? You did not win me, but I, a king's daughter, gave myself to you. So, we will not go to Abdul Hamid, but we will stay here in the mountains, and be happy."

But he said:

"No. I must do what I said."

They rode along quietly, and at the end of the journey they found Abdul Hamid.

Aziz said to him:

"Good day, my father. Long may you live. I have come back from a far country. I said, 'I would bring you whatever I won with the horse.' Here is a golden cup, a golden coat with many pieces of gold in it; and also I bring you this lady. She is the king's daughter, whom I love."

Abdul Hamid was a wise old man; he thought for a long time and pulled his beard.

Then he said:

"Truly, you have done well. The coat shall be mine and the cup shall be mine, and mine, too, half the gold. But you take half the gold and the horse and the lady too."

So Aziz and the princess were married and lived happily ever after.

THE GATEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER

A. Once upon a time there was a king who had three sons. They were all very strong and good-looking and clever. The king hoped that they would marry good and wise and beautiful princesses.

The king's palace was in a big garden. Around the garden was a high wall. There was a *gate* in this wall. It was opened when the king drove in or out. The man who opened and shut the gate was called the gatekeeper. He lived in a little house beside the gate.

The gatekeeper was not a rich man. The king did not pay him very much money. The ladies and gentlemen who went to the palace did not even speak to him.

The gatekeeper had a daughter. Her name was Ann.

Ann was very kind. She gave food to the birds in winter when they could not find food in the snow. She was very kind to poor and

sick people. If a poor man came to the house she gave him some of her food, even though she had not very much food herself. Everyone loved her because she was so very good and kind.

B. One day the youngest prince went out riding. The gatekeeper opened the gate, and the prince rode quickly out. He did not look at the gatekeeper, nor at the gatekeeper's daughter. He could not look at anyone because he had to watch his horse: if people came too near, the horse kicked them. After some time he thought he would go home. But when he came near the palace the horse hurt his foot. So the prince had to get off the horse and walk. He saw some people standing outside the gatekeeper's house. There was a poor man and woman and their child.

"Who are these people?" asked the prince.

"They are my friends," answered the gatekeeper's daughter.

Then the prince saw that the poor woman was weeping.

"Why do you weep, my good woman?" he said.

At first the poor woman was afraid to speak. But the gatekeeper's daughter took



her by the hand and told her to answer the prince.

So she said:

"O Prince, my child was ill and nearly

died, but Ann has made him well. She is very wise."

"I am very glad to hear that," said the prince. "Now, take your son home, and take care of him."

C. So the poor people went home quite happy, and the prince said to Ann:

"Can you make my horse well again? He has hurt his foot."

"I will try, O Prince," she replied.

"Be careful," he said, "my horse may kick you. Sometimes he bites people when he does not know them."

"I don't think he will bite me," said Ann.

She went up to the horse and spoke to him, and he followed her quite gently. She washed the horse's foot and put some oil on it, and said:

"Your horse will be well in two days."

Then the prince went home, thinking about the gatekeeper's daughter.

After that he saw the gatekeeper's daughter many times. Each time he learnt more about her. He learnt how kind and good she was, and how wise, and he saw that she was also beautiful.

After a long time he went to the king and said:

"My father, I wish to get married."

At first the king was very pleased to hear this, because he thought the prince wished to marry a princess.

So he said:

"Tell me, my son, which princess you wish to marry, and I will send a letter to her father."

But the prince said:

"I do not wish to marry a princess, I wish to marry the gatekeeper's daughter."

Now, when the king heard this, he was very angry, and said:

"No! No! My sons must all marry princesses! What? Marry the gatekeeper's daughter? Never!"

Then he told the prince that he would find a wife for him. The prince said that he would marry the gatekeeper's daughter and no one else. The king was very angry, and shut the prince up in the palace.

D. The king then called his eldest son to him and said:

"My son, you must go and find a wife. I

will give you horses and money and servants. Travel, and find the wisest and most beautiful princess in the world and marry her. Then you shall be king after my death."

So the prince set out and travelled for a very long time. In those days travelling was very hard, and the eldest prince took two years on his journey. He heard that there was a beautiful princess in India. People said she was the most beautiful princess in the world. She was also good and wise. She was the daughter of a maharajah. (A maharajah is a kind of king.) After two years he reached India, and he came to the palace of the maharajah.

The maharajah was glad to see him and gave a grand feast.

After three days the prince asked the maharajah for his daughter in marriage.

The maharajah said:

"If I give you my daughter in marriage, what will you do?"

The prince answered:

"I will take her back to my father's country. When I become king, she will be queen."

The maharajah said:

"No. I love my daughter very dearly. I

will not let her go away. If you marry her, you must stay in this country."

This made the prince very sad; so the maharajah told him to go into the garden and think carefully about it.

E. Now the prince had not seen the maharajah's daughter, because she lived in the women's part of the palace. But her women told her about the prince. They said he was very good-looking. This made her want to see him. They told her he was walking in the garden; so she looked out of her window.

Just then the prince looked up. They saw each other and fell in love. Then the prince made up his mind that he would stay in India.

So he went to the maharajah. He did not say that he had seen the princess, because the maharajah would be angry if he knew this. He said that he would stay in India because he wanted to marry the maharajah's daughter so much.

When the maharajah heard this he was very glad. He gave a great feast for seven days and seven nights, and the prince and his daughter were married. Everyone was very happy.

After the marriage the prince sent a servant home to tell the king. The king was very sad. He knew that he would never see his son again.

So he sent for the second prince and said:

" My son, I will give you money and horses and servants. Travel, and find the wisest and most beautiful princess in the world, and marry her. Then you shall be king after my death."

F. So the second prince set out on his travels. After two years he came to India and visited his brother at the court of the maharajah. He stayed there for some time; then he went on his journey again.

On the way people told him about a most wise and beautiful princess who lived a long way to the East. They said she was the daughter of the emperor of China. (An emperor is a kind of king.)

So after another year he came to China and went to the emperor's palace.

The emperor was glad to see him and gave a great feast.

After three days the prince asked the emperor for his daughter in marriage.

The emperor said:

"If I give you my daughter in marriage, what will you do?"

The prince answered:

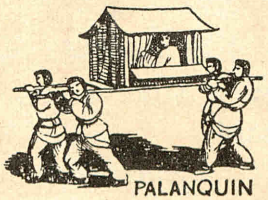
"I will take her back to my father's country. When I become king she will be queen."

The emperor said:

"No. I love my daughter very dearly. I will not let her go away. If you marry her you must stay in this country."

This made the prince very sad. So the emperor told him to go for a walk and think carefully about it.

G. Now the prince had not seen the emperor's daughter. He walked in the city and thought about her. He walked in the beautiful streets and heard people talking about the emperor's daughter. They said that she could read all the books in the world. They said she was so wise that the emperor himself sometimes asked her to help him. They said she was so beautiful that the moon and the sun were her servants.



PALANQUIN

Just at this time the em-

peror's daughter was carried past in her *palanquin*. She had heard about this prince from the West who wanted to marry her. So she looked out.



Just then the prince looked up. They saw each other and fell in love. Then the prince said:

"I will marry the princess and stay in China."

When the emperor heard this he was very glad. He gave a great feast for twenty-one days, and the prince and his daughter were married. Everyone was very happy.

After the marriage the prince sent his servant home to tell the king. The king was very sad.

He said:

"What shall I do?"

So he went to the room where the youngest prince was shut up, because he wanted to marry the gatekeeper's daughter.

He said to the prince:

"My son, both your brothers have gone to live in far countries. So you must forget about the gatekeeper's daughter and marry a princess."

The youngest prince said:

"I do not want to marry a princess. I want to marry the gatekeeper's daughter."

H. Then the king was very angry. He went back to the palace and called together all his wise men.

He said to them:

"What shall I do? My two eldest sons have

left me, and my youngest son still wants to marry the gatekeeper's daughter. Shall I put her to death? "

The wise men thought about this. Then they said:

" No, O king, you must not put her to death, because she has done nothing bad."

So the king said:

" What shall I do then? "

The wise men thought for a long time. Then they all went to see the gatekeeper's daughter. After that the oldest and wisest man of them all (he was nearly a hundred years old) said:

" If I may go and think about it, in three days I will find an answer to this question."

The king agreed, and the old man went home. He read some very old books; and he thought and thought and thought. For three days he did not eat or drink. At the end of that time he told his servants to bring him food and very fine clothes. After he had eaten, he put on the fine clothes and went to see the king.

" I have found the answer," he said.

I. Then the king sent for all the other wise

men. He also sent for his youngest son. They all waited to hear the old man speak.

He began:

"O king, I have read many old books. I learnt that the greatest things in the world are truth and kindness. The gatekeeper's daughter has these things more than any other person in the country. In this way she is greater than any princess. Only one thing is needed. She must be made a princess. Then the prince can marry her."

All the old men said this was a very wise answer. The prince was very pleased. The king was not very pleased, but he did not say very much about it.

So the king made a law. This law said that everyone must call the gatekeeper's daughter Princess Ann. Then the king gave a great feast which lasted a whole month, and the youngest prince married the gatekeeper's daughter. They lived happily ever after.

FLORIO AND FLORIA

A. Once upon a time there was a king who had a son and a daughter. Their names were Florio and Floria. Their mother was dead, and the king married another wife. The new queen was not unkind to Florio and Floria, because she knew that the king would be angry; but she did not love them at all.

There was an old servant who loved them very much. She took great care of them. She was their *nurse*. (A nurse is a servant who takes care of children.)

Then the king died. Now Florio should have been the next king; but the stepmother made herself queen. The first thing she did was to send away the old nurse, so the poor children had no one to love them.

The queen wanted to kill Florio, but one of the servants told him this; so one night he ran away. He found the old nurse's house, and she hid him there, and the queen could not find him.

The queen was very angry and shut Floria up in a *tower.*

It happened that a prince of another country was travelling through the city. His name was Prince Roland. One day he came riding past the tower, and he saw Floria at her window; and because she looked very sad and very beautiful, he thought he would find out what was the matter and try to help her.

So he climbed up to the window. Floria told him about the queen, and how her brother had run away, but she did not know where he was. Prince Roland said:

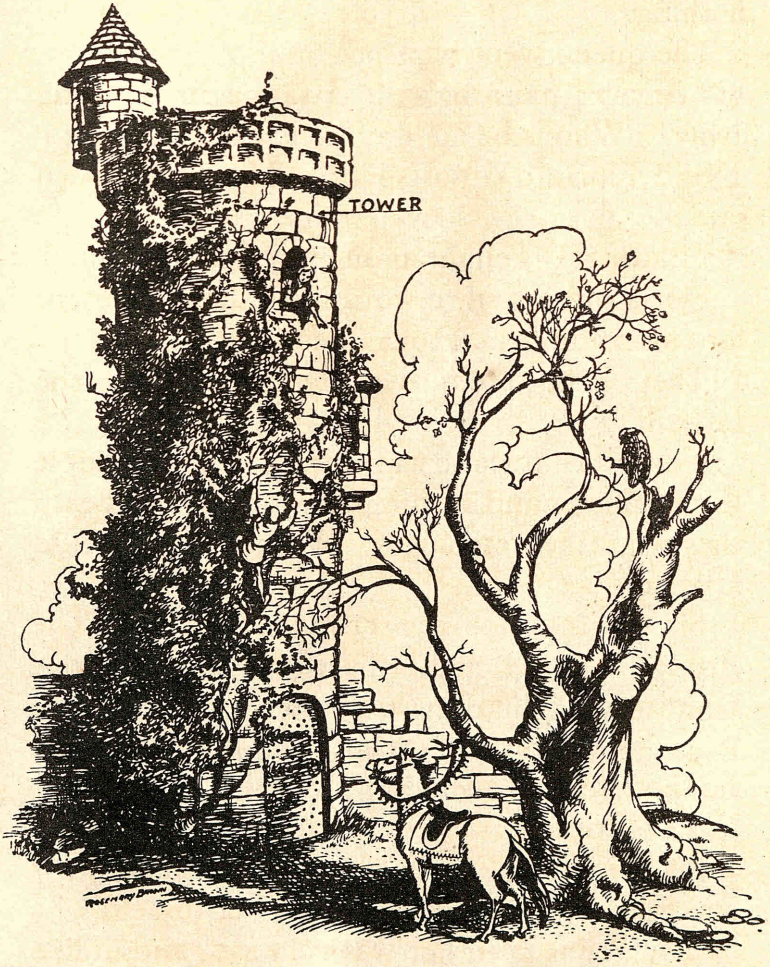
" I will come back after dark with horses and servants, and take you to my father and mother."

B. That day, the queen was driving round the city; and as she drew near the palace, she saw Prince Roland climb down from the tower and ride away. She could not see who he was; he was too far away.

She went straight to the tower. She was very angry. She said to Floria:

" Who has been here? "

Floria did not answer. She knew the queen


TOWER

would kill Roland if she could, so she said nothing.

The queen went on:

"Answer me at once! I saw a man riding away. Who is he?"

Still Floria did not speak. Then the queen said:

"Bad girl! Tell me at once, or you shall die!"

Floria did not say a word. So the queen sent for two soldiers and told them to kill Floria.

They held cloths over her face until she lay still.

Now the queen was afraid. The people loved Floria, and if they knew about her death they would be very angry. Perhaps they would kill the queen.

So she sent for the Prime Minister. (The Prime Minister is the greatest man in the country.) When he came, he found her weeping. Of course she was not really weeping; but he thought that she was.

"O Prime Minister!" she said, "poor dear little Princess Floria is dead! She was ill for several days, and I took care of her myself."

The Prime Minister was very sad, and unlike the queen he was truly sad.

" To-night," said the queen, " her body will lie in the church, and four soldiers will keep watch. To-morrow she will be *buried.*" (To bury anything is to put it in the earth.)

The Prime Minister went away.

C. When the people heard that Princess Floria was dead they were very sad, and there was weeping all over the land.

When Prince Roland heard he fell to the ground like a dead person, and his servants quickly carried him away to his own country.

When the old nurse heard, she wept, and she told Florio. Now Florio, too, was very sad to hear of his sister's death, and he said he must see her body before it was buried.

" You cannot do that," said the nurse.

" Yes, I can," said Florio. " To-night four soldiers will keep watch. I will go to them, and they will know me. I will tell them to open the *coffin.* (The coffin is the box in which a dead person is put.) In this way," said Florio, " I shall see my sister's face again."

" It is too dangerous," said the nurse. " They will catch you and take you back to the queen."

But Florio said:

" I must go."

The nurse was very much afraid. She knew the queen would kill him if she could. So she said:

" I will let you see your sister. But you must do what I tell you; and you must not go out of the house."

Florio asked the nurse what she was going to do, but she would not tell him.

D. Floria's body was put into a beautiful silver coffin. It was carried to the church. All the great ladies and gentlemen followed, and the bad queen was also there weeping; but she was not really weeping.

The coffin was put in the church and covered with flowers. The four soldiers took their places. Then all the other people went home until next day.

In the night the four soldiers heard a fearful sound. A voice seemed to say:

" Woohooooooo! . . . Woohooooooo! . . ."

They were very much afraid. Their faces were white with fear. Then they saw a green light coming along the floor. Then the fearful voice said:

" Weeheeeeeee! . . . Weeheeeeeee! . . ."

When they heard the voice, they ran away.

The nurse was sitting on the floor with a green light. That was the green light which made the soldiers afraid. She had made the noises too. As soon as they were gone, she stood up.

She opened the coffin, took out Floria's body, and filled up the coffin with stones and cloth. She put the stones in cloth so that they would not make a noise when the coffin was carried. Then she carried Floria's body to her house, and called Florio to come and look at his dead sister.

E. The nurse went away and left him alone with her. While he was looking sadly at her, he thought he saw her move. He looked more closely, and she was moving. He called out:

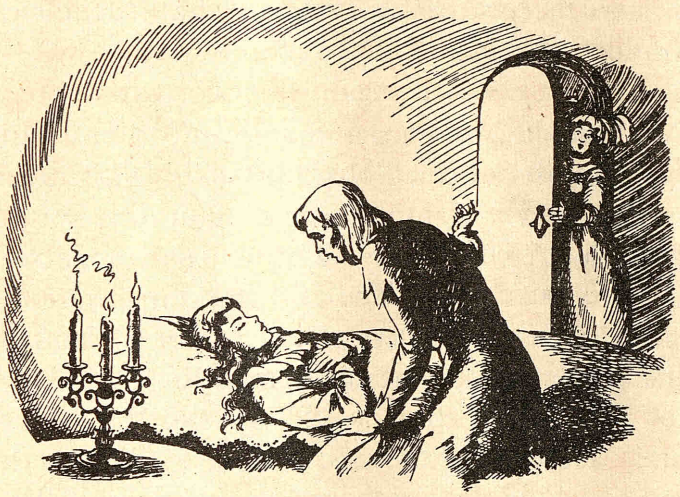
" Nurse! Nurse! Come quickly! "

The nurse came. He said:

" Look nurse, look! She is alive! "

The nurse looked. Florio was right. Floria opened her eyes!

How happy they were! They quickly brought hot water and food and warm clothes.



They rubbed her feet and hands. They put her to bed.

Soon she was able to talk. She was so glad to see her brother again. She told them how the queen had ordered the soldiers to kill her. She asked them about Prince Roland, but the nurse did not know anything about him.

Next day all the people went to the church. They buried only a coffin full of stones, but they did not know this. Of course the soldiers did not tell anyone what happened in the night.

So for a time the brother and sister lived with the nurse. They never went out in the city,

because the nurse was afraid that the queen would find out.

F. One day, when the nurse went to buy some food, she met a traveller and his wife. The traveller belonged to Prince Roland's country, but the wife belonged to the city. The wife had come back to visit her family. She and the nurse were old friends. They were very pleased to see each other.

The nurse asked about Prince Roland.

"Ah!" said the traveller's wife, "it is very sad! He came here and fell in love with the Princess Floria; and when she died, he fell ill. We know he will die soon, and we are very unhappy. We are very sorry for our king and queen, for he is their only son."

The nurse went home and told Floria. Floria wanted to go at once to Prince Roland, but her brother asked her not to go, for he was afraid that the queen would find out.

At last the nurse said she had thought of something. They asked her what it was, but she would not tell them.

G. Now we must see what was happening to Prince Roland.

He was very ill. His mother and father and all his friends were very sad. All the wise men in the country tried to help him, but they could not.

"Nothing can be done," they said, "he will die."

One day two women came to the palace gate. Nobody could see what they were like because they wore long cloaks, and their faces were covered. One was big, and one was small. A soldier stopped them.

"You cannot come in," he said.

The big woman answered:

"We are wise women, and we have come to make the prince well again."

The soldier laughed.

"Bah!" he said, "the wisest men in the country cannot do that, so what can you do?"

One of the king's servants was passing and heard all this. So he said:

"Let them come in. Perhaps they can use magic. Who knows?"

H. So the soldier let them in, and the servant took them to the king.

The king said:

"Who are you?"

Again the big woman answered:

"We are wise women and we have come to make the prince well again."

"No one can do that. But you may try. Perhaps you can use magic."

So he opened the door of the prince's room, and they went in.

The big woman said:

"Everyone must go, and leave us with the sick man."

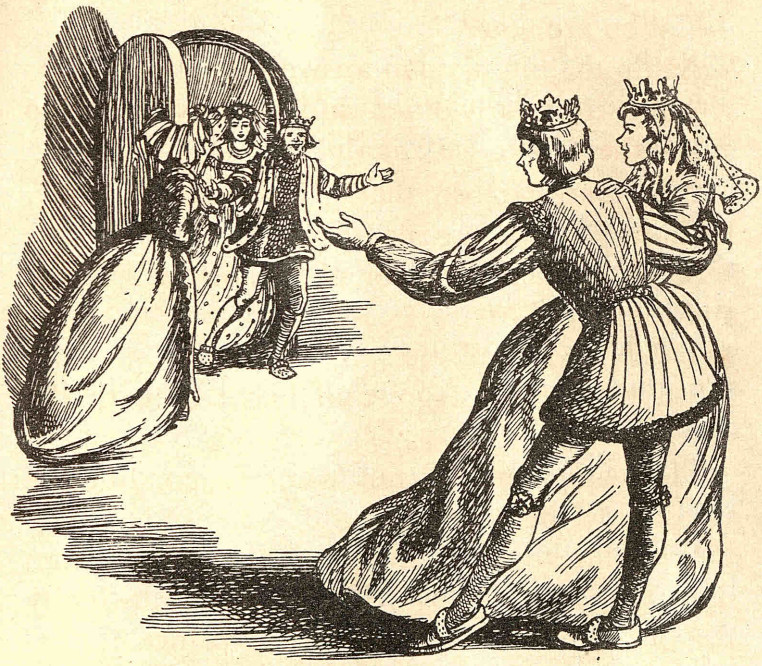
The wise men did not want to go, but the king made them do so.

When they were all gone, the big woman shut the door. Now this woman was really the old nurse. She spoke to the prince.

"We have come to make you well again," she said.

"Leave me alone," said the prince, "and let me die. Floria is dead, and I do not want to live. I think I am dead already."

I. Now the small woman was Floria. The nurse told her to take off her cloak and uncover her face, then she took Floria by the hand, and showed her to the prince.



" Now I know that I am dead," he said, " because I see Floria."

" I am Floria," she said. " I am alive and well. Now you must get well too."

Then the prince became quite well and strong again. He stood up and took Floria in his arms. The nurse opened the door, and in came the king and queen.

How surprised they were, and how glad!

Many people stood round the door, and they told the servants. The servants told the soldiers. The soldiers told the people outside the palace. Soon all the people in the country knew.

All the bells rang. There were great feasts. People danced and sang for happiness.

Roland and Floria were married.

When the bad queen heard that Floria was still alive, she was so much afraid that she fell down dead.

Then Florio went to the palace and was made king at once.

Roland and Floria came to see him. They brought the nurse with them. She came to live in the king's house. Sometimes she went to stay with Roland and Floria.

They all lived happily ever after.

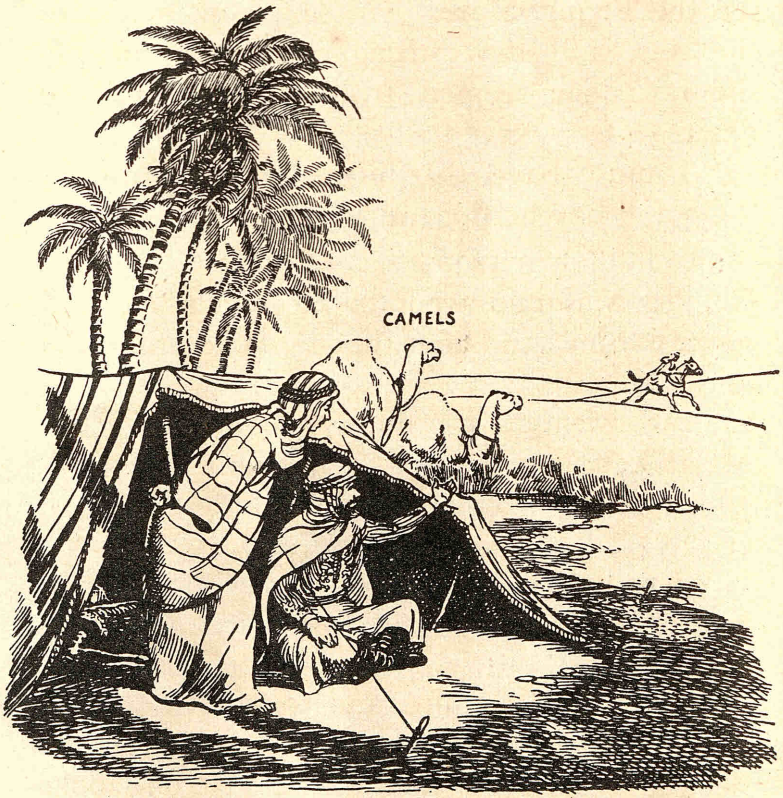
THE FLYING MARE

A. There was once an Arab named Mustafa. He was a merchant. Mustafa was very rich. He had many horses and camels; he had many servants and a large family, and beautiful tents to live in and rich food to eat.

There was also a poor man named Husain. He was very very poor, but he had one thing, and that was a mare. (A mare is the mother of a horse.) Now Arab horses are very beautiful and they can run very fast. This mare was nearly the same colour as the *desert.* (A desert is a very dry place where no trees grow.) So when Husain rode across the desert, people who were far off could not see the mare, and when they saw Husain moving very quickly, they thought he was flying. So they called Husain's mare " The Flying Mare ".

B. One evening Mustafa sat at the door of his tent, looking across the desert. Beside him was Mahmud, his head servant. Suddenly they

saw Husain riding. They could not see the mare, because she was the same colour as the



desert, and Mustafa thought Husain was flying. He was very surprised.

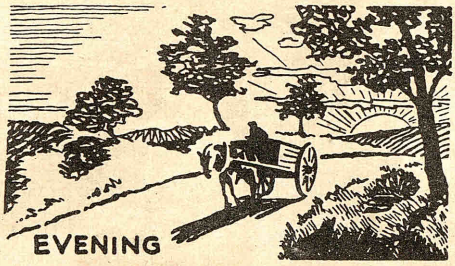
" Allah ! " he said. " What is this ? "

" It is Husain," said Mahmud, " and he is riding the Flying Mare."

Then, as Husain came nearer, Mustafa could see the Flying Mare. He saw how beautiful she was, and how strong, and how quickly she ran; she seemed truly to fly over the desert.

" I must have that mare," said Mustafa. " Go and buy her for me."

C. So Mahmud went to meet Husain, and spoke to him; and after their evening prayer he asked Husain to eat with Mustafa and all his followers.



When they had finished their food, they sat round the fire, and told stories. It is often very cold in the desert at night, and people need a fire to keep them warm. No one spoke about the mare that night.

Next morning, Mahmud began to talk to Husain about the mare.

" What will you do," he asked, " if your beautiful mare is ill? Perhaps she will die."

" God is good," said Husain. " I am a poor man."

" How much better," went on Mahmud, " to have money. My master is very rich. He will pay you much money for your mare."

" I do not wish to sell her," answered Husain.

Mahmud told Mustafa what Husain had said.

" Speak to him again," said Mustafa, " and say I will give him a horse as well as the cost of his mare. I must have the mare. If I do not have her I shall not sleep."

D. So Mahmud went back to Husain.

" My master will give you a horse," he said, " as well as the money for your mare."

" Tell your master," said Husain, " that I will not sell her."

Mahmud went to Mustafa and said:

" He will not sell the mare."

" Say I will give him much gold," said Mustafa, " a thousand gold pieces."

Mahmud went back and offered Husain a thousand pieces of gold for his mare.

Husain answered:

"I have had my mare since she was born. She knows my voice, and she knows my step, and she is to me like a daughter. I will not sell her for ten times ten thousand gold pieces."

When Mustafa heard this, he was angry; he still tried to make Husain sell the mare. But Husain would not sell.

E. At last Mustafa thought he would get the mare by doing a very bad thing.

He waited until Husain was getting ready to go away. Then he cut off his beard and put on old clothes, and rode into the desert, to a place which Husain must pass. Here he let his horse go, and the horse went back to his friends. Then Mustafa lay down as if he were very ill.

Soon Husain came riding along on his Flying Mare. When he saw Mustafa he did not know him, and he thought:

"Here is a poor traveller, lost in the desert. He is very ill. I must stop and help him, or he will die."

So he stopped. He gave Mustafa a drink of water. Then he raised him, and put him on the mare's back. Mustafa did not speak.

Husain walked beside the mare. He led her with one hand, and held Mustafa with the other. After about two miles, Mustafa said:

"Thank you for your help. Now I am better, do not tire yourself. Take away your hand."

F. So Husain took his hand away from Mustafa's back. Then Mustafa hit him on the face, and hit him again and again until he fell down. Mustafa rode away.

Husain called his mare. She knew his voice and came back. Mustafa tried to make her go on, but she would not. Then Husain knew Mustafa and said:

"O Mustafa! Truly this is a bad thing which you have done. But you are rich and powerful, and I can do nothing. If I call my mare back now, you will find another way to take her. But one thing you must not do. When you show this beautiful mare to your friends, you must never tell them how you got her."

Mustafa said:

"Why must I not tell them this?"

"Do not tell them," said Husain, "that I

found you on the ground like a sick person, and that you took my mare when I tried to help you. If people know this, they will never again help sick or lost travellers in the desert. They will be afraid to do so. They will think all these lost travellers are thieves like you. So, many good people will be left to die."

G. Mustafa did not answer. He was thinking. This is what he thought:

"I have taken this poor man's mare. He has nothing left. But he does not think of himself; he thinks about other people and how to help them. He is a very good man, and I have been very bad."

So Mustafa was sorry.

"Take back your mare. Truly I have done a bad thing."

Husain answered:

"The bad thing was not finished. Let us forget that it was ever begun."

"If there is kindness between us," said Mustafa, "come back and eat with me."

So Mustafa and Husain became friends.

THE STORY OF PULAU SIREH

A. Not far from Malaya there is an island called Pulau Sireh. Many years ago there lived a sultan on this island. (Sultan is another word for king.) His name was Sultan Mahmud.

He had many sons and daughters, but of them all only one was left. The sons were killed in war. Then a great sickness came to the island, and the daughters died of this. His wives also died. Only one daughter was left, and her name was Tengku Zainab.

The sultan was an old man, and he loved his daughter very much: and because he had no son, he dressed her as a boy and tried to think that she was a boy. He also said that she was to rule the island after his death.

She liked dressing as a boy very much, because she could go where she liked and play, instead of having to live in the women's part of the palace. But all the ladies who lived in the palace said that it was a very bad thing.

B. The son of the sultan's brother lived on Pulau Sireh, and his name was Tengku Awang. He wanted to be sultan; so he thought the best thing to do was to marry Tengku Zainab. All the ladies thought it would be a very good thing, and they said she should marry Tengku Awang. But Tengku Zainab did not want to marry him, and she told the sultan about it. So the sultan said Awang could not marry her. Tengku Awang was very angry about this, and he began to think how he could hurt the sultan and Tengku Zainab.

At this time there were many *pirates* (pirates are sea thieves). When the sultan sent his ships to other countries, the pirates often caught them.

C. One of the countries to which Sultan Mahmud sent his ships was called Perantak. The Sultan of Perantak thought it would be a good thing to meet Sultan Mahmud, and ask his help to fight against the pirates. So he sent his Laksamana, the man who led all his fighting ships, to visit Sultan Mahmud.

Sultan Mahmud was very pleased to see the

Laksamana, and treated him very well. He said he would help the Sultan of Perantak to fight against the pirates. The Laksamana stayed on Pulau Sireh for seven days.

All this time Tengku Awang was watching very carefully. He was trying to find a way to make himself sultan. So, on the seventh day, he went to the Laksamana and said:

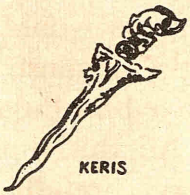
"I am your friend, and I have come to tell you that the sultan wants to kill you. Now you must go to say good-bye to him. When he raises his hand, that is to tell his soldiers to kill you; so when he raises his hand you must fight."

The Laksamana thanked him. Then someone came to take him to the sultan to say good-bye.

D. Now the sultan did not want to kill the Laksamana at all. He wanted to give him a present to take to the Sultan of Perantak. So, when the Laksamana stood before him, he raised his hand to call the servants who were carrying the present.

When the Laksamana saw him raise his hand, he thought the sultan was telling the

soldiers to kill him. He ran at the sultan with his *keris*.


KERIS

Then there was a great fight. All the Laksamana's men stood round him and fought against the sultan's men. The Lak-



samana was killed. Nearly all his men were killed, and only a few reached the boats, and sailed back to Perantak to tell the story.

The sultan was dying.

He called together all the chief men of the land. Tengku Awang came with the others. The sultan told them that Tengku Zainab must rule Pulau Sireh. They all said they would help her. Even Tengku Awang said it, though he meant to make himself sultan as soon as he could.

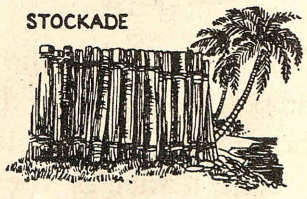
E. Then the sultan died.

Everyone was very sad, for he was a good man. Zainab was very sad. She stopped playing, and began to think what was the best thing to do. She called all the good and brave men, and asked them to help her.

She said:

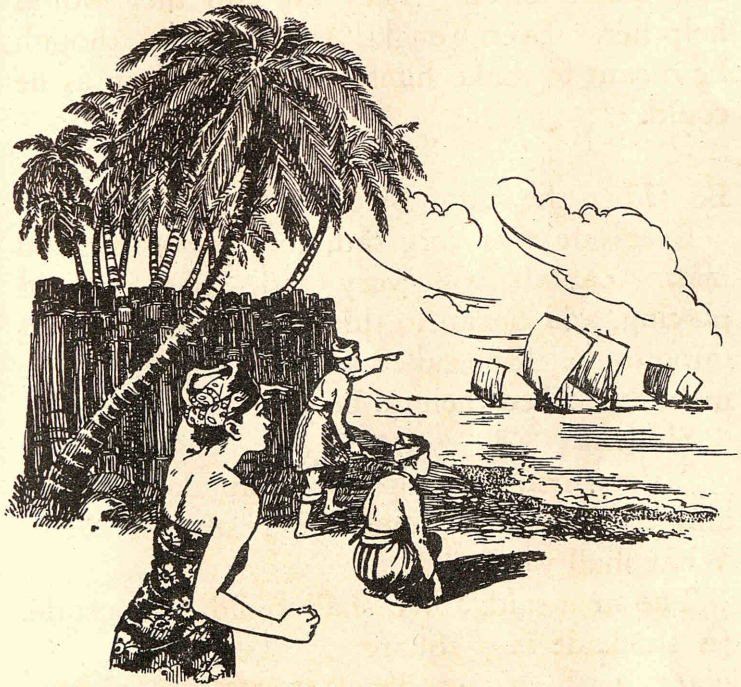
"Very soon the people of Perantak will come and fight us. We must be ready for them. What shall we do?"

The men said, "We shall build a stockade. (A stockade is a square place with a wooden wall round it.) We shall put food and water for many days inside the stockade."


STOCKADE

So they did this.

Then one day they saw many boats sailing to the island. Zainab put on her fighting coat, and they all got ready to fight the men of



Perantak. They did not go out and fight them at sea, because the Perantak people had more boats than the people of Pulau Sireh.

The leader of the Perantak army was Raja Hassan. They tried to get into the stockade;

but Zainab and her men fought bravely and kept them off. At sunset, they stopped fighting and went back to their boats.

The fight went on for three days, then Tengku Awang turned against his own people.

This was how he did it.

F. The stockade had four sides. On one side was the sea, on two other sides there were open spaces, but on the fourth side there was a forest. Now an army could not fight on this side, because there were too many trees; so the stockade was not so strong on this side.

So one night Tengku Awang went out of the stockade, and down to the sea. Then he went out to Raja Hassan's boat and said he would tell him how to get into the stockade.

He said:

"I am your friend. I tried to help the Laksamana. What will you give me if I let you into the stockade?"

Raja Hassan answered:

"What do you want?"

"I want you to give me the young sultan, alive or dead, and make me sultan in his place."

He did not tell Raja Hassan that Zainab

was a girl, because she was dressed as a sultan in fighting dress.

Raja Hassan talked to his friends. Then he said:

"I will give you the young sultan, alive or dead, and I will make you sultan in his place, but you must pay money every year to the Sultan of Perantak."

Tengku Awang said that he would do this. Then he told them what to do.

"You must come on to the island," he said, "not here, but farther away; and you must come at night, when no one can see you. Then go into the forest and come round carefully to the forest side of the stockade. I will wait for you there, and I will let you in."

Raja Hassan said he would do all this, and then Tengku Awang went back to the island.

G. Next night Raja Hassan and some of his men came to the forest side of the stockade, and Tengku Awang let them in. In the morning, Raja Hassan opened the big gate and let the rest of his men in, and there was a great fight.

The Perantak men won, and Zainab was taken to Raja Hassan.

Tengku Awang was killed; so he did not become sultan after all.

When Zainab saw Raja Hassan she did not remember that she was dressed as a man, and she was afraid. So she covered her face with her hands like a girl. When he saw this, Raja Hassan thought that she was a girl. He asked some of the Pulau Sireh men if this was true, and they said yes.

So Raja Hassan sent for the ladies of the palace. They came, weeping and very much afraid. He told them to take Zainab away and look after her and dress her as a girl should be dressed.

Then he told his men not to burn the houses or take things from the people, but to keep quiet until he told them what to do. They were surprised at this, because after winning a fight, they always did what they liked.

H. Now Raja Hassan thought he would like to marry Zainab and become the ruler of Pulau Sireh; and he knew the people would be glad if he stopped his soldiers from burning houses and doing other bad things.

So he sent for an old lady who lived in the

palace. When she came, he told her that he wanted to marry Zainab. She was surprised, but she went to Zainab and told her.

"Now get ready," she said, "for the marriage must be soon. Then we shall be quiet again."

"No!" cried Zainab, "he can kill me if he wishes, but I will never marry him!"

I. Then the old lady talked and talked, but it was no use. Zainab would not change her mind. The old lady did not know what to do. She was afraid to tell Raja Hassan that Zainab would not marry him. At last he sent for her, and she had to go.

"Have you told the women to get ready for the marriage?" he asked.

At first the old lady did not know what to say, but presently she told him. He was not angry, but said:

"Very well. I will wait a few days."

Zainab was surprised that he was not angry and did not try to make her marry him. So she changed her mind and said she would marry him.

The old lady was very pleased. She was a

wise old lady, and she knew that this marriage would stop all the fighting.

Then everyone began to get ready for the marriage. The women cooked food for a great feast. The men cleaned up after the fight.

They lived for many years on Pulau Sireh, and they were very happy.

THE ISLANDERS

A. In the middle of the sea there are two islands. No one lives on them now. One is called Eastia, and the other Westia. Eastia is rocky and has many mountains, Westia is low and has no hills at all.

Long ago people lived on these islands. The people on Eastia were called Eastians, and the people on Westia were called Westians.

The Eastians were strong people. In the rocky earth they found gold and silver and iron. From these they made many things and sold them to the Westians. They built ships from the wood which grew in their forests, and they made cloth also.

The Westians kept cows and grew many things to eat. They sold all these things to the Eastians. They bought ships from the Eastians, and in these ships they sent their things. They also went fishing in the ships.

Both the Westians and the Eastians were happy. They had enough food and enough

money. They were never ill, and they had good schools for their children.

Each island helped the other. The Westians had to buy things which they needed from the Eastians. The Eastians had to buy food from the Westians, because they could not grow things or keep cows on their rocky island.

B. For many years they lived quietly. Then one day, King Bong the Strong of Eastia called together his wise men and said:

"The cost of cows has gone up. These Westians are asking too much!"

They answered:

"True, O King! But the Westians say their cows have been sick. Many have died, and they must sell the rest for more money."

"Hmmmmmmm!" said the king, "that may be true. But why should we buy from them? Let us buy a piece of their island and have our own cows."

"Perhaps they won't sell," said one of the wise men.

"Then we shall go and take it," the king answered. "We have fine ships. We shall go and fight them."

So the Eastians began to get ready for war. They bought much food from the Westians, and put it away carefully. The Westians did not know anything about this, and were not at all ready to fight.

C. When everything was ready, King Bong the Strong of Eastia sent a letter to King Ho the Slow of Westia. This was the letter:

"Dear Ho,

Your cows are too dear. We want to buy half of your island, so that we can have our own cows. How much do you want for it?

Bong."

After a week the answer came. This was the answer:

"Dear Bong,

You can't have it.

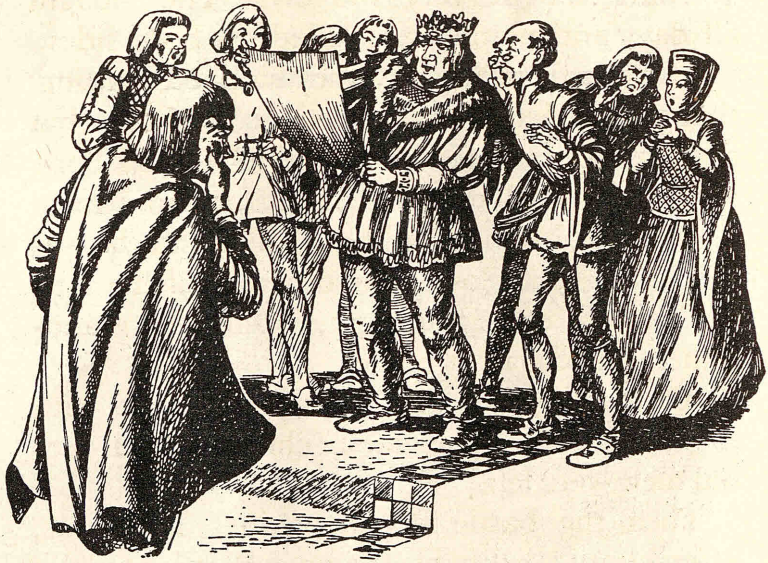
Ho."

King Bong was very angry when he read this. He called his wise men again and said:

"Now we must fight! These people will not sell us part of their land, so we shall go and take the whole island!"

The wise men said:

"We shall kill King Ho the Slow, and King Bong the Strong will rule over both islands!"



Then all the people ran about singing war songs.

The king ordered all the ships to get ready, and the fighting men sailed for the island of Westia.

D. The Westians were very surprised to see the

ships full of soldiers. They quickly ran to meet the Eastian army.

There was a long battle. Perhaps you think the Eastians won quickly, but they didn't. The Westians fought very bravely. They fought all day, and many were killed on both sides.

At the end of the day they stopped fighting, though the battle wasn't really finished; but the Westians were glad to rest, and King Bong wanted to send back to Eastia for more men. So many of his men had been killed that he was afraid he would lose. He ordered all the men of Eastia to come and fight. Only the grandfathers could stay at home.

After some days the ships came back with more men. Only women, children and very old men were left.

Then the battle began again. This time, after a very hard fight, the poor Westians really did lose. King Ho the Slow was killed, and King Bong the Strong was hurt and died the next day.

There were very few Westians left, for even the women had fought to help the men. The Eastians went back to Eastia. They also had lost a very great number.

E. The Eastians waited for the Westians to send them food again. But the Westians had killed many of their cows, and their fields had been burnt in the battle, so there was no food left, and they had nothing to send. Also there were so few of them that they could not raise enough food to sell to the Eastians. So the Eastians nearly died because they had so little food.

At last they said they would go and live on Westia and grow the food themselves. First of all they killed the remaining Westians and tried to grow things and keep cows. But they did not know how to do this; things would not grow, and their cows died.

Then they became ill because they hadn't enough food. There were so few men left that there were not enough young men to marry the old men's daughters, and so few children were born; many people died, and the number of Eastians became fewer and fewer.

In a very few years they were all dead. That is why the islands are now deserts. If King Bong the Strong had not made war, those islands would have been full of happy people.

War is a very bad thing.

QUESTIONS

THE MAGIC SLIPPERS

A. 1. Were the king and queen happy? What made them more happy?
2. When the second child was born, what did the queen say?
3. Why were the king and queen sad when the twelfth son was born?
4. How many children did they have altogether?

B. 1. What did the king do when he had a little daughter at last?
2. Who came to the feast after the little princess was carried in?
3. What presents did the fairies give her?
4. Tell me about the little old woman.

C. 1. What did the people say when the little old woman had gone?
2. Did anyone know the meaning of "walk into people's hearts"?

D. 1. What did the king tell the wise men to do?
2. Where did they go?
3. What happened there?
4. Who came in?

E. 1. What did the wise men ask the little old woman?
2. What did she say?
3. Did she stay with them?

F. 1. Did the wise men tell the king about the little old woman?
2. What did they tell him?
3. What did the king say?
4. What happened to the little princess?

G. 1. What happened to the queen?
2. How did the little princess grow up?
3. What happened to the magic slippers when her feet grew bigger?
4. How did the little old woman's words come true?

H. 1. What happened when the princess was nearly fifteen?
2. Why did the prince want to marry her?
3. How did he travel?
4. What happened to the prince when he was tired?

I. 1. Who was inside the house?
2. What did she tell him to do?
3. Who cooked the food? Was it good?

J. 1. What made the prince jump?
2. Why was it hard for the prince to win the princess?

K. 1. What did the little old woman tell the prince to bring her?
2. What did she promise to give him?
3. What did she tell him to do with the blue flower?
4. What happened to the soldier?

L. 1. What did the prince do when he heard laughing and talking?
2. How do you play " Hide-and-Seek "?
3. How did the prince get the magic slippers?
4. What would happen to the prince if he wore the magic slippers?

M. 1. How did the ladies find the princess?
2. What did she say?
3. What did they all do?
4. What did the king do?

N. 1. Why did the king tell the servants that the singer could come in?
2. Who was the singer really?
3. What did he do?
4. What did the king try to give him?
5. What did the prince say?

O. 1. What did the king order to be done to the singer?
2. Why was it not done?
3. What did the princess ask the king to do?
4. What did the king say?

P. 1. What did the prince tell the king?
2. Why was there a great noise?
3. What did the king tell the prince?
4. How did the princess feel after the king had spoken?

Q. 1. Tell me what happened on the next day.
2. After the marriage where did everyone go?
3. What did the king say when all the people were in the hall?
4. Why did the king say so?
5. What did the man with the axe do?
6. What did the prince do?

R. 1. What happened to the man with the axe?
2. Who showed the king the other slipper?
3. When the door was opened, what did the people see?
4. What did the king do when he saw the prince's father and mother?
5. What happened to the princess?

THE TORTOISE AND THE SNAKE

A. 1. Why were the tortoise and the snake not friends?
2. What did the snake often try to do?
3. How did the tortoise tell the snake why he and his friends were strong?
4. What did the snake say to the tortoise?

B. 1. What did the snake and the tortoise do?
2. Tell me what the first tortoise did.
3. What did the snakes say next day?
4. What did each of the tortoises do?

THE HONEY BIRD

A. 1. What is honey?
2. What happens when a honey-bird finds a nest of bees?
3. Tell me what the man does.
4. What do people of the country say if a man does not give the bird some honey?

B. 1. What was the man doing?
2. Tell me what the man did when he found a nest of bees.
3. What did the man say to himself?
4. Tell me what happened when he put his hand inside the hole.

THE BEAUTIFUL HORSE

A. 1. What is a merchant?
2. Tell me all about the horse.
3. What did Aziz tell the merchant?
4. Tell me about Aziz' journey.
5. How much did Aziz ask the king to pay for the horse?

B. 1. What did the man who wanted to please the king say?
2. What happened when Aziz rode in the palace garden the next day?
3. What was the other plan thought of by the man who wanted to please the king?
4. What happened to Aziz when he saw the king's daughter?

C. 1. What did the princess tell Aziz about the cloak?
2. What happened when Aziz said, " I feel ill "?
3. What did all the king's men do?
4. What happened to Aziz and the princess on their journey?

D. 1. What did Aziz tell the princess about Abdul Hamid?
2. What did the princess answer?
3. What did Aziz say to Abdul Hamid?
4. What did Abdul Hamid take from Aziz?

THE GATEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER

A. 1. What kind of sons had the king? What did the king hope?
2. Tell me about the king's palace.
3. What kind of a man was the gatekeeper?
4. Tell me all about Ann.

B. 1. Why was it that the prince could not look at anyone when he was riding?
2. Tell me what happened when the prince came near the palace?
3. What did the poor woman say to the prince?

C. 1. What did the prince ask Ann to do?
2. What did Ann do?
3. What did the prince learn about Ann?
4. What happened to the prince when he told the king he wanted to marry Ann?

D. 1. What did the king say to his eldest son?
2. Tell me about the prince's journey.
3. What did the prince do after three days in the Maharajah's palace?
4. What did the Maharajah say?

E. 1. Why had not the prince seen the Maharajah's daughter?
2. What did the prince tell the Maharajah after he had fallen in love with the princess?
3. What did the Maharajah do after he had heard this?
4. What did the king tell his second son?

F. 1. What happened to the second prince after two years?
2. What did people tell him?
3. After three days in the emperor's palace what did the prince ask the emperor?
4. What did the emperor tell the prince to do?

G. 1. What did the prince hear people saying about the emperor's daughter?
2. What did the prince say when he saw the princess carried in her palanquin?
3. What did the emperor do when he heard this?
4. What did the king say to the youngest prince?
5. What did the youngest prince answer?

H. 1. How did the king feel? What did he do?
2. How did the wise men stop the king from putting the gatekeeper's daughter to death? What did they say?
3. What did the oldest and wisest man do?

I. 1. What did he say to the king?
2. What did he tell the king to do?
3. What law did the king make?

FLORIO AND FLORIA

A. 1. What were the names of the king's son and daughter?
2. Who loved them very much? What did she do?
3. What happened after the king died?
4. What did Prince Roland see as he rode past the tower?
5. What did Floria tell Prince Roland?

B. 1. As the queen was driving round the city, what did she see?
2. What happened when she went to see Floria?
3. What did she tell the two soldiers to do?
4. What did the queen tell the Prime Minister?

C. 1. What happened when the people heard that Floria was dead?
2. What happened to Prince Roland when he heard about it?
3. Why did the old nurse try to stop Florio from seeing his sister's body?
4. When Florio said " I must go," what did the nurse say?

D. 1. Tell me about Floria's body.
2. What did the soldiers do when they saw the green light?
3. Who was making the noises that frightened the soldiers?
4. What did the nurse do when the soldiers had gone?

E. 1. What happened as Florio looked at his sister's body?
2. What did Floria tell them?
3. What did the people really bury?
4. Why did Florio and Floria not go out in the city?

F. 1. Whom did the nurse meet?
2. What did the traveller's wife tell the nurse about Prince Roland?
3. Why didn't Florio want Floria to go to Prince Roland?

G. 1. Tell me all that happened to Prince Roland.
2. Who came to the palace gate? Tell me about them.
3. How did they get in?

H. 1. What did the two wise women tell the king?
2. What happened when the king sent all the people away?
3. Who was the big woman?

I. 1. Who was the small woman?
2. What happened to the prince when he saw Floria?
3. What happened when all the people heard that the prince was well again?
4. What happened to the bad queen when she heard that Floria was still alive?

THE FLYING MARE

A. 1. Who was Mustafa?
2. Tell me about Husain.
3. What is a desert?
4. What did people call Husain's mare?

B. 1. Why did Mustafa think that Husain was flying?
2. What kind of a mare was " The Flying Mare "?
3. What did Mustafa say about the mare?

C. 1. What did Mahmud and Husain do when they had finished their food?
2. What did Mahmud do next morning?
3. What did Mustafa ask Mahmud to say to Husain?

D. 1. What did Husain say?
2. How many gold pieces did Mustafa want to give Husain?
3. Why did Husain refuse to sell the mare even for one thousand gold pieces?

E. 1. What did Mustafa do?
2. What did Husain think when he saw Mustafa?
3. What did Husain do?
4. What did Mustafa say?

F. 1. What happened as Husain took away his hand from Mustafa's back?
2. What did Husain do?
3. Why did Husain tell Mustafa not to tell people how he got the mare?

G. 1. What was Mustafa's thought?
2. What did he tell Husain?
3. How did they become friends?

THE STORY OF PULAU SIREH

A. 1. What happened to the Sultan's sons?
2. Who was the only daughter left?
3. How did the Sultan dress his daughter?
4. Why did Tengku Zainab like being dressed as a boy?

B. 1. What was the name of the son of the Sultan's brother? Where did he live?
2. Did Tengku Zainab want to marry Tengku Awang?
3. What are pirates?
4. What happened when the sultan sent his ships to other countries?

C. 1. Why did the Sultan of Perantak think it was good to meet Sultan Mahmud?
2. Who did he send to Pulau Sireh?
3. What did Tengku Awang say to the Laksamana?

D. 1. What did Sultan Mahmud really want to give the Laksamana?
2. What happened when the Laksamana saw the sultan raise his hand?
3. Tell me about the great fight.
4. What did the sultan tell all the chief men of the island as he was dying?

E. 1. What did Zainab tell all her good and brave men?
2. What is a stockade?
3. What did the people see one day?
4. Why did not the men of Perantak go out and fight them at sea?
5. Who was the leader of the Perantak army?

F. 1. Tell me about the stockade.
2. What did Tengku Awang do?
3. What did Raja Hassan say to Tengku Awang?
4. What did Tengku Awang answer?

G. 1. Tell me what happened the next night.
2. Who won and what happened to Tengku Awang?
3. What did Zainab do when she saw Raja Hassan?
4. What did Raja Hassan tell the ladies of the palace to do with Zainab?
5. Then what did Raja Hassan tell his men?

H. 1. What did Raja Hassan want to do?
2. What did he tell the old lady?
3. What did Zainab say?

I. 1. What did Raja Hassan say when the old lady told him that Zainab would not marry him?
2. Why did the old lady think that the marriage was a wise thing?
3. Tell me how everyone got ready for the marriage.

THE ISLANDERS

A. 1. Tell me about the two islands.
2. What kind of people were the Eastians?
3. Why were the Westians and the Eastians happy?

B. 1. What did King Bong say to his wise men?
2. How did the Eastians begin to get ready for war?

C. 1. Read the letter by King Bong to King Ho.
2. What was King Ho's answer?
3. What did the wise men say to King Bong?
4. What did King Bong do?

D. 1. Tell me about the fight between the Eastians and the Westians.
2. What happened to King Ho and King Bong?

E. 1. Why could not the Westians send food to the Eastians again?
2. What did the Eastians do at last?
3. Why did the Eastians become ill? What happened to them?
4. What would have the islands been like if King Bong had not made war?



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LONGMANS