

Footprints Without Feet

1. A Triumph of Surgery

- **Summary:**
Tricki, a pampered pet dog, is overfed by his wealthy and affectionate owner, Mrs. Pumphrey. She feeds him rich food and sweets, making him extremely overweight and lethargic. Seeing his deteriorating health, she calls Dr. James Herriot, a veterinarian. The doctor realizes that Tricki's condition is due to overindulgence and takes him to his clinic. He puts Tricki on a strict diet and gives him ample exercise, leading to his recovery. Mrs. Pumphrey, unaware of the real treatment, believes Dr. Herriot performed a miraculous surgery.
 - **Keywords:** Overfeeding, pampering, discipline, recovery, veterinary care.
 - **Themes:** Responsible pet ownership, self-control, simple living.
 - **Sub-themes:** Love vs. discipline, health consequences of indulgence.
 - **Characters:** Dr. James Herriot, Mrs. Pumphrey, Tricki.
 - **Proverb:** *"Excess of everything is bad."*
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2. The Thief's Story

- **Summary:**
Hari Singh, a 15-year-old thief, takes up a job under Anil, a kind and trusting writer. Despite the opportunity to steal money from him, Hari hesitates because of the trust and kindness Anil has shown him. One night, he steals ₹600 from Anil but feels guilty. Instead of running away, he returns the money, realizing that honesty and relationships are more valuable than short-term gains. Anil, though aware of the attempted theft, does not confront Hari but continues treating him kindly, reinforcing the power of goodness.
 - **Keywords:** Honesty, trust, guilt, redemption, second chances.
 - **Themes:** Transformation through kindness, morality, value of trust.
 - **Sub-themes:** Temptation, guilt, self-discovery, mentor-student bond.
 - **Characters:** Hari Singh, Anil.
 - **Proverb:** *"Honesty is the best policy."*
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3. The Midnight Visitor

- **Summary:**
Ausable, a secret agent, is visited by an armed rival, Max, who demands important documents. Unlike a traditional spy, Ausable is overweight and unimpressive, but he uses his intelligence to manipulate the situation. He tricks Max into believing there is a balcony outside the window, which Max attempts to escape through—only to fall to his doom, as there was no balcony. The story highlights how intelligence and quick thinking are more valuable than physical strength in critical situations.
- **Keywords:** Intelligence, deception, espionage, wit, manipulation.
- **Themes:** Cleverness over strength, deception in espionage.
- **Sub-themes:** Professional rivalry, strategy in crisis.
- **Characters:** Ausable, Max, Henry (waiter).

- **Proverb:** *"Brains are better than brawn."*
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4. A Question of Trust

- **Summary:**
Horace Danby, a respectable man, secretly indulges in theft to afford his love for rare books. He meticulously plans to rob a house but is deceived by a young woman who claims to be the owner. She manipulates Horace into cracking the safe for her, only to leave him behind as the sole suspect when he is later caught. The irony of the situation emphasizes how even a seasoned thief can be outwitted.
 - **Keywords:** Deception, irony, betrayal, crime, consequences.
 - **Themes:** Crime and its repercussions, manipulation, trust.
 - **Sub-themes:** Justice, irony of fate.
 - **Characters:** Horace Danby, young lady (real thief).
 - **Proverb:** *"As you sow, so shall you reap."*
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5. Footprints Without Feet

- **Summary:**
Griffin, a brilliant but unethical scientist, discovers the formula for invisibility. However, instead of using his discovery for good, he turns to crime—stealing, causing havoc, and attacking people. He misuses his powers, leading to his eventual downfall as society turns against him. The story explores the consequences of unchecked ambition and moral corruption.
 - **Keywords:** Science, invisibility, misuse of power, ethics, isolation.
 - **Themes:** Ethical use of science, consequences of unrestrained ambition.
 - **Sub-themes:** Alienation, loss of morality.
 - **Characters:** Griffin, landlord, villagers.
 - **Proverb:** *"Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely."*
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6. The Making of a Scientist

- **Summary:**
Richard Ebright, a young and curious boy, is encouraged by his mother to explore his interests in science. His passion for collecting butterflies leads him to scientific research, eventually making groundbreaking discoveries in cell biology. His journey from a curious child to an accomplished scientist highlights the importance of perseverance, dedication, and intellectual curiosity.
- **Keywords:** Curiosity, research, hard work, perseverance, discovery.
- **Themes:** Scientific temperament, power of perseverance, role of education.
- **Sub-themes:** Inspiration, self-discipline, mentorship.
- **Characters:** Richard Ebright, his mother.
- **Proverb:** *"Success is no accident."*

7. The Necklace

- **Summary:**

Matilda Loisel, a vain and materialistic woman, borrows a necklace from her friend to wear at a ball. She loses it and, thinking it is expensive, she and her husband work tirelessly for ten years to repay the debt of buying a replacement. Later, she learns the original necklace was fake. The story highlights how pride and dishonesty can lead to unnecessary suffering.

- **Keywords:** Vanity, materialism, irony, misfortune, sacrifice.
- **Themes:** Contentment, reality vs. appearance, social class disparity.
- **Sub-themes:** Misplaced priorities, irony of fate.
- **Characters:** Matilda Loisel, Monsieur Loisel, Madame Forestier.
- **Proverb:** *"Pride goes before a fall."*

8. Bholi

Summary: Bholi, a neglected girl with a speech defect, gains confidence through education and refuses to marry a greedy man.

"Bholi", a short story by Munshi Premchand, narrates the transformation of Sulekha, a neglected and timid girl called "Bholi" due to her simplicity. Born into a poor family, Bholi faces ridicule because of her stammer and pockmarked face. However, her life changes when a compassionate teacher nurtures her confidence and education. When Bholi's greedy suitor demands dowry during their wedding, she boldly rejects the marriage, asserting her self-respect and independence. The story highlights themes of education, empowerment, and the breaking of societal norms, portraying how inner strength and support can help one overcome adversity.

Characters:

- Bholi (The protagonist)
- Ramlal (Her father)
- The schoolteacher
- Bishamber Nath (Greedy groom)

Themes:

- Women's empowerment
- The role of education

Sub-themes:

- Self-respect and dignity
- Overcoming societal norms

Proverb: "Knowledge is power."

9. The Book That Saved the Earth

Summary: In the 25th century, Martians plan to invade Earth but abandon their mission after misunderstanding a book of nursery rhymes.

The play 'The Book That Saved The Earth' is full of imagination. In it, the different character like Think-Tank, Noodle, Oop, Omega etc. play as the Martian living beings, the time set of the play is 25th century. The play tell us in detail as how the book successfully saved the earth from Martian invasion . Think-Tank who is the mightiest and the most brilliant among all the Martians is the commander-in-chief. Think-Tank conducts the manned space probe in order to ask them their position. At this Think-Tank ask them to show him the place closely. In fact, they were in a library full of different books. But they fail to understand where they were. Then Think-Tank tries to show his intelligence and tells his crew that the thing in question was a sandwich. Then one of the crew members even eats the corner of a book to confirm the views of Think-Tank. After some time Noodle suggests Think-Tank that it was not for eating but for communication with ears. After some time Noodle again suggests Think-Tank that it was not for ear communication but for eye communication.

Then they opened the books and try to read them. But they failed to understand the language. The Omega opens a big volume of 'Mother Goose' and tries to read it Noodle ask Think-Tank if the chemical department has given them the vitamins to increase intelligence and then read the sandwiches. As Oop starts reading the book of nursery rhymes to Think-Tank he feels trouble. He leaves the idea of invading. Instead, he tries to save himself from the invasion of the earthlings. He orders his crew to leave the earth at once and he himself runs to safety.

Characters:

- Think-Tank (Leader of Martians)
- Noodle (His assistant)
- Omega, Iota (Other Martians)

Themes:

- The power of literature
- The folly of arrogance

Sub-themes:

- Misinterpretation leading to humor
- The influence of books

Proverb: "The pen is mightier than the sword."