

Horizons

Phonics and Reading

Reader 1





The Ant and the Grasshopper

Aesop's Fable

On a bright, sunny day a grasshopper chirped his favorite song. He enjoyed the long summer days when he could sing and hop. He loved singing in the grasshopper choir that met every night. The grasshopper also liked the summer months when he could dine on spikes of grass whenever he wished. As he sat in his favorite spot, the grasshopper noticed an ant hauling a large kernel of corn.

The grasshopper called out to the ant, "Why don't you come and rest for a while? It looks like you're working too hard on such a beautiful day."

The ant replied, "I'm sorry, but I have no time for rest. I need to store up food for the winter."

The grasshopper laughed, "Why worry about the winter? There's plenty of food for us to enjoy today. Come, join me."

The ant refused and continued to carry the large corn kernel to his nest. All day long the ant travelled back and forth bringing seeds to his nest while the grasshopper hopped and sang.

Before long the winter came and the grasshopper had no food to eat. He looked out of his cold home and saw that all his ant neighbors had plenty to eat. They had rooms filled with corn, beans, and nuts while he had none. Suddenly the grasshopper understood what the ant was trying to tell him on that warm, summer day. It is best to prepare for the needs of future days.

John Newton



“Amazing Grace” is one of the most famous hymns ever written. John Newton wrote this hymn. He was born in England in 1725. His mother died when he was a young boy. Newton’s father served as a ship captain. At the age of 11, John Newton began sailing with his father. Later he worked as a captain on a slave ship. During that time, ships were sent from England and other countries with supplies to Africa. Once in Africa, slaves were placed on board the ship to be taken to England, the U.S., and other countries where they would be sold. The people from Africa

did not want to leave their homes and villages. They were captured and forced on the ships. The passage from Africa was terrible, and many Africans died on the journey.

On one voyage, John Newton's ship encountered a terrible storm. He prayed to God to keep him and those aboard the ship safe. Soon the storm calmed and the danger passed. John Newton had not prayed to God or followed him for many years. Instead, he lived a life which went against the Bible's teachings. The sea captain began studying the Bible. He turned to God and asked for His forgiveness for the many sins he committed.

John Newton returned to England and continued to study scripture. He quit work as a sea captain, and he began studying to become a minister. As a minister he was known for his excellent sermons. Many people came to hear him preach. In his old age, Newton published an article stating that he was sorry for being a part of the slave trade. He worked with others to end slavery in England.

Newton wrote many songs that were used at his church services. "Amazing Grace" is the best known of the hymns he wrote. In the song he remembered the life of sin he led before he came to Christ. He rejoiced that God saved him, and he now belonged to Him.

Amazing Grace

By John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who call'd me here below,
Will be forever mine.

Pink River Dolphin



The pink river dolphin is also known as the “boto.” Unlike dolphins that live in the ocean, the boto lives in rivers in South America. It swims in the Amazon River and other rivers flowing into it. The pink river dolphin is the largest fresh water dolphin in the world. The dolphins eat crab, piranha, and many types of fish. They have long, powerful beaks.

The boto is known for its unusual pink color. Pink river dolphins are born gray and become pink as they age. The dolphins are very intelligent. Their brains are larger than other dolphins. They grow to

6-8 feet long and weigh around 300 pounds. The boto are friendly and playful animals.

The pink river dolphin does not have a dorsal fin like other dolphins. Instead it has a large hump on its back where the fin would be. The bones in most dolphins' necks are fused. This means the dolphins look straight ahead and can not turn their heads from side to side. The bones in the necks of the pink river dolphins are not fused. The pink river dolphins' necks can move from side to side. This allows the dolphins better vision. It also makes it easier for the dolphins to move through underwater river hazards.

The boto are endangered animals. This means that the number of pink river dolphins is growing smaller. No animals hunt pink river dolphins. Humans endanger these friendly dolphins. Boats and fishing nets kill numerous dolphins each year. Also the forests surrounding the rivers are being cut down. This changes the rivers as well as the forests. People are working hard to preserve these beautiful animals by taking care of the rivers where they live.

The Princess Who Slept On A Pea

By Hans Christian Andersen

Once a time there was a Prince who wanted to wed a Princess, but she should be a real Princess. So he travelled about all over the world to find such a Princess, but everywhere there was something in the way. Princesses there were in plenty, but whether they were real Princesses, he could not make out, as there was always something that was not quite in order about them. Therefore, he came home again and was quite sad, for he longed so much for a real Princess.

One evening, a heavy storm arose. It thundered and lightened, and the rain poured down; it was quite frightful. There was then a knocking at the town gate, and the old King went to open it.

It was a Princess standing outside at the gate. But alas, what a state she was in because of the rain and the terrible storm! The water ran down from her hair and her clothes, in at the top of her shoes and out at the heels. But she said that she was a real Princess.

“Well, we shall soon learn it,” thought the old Queen, but without saying one word.

She went into the bedroom, took all the sheets off the bed and laid a pea on the bottom of the bedstead.

Then she took twenty mattresses, laid them on the pea and finally placed twenty more eider—down quilts on top of the mattresses.

On the top of all these, the Princess was to lie all night.

In the morning she was asked how she had slept.

“Oh, terribly badly,” said the Princess. “Not a wink have I slept the whole night. Heaven knows what there must have been in the bed! I lay on something very hard so that I am black and blue all over my body! It is quite horrible!”

Now, they saw well that she was a real Princess, as she had felt the pea through twenty mattresses and twenty eider-down quilts. Nobody but a real Princess could be so sensitive.

So the Prince took her for his wife, for now he knew that he had a real Princess, and the pea was put into a cabinet of curiosities, where it is still if no one has taken it away.

You see, this is a true story!





The Frog Prince

By the Brothers Grimm

Part I

There was once a king whose little daughter was so beautiful, that the sun himself almost stood still and looked in wonder upon her every day, as he passed over the royal palace. Near this palace was a rich old forest. In the forest was a deep, dark well. When the day was hot, and the little maiden was wearied, she used to like to sit beside the cool well and play with a pretty golden ball—her favorite toy. But one day the golden ball rolled into the well. Down, down, splash it went, far out of sight.

“O my beautiful toy! My beautiful toy!” wailed the princess.

“What is the matter, little princess?” said a voice from the water. “Tell me; indeed, I will help thee.”

The maiden peered down into the water, wondering who could have spoken to her. But she could see no one.

Again the voice spoke, “Don’t weep, little princess! Don’t weep!” Again she peered down into the water. This time she saw an old frog stretching his great ugly head up above the water.

“Is it you, you old frog?” said the princess.

“Yes, it is I. But tell me, why do you weep?”