

I give credit to all the original authors of these world famous stories. I have only tried to present them in simple English for beginners to understand them easily.

1. Beauty & the Beast

Many years ago, a merchant had a beautiful daughter named beauty. Beauty was very pretty. One day, the merchant lost his way in the woods and reached a castle. As he entered, he saw nobody in the castle and decided to spend the night there.

The next morning, when he was about to leave, he saw a beautiful rose garden. His daughter was fond of roses so he plucked one of the roses for her.

Suddenly, a terrible beast appeared. The beast scolded him for stealing a rose from his castle. This frightened the merchant. He explained that the rose was for his daughter, Beauty.

The beast caught hold of the merchant and put a condition before him for his freedom. If he wanted to save his life, his daughter would have to come to the beast.

The fearful merchant immediately agreed.

On reaching home, he told the whole story to Beauty.

Without wasting any time, Beauty set off for the castle. The sight of the ugly beast terrified her.

At first, she was afraid of the Beast, but, in a couple of days, she realized that the beast was gentle and kind-hearted.

The beast gifted Beauty a magic mirror in which she could see everything she wished for. One day, she saw that her father was ill. She grew sad.

Unable to see her sadness, the beast allowed her to go home. Beauty returned home. She was happy to see her father. She looked after her ailing father. In a few days, her father became well under her care.

One day, she was thinking about the beast. Suddenly, the magic mirror showed that the beast was very ill. She went to the castle to see him. On seeing her, the beast was happy but he was in great pain. Beauty held him and sobbed on seeing his condition. She fell in love with him and kissed him softly. At that very moment, the beast turned into a handsome prince. Beauty was surprised. The prince told her that a witch had cast a spell on him and because of her love, the spell is now broken.

They soon got married and lived happily ever after.

2. Obstacle are Opportunities

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. He then hid himself and watched to see if anyone would move the boulder out of the way. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it.

Many people blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none of them did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

A peasant then came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to push the stone out of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant went back to pick up his vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been.

The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King explaining that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

Moral of the story:

Every obstacle we come across in life gives us an opportunity to improve our condition, and while the lazy complain, the optimists create opportunities through their willingness to get things done.

3. Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

Once upon a time, a queen gave birth to a baby girl. The girl was beautiful, with skin as white as snow, lips as red as rose and hair as black as coal.

She named her Snow White. Sadly, the queen died after giving birth to her. Soon after, the king married again. The step-mother envied Snow White as she was the fairest and most beautiful maiden in the whole land.

The stepmother had a magic mirror. Every day she asked the magic mirror who was the fairest and most beautiful of all. The mirror replied that the queen was the most beautiful of all. She was pleased to hear this.

Time passed and Snow White grew up. One day when the stepmother asked the mirror the same question, the mirror replied that Snow White was the most beautiful and fairest of all. The queen turned green with envy.

She hatched a conspiracy. She told the King that Snow White was going away to live with her aunt for some time. She then ordered a servant to take Snow White to the forest and kill her. The servant took Snow White to the forest but was unable to kill her as he was loyal to the old queen too. So he left her in the forest.

After wandering in the forest for days, Snow White discovered a tiny cottage. She knocked, but found no one at home.

Since she was hungry, she entered the cottage and ate some food from the kitchen. She looked around the house and found the whole place in a mess. She therefore started tidying up the place. The cottage belonged to seven dwarfs. As evening fell, the dwarfs returned home. They were surprised to find Snow White there. Snow white told them her story. The dwarfs felt sorry for her and asked her to stay with them.

Meanwhile, one fine morning the step mother asked the mirror who was the fairest of all. The mirror said, "Snow white". She was shocked. She then discovered with the help of her Magic Mirror that Snow White was hale and hearty and was living in the forest. She poisoned an apple and, dressed as a farmer's wife, went to the dwarfs' cottage and offered it to Snow White. Snow White took a bite and fell into an eternal sleep.

In the evening when the dwarfs returned, they were surprised to find Snow white lying on the floor. They took Snow White to the good witch of the forest. The good witch placed some herbs on Snow White's forehead and Snow White woke up. She told the good witch all that happened with her. The good witch looked into her Mirror of Truth and found out that it was actually the evil stepmother who had disguised herself as the farmer's wife and had poisoned Snow White.

Along with Snow White and her seven dwarfs, the good witch went to the palace, and showed the king the truth in her Mirror. The king was shocked and angry. He threw the evil stepmother into the dark prison as a punishment. He decided to make Snow White the ruler of his kingdom. Snow White and her friends, the seven dwarfs, then lived in the palace happily ever after.

4. RAPUNZEL

Once upon a time there lived a lonely couple who only wished to have a child.

They lived in a little house all on their own.

At the back of the house there was a small little window from which they could see a splendid garden.

This garden was full of very beautiful flowers and herbs.

No one dared to enter the garden as it belonged to a witch.

One day the woman saw a plant called rampion which is rare and people use it in salads.

"Dear husband, I have a strong desire to have a salad made out of that plant", the lady said.

"Oh but that belongs to the wicked witch!" The man said.

"Oh Please, do something. I really want to eat those Rampions", the wife pleaded.

“Ok Dear, I will try to get them for you”, the husband replied.

At midnight, the husband climbed the wall into the garden of the witch. The man stole the rampion and his wife made a salad out of it and ate it. But the same night, there was a knock on the door and the man knew something was wrong. “How dare you come to my garden and steal my rampions like a thief! You will suffer for it!” the witch shouted.

“Oh, please forgive me! My wife saw your rampions from the window and she wanted them so badly, that I could not say no to her”, the man begged.

“Oh! If that’s the truth, I will let you have as many rampions as your wife wants but only on one condition” the witch said.

“What is that condition?” The man was curious.

“You must give me the child which your wife will bring into this world” the witch replied. The man, in his terror, agreed.

As time passed by, the woman gave birth to a beautiful little baby girl. The very same night, the witch came to their home and took away the baby girl leaving the poor parents in complete sorrow.

“You are such a beautiful looking girl! I will name you Rapunzel and take care of you.” The witch said.

The witch kept her locked in a tower with no doors and stairs but just a small window.

As time passed by, Rapunzel grew up into a beautiful girl with very long golden locks.

The cruel witch never allowed her to go anywhere. Sad Rapunzel just used to stand at the little window and sing sad songs. When the witch had to visit Rapunzel, she used to ask Rapunzel to let her hair down and she climbed up the castle with the help of her hair.

One day when Rapunzel was standing at the window singing sad songs, a very handsome prince passed by. He stopped and looked here and there to see where this beautiful voice was coming from.

The prince noticed that the beautiful voice was coming from the tower. He tried to climb the tower and looked for the door but could not find one.

He went back home in dismay but Rapunzel’s singing had touched his heart so much that every day he started going to the forest to listen to Rapunzel's song.

One day, when he was standing behind the tree, he saw the witch coming, and he heard what she said, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let down your hair for me.” Then Rapunzel let down her long beautiful hair and the witch climbed up the tower.

“Oh! That’s the way to climb up the tower! I shall do the same”, the prince said. The next day when it began to grow dark, he went to the tower. “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let your hair down for me”, he said. Immediately the hair fell down and the prince climbed up.

"Oh ... who are you?" Rapunzel asked him in great amazement.

"Oh lord! You are the most beautiful maiden that I have ever seen in my life. I have lost my heart to you. Will you marry me? Will you be my wife and live with me in my kingdom?" the prince said.

"Oh my Prince ! I wish that were possible but the witch won't let me go out of this tower and if she comes to know about you, she will kill you." She said sadly. "I don't care! You are coming with me now. Come on Let's go!" The prince grew impatient.

"Oh Prince I am ready to go with you, but I do not know how to get down. If I let down my hair you can get down but how shall I get down?" Rapunzel said.

Next day, the witch came and when she climbed up, Rapunzel, lost in her thoughts, said, "You are lighter!"

"Lighter than what?" the witch asked in amazement. So someone wants to take Rapunzel away! The witch understood.

The witch took a big pair of scissors and chopped off the long beautiful hair of Rapunzel. She took Rapunzel to a desert and left her there to live in grief and misery.

Meanwhile the prince returned the next evening to take Rapunzel away. "Rapunzel Rapunzel! Let your hair down", he said. The wicked witch let down the long hair that she had chopped off and the prince climbed up the tower without knowing what was awaiting him.

When the prince was about to enter the window the wicked witch left the chopped off hair. The prince fell off the tower on the thorny bushes under the tower. The Prince started bleeding from his eyes as the thorns blinded him completely.

The witch cast a spell on the prince and he wandered in woods around the world without any sight and survived in poor conditions. The prince roamed about in misery for two years, and finally got to the desert where Rapunzel was left by the witch. He suddenly heard the beautiful sad voice of his beloved and started shouting in excitement!

That voice!

That voice!

Is it you Rapunzel?

Is it really you?

He ran towards her, and when, Rapunzel saw him, she cried.

"Oh prince, you finally found me!"

"I missed you so much! I am so happy to see you that I can't stop crying", said Rapunzel. Two of her tears fell on his eyes and they grew clear again and he could see with them as before. I can see again! Oh my sweet Rapunzel?", The prince cried in happiness.

Let's go back to my kingdom. He took her to his kingdom. After a year, Rapunzel gave birth to a pretty little baby girl who looked just like her and they lived happily ever after.

5. Pied Piper of Hamelin

Hamelin was a small town in Germany. The city was full of rats. They were in houses, inns, shops, schools and in every street.

The mayor often held meetings with the people of the town to discuss this problem. At the beginning they thought that cats would drive away the mice. However, it was very tough to find huge numbers of cats. They were in a real dilemma.

One day, a stranger came to the town of Hamelin. He carried a flute along with him. He walked straight to the mayor's building. He went to the mayor of Hamelin and said, "It is well known around Germany that Hamelin has a problem with rats. I will get Hamelin rid of all the rats. What would my reward be?" For a moment the mayor was stunned. It was difficult for him to believe such a claim.

"Ten Thousand gold coins from our treasury if you can do as you promise," said the mayor. The stranger nodded his head and said, "In a day's time Hamelin will have no rat."

The stranger walked out in the street, pulled out his flute and started playing it. An eerie sound floated in the air. People of Hamelin could hear the beautiful tune from every corner of Hamelin and were paralyzed hearing this enchanting tone.

All of a sudden, there was a 'whirring' noise. Thousands of rats came all the way from various directions. They followed the eerie sound that came from the Piper's flute. It seemed that the rats were mesmerized with the delightful tone of the flute. The stranger headed towards the sea, with all the rats of Hamelin behind him. It was an extraordinary sight for the people of Hamelin.

The stranger continuously played the flute and walked right into the sea. The rats followed him and all of them were caught by the waves which dragged them into the sea. All the rats of Hamelin were drowned. The piper had got Hamelin rid of all the rats and thus kept his promise.

The stranger then approached the mayor for his reward. The mayor and the town's people were very happy but till then the mayor had already changed his mind. When the stranger went to him, he said, "you have accomplished a wonderful task but isn't ten thousand gold coins a hefty reward for a day's work? I will pay you five hundred gold coins." The stranger looked at the mayor and then walked out.

In the street he pulled out his flute again and started playing it. This time the sound that came from the flute was different but was as eerie as it was supposed to be. Suddenly all the children of Hamelin started following the stranger.

The stranger walked out of town and disappeared into the mountains. Children followed him. The parents of the children wept and were inconsolable. They went to the mayor and complained about it. The mayor was helpless. He knew that he had been dishonest with the stranger.

The stranger returned to Hamelin but children didn't accompany him. The mayor rushed to him and begged for forgiveness. He requested the stranger to get the children back. Without uttering a single word, the stranger turned and walked away. He returned after a few hours, this time with all the children.

The mayor rewarded the stranger with ten thousand gold coins. The mayor had learnt his lesson.

6. King Midas and the Golden Touch

Once upon a time, a long time ago in ancient Greece, there lived a king named Midas. King Midas loved three things more than anything else in the world - his little daughter, his rose garden, and gold. Nothing gave him more pleasure than watching his little daughter picking roses in the garden, and placing them in a golden vase to decorate the castle. One night, while strolling through his rose garden, the king stumbled over a satyr. A satyr was half man and half goat. This satyr looked half starved and very ill. King Midas brought the satyr into his castle. He made sure the satyr was washed and fed and tucked into bed for a good sleep. When the satyr woke up the next morning, his fever was gone.

The king and the satyr had quite a nice chat over breakfast. King Midas was surprised to hear that the satyr belonged to the powerful god Dionysus, the god of wine and truth. That very day, the king personally took the satyr home in his best chariot. The satyr might only be a servant, but he was the servant of a god, and deserved the best treatment, which is something the king would have done anyway, because the king had a very kind heart. As it turned out, the satyr was more than a servant. To Dionysus, the satyr was his teacher and good friend. Dionysus told the king he would grant any one wish the king made to thank him for taking such good care of his friend. The king did not wish anything for his daughter because he had given her everything. He did not wish anything for his rose garden because everyone knew he grew the finest roses in all the world.

He suddenly thought of gold. King Midas wished that everything he touched would turn into gold. When the king arrived back at his castle, he pulled out a chair to sit down at his table. The minute he touched it, the chair turned to gold. He touched the table. He touched a vase. As soon as he touched them, they turned into gold. King Midas raced through his castle. Everything he touched turned to gold! He was very happy. He shouted to his servants to cook him a feast in celebration! His servants cooked and served him a feast. That's when the trouble started. Everything looked and smelled so good that King Midas sat to eat to his heart's content.

Lo! The food too turned into gold and made quite a clatter when he dropped it back on the table in shock. It had turned to gold in his fist. He touched other food. Whatever he touched turned into gold. The king's eyes filled with fear. He knew if he could not eat, he would starve. This was terrible. The king did not know what to do. King Midas wandered sadly in his rose garden. His little daughter was in the garden, picking roses.

When she saw her father, she ran into his arms for a hug and turned to gold. King Midas hung his head and cried. As his tears fell on his precious roses they turned to gold, but the king did not care. He did not care about his roses or his gold or himself. "Dionysus, hear my prayer", the king begged. "Take my wish back! Please, take my wish back and save my daughter!" One last time, the king's wish was granted. So now you know from where the idiom 'Midas touch' has come?

7. Razia Sultan : The First Woman Ruler of India

Razia Sultan was born in 1205 and ruled from 1236-1240. Razia Sultan was the first Muslim woman to ascend the throne of Delhi. She succeeded her father Shams-ud-din Iltutmish.

Razia Sultan was a wise and excellent administrator. She was brave and had warrior-like spirit. In spite of being a woman, she dressed like a man and sat in open durbar. She was an effective ruler and had characteristics of a monarch.

As a kid and adolescent, Razia had little contact with the ladies of the sultanate, so she did not learn the standard conducts of ladies of the Muslim society. Indeed, even before she became the sultan, she was attracted towards administration of her father's rule. As a sultan, Razia wore a man's tunic and crown; and in opposition to custom, she would later keep her face uncovered when she rode an elephant in the fights as the leader of her armed force.

Iltutmish was a progressive man. He celebrated the birth of his first girl child after numerous children. He took individual enthusiasm to teach Razia and when she turned 13, she was recognized as a proficient archer and horse rider and she often used to go with her father in his military undertakings.

Once when Iltutmish was involved in the assault of Gwalior, he made Razia the in-charge of Delhi and on his return he was so astonished at Razia's performance that he picked Razia as his successor.

After the death of Iltutmish, one of his youngsters, Rukn-ud-daulah was crowned. He ruled Delhi for around seven months. In 1236, Razia Sultan overpowered her kin with the support of the number of inhabitants in Delhi and became the ruler.

At the point when Razia succeeded to the throne, all things returned against her. The vazir of the State, Nizam-al-mulk Junaidi declared a war for quite a while against Razia Sultan.

Later, Tabashi Mu'izzi, who was legislative head of Oudh, rushed towards Delhi to help Razia, but when he was crossing the Ganges, the commanders who were battling against the city detained him.

Being a profitable ruler Razia Sultan set up legitimate and complete peace in her domain, in which every single person followed the rule and regulation set up by her. She attempted to enhance the base of the nation by enhancing exchange, building streets, burrowing wells, etc. Furthermore she built up schools, places for exploration, and open libraries. She contributed even in the field of craftsmanship and culture and

upheld scholars, painters and craftsmen.

No other thing could have prevented Razia besides her own infatuation towards Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut. Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut, an African Siddi slave turned into a privileged person who was guessed to be her life partner.

Malik Ikhtiar-ud-Altunia, the administrative head of Bhatinda, was against this relationship of Razia. Altunia and Razia were youth mates. As they grew up together, Altunia turned out to be deeply fascinated with Razia and the rebellion was basically a technique to get back Razia. Yaqut was slaughtered.

When she was trying to control a resistance by the Turkish Governor of Batinda, they misused her unfortunate absence at Delhi and removed her. Her kin Bahram was designated as the king.

To protect her reputation, Razia sensibly decided to marry Altunia, the administrative head of Batinda and strolled towards Delhi with her mate.

On October 13, 1240, she was powered down by Bahram and the couple was killed the next day. Razia who was the Sultan of Delhi failed to live with the love of her life. Within four years of her rule, she lost her life. Her only fault was her gender.

8. The Monkey's Paw

On a rainy night in England. Herbert White and his father Mr. White were playing chess as his mother, Mrs. White, was busy knitting by the fire. They were waiting for Mr. White's old friend Sergeant-Major Morris, a war veteran. When Morris arrived, the family offered him a drink, and after a few more, Mr. White inquired about a monkey's paw Morris had mentioned in a previous conversation.

With the rest of the family quite curious, Morris explained that it was a mummified monkey's paw that granted three wishes of the person who possessed it.

Morris claimed that he had already exhausted his three wishes and so the paw was useless for him. The lady became quite curious and wanted to have that paw. Mr. Morris warned her of its powers by stating that the previous owner wished death as his last wish. "Can you imagine that! What do you think might have happened that made the previous owner wish to die?" He said.

After mentioning this, Morris threw the talisman in the fire, but Mr. White ran to retrieve it. Morris warned Mr. White of his fate, and told him not to make any wish.

After dinner, Morris left for home and the family thought about what to wish for. They decided that with more money, specifically two hundred pounds, they could pay off the remaining loan of the house. Mr. White wished for £ 200 with the paw in his hand. Suddenly he was shocked and hastily threw the paw on the floor. The paw, he felt, had moved in his hand. Mr. White was frightened, and the family felt uneasy as they went to bed thinking of Morris' warning.

The next morning, the family laughed at their childish fear of the talisman and wondered how silly it was to think that a wish could harm them. Herbert, the darling son of Mrs. and Mr. White headed to work, while the couple lazily spent their time in their cosy home. In the afternoon, Mrs. White noticed a man by the front gate, struggling to decide whether to enter or not.

Thinking of the money, Mrs. White ran to the man and brought him in. The man, a representative from Maw and Meggins, where Herbert worked, had come to tell the family that Herbert was killed in a machinery accident. Hearing the news the couple was shocked and dumbfounded. The man went on telling the family how the accident occurred and how bad the owner felt for the family. He then told them that as a compensation they would receive some money. Mrs. White jumped in. "How much" she cried with a faint hope that the wish hadn't been granted. "Two hundred pounds" the reply was enough to make her knees go weak. She fell on the floor. Her heart ached in pain.

The first wish of the White family led to the death of their son. The couple performed the last rites of their son with heavy heart, and soon after, Mrs. White fell into a state of hopelessness. One night, Mr. White was woken by the sound of his wife's voice asking for the monkey's paw. She begged him for it, and demanded Mr. White to wish for their son's return to the world again. Mr. White was hesitant, thinking about his son's mutilated corpse caught in the teeth of the huge machine, but his wife's persistence broke him. He tried to convince his wife not to do so but the grieving mother lay hold of the paw and lo! The second wish was made. Mr. White sat beside her in terror but was relieved when nothing happened in the following few minutes. They headed to bed again.

Suddenly the light went off. Mr. White headed downstairs for a candle. As he reached the foot of the stairs, he heard a knock at the door. He ran back to the bedroom. He tried to tell his wife that it was nothing, but Mrs. White knew from the way it knocked that it was Herbert. Mrs. White joyously rushed to open the door but her husband stopped her. He held her tightly but she broke free. Ignoring her husband's pleading she went to unlock the door. She was unable to reach the top bolt and begged Mr. White for help.

Meanwhile, Mr. White feverishly searched for the monkey's paw as the knocking grew louder. Mrs. White grabbed a chair from the kitchen and began to unbolt the door. Mr. White at this very time managed to find the paw and made his third wish. The door opened, and the couple looked down the deserted street. Can you imagine what would have happened if Mr. White had not made his final wish?

Do you know what was the final wish?