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С.А. Зайковскі

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for Reading and Discussion

Form 8



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Contents

How Kyiv Was Founded	4
Mandowin	9
One Is Drowned	12
The Golden Goose	13
The Famous Negro Singer	17
The Magic Purse	18
Luggage Question	22
Prince Liam and the Wolfhounds	23
The Little Cock and the Diamond Button	28
Greyling	31
The Jumping Frog	36
The Policeman and the Thief	38
The Wonderful Spell	40
Rapunzel	43

ONE IS DROWNED

Once twelve men went out fishing. Some of them were fishing from the bank of the river and some of them from a boat in the middle of the river. When the day was over and evening came, they all gathered on the bank to go home.

“Twelve of us went out fishing this morning,” said one of the fishermen, “and I think there are twelve of us to go home.”

“We shall count and see,” said another man. He counted his friends but he forgot to count himself and there were only eleven fishermen.

“Let me count,” said the third fisherman. So he began to count the fishermen and again did not count himself.

Then each man counted, and made the same mistake.

“One of us is drowned! Let us go back to the river!” they cried.

At that moment a man was passing by. He heard the cries and asked: “What is the matter? Why are you crying?”

“Twelve of us went out fishing this morning and one of us is drowned, there are only eleven of us now,” said one of them.

“What will you give me if I find your twelfth man?” asked the man.

The fishermen took all the money they had and put them into a bag.

“See,” they said, “you will have all this if you find our twelfth friend.”

“Now,” he said, “come round me and I shall find your twelfth man.”

They came round him and he began to count: “One-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight-nine-ten-eleven- twelve! Here is your twelfth man!”

“Thank you very much,” cried the fishermen, “you found our friend for us!” And they gave him the bag of money. The man took it with a laugh and went away.

The fishermen looked at each other and asked: “Why did he laugh?” They could not understand.

Vocabulary

drown — тонути

count — рахувати

1. How many fishermen went out fishing?
2. Were they all fishing from the bank of the river?
3. When and where did they gather to go home?
4. What did they decide to do?
5. How many fishermen did each of them count?
6. Where did they decide to go?
7. Who was passing by at that time?
8. What did the man ask when he came up to the fishermen?
9. Did he count them?
10. What did they give him for his help?
11. Why did he laugh?
12. Did the fishermen understand why he was laughing?

THE GOLDEN GOOSE

There was once a man who had three sons, the youngest was called Simpleton. People did not like him because he was not clever and often laughed at him.

Now it happened one day that the eldest son wanted to go into the forest to cut wood, and his mother gave him a fine big cake and a bottle of wine.

When he came to the forest he met a little old man who wished him good morning and then said, “Give me a small piece of the cake you have in your bag, and let me drink a mouthful of your wine; I am so hungry.”

But the clever son answered, “I shall eat my cake myself and I shall drink my wine myself”, and he left the little man and walked away.

Hardly had he begun to cut down a tree, when his axe slipped and cut his arm. He had to go home at once and could not work for a long period of time.

This was the work of the little old man who wanted to punish him for his greediness.

The next day the second son went into the wood, and his mother gave him a sweet cake and a bottle of wine.

The little old man met him too, and asked for a small piece of cake and a mouthful of wine.

But the second son said, "I shall eat my lunch myself". He left the little old man and went away.

Very soon the second son cut his leg so badly that he had to go home.

Then said Simpleton, "Father, let me go into the forest and cut wood". His father answered him, "Your brothers cut themselves. You understand nothing about wood-cutting, I think you must not try".

But Simpleton asked for so long that at last his father said, "Well, go if you like".

To Simpleton his mother gave a small loaf of brown bread and a bottle of water. When he came to the forest the little old man met him and said, "Give me a small piece of the cake you have in your bag, and let me drink a mouthful of your wine, I am so hungry".

Simpleton answered, "I have only a small loaf of brown bread and some water but let us sit down and eat together".

So they sat down under a tree, and as Simpleton took out his food, the small loaf of brown bread turned into a big sweet cake and the water became good wine. So they ate and drank together, and when the lunch was finished, the little man said, "As you have a good heart I want to help you. Cut that tree and you will find something". And the man went away.

Simpleton began to work. And when he cut down the tree and when it fell, there among its branches sat a goose, with feathers of pure gold.

Simpleton took the goose and went to an inn to have his dinner. But as he was very tired he decided to spend the night in the inn.

The innkeeper had three daughters and all three of them liked the golden goose very much. The eldest daughter thought to herself, "It seems to me I have a chance to get a wonderful golden feather".

When Simpleton fell asleep she went to his room to pull out one of those beautiful feathers.

She caught the goose by the wing and ... her hand stuck to it!

Some minutes later the second daughter came to Simpleton's room. She wanted to get one of those golden feathers too. But hardly had she touched her sister's hand she stuck to her.

Then the third daughter came in to pull out a feather. "Keep away!" cried her sisters. But she did not understand why they told her to keep away and hardly had she touched her sisters she stuck to them.

They had all to pass the night beside the goose.

Next morning Simpleton took the goose under his arm and went out.

He said to himself, "I shall see a little of the world before going home". He did not trouble himself about the three girls who were stuck to the bird. They were running behind him. By and by they met a parson. He saw the procession and cried, "Shame on you, you naughty girls. Why do you run after a boy in this way?"

With these words he caught the youngest daughter by the hand. Hardly had he touched her hand he stuck to it. Now the parson was running behind the girls.

Then an old peasant came along and saw the parson behind the girls. He was so astonished that he cried, "Your Reverence! Why do you run after the girls in this way? Shame on you!"

He wanted to stop the parson but hardly had he touched the parson's hand he stuck to it.

As the five ran, one behind the other, they met a fat merchant coming back from the market. The parson and the peasant cried, "Help us! Stop us!"

The fat merchant tried to stop them. But hardly had he touched the peasant's hand he stuck to it. Now there were six running after Simpleton and the goose.

At last they came to a city. Here reigned a King with an only daughter who was so serious that no one could make her laugh. The King had promised that whoever could make his daughter laugh should have her for his wife.

When Simpleton heard this he went with his goose and his train of six before the Princess. When she saw the six people all running behind

each other, she began to laugh, and she laughed and laughed and laughed till it seemed as though she could never stop.

The King was very glad. Simpleton married the Princess, and lived happily ever after. But what became of the goose we do not know.

(An English tale)

Vocabulary

the Golden Goose — Золота гуска

Simpleton — Простак

mouthful — ковток

hardly — ледве

axe — сокира

greediness — жадібність

pure — чистий

inn — заїжджий двір

wing — крило

her hand stuck — її рука прилипла

Keep away! — Не підходь!

By and by they met a parson. — Через якийсь час вони зустріли священника.

peasant — селянин

Your Reverence! — Ваше преподобіє! *(звертання до священника)*

merchant — купець, торговець

and his train of six — і з шістьма людьми, які прилипли до нього

Answer the questions

1. What was the name of the youngest son? Why?
2. Where did the eldest son go one day? What did his mother give him?
3. What happened in the forest?
4. Did the same story happen to the second son too?
5. Did Simpleton share his food with the little old man?
6. What did the old man present him?
7. What happened in the inn?
8. What did Simpleton want to see before going home?
9. Why were six persons running after Simpleton?
10. What did the King promise to do when somebody could make his daughter laugh?
11. Why could she not stop laughing seeing Simpleton?
12. Whom did he marry? Were they happy?
13. What became of the goose? What do you think about it?