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TWELVE CHEERY TALES

(FOR FORM II)

1911

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1953

1954

E. A. THOMAS M. A.

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Government of Travancore-Cochin

1953-'54

Price 5 As.

PUBLISHED BY THE TRAVANCORE COCHIN GOVT.

TWELVE CHEERY TALES

MUNAWIRUL ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date.

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S. B. College, Changanacherry.

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MUNAVIRUL ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
Date 7.10.63
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PREFACE

This book is offered as a Non-Detailed Reader for Form II. Though the stories are very well known to grown-up people, they are fresh to children, and hold their interest as much now as ever.

For the convenience of teachers lists are provided of words likely to be new to the children, and questions which bring out the meaning of the story.

EDITOR.

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TWELVE CHEERY TALES

I. THE FOX AND THE LION

One day an old lion was hungry. He was very weak. He could not go out to hunt for food. So he lay down in his hole under a rock.

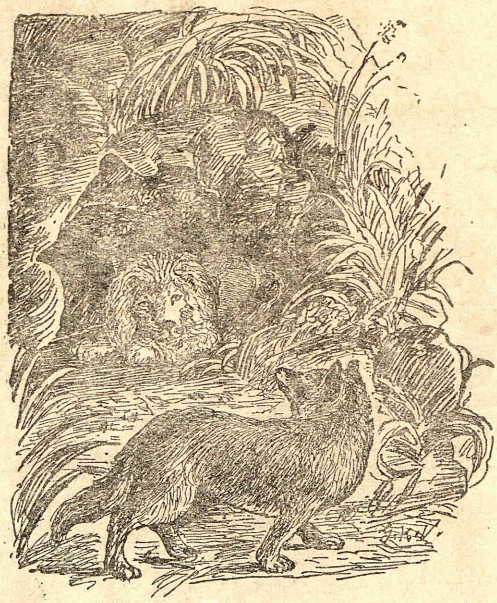
Just then a hare came by.

"I am very ill," said the lion. "Come in, my friend, and talk to me for a while."

The hare went in, and at once the lion ate him up.

After some time a goat came that way. "Oh my friend," said the lion,

"be kind to me. I am very ill. Do come in, and talk to me for a while."



The goat went in, and the lion ate him too.

Then a fox came up. "Friend fox," said the lion, "I am very glad

to see you. Step into my hole for a moment. I am too ill to move."

"Ah," said the fox, "I see marks of feet going into your hole. But I see no marks of feet coming out. So I will not visit you."

With these words the fox quietly went away.

WORD STUDY:

hole	move	ill
weak	rock	talk
hungry	feel	while
mark	visit	hunt
goat	moment	step
quietly	glad	

Exercise:

1. Why could not the lion go out to hunt?
2. What did he do?
3. What did he tell the hare?
4. What did he tell the goat?
5. What did the fox see?
6. What did it not see?
7. Therefore what would it not do?

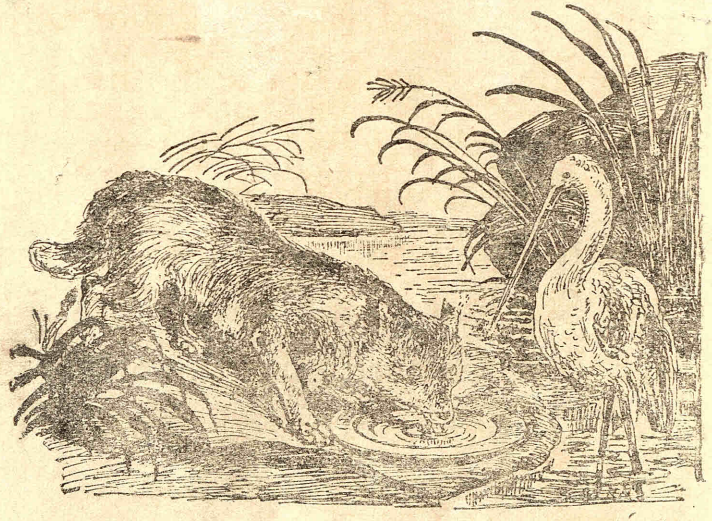
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2. TIT FOR TAT

One day a fox wanted to play a trick on a bird. He asked the bird to dinner. The bird went to dinner with him. The fox gave her something to drink in a wide plate. The fox could easily drink it with his tongue. But the bird could not drink from the plate. She had a long beak. The fox laughed at the bird. But the bird said nothing. She only asked the fox to dinner with her the next day.

So the fox went to dinner with the bird. The bird put some pieces of meat into a jar. This jar had a long neck. She placed this jar before the fox. The bird could put her long

beak into the jar. She picked up the pieces of meat one by one. But the fox could not put his mouth into the



jar. He was very hungry. But he could not eat from the jar. So he had to go away without eating anything.

"Tit for tat," said the bird to herself as the fox was going away.

WORD STUDY:

dinner	trick	wide
drink	pick up	meat
plate	easily	eat
beak	jar	tongue

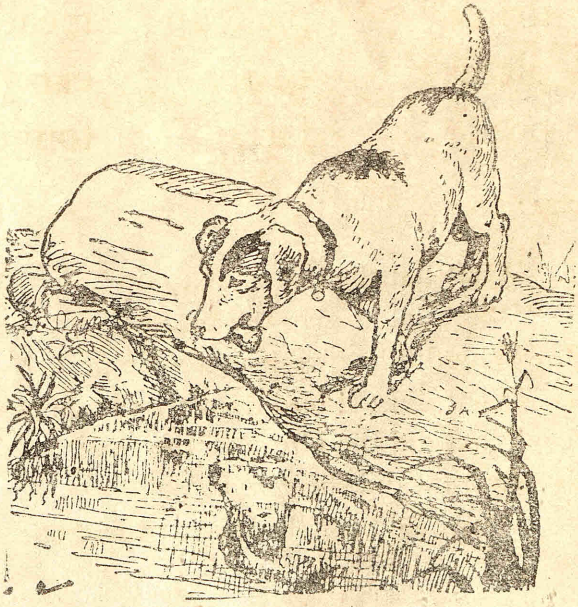
Exercise:

1. What did the fox want to do?
2. What did he give the bird?
3. Why did he give it in a wide plate?
4. What did the bird do after the dinner?
5. What did the bird give the fox?
6. In what did she give it?
7. Why could not the fox eat the dinner?

---

3. THE GREEDY DOG

One day a dog was hungry. It went to a meat shop. The shopman gave it a piece of bone.



The dog took up the bone and ran off with it. On the way there

was a stream. The dog wanted to cross the stream. The dog walked on to the wood. He was half-way across the stream. Now he looked down into the water. There he saw another dog with a bone. The greedy dog wanted to get that bone also. He opened his mouth to get it. Then the bone in his mouth fell into the water.

The greedy dog went away with nothing at all.

WORD STUDY:

across	over	cross
done	greedy	stream
half-way	fall-fell	shopman

Exercise:

1. Why did the dog go to the meat shop ?
2. What did the shopman give him ?
3. What did the dog do when he got the bone ?
4. What was there on the way ?
5. Where was the piece of wood ?
6. What did the dog see in the water ?
7. How did the bone fall into the water ?

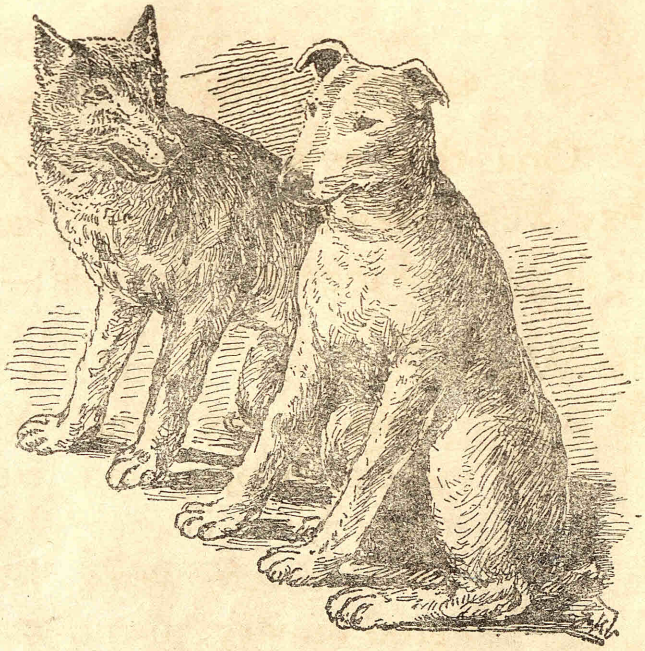
4. LOVE OF FREEDOM

One day a wolf met a dog. They were friends. The wolf and the dog talked together like this:—

The Wolf—Hullo, my friend! I am glad to see you. You look happy and well-fed. How is that? I am feeling very weak. I am too hungry, to run fast.

The Dog—Oh my friend, I am sorry to hear that. Come with me, and do my work. Then you too can be happy.

The Wolf—And what is your work? Tell me that.



The Dog—Well, I watch my master's house. He gives me good food to eat, and a nice place to sleep.

The Wolf—That is a pleasant job. Well, I shall go with

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you and do the same work. That will please me well. Then I too can have plenty of food and a nice place to live in.

The Dog—Then come along. Let us go at once.

The Wolf—But, my friend, I see a mark on your neck. What is that?

The Dog—Oh, that is nothing.

The Wolf—Tell me what it is.

The Dog—Oh, it is only the mark of the chain.

The Wolf—Chain!

The Dog—Yes, chain. My master ties me up in the morning. He unties me at night. I am free only at night.

The Wolf—Now, my dear friend, you may keep your happiness to yourself. I don't want a chain like yours. Let me go and enjoy my freedom. Good-bye!

WORD STUDY :

tie	untie	morning
chain	hullo	job
neck	watch	enjoy
work	together	good-bye
night	well-fed	pleasant
seem	freedom	nice
	sorry	plenty

Exercise :

1. How was the wolf feeling when he met the dog ?
2. What did the dog ask the wolf to do ?
3. What was the dog's work ?
4. What did his master give him ?
5. Why did the wolf want to go with the dog ?
6. What did the wolf see on the dog's neck ?
7. What was that mark ?
8. Why did the wolf go away ?

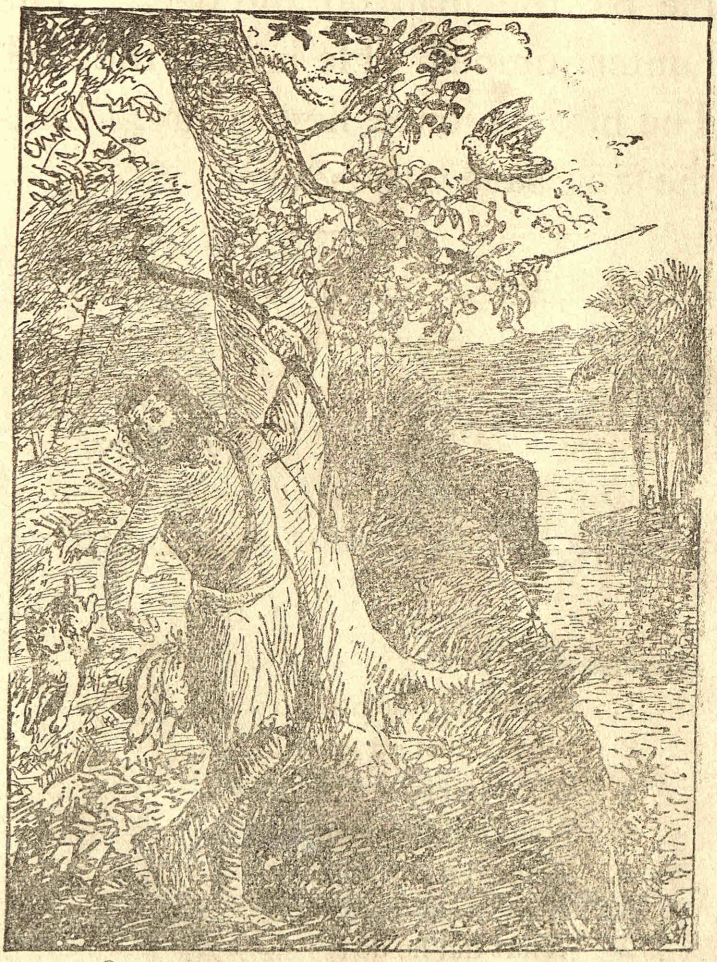
5. KINDNESS RETURNED

One day an ant felt very thirsty. He went to a clear stream. He drank water from the stream. But his feet slipped. He fell into the water.

Just then a dove was sitting on a tree near-by. She saw the poor ant in the water. She picked a leaf from the tree. She let the leaf drop down. The leaf fell close to the ant. The ant at once got on to it. The wind soon carried the leaf to the bank of the stream. The dove thus saved the ant.

Some days after a hunter came there. He saw the dove. He tried to shoot the bird. The ant saw this.

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He bit the man on the heel. The hunter jumped. He missed the bird. The bird at once flew away. Thus the ant saved the dove.

WORD STUDY:

drop	close	wait
slip	bank	clear
shoot	jump	fly—flew
dove	near-by	miss
thirsty	save	bite—bit
		heel

Exercise:

1. Where did the ant go?
2. Why did he go there?
3. What happened to him?
4. What did the dove see?
5. What did she do?
6. Who came there?
7. What did he do?
8. How did the ant save the dove?

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6. CRUEL FUN

There was once a pond full of frogs. These frogs often put up their heads out of the water. They did this to breathe the air.

One day some boys saw the frogs in the pond. They threw stones at them. Some of the frogs were killed and some were hurt. At last an old frog spoke to the boys.

"Oh friends," said the frog, "stop your cruel stones."

"We are only throwing stones for fun," said one of the boys.

"Yes," answered the frog, "it may be fun to you. But it is death to us."



The boys did not want to be cruel. They only wanted some fun. They did not think that they were hurting the frogs. They were very sorry when they heard the old frog. So they at once stopped throwing stones.

WORD STUDY:

stone	death	frog	kill
pond	often	breathe	throw
cruel	hurt	stop	air

Exercise:

1. What was the pond full of?
2. Why did the frogs often put up their heads out of the water?
3. What did the boys do?
4. What happened to the frogs?
5. Did the boys want to hurt the frogs?
6. Why did they throw stones?
7. What does this lesson teach?

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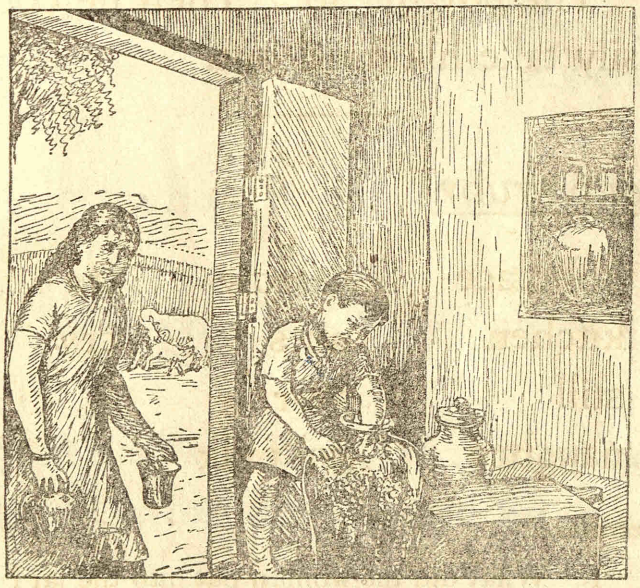
7. THE BOY AND THE NUTS

One day a woman put some nuts into a jar. She placed the jar in the kitchen. She then went out to milk the cow.

This woman had a little son. He saw her going out of the kitchen. He wanted to take some nuts from the jar. He went to the kitchen. He put his hand into the jar. He tried to take out some nuts. But the jar had a narrow neck. So he could not take out his hand with the nuts. He therefore began to cry.

The mother heard it. She came back to the kitchen. She saw the boy. He was still crying. His hand was still in the jar.

"What are you doing here, you naughty boy?" asked the woman.



"Oh mother!" said the boy, "I wanted to take some nuts from the jar. But now I cannot take my hand out."

"Well, my dear boy," said the woman, "you can't take your hand

out with the nuts. Drop the nuts and then take your hand out."

The boy did so. Then he could easily take his hand out.

WORD STUDY:

(to) place	narrow	try
kitchen	nuts	cry
still	dear	
naughty	(to) milk	

Exercise:

1. What did the woman put into the jar?
2. What did she then do?
3. What did the son want to do?
4. What did he try to do?
5. Why could he not take his hand out of the jar?
6. What did the mother tell the boy to do?

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8. THE ECHO

One day a little boy was playing in a valley. The valley was between two hills.

"Hop, hop, hop!" shouted the boy.

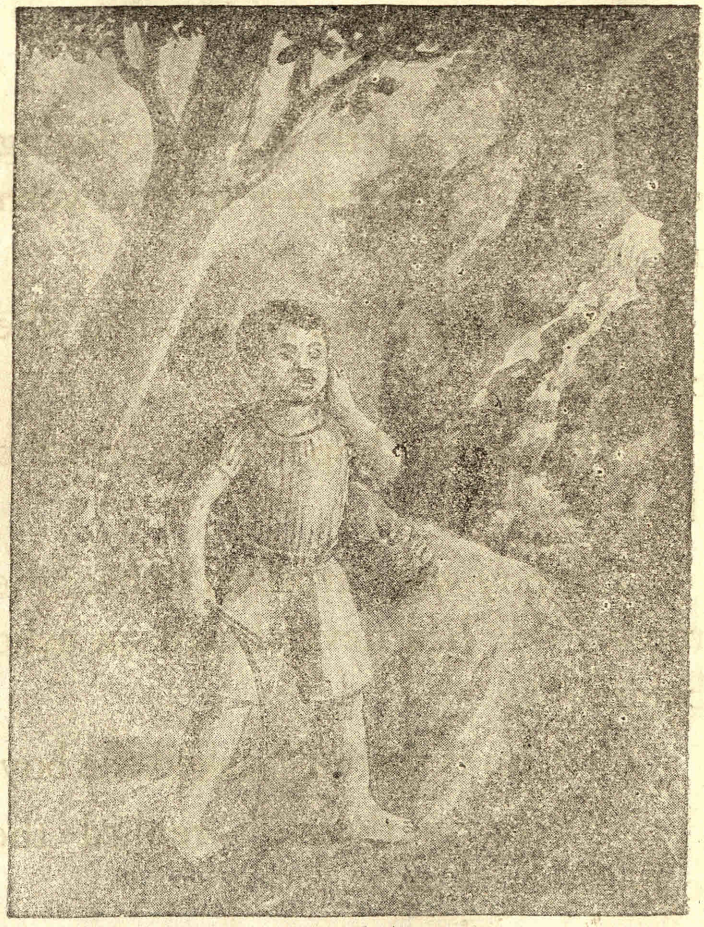
"Hop, hop, hop!" came an echo in reply.

The boy was surprised to hear the reply. He had never heard an echo before.

"Who is there?" asked the boy.

"Who is there?" replied the echo.

"Silly fellow!" cried the boy in a loud voice.



"Silly fellow!" came the reply from the hills.

Now the boy became very angry. He shouted out many bad names. The voice from the hills shouted back every word.

The boy then ran home. He told his father all about the voice from the hills.

"I am sure there is a boy on the hill," said he. "He was calling me bad names."

"Ah, my son," said his father, "it is only the echo of your own voice. The bad names first came from you. Use kind and gentle words. Then you will hear kind and gentle

words in return. Kind words bring back kind echoes. This is a golden rule. Remember this always.

WORD STUDY:

reply	never	become
return	valley	hill
voice	fellow	angry
between	echo	gentle
shout	sure	remember
silly	golden	loud
play	about	rule
kind	surprise	

Exercise:

1. Where was the boy playing ?
2. Where was the valley ?
3. What did the boy shout ?
4. What happened when he shouted ?
5. Why was he surprised ?
6. What did he do then ?
7. Why did he get angry ?
8. What did he do in his anger ?
9. What reply did he get ?
10. What did he tell his father ?
11. What golden rule did his father tell him ?

9. THE THREE GOATS

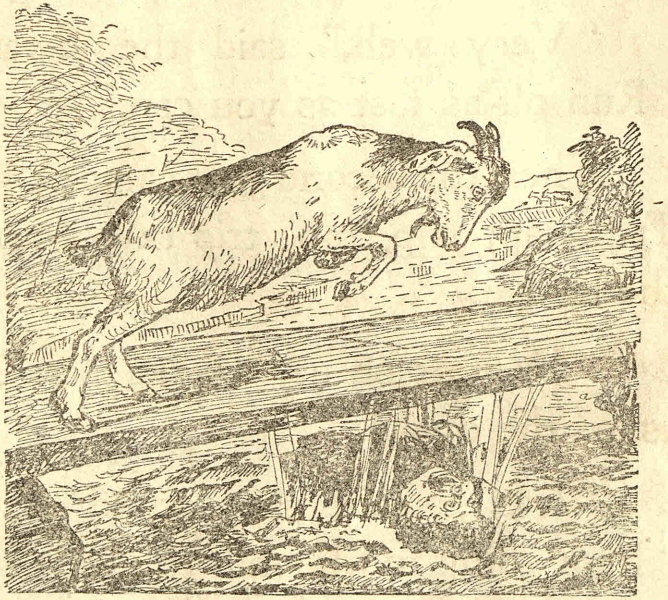
Once upon a time there were three goats. One day they were going to the hill to feed. On the way they had to go over a bridge.

An ugly dwarf lived near this bridge. He saw the goats coming. He made up his mind to catch them and eat them up. So he hid behind a bush.

First the youngest goat came along. His little feet made a noise on the bridge, "trip trap, trip trap, trip trap."

"Who is on my bridge?" asked the dwarf.

"It is I," said the young goat. "I am going to the hill to feed and grow fat."



"Stop!" cried the dwarf in a loud voice. "I am coming to eat you up."

"No, no, don't eat me," said the goat. "I am very small. Wait till my brother comes. He is much bigger than I."

"Very well," said the dwarf. "Run off as fast as you can."

Then the second goat came along. Trip trap, trip trap, trip trap, across the bridge.

"Who is on my bridge now?" asked the dwarf.

"It is I," said the second goat. "I am going to the hill to feed and grow fat."

"Stop!" cried the dwarf in a very loud voice. "I am coming to eat you up.

"No, no, don't eat me," said the second goat. "I am much too small. Wait till my brother comes. He is much bigger."

"Very well," said the dwarf. "Run off as fast as you can."

Then the third goat came along, trip trap, trip trap, trip trap, across the bridge.

"Who is on my bridge now?" asked the dwarf.

"It is I," said the third goat. "I am going to the hill to feed and grow fat."

"Stop!" cried the dwarf in his loudest voice. "I am coming to eat you up."

"Come along then," said the third goat. He was very big and strong. So he was not afraid.

The dwarf went on to the bridge. But the goat put down his head and ran at the dwarf. He caught him up on his horns and threw him into the river.

So the dwarf went down in the water, and the goat went on up the hill.

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WORD STUDY:

once	way	mind
hide	small	along
strong	behind	bridge
ugly	fast	dwarf
bush	fat	horn
feed	grow	afraid

Exercise:

1. Where were the goats going?
2. Over what had they to go?
3. What did the dwarf want to do?
4. What did the youngest goat tell him?
5. What did the third goat tell him?
6. What did it do to the dwarf?

10. A VERY GOOD PLAN

A cat once went to live in an old house. Now this place was the home of a great many mice. Every day the cat killed many mice. So the mice were very much afraid. They did not come out of their holes. They could not go out even in search of food.

One day they all met together. They wanted to save themselves from the cat.

"This cat is very good at catching mice," said one mouse.

"Yes," said another, "none of us is safe in this house."

"But what are we to do?" asked a third.

"Listen to me," said a young mouse. "I will tell you a plan. This cat walks quietly. She makes no noise.



So she is able to catch us. Let us tie a bell round the cat's neck. Then we shall hear her coming. We can then run away in time."

"That is a very good plan," cried all the little mice. And away they ran to find a bell.

After some time they came back with a bell. "This bell will do," they said. "It makes a loud noise."

"That is all right," said an old mouse. "Now who will tie it round the cat's neck?"

"Not I, not I!" cried one and all. And one by one they went away. Last of all the old mouse went too. The bell was left on the floor.

WORD STUDY:

house	home	noise
search	listen	none
every	food	round
plan	bell	(to) leave—left
floor	mouse	

Exercise:

1. Where did the cat go to live?
2. Why were the mice very much afraid?
3. How was the cat able to catch the mice?
4. What was the young mouse's plan?
5. What did they bring?
6. Why was the bell left on the floor?

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II. AN HONEST BOY

Many years ago there was a little boy in America. His name was George. One day his father gave him a nice little axe. George was much pleased with it. He took it with him to the garden. He made cuts in the trunks of many trees. One of them was a little fruit tree. His father loved this tree well. But George forgot all about that. He cut it down and then went home.

That evening his father went to the garden. He saw the fruit tree. That fine tree was cut down.

"George!" he called, "who did this mischief?"

What did George say? With tears in his eyes he looked at his father's face.



"Father," said the boy, "I can't tell a lie. I did it."

Honest boy! He was not afraid to tell the truth. His father at once forgave him.

The boy of this story afterwards became a great man. He was one of the greatest men of the world. He was George Washington, the first President of the United States.

WORD STUDY:

president	fruit	truth
forgive	cut	axe
lie	world	afterwards
mischief	tear	fine
garden	trunk	honest
forget—forgot		united
forgive—forgave		state

Exercise :

1. What did George's father give him ?
2. Where did George take it ?
3. What did he do with it ?
4. What did his father see when he went to the garden ?
5. What did George tell him ?

12. THE LAZY ASS

A shop man had an ass. He was a very lazy animal.

Every day his master drove him to the town to bring goods to his shop. On the way he had to cross a small brook.

One day the ass was carrying heavy load of salt. That day he slipped off the bridge. He fell into the deep water.

He came out quite wet, and started homeward. He found that he had nothing to carry! Oh joy! All the salt had gone into the water.

This pleased the ass very much. He made up his mind to get rid of his load again.

The next day his master took him to the town. But instead of salt, he bought two large bundles of cotton.

This bundle made a very light load indeed. But the lazy animal wanted no load at all. They came to the stream as usual. The ass walked straight into the deep water.

But what happened now? The cotton became full of water. The wet cotton was very heavy.

He could hardly get out of the water. Slowly and sadly he went

home. And he never again got wet in the stream.

WORD STUDY:

ass	lazy	wet
instead	hardly	deep
drive	heavy	indeed
animal	down	usual
straight	light	goods
load	bundle	start
salt	cotton	rid

drive drove

1. Why did the shop man drive his ass to the town every day ?
2. What was he carrying the first day ?
3. What happened on the way ?
4. What did the ass find when he came up from the water ?
5. Why had he no load to carry ?
6. What was his load the next day ?
7. What did he do on the way ?
8. What was the result ?

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