

I.K. Kharytonov,
M.V. Makarenko, S.I. Potapenko

365 (+1) Fairy-Tales and Stories

(For everyday pleasure reading)



ТЕРНОПІЛЬ
НАВЧАЛЬНА КНИГА — БОГДАН

ББК 81.2Англ
Х20

Рецензенти:
кандидат педагогічних наук, доцент
Н.М. Жилко
кандидат педагогічних наук, доцент
Т.Г. Чувакова

Харитонов І.К., Макаренко М.В., Потапенко С.І.

Х20 365 (+1) Fairy-Tales and Stories: for everyday pleasure reading. — Тернопіль: Навчальна книга — Богдан, 2009. — 528 с.

ISBN 978-966-10-0129-8

У посібнику вміщено 366 (на щодень) коротких англомовних казок, оповідань, легенд та байок.

Він призначений для учнів шкіл, ліцеїв, слухачів підготовчих курсів, студентів немовних спеціальностей, а також усіх, хто вивчає англійську мову самостійно.

Учителям шкіл рекомендовано використовувати ці тексти під час занять для не підготовленого читання англійською мовою і аудіювання, тому що всі вони з прозорою фабулою і легкі для сприйняття на слух.

ББК 81.2Англ

*Охороняється законом про авторське право.
Жодна частина цього видання не може бути використана чи відтворена
в будь-якому вигляді без дозволу автора чи видавництва*

ISBN 978-966-10-0129-8

© Харитонов І.К., Макаренко М.В.,
Потапенко С.І., 2009
© Навчальна книга — Богдан, макет,
художнє оформлення, 2009

І А Д А Ä Ì Î Â À

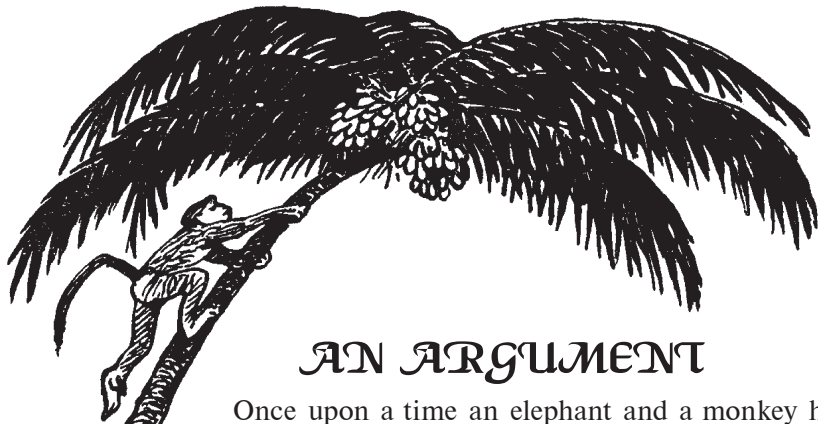
Запропонований збірник текстів для аудіювання та неспідоготовленого читання призначений для учнів шкіл, ліцеїв, підготовчих курсів та усіх, хто вивчає англійську мову самостійно.

Доволі поширеним недоліком багатьох існуючих навчальних посібників англійською мовою є наявність великих за обсягом текстів та їх абсолютна нецікавість. У ході складання даного видання автори-укладачі ставили собі за мету усунути згадані недоліки.

Посібник містить 366 (на щодень) коротких англійських казок, байок, легенд та оповідань з прозорою фабулою, самобутніх за змістом, різноманітних за тематикою, дібраних з урахуванням читальних смаків. В кінці книги подано список ключових слів і виразів з перекладами.

Збірник буде корисним для аудіювання, його також можна ефективно використовувати для розвитку та контролю навичок неспідоготовленого читання англійською мовою, домашнього читання тощо.





AN ARGUMENT

(1)

Once upon a time an elephant and a monkey had an argument.

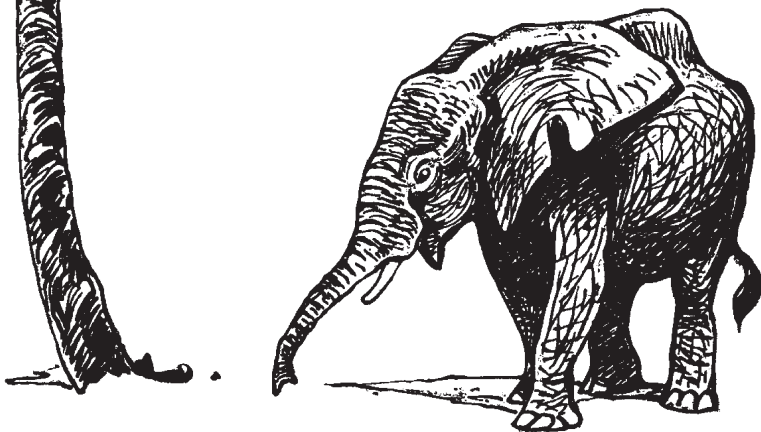
The elephant was proud because he was so strong. "Look how big and strong I am!" he said. "I can pull a tree down. Can you?"

Now the monkey was proud because he was so quick. "Look how fast I can run and climb!" he said. "Can you climb a tree? Can you hang by your tail from a branch?"

At last they went to a wise old owl.

"We cannot agree," they said. "Tell us what you think of it. Which is better — to be strong or to be quick?"

The owl said to them: "Do just as I tell you, and then I shall find out which is better. Do you see that great fruit tree across the river? Go and pick the fruit from the tree and bring it to me."



So they went to the river but the water was so swift that the monkey was afraid.

“Get on my back,” said the elephant, proudly. “I shall carry you. I am big and strong, and I am not afraid to swim across a swift river”.

So the monkey got on the elephant’s back, and they soon got across the river.

There on the bank stood the big tree. But it was so tall that the fruit hung too high above them.

The elephant tried to break the tree down or bend it down, but it was too strong. He tried to reach the fruit with his trunk, but the fruit was too high.

“Wait a minute,” said the monkey, proudly. “I can climb the tree”. And he ran quickly up the tree and threw the rich, ripe fruit to the ground, and the elephant put the fruit into his great mouth.

Then they crossed the river again and gave the fruit to the owl.

“Now,” they said, “which is better — to be strong or to be quick?”

“Can anyone tell which is better?” asked the owl. “Neither of you could get the fruit alone. It took both the elephant’s strength and the monkey’s quickness to get the fruit. One crossed the river and the other gathered the fruit. So, the best thing in the world seems to help each other”.



KING MIDAS

(2)

Midas was a very rich king but he was not happy. Every day he counted his gold and wished for more.

King Midas had a little daughter Marygold. He loved her very much and wished to make her the richest princess in the world.

But Marygold loved the sun and flowers more than all the gold in her father’s house.

One day a man came into the king’s room. The king looked at him and asked: “Who are you?”

“I am Mercury — one of the gods. You have much gold, king Midas,” said Mercury.

“I have not so much as I wish,” said the king.

“Are you not happy, king Midas?” asked Mercury.

“I want that everything I touch will turn to gold,” answered the king.

“Well,” said Mercury, “wait for the morning and you will have the golden touch.”

Next morning when king Midas began to dress, his clothes became gold. The chairs, the tables, everything he touched turned to gold. The bread became gold too when he touched it, and the water in the glass.

Suddenly the door opened and Marygold came in. She had roses in her hand. The king touched the roses with a smile. “Oh, my roses, my roses!” she cried. “They all are hard now!”

“They are golden roses”, said the king, “are they not beautiful?”

“No, no,” cried Marygold, “I do not like them.”

“There, there,” said the king, “do not cry, better eat your breakfast”. He had an unhappy look now. Marygold saw that the king looked very unhappy and she kissed him.

But when she touched him, her hands and her feet became gold and hard.

She was no longer a little girl but a gold doll!

Suddenly someone said: “Are you happy now, king Midas?”

The king looked up and saw Mercury.

“I am the most unhappy man in the world!” he cried.

“But you have the golden touch,” said Mercury.

“Oh, I will give you all the gold I have but return me my daughter!”

“Well”, said Mercury, “let it be a lesson to you. I take the golden touch back”.

And Mercury took the golden touch back and Marygold became alive again.

King Midas kissed Marygold and went to play with her in the garden.



THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (3)

Once upon a time there lived a beautiful young princess who happened to be out walking through some woods. Suddenly she saw a frog in a pond. A little distance away she also noticed a large and mag-

nificent castle. At that moment the frog spoke to the young woman. She was quite astonished, not being accustomed to hearing animals speak.

Anyway, every day she went to the same small pool of water to talk to her new frog-friend. Gradually, after many months, Esmeralda, for that was her name, discovered that she had fallen in love with the frog.

One day, during one of their regular chats, the frog asked the beautiful princess for a kiss. Hiding her disgust at the thought, she bent down to do as he asked. At that moment he was transformed suddenly into the most handsome prince Esmeralda had ever seen. It turned out that a witch had cast a spell on him and taken his castle where she now lived.

Having been released from the spell, the prince went up to the castle and killed the witch. He then came back to Esmeralda whom he soon married, and they lived happily ever after.



HINEMOA

(4)

Hinemoa was the daughter of a Maori chief who lived on the shore of a great lake in New Zealand.

One day Hinemoa's father gave a great feast at which all young men were present. Each young man tried to dance as well as he could because each hoped to win the heart and hand of the young lady.

But Hinemoa liked only one of them most of all. He was a young man from a small island on the lake, and he loved Hinemoa very dearly. But when Hinemoa told her father that she loved him, the old chief got very angry and said that the young man was not noble.

"Noble or not," answered Hinemoa, "he is the man I love".

This made the chief still more angry. He said: "If he comes to the shore again, I'll kill him!"

Every night Hinemoa went to the shore of the lake but she never found a canoe there which could take her over the water, because Hinemoa's father had told his men to take canoes away every night and hide them.

However, Hinemoa didn't lose hope. She decided to swim to the island. And one dark night she started on her long and dangerous swim.

The night was very dark and she could not see the island. She was a strong swimmer but after many hours of swim she became very weak. Just then the full moon came out and she saw that the island was quite near. A few minutes more — and she felt the stones at the bottom under her feet.

At the place where she came ashore there was a hot spring. She went into the warm water, rested and warmed her cold body. Then she found the young man. They became husband and wife and they lived happily for many years.

The hot spring that gave Hinemoa life and strength is known now as Hinemoa's Bath.



A SULLY KING

(5)

There was a king who thought that he was clever and could paint very well. His pictures were very bad, but the people he showed them to were afraid of the cruel king and said that they liked his pictures very much. One day the king showed his pictures to a famous painter who lived in that country and asked: "I want to know what you think of my pictures. Do you like them? Am I a good painter or not?". The painter looked at the king's pictures and said: "My lord, I think your pictures are bad, and you will never be a good painter". The king got very angry and sent the painter to prison.

After two years the king wanted to see the painter again. "I was very angry with you, indeed, because you didn't like my pictures. Now I'll forget all about it and you are a free man again and I am your friend again," he said. For many hours the king talked to the painter and invited him to dinner. After dinner the king showed his new pictures and asked: "Well, how do you like my pictures now?" But the painter didn't answer. He turned to the soldier who was standing near him and said: "Take me back to prison!"



BREAD AND SALT

(6)

Once upon a time there lived a king with three daughters. The two older girls envied the youngest whom the king loved very much. They tried to destroy the king's love for her. They told him that the youngest girl did not love him as much as they did. At last the king believed them and decided to test the daughters' love. So he asked the oldest daughter to tell him how much she loved him.

"I value you, my father, as God in heaven!" she answered.

The king liked her answer very much. He then asked his second daughter the same question.

"Oh, my father, I value you as my own life!"

This answer also pleased the King. And now he turned to the youngest daughter asking her how she would describe her feelings.

"Oh, my father," she said, "I value you as salt and bread."

The king was very angry that she had compared her love to such common things as salt and bread. He was furious and he ordered his servants to take her into the woods and leave her there. They did it and at last the two older daughters were happy.

It so happened that a prince from another country was hunting in the woods at the moment. His dogs ran up to the tree where the princess was hiding and began to bark. The prince looked upward and saw the beautiful face of the unhappy girl. He spoke to her kindly and asked her to come down. He put the girl on his horse and took her to his castle. The princess told him her sad story. The prince was impressed with her beauty, her goodness and her truthfulness. He fell in love with her and asked her to marry him. The girl, too, fell in love with him and she agreed.

A date was set for the wedding and invitations were sent to all kingdoms. When the wedding day came, the royal guests arrived. The princess's father and her two sisters were also among the guests. They didn't recognize her, so sure they were that the princess had died in the woods.

When they took their seats at the banquet table, wonderful food of all kinds was out before the guests. But it wasn't salted and thus not tasty and there was no salt on the table. The guests couldn't find any bread on the table either.

At last the princess's father said: "I don't understand it, but it seems to me that the two most precious things are missing from the table."

"Ah!" the Princess said, "what are you speaking of?"

"I'm speaking about salt and bread," answered her father.

"Yes," the girl said, "they are the most precious things that we know. But once because I valued my father as highly as these things I was driven out of his house and taken into the woods to die."

When her father heard these words he recognized his daughter. He begged her to forgive him.

Then he punished the older daughters. It was their turn now to be driven out of the house. From that day on nothing was ever heard of them.



THE SHIRT OF A HAPPY MAN

(7)

Many, many years ago there lived a powerful king. He was very rich and he had everything he wanted. His country was strong and famous, but the king was not happy. So one day he went to consult a wise old man, who said to him, "Happiness is a very rare thing in this world, but I know the way to find it."

"How shall I find it?" asked the king.

"Oh, it's quite easy," answered the old man. "You have only to put on the shirt of a happy man."

The king thanked the old man and began to look for the thing he was told.

He and his servants went to the young and capable Prime Minister, and they asked him if he was happy. "Happy?!" cried the Prime Minister. "How can I be happy when I have so much work to do and so many envious enemies who all the time want to remove me from my high post? No, I am not happy. In fact, I am one of the most unhappy people in the world."

After that they went to a very rich merchant and asked him if he was happy. "Happy?!" said the merchant. "How can I be happy if I can't sleep at night because I keep thinking all the time about my

ships going to the bottom or captured by pirates? I am a very unhappy man.”

After that the king visited most of the capitals of the world, met kings, writers, professors, actors, doctors, and others, but they were all not happy.

At last he came back to his own country. One day he saw a poor half-naked peasant with a happy look on his face who was working in the field and singing a merry song. He went up to the peasant and asked, “My good man, are you happy?”

“Quite happy,” answered the peasant.

“Well, then,” said the king, “sell me your shirt.”

“My shirt?” said the peasant in surprise, “I haven’t got one.”



CZAR TROYAN'S EARS

(8)

Once upon a time there lived a czar named Troyan. Troyan had ears of a goat. Each day he called a barber to shave him but none ever returned from the palace for after the barber had done his work the czar usually asked, “What did you see, my good man?” The barber usually answered, “I see that the czar has the ears of a goat.” When he heard the barber’s answer he always ordered his soldiers to cut off the barber’s head. He did not want his people to know his terrible secret.

One day a barber had to go to the palace to shave the czar. He was so frightened that he sent his young apprentice instead of himself.

During the work the apprentice noticed that Troyan’s ears were like the ears of a goat but when the czar asked him what he had noticed the apprentice answered, “I noticed nothing.”

Troyan gave him twelve gold coins and ordered him to come regularly to shave him.

When the apprentice came home his master asked him about Troyan. The apprentice replied that the czar was polite and kind and that he had been ordered to come personally each day to shave him. He said nothing about Troyan’s ears.

From that time on the apprentice went each day to shave the czar and each day he received twelve gold coins. He told nobody about the

czar's secret, but after many months he could not keep the secret any longer. He grew thinner and thinner.

At last he decided to go into the field and tell the secret to the earth. He dug a hole, put his head into it and said three times, "Czar Troyan has the ears of a goat." After that he returned home, peace and quietness was in his heart.

An elder tree grew on the spot where the apprentice had said his words. One day some shepherds found the elder tree. One of them cut off a branch and made a flute. When the flute began to play, instead of a melody, it whistled, "Czar Troyan has the ears of a goat."

The sheperds returned to the town and whispered to all who wanted to listen, "Czar Troyan has the ears of a goat!"

At once Troyan called the apprentice and asked him in anger, "Why did you tell my secret to my people?" The apprentice confessed that he had told the secret to the earth. He told the czar how the elder tree had grown on that spot, how the flute had been made of a branch, and how the flute had told the secret to the wind.

Troyan ordered to take him to the elder tree. He ordered the young man to make a flute of a branch and, when it was made, he ordered the young man to play the flute. He could not believe his ears when the flute whistled, "Czar Troyan has the ears of a goat! Czar Troyan has the ears of a goat!"

Finally Troyan realised that on earth nothing could be hidden. He forgave the barber's apprentice and from that time on he gave permission that all men could come to shave him without fear.



THE BEST AND THE WORST THING IN THE WORLD (9)

One day the great ruler of the world, Obatala, decided that he would hand over his kingdom to someone else. The first person he thought of was his faithful assistant, Orula. But Orula was still very young and Obatala was afraid he was not experienced enough for such a difficult task. So he decided to test Orula's wisdom. He sent for Orula and ordered him to prepare the best meal he could think of.

Orula did as he was asked and went off to the market. He bought an ox tongue there. Back at home he cooked it well, then he took it to the great ruler. Obatala tasted the tongue and was quite satisfied; he had never eaten anything quite so good. When he had finished he praised Orula and said: "Tell me, Orula, why did you finally choose tongue, when you went to the market?"

"Great ruler," replied Orula, "tongue is a most important thing. With your tongue you can praise good work and thank those who do good deeds. With tongue you can tell good news and lead people the right way. And, finally, with tongue you can promote a man and make him a ruler," said Orula with a smile.

But the great ruler decided that he would test Orula once more and he said to him, "You have just prepared me the best meal in the world. Now I ask you to prepare me the worst meal that you can think of."

Orula went to the market again. He looked round to see what was for sale, and then he again bought an ox tongue. He took it home, cooked it well, and then carried to Obatala. When the great ruler saw that once again there was tongue on the plate he was surprised and said, "The first time you brought me tongue as the best thing in the world. Now you bring it to me as the worst thing in the world. How can you explain it?"

"Great ruler," replied Orula, "tongue is a most important thing. With tongue you can destroy a man and his good name, with tongue you can lead people to destruction and take away their lives. With tongue you can betray your country and sell your homeland into slavery."

When Obatala heard all this, he said to Orula, "All you have said is true. Even though you are young, you are a man of great wisdom."

And he gave up the government of the country into his hands.



THE WOODCUTTER'S AXE (10)

Once upon a time in a little house in the middle of the wood there lived a wood-cutter. The wood-cutter worked very hard, but he was a poor though an honest man.

There was a big, deep and dangerous river near the wood. And there was a big tree on the bank of that river.

One day the wood-cutter had to cut down the big tree on the bank of the river. When he was cutting down that tree, his axe by chance slipped out of his hand, fell into the water and sank to the bottom of the river. The poor wood-cutter began to cry. He was very sad and unhappy. He did not know what to do. He did not know who could help him. He had no money to buy a new axe, and he was afraid to dive into the water because the river was very deep, and it was a dangerous river. It was Mercury's river.

Mercury heard the poor man cry and appeared before him. He asked the poor wood-cutter what the matter was, why he was so sad and unhappy. The poor wood-cutter told him everything.

Mercury listened to the poor man's story and then said that he could help him. Then he dived into the river and brought up a golden axe. But the wood-cutter said that it was not his axe. Mercury dived a second time into the deep river and that time brought up a silver axe. Again the wood-cutter said that it was not his axe. So Mercury dived a third time, and at last he brought up the wood-cutter's own axe. The poor man was very happy to see his own good axe, and he held out his hand for it. He could work again.

Mercury was so pleased with the poor man's honesty that at once he made him a present of the other two axes. So Mercury gave the wood-cutter his own axe, the golden axe and the silver axe, and he disappeared before the wood-cutter could even say "thank you."

The wood-cutter cut down the big tree on the bank of the deep and dangerous river and went home. He was very pleased with his own axe, the golden axe and the silver axe. When he met his friends, he told them all about the three axes.

One of his friends was not an honest man, and he decided to have a golden axe, too. So he went to the same place, as if to cut down a tree. Then he dropped his axe into the river and pretended to be very sad and unhappy. And he also began to cry.

Mercury heard the man cry and appeared before him. Mercury asked him why he was so sad and unhappy. The man told him about the loss of his axe. Then Mercury dived into the river and brought up a golden axe. When the man saw the golden axe, he said that it was his own axe.