

The transformation began.  
The wicked spell was very  
powerful and could not be  
removed at once.

Helga stood in the form  
of an ugly frog, with the  
webbed skin on her hands,  
but her eyes were already different.  
They were more beautiful  
than they had ever been in her most  
beautiful form of a girl.  
They were now pure, gentle eyes  
in the face of a frog.  
They showed the deep feeling  
and a human heart.



Beginner

Elementary

Для начинающих

Pre-Intermediate

Для продолжающих  
первого уровня

Intermediate

Для продолжающих  
второго уровня

Upper Intermediate

Для продолжающих  
третьего уровня

Advanced

Для совершенствующихся

ISBN 978-5-8112-3787-6



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АИРИС ПРЕСС

Х. К. АНДЕРСЕН ДОЧЬ БОЛОТНОГО ЦАРЯ • H. C. ANDERSEN THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER

Домашнее чтение

АИРИС ПРЕСС

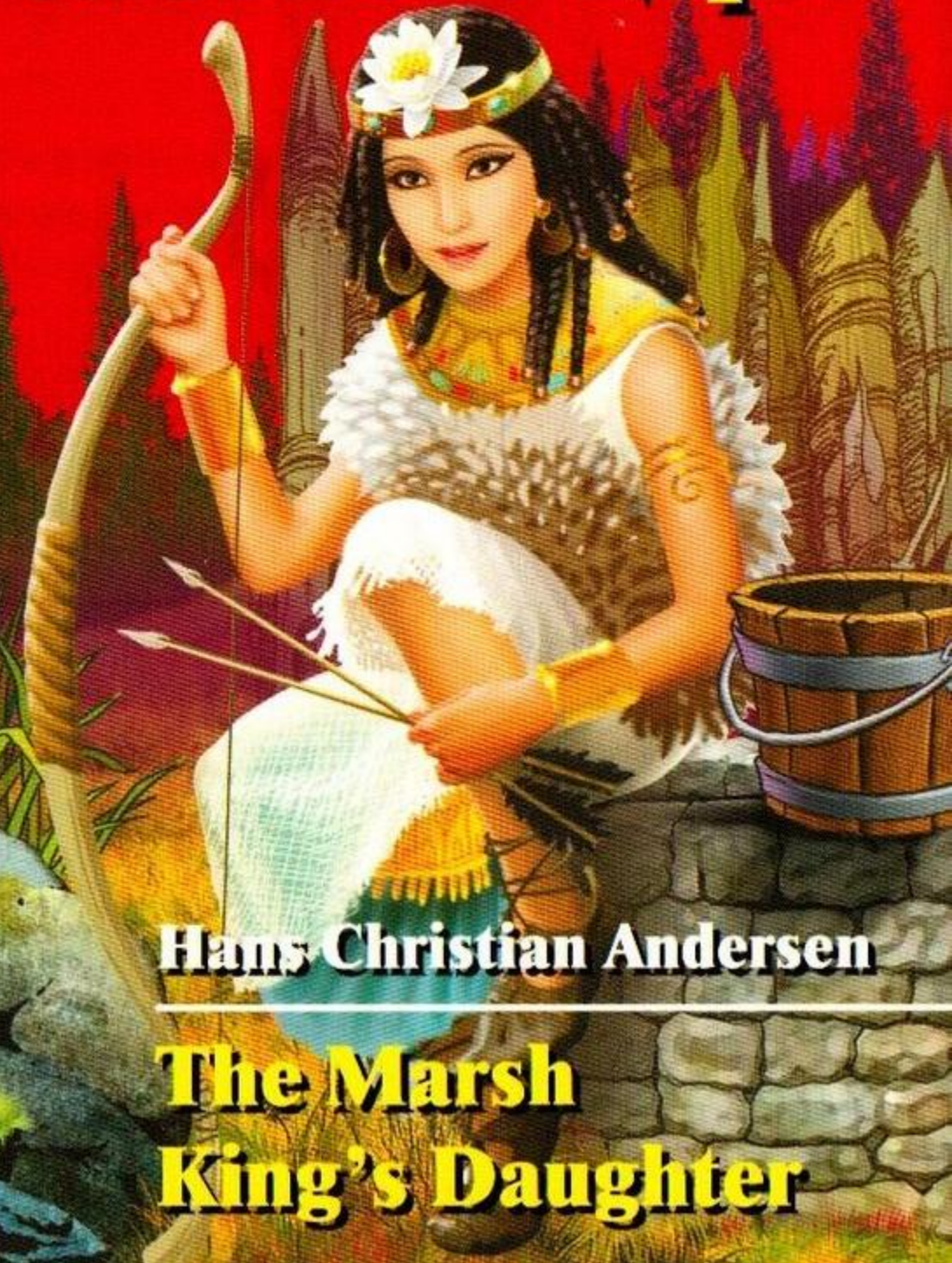


АНГЛИЙСКИЙ клуб

Ханс Кристиан Андерсен

# Дочь болотного царя

Elementary



Hans Christian Andersen

The Marsh  
King's Daughter

Elementary



**АНГЛИЙСКИЙ клуб**

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Дома́ние чте́ние

**Ханс Кристиан Андерсен**

**Дочь  
болотного царя**

*Адаптация текста, предисловие,  
комментарий, упражнения,  
словарь Е.В. Угаровой*



Москва

АЙРИС ПРЕСС

2010

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А65

Серия «Английский клуб» включает книги и учебные пособия, рассчитанные на пять этапов изучения английского языка: Elementary (для начинающих), Pre-Intermediate (для продолжающих первого уровня), Intermediate (для продолжающих второго уровня), Upper Intermediate (для продолжающих третьего уровня) и Advanced (для совершенствующихся).

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Книга представляет собой адаптацию сказки знаменитого датского писателя Ханса Кристиана Андерсена (1805 - 1875) «Дочь болотного царя» на английском языке. Это одна из лучших сказок великого писателя, хотя и не столь широко известная в нашей стране. В ней рассказывается удивительная история дочери египетской принцессы и скандинавского болотного царя. Преодолеть зло и колдовские чары героиня сможет только благодаря любви близких и помощи верных друзей.

После каждой главы дается комментарий и перевод трудных слов и выражений, а также упражнения, направленные на проверку понимания текста, отработку лексики и грамматических конструкций, развитие навыков устной речи. Новые слова включены в словарь, который помещён в конце книги.

Пособие предназначено учащимся 5–6 классов средних школ, лицеев, гимназий, а также широкому кругу лиц, изучающих английский язык.

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Дорогие ребята!

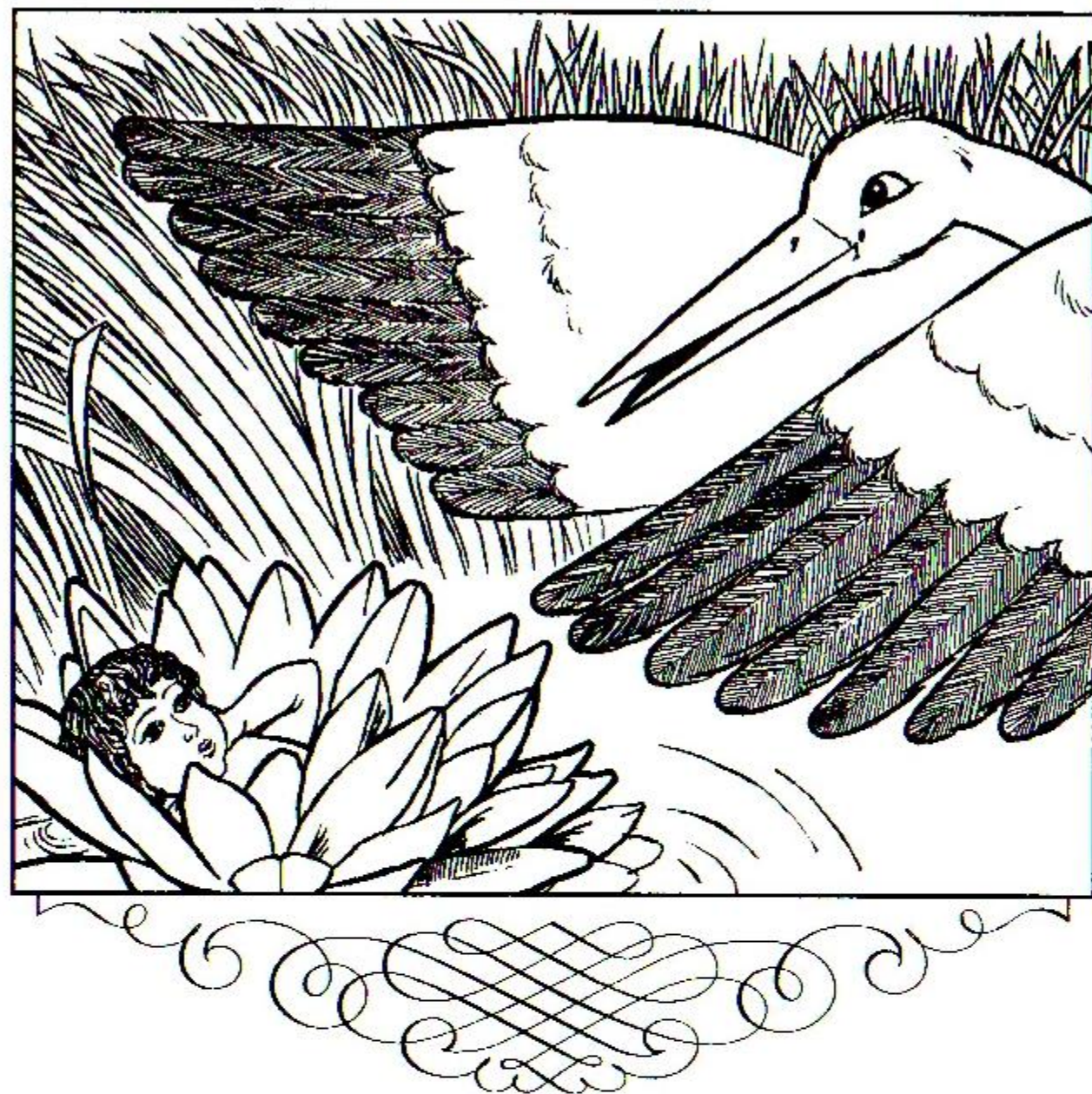
Перед вами новая книга для чтения из серии «Английский клуб». На этот раз мы выбрали для вас сказку Ханса-Кристиана Андерсена «Дочь болотного царя».

Известно, что Андерсен написал более 400 сказок. Некоторые из них знакомы нам с самого раннего детства. Достаточно только вспомнить их названия: «Огниво», «Принцесса на горошине», «Русалочка», «Снежная королева», «Стойкий оловянный солдатик», «Гадкий утенок» и т. д. Но кроме этих Андерсен придумал много других интересных сказок. Одна из них — «Дочь болотного царя». Это волшебная сказка, действие которой разворачивается в жарком Египте и на земле суровых викингов. Главная героиня сказки — девушка, по ночам превращающаяся в жабу, — чем-то похожа на нашу Царевну-лягушку. Но у нее совсем другой характер и другая судьба, и ей самой придется пройти через непростые испытания, чтобы сбросить с себя колдовские чары, исцелить больного дедушку и найти свою любовь.

Мы надеемся, что чтение этой книги будет для вас не только интересным, но

и полезным. Мы рекомендуем внимательно изучать новые слова и комментарии, помещенные после каждой главы. У вас также есть возможность найти значение многих новых слов в словарице, который мы расположили в конце книги. Упражнения помогут вам выучить новые английские слова и выражения и научиться правильно употреблять их в речи.

Желаем успеха!



## PART 1

The storks tell their little ones many stories, and they are all about moors and reed banks, and suited to their age. The youngest of them are quite satisfied with “kribble, krabble,” or such nonsense, and think it great. But the elder ones want something with a deeper meaning, or at least something about their own family.

We know one of the longest and oldest stories which the storks tell. It has been repeated from mouth to mouth, from one stork-mother to another, for thousands of years. Each stork has told it better than the last. And now we plan to tell it better than all.

The first stork pair who told it lived at the time it happened. They had their nest on the roof of the Viking's house, which stood near the wild moorlands of Wendsyssell. That is, to speak more correctly, the great moorland, high up in the north of **Jutland**. This moorland is still an immense area of marshy ground, about which we can read in the "**Official Directory**". It is said that in old times the place was a lake. Now the moorland extends for miles in every direction. It is surrounded by damp meadows, dangerous swamps, and marshy ground covered with turf, on which grow bilberry bushes and short trees. There are almost always thick fogs over this region, which, seventy years ago, was full of wolves. It may well be called the Wild Moor. One can easily imagine, with such great marsh and lake, how lonely and sad it was a thousand years ago.

Many things may be noticed now that existed then. The reeds grow to the same height,

and have the same kind of long, purple-brown leaves, **with their feathery tips**. There still stands the birch, with its white bark and its delicate, loosely hanging leaves. The flies still wear a thin **dress of the same cut**, and the favourite colours of the stork are white, with black and red for stockings. The people, certainly, in those days, wore very different dresses to those they now wear. But if any of them, be he a rich man or a poor one, master or servant, stepped on the marshy ground of the moor, they met with the same fate a thousand years ago as they do now. The poor fellow sank, and went down to the Marsh King, as he is called. The Marsh King rules in the waters of the great moorland empire. They also called him "Swamp King," but we like the name of "Marsh King" better, and we will give him that name as the storks do. Very little is known of the Marsh King's rule, but that, perhaps, is a good thing.

Near the moorlands, and not far from the North Sea, there was the castle of the Viking. It was built of wood, and it had three storeys. There was also a tower and stone cellars. On top of the roof the stork had built his nest. There the stork-mother sat on her eggs and **felt sure her hatching would come to something**.

One evening, the stork-father stayed out rather late, and when he came home he seemed quite busy and important. "I have something awful to tell you," he said to the stork-mother.

"Keep it to yourself then," she said. "Remember that I am hatching eggs. It may upset me, and will affect them."

"You must know it at once," he said. "The daughter of our host in Egypt has arrived here. She has the courage to take this journey, and now she is lost."

"She, who is from the race of the fairies, is it?" cried the stork-mother. "Oh, tell me all about it. You know I do not like to be kept waiting at a time when I am hatching eggs."

"Well, you see, mother," he said, "she believed what the doctors said, that the moor-flowers which grow about here would heal her sick father. She has flown to the north in swan's plumage, in company with some other swan-princesses, who come to these parts every year to renew their youth. She came, and where is she now!"

"You enter into particulars too much," said the stork-mother, "and the eggs may take cold."

"Well," he said, "this evening I went among the reeds, and while I was there three

swans came. Something in their manner of flying seemed to say to me, 'Look carefully now. There is one not all swan, only swan's feathers.' You know, mother, you have the same intuitive feeling that I have. You know whether a thing is right or not immediately."

"Yes, of course," she said; "but tell me about the princess. I am tired of hearing about the swan's feathers."

"Well, you know that in the middle of the moor there is something like a lake," said the stork-father. "You can see the edge of it if you raise yourself a little. Just there, by the reeds and the green banks, lay the stump of an old tree. On this stump the three swans stood flapping their wings, and looking about them. One of them threw off her plumage, and I immediately recognized her as one of the princesses of our home in Egypt. There she sat, without any clothes. Only her long, black hair covered her body. I heard her tell the two others to take great care of the swan's plumage, while she dipped down into the water to get the flowers which she thought she saw there. The others nodded, and picked up the feather dress. I wonder, what will become of it? I thought this, and she most likely asked herself the same question. If so, she received an answer,

a very practical one. The two swans rose up and flew away with her swan's plumage. 'Dive down now!' they cried. 'You will never more fly in the swan's plumage. You will never again see Egypt. Here, on the moor, you will remain.' And with these words they tore the swan's plumage into a thousand pieces, and then the two **deceitful** princesses flew away."

"Why, that is terrible," said the stork-mother. "I feel as if I could hardly bear to hear any more, but you must tell me what happened next."

"The princess burst into tears. Her hot tears fell on the stump, which was really not a stump at all but the Marsh King himself, who lives and rules in marshy ground. I saw myself how the stump of the tree turned round, and was a tree no more. The long branches like arms were extended from it. Then the poor child was terribly frightened, and started to run away. She tried to cross the green, slippery ground. But it cannot bear any weight, much less hers. She fell into the water and quickly sank, and the stump dived immediately after her. In fact, it was he who drew her down. Great black bubbles rose up, and with these every trace of the two disappeared. And now the princess is buried in the wild

marsh. And she will never now carry flowers to Egypt to cure her father."

"It is too bad that you told me this," she said, "at such a time as this. The eggs may suffer. But I think the princess will soon find help. Someone will try to help her."

"I want to go to the marsh every day," he said, "to see if anything happens." And so he did.

A long time passed, but at last he saw a green stalk growing out of the deep, marshy ground. As it reached the surface of the marsh, a leaf appeared, and then there was a bud.

One morning, when the stork-father was flying over the stalk, he saw that the power of the sun's rays had made the bud open, and in the cup of the flower lay a charming child — a little girl, looking as if she had just come out of a bath. The little one was so like the Egyptian princess, that the stork, at the first moment, thought it was the princess herself. Then he decided that it was much more likely to be the daughter of the princess and the Marsh King. This explained also that she lay in the cup of a water-lily. "But she cannot be left to lie here," thought the stork, "and in my nest there are already so many. But stay,

I have thought of something. The wife of the Viking has no children, and how often she has wished for a little one. People always say the stork brings the little ones. I will do so in earnest this time. I shall fly with the child to the Viking's wife. How glad she will be!"

And then the stork took the little girl from the flower-cup, flew to the castle, and put the beautiful child on the bed of the Viking's wife. Then he flew back quickly to the stork-mother and told her what he had seen and done. The little storks listened to it all, because they were then quite old enough to do so. "So you see," he continued, "that the princess is not dead. She has sent her little one up here. And now I have found a home for her."

"Ah, I said it would be so long ago," said the stork-mother. "But now think a little about your own family. Our travelling time is near, and I sometimes feel a little irritation already under the wings. The cuckoos and the nightingale are already gone, and the quails say they will go too as soon as the wind is favourable."

## Helpful Words & Notes

- little ones** — маленькие дети  
**reed banks** — берега, поросшие камышом  
**suited to their age** — соответствующие их возрасту  
**Jutland** — Ютландия; полуостров в Дании и Германии между Северным и Балтийским морями  
**Official Directory** — официальный справочник  
**with their feathery tips** — с пушистыми кончиками  
**dress of the same cut** — платье того же самого фасона  
**felt sure her hatching would come to something** — была уверена в том, что сидит не напрасно  
**from the race of the fairies** — из рода фей  
**in swan's plumage** — в одежде из перьев  
**enter into particulars** — вдаваться в подробности  
**deceitful** — коварный  
**in earnest** — на самом деле, всерьез



## Activities



### Checking Comprehension

#### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1) Who told the story of the Marsh King's daughter?
- 2) Where did the first stork pair live?
- 3) What made the Egyptian princess come to the north?
- 4) What happened to the princess on the moor?
- 5) Where did the Marsh King take the princess?
- 6) Where did the little girl come from?
- 7) Why couldn't the stork leave her in the marsh?
- 8) Where did the stork take the girl?
- 9) Was the stork-mother happy to hear that her husband had found a home for the daughter of the princess?

#### 2. Say who:

- 1) was hatching eggs.
- 2) was from the race of fairies.

- 3) dipped down into the water to get the moor-flower.
- 4) tore the swan's plumage into a thousand pieces.
- 5) drew the princess down into the marsh.
- 6) was the little girl from the flower-cup.

#### 3. Complete the sentences.

- 1) The elder children of the storks are not satisfied with "kribble, krabble" stories; they want \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Two other swan-princesses came to the north every year to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The stork-mother was afraid that a sad story could \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) The stork could not take the girl into his nest because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) The stork-mother felt irritation under her wings because \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Working with Vocabulary and Grammar

#### 1. Say which word does not go with the others and why.

- 1) egg, stork, swan, nightingale

- 2) stalk, bud, leaf, water-lily
- 3) lake, sea, meadow, marsh
- 4) wood, feather, stone, birch
- 5) black, white, purple, favourable

## 2. Find in the text the English for:

- 1) господин или слуга
- 2) Мне не нравится, когда меня заставляют ждать.
- 3) Ты вдаешься в излишние подробности.
- 4) Ты обладаешь такой же интуицией, как и я.
- 5) присмотреть за перьями

## 3. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense form.

- 1) A man who (step) on the marshy ground of the moor, (sink) and (go) down to the Marsh King.
- 2) When the stork-father (come) home, he (seem) quite busy and important.
- 3) The daughter of our host in Egypt (arrive) here.
- 4) One of the swans (throw off) her plumage, and I immediately (recognize) her as one of the princesses of our home in Egypt.

- 5) Great black bubbles (rise up), and with these every trace of the two (disappear).



## Discussing the Text

### 1. Prove that:

- 1) the Egyptian princess wanted to heal her sick father.
- 2) the stork-father had a good intuitive feeling.
- 3) two other swan-princesses were deceitful.

### 2. Describe the Marsh King. Say what you know about him.

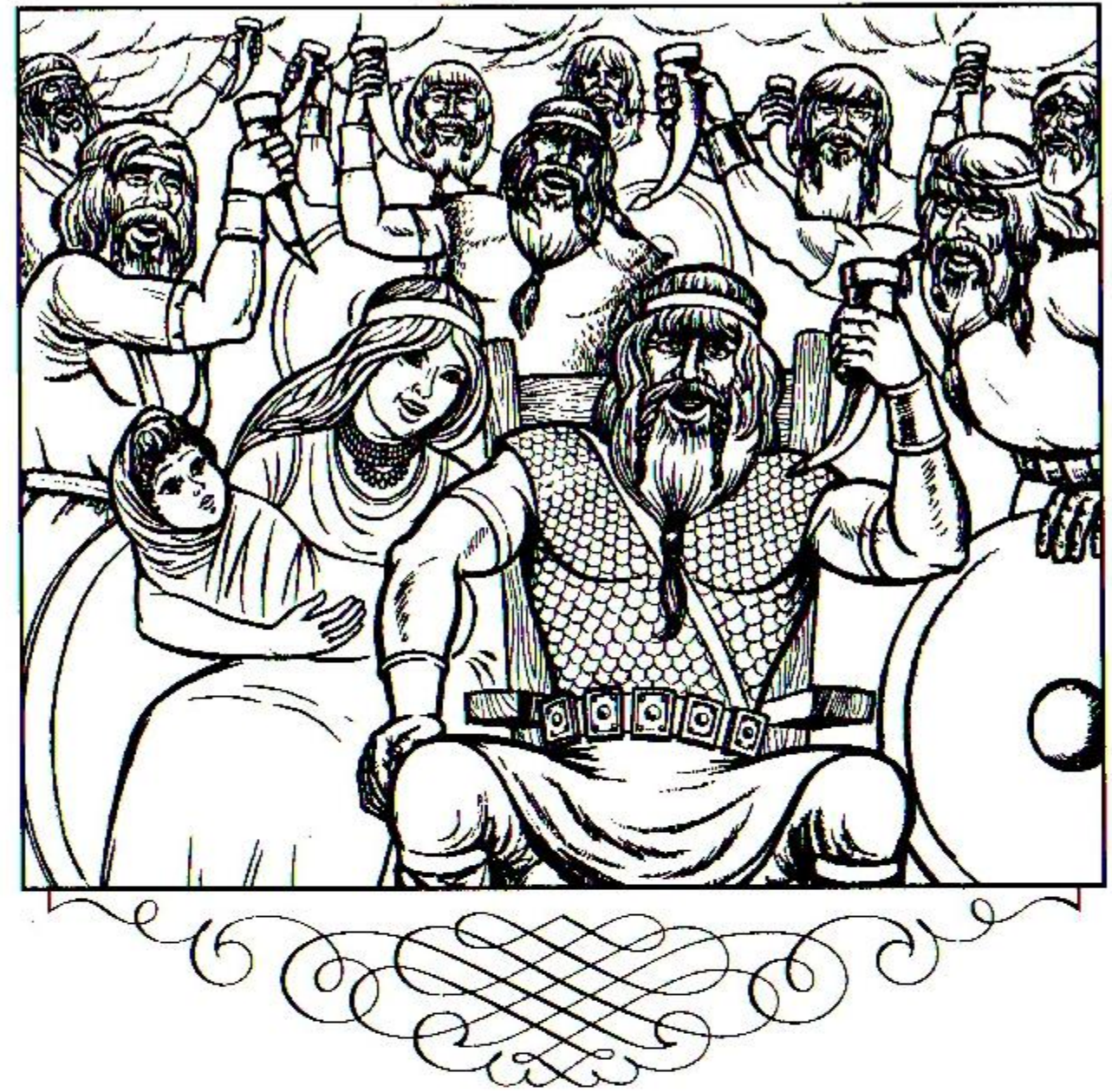
### 3. Imagine that you're the stork-father. Say:

- 1) how you met the Egyptian princess.
- 2) why she came to the north.
- 3) what happened to her on the Wild Moor.
- 4) how you found the daughter of the princess.
- 5) why you took her to the Viking's castle.

### 4. Give your opinion.

- 1) Which episodes prove that the stork-father had a kind heart?

2) How do you like the stork-mother? She did not seem to care much about the lost princess. Can you think of a reason? Was it her selfishness (эгоизм) or was she just a busy mother?



## PART 2

The Viking's wife was very happy when she awoke the next morning and found the beautiful little girl lying beside her. She kissed her, but she cried terribly, and struck her with its arms and legs. The child did not seem to be pleased at all. At last the girl cried herself to sleep. When she lay there so still and quiet, she was a most beautiful little girl. The Vi-

king's wife was so happy, that her body and soul were full of joy. Her heart felt so light within her, that it seemed to her that her husband and his soldiers, who were absent, could come home as suddenly and unexpectedly as the little child had done. She and her servants spent much time preparing everything for the arrival of the Viking. They hung the long, coloured **tapestry**, on which she and her maids had worked pictures of their gods, **Odin, Thor, and Friga**. The servants polished the old shields which were used to decorate the walls of the hall. Cushions were placed on the seats, and dry wood was laid on the fireplace in the centre of the hall to make a quick fire. The Viking's wife herself helped with the work, so that at night she felt very tired, and quickly fell asleep. When she awoke, just before morning, she was terribly alarmed to find that the girl had disappeared. She sprang from her bed, lighted a **pine-chip**, and searched all round the room. Then, at last, in that part of the bed where her feet had been, lay not the child, but a big, ugly frog. The woman felt disgust when she saw this frog, and seized a heavy stick to kill it. But the creature looked at her with such strange, sad eyes, that she could not strike the blow. Once more she searched round

the room. Then **the frog gave a low, painful croak**. She sprang from the bed and opened the window. At the same moment the sun rose, and threw its beams through the window. The sun's rays moved on, till they stopped on the bed where the great frog lay. Suddenly the frog's broad mouth became small and red. The limbs stretched out and extended themselves till they took a beautiful shape. There was the pretty child lying before her, and the ugly frog was gone. "How is this?" cried the Viking's wife. "Have I had a bad dream? Is it not my own lovely child that lies there?" Then she kissed her, but the girl struggled and fought, and bit as if she was a little wild cat.

**The Viking did not return on that day, nor the next.** He was, however, on the way home, but the wind, so favourable to the storks, was against him. It blew towards the south. A wind in favour of one is often against another.

After two or three days had passed, it became clear to the Viking's wife what the matter was with the child. It was under the influence of a powerful **sorcerer**. In the daytime it was charming. She looked like an angel, but **with a temper bad and wild**. At night, **in the form of an ugly frog**, it was quiet and sad, with eyes

full of sorrow. Here were two natures, changing with the absence and return of sunlight. And so it happened that in the daytime the child, with the actual form of its mother, was wild as her father, the Marsh King. At night, on the contrary, she looked like her father, while she had the heart and mind of its mother. Who could **remove the wicked spell of the sorcerer?** The wife of the Viking lived in constant pain and sorrow about it. She liked the little creature, but she could not explain to her husband why she had come to live in the house. She expected him to return soon. She realized that if he knew that the girl had been enchanted he would order the servants to throw the poor child on the road, as was the custom at that time, and let anyone take it away. The good wife of the Viking could not let that happen. So she decided that the Viking should never see the child except in the daytime.

One morning the Viking's wife and her servants heard a loud flapping of storks' wings over the roof. More than a hundred pairs of storks had stopped there during the night, to have rest after their excursion. Now they flew up, and prepared for the journey to the south.

"All the husbands are here, and ready!" they cried; "wives and children also!"

"How light we are!" screamed the young storks. "Something pleasant is coming to us. Ah, how nice it is to travel into foreign lands!"

"Hold yourselves properly in the line with us," cried fathers and mothers. "Do not use your beaks so much; **it tries the lungs.**" And then the storks flew away.

About the same time sounded **the clang of the trumpets** across the moors. The Viking had landed with his men. They were returning home with great treasure **from the Gallic coast**, where the people, as did also the people of Britain, often cried in alarm, "Save us from the north men."

Life came with them into the castle of the Viking on the moorland. A great **cask of mead** was brought into the hall, **roast meat was served up**, so that they might have a huge celebration. The fire crackled, and the smoke went towards the roof. The soot fell on the men from the ceiling, but they were used to all these things. Many guests were invited. They received expensive presents. All wrongs were forgotten. They drank a lot, and threw in each other's faces the bones that were left. It was seen as a sign of good feeling among them. A bard, who was a kind of musician as well as soldier, and who had been with the Vi-

king in his expedition, and knew what to sing about, gave them one of his best songs, in which he praised all their war deeds. The song had this refrain:

“Gold and good things will fly away,  
Friends and enemies must die one day;  
Every man on earth must die,  
But a famous name will never die.”

And with that they beat on their shields, and hammered on the table with knives and bones, in a most shocking manner.

The Viking's wife sat in the chair in the open hall. She wore a silk expensive dress, golden bracelets, and large amber beads. The bard named her in his song, and spoke of the treasure which she had brought to her husband. The Viking had already seen the wonderfully beautiful child in the daytime, and was pleased with her beauty. He liked even her wild ways. He said the little girl would grow up to be a heroine. She would be strong and brave, and she would have the character of a man.

The full cask of mead soon became empty, and a fresh one was brought in the hall. These were people who liked to eat and drink

much. The old proverb, which everyone knows, says that “the cattle know when to leave their pasture, but a foolish man does not know the measure of his own appetite.” Yes, they all knew this, but men may know what is right, and yet often do wrong. They also knew that “even the welcome guest becomes wearisome when he sits too long in the house.” But there they remained, because meat and mead are good things. And so at the Viking's house they stayed, and enjoyed themselves. Oh, it was a wonderful time!

## Helpful Words & Notes

**tapestry** — гобелен; вытканый вручную ковер-картина

**Odin, Thor, and Friga** — германо-скандинавские боги: Один — верховный бог, бог войны и победы; Тор — бог грома, бурь и плодородия; Фригг — главная богиня, жена Одина, покровительница домашнего очага

**pine-chip** — лучина

**the frog gave a low, painful croak** — жаба издала тихий, жалобный стон

**The Viking did not return on that day, nor the next.** — Викинг не вернулся ни в тот день, ни на следующий.

**in favour of one** — в пользу кого-то одного

**sorcerer** — колдун, волшебник

**with a temper bad and wild** — со злым и необузданным нравом

**in the form of** — в виде

**remove the wicked spell of the sorcerer** — снять с ребенка злые чары

**it tries the lungs** — это вредно для легких

**the clang of the trumpets** — звуки рога

**from the Gallic coast** — от берегов Галлии (Галлией называлась часть Европы, заселенная одним из кельтских племен — галлами)

**cask of mead** — бочка слабоалкогольного питьевого меда

**roast meat was served up** — подали жареного мяса

**war deeds** — военные подвиги

**amber beads** — янтарные бусы

**wild ways** — дикий нрав

**cattle** — крупный рогатый скот (*употребляется с глаголом в форме множественного числа*)

**even the welcome guest becomes wearisome** — даже званый гость надоест

## Activities



### Checking Comprehension

#### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1) What did the Viking's wife feel when she awoke the next morning?
- 2) How did the child behave?
- 3) What did the Viking's wife and her servants do to prepare the castle for the arrival of the Viking?
- 4) Whom did the Viking's wife see when she awoke at night?
- 5) What did she feel and what did she do then?
- 6) What happened when the sun's rays touched the frog?
- 7) What was wrong with the little girl?
- 8) Where did the storks go?
- 9) Where did the Viking's men come from?
- 10) What changed in the castle then?
- 11) How was the return of the Viking's men celebrated?
- 12) What was a sign of good feeling among the Viking's soldiers and guests?

13) What did the Viking think of the little girl?

## 2. Correct the statements.

- 1) The little girl was pleased when the Viking's wife kissed her.
- 2) The Viking's wife asked the servants to prepare the castle for the arrival of her husband and took the child for a walk.
- 3) The frog gave a loud cry and sprang down from the bed.
- 4) The girl looked like her father and behaved as her mother.
- 5) The Viking and his soldiers returned from Egypt.
- 6) The guests drank red wine and played cards.
- 7) The Viking did not like the little girl.

## 3. Say why:

- 1) the Viking's wife quickly fell asleep.
- 2) the Viking's wife could not strike a blow to the frog.
- 3) the Viking did not return on that day.
- 4) the Viking's wife decided to keep the truth about the girl a secret from her husband.

- 5) the storks came to the roof of the castle.
- 6) the bard sang his song.
- 7) the Viking liked the girl's wild ways.

## Working with Vocabulary and Grammar

### 1. Match up the antonyms.

ugly	empty
wicked	slow
happy	beautiful
quick	wet
old	wild
dry	new
quiet	sad
full	kind

### 2. Suggest the Russian for the phrases.

- 1) At last the child cried itself to sleep.
- 2) A wind in favour of one is often against another.
- 3) in a most shocking manner
- 4) Men may know what is right, and yet often do wrong.



**3. Fill in the gaps with the nouns from the box.**

treasure
coast
sign
disgust
deed
sorcerer

- 1) The Viking's wife felt \_\_\_\_\_ when she saw the frog.
- 2) The child was under the influence of a powerful \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The Viking's men arrived with great \_\_\_\_\_ from the Gallic \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) To throw bones in each other's faces was a \_\_\_\_\_ of good feeling among the men.
- 5) The bard praised the war \_\_\_\_\_ of the soldiers in his song.



**Discussing the Text**

**1. Describe in detail what happened:**

- 1) when the Viking's wife first saw the little girl.
- 2) when she found the ugly frog.

- 3) when the sun's rays touched the frog.
- 4) when the Viking and his men returned to the castle.

**2. Speak of the Viking's wife.**

- 1) Describe her feelings to the child she adopted (удочерила).
- 2) She chose to hide the truth about the little girl from everyone. What made her do it? Did she do the right thing? Give your opinion.
- 3) What do you think the Viking's wife told her husband about the child? Did he believe her? Why?

**3. Imagine that you're a guest at the celebration at the castle. Say:**

- 1) why you were invited there.
- 2) how the castle was decorated.
- 3) what you ate and drank.
- 4) what you did apart from (помимо) eating and drinking.
- 5) what you received as a present.
- 6) what the Viking's wife looked like.
- 7) what kind of songs the bard sang.

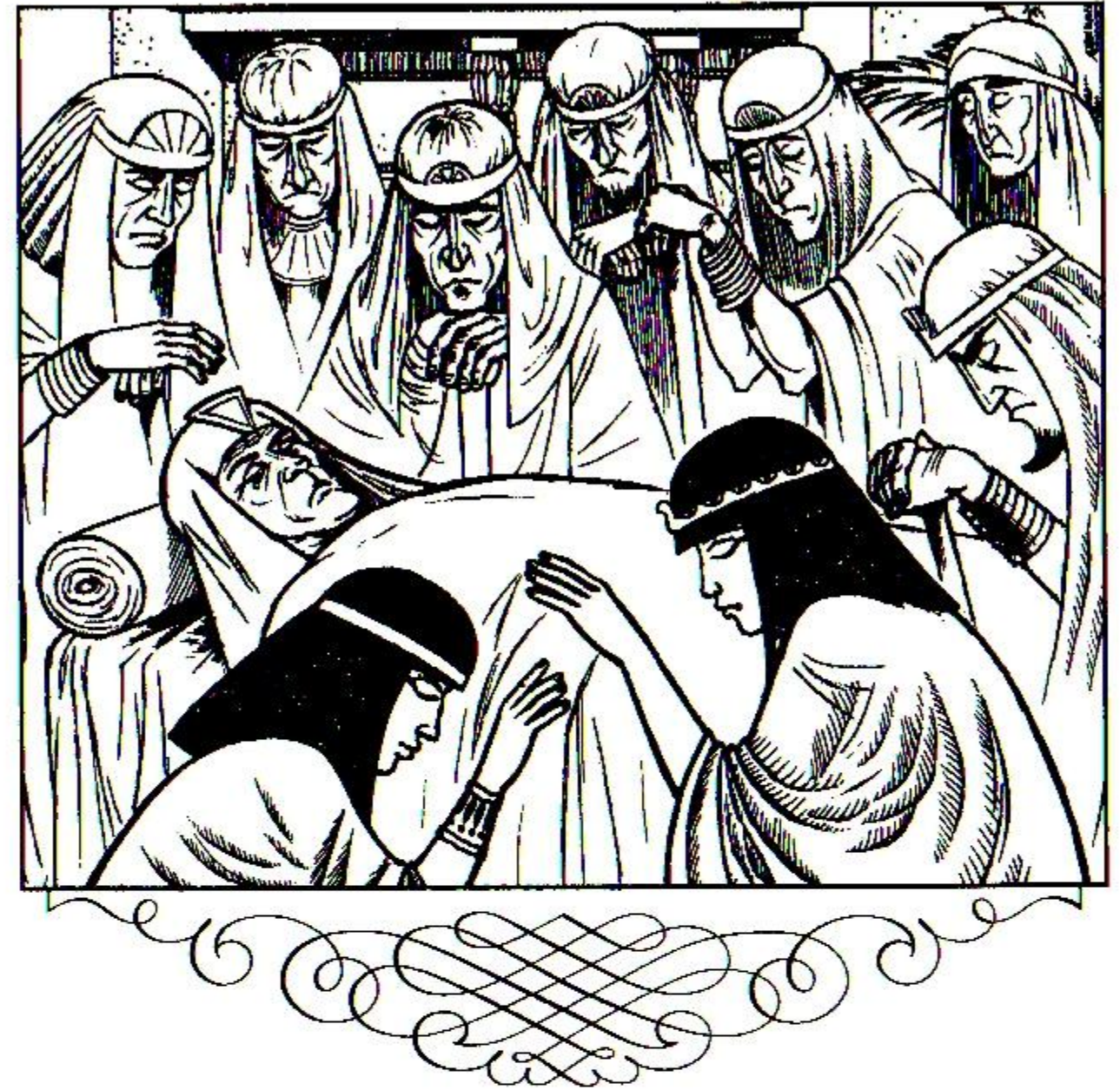
**4. Speak of celebrations.**

What kind of celebrations do you usually

have? Where do you go to have a celebration? How do you spend time there?

**5. Give your opinion.**

Find a Russian equivalent for the phrase "Even the welcome guest becomes wearisome when he sits too long in the house". Can you explain in your own words what it means? Do you agree with the phrase? Have you ever been a wearisome guest?



### PART 3

Once more in the same year the Viking left the castle, though the storms of autumn had already begun. He went with his soldiers to the coast of Britain. He said that it was just an excursion of pleasure across the water, so his wife remained at home with the little girl. It is quite certain the foster-mother began to love the poor frog, with its gentle eyes and

its deep sighs, even better than the little beauty, who bit and fought with all around her.

Autumn rains, which destroy the leaves of the wood, had already fallen on the forest and moors. Feathers of birds, as they call the snow, flew about in thick showers, and winter was coming. The sparrows occupied the stork's nest, and talked about the absent owners in **their own way**. Where were staying now the stork pair and all their young ones?

The storks were in the land of Egypt, where the sun was bright and warm, as it is here at midsummer. Acacias were in **full bloom** all over the country. The **crescent** glittered brightly from the cupolas of the mosques. And on the minarets sat many of the storks, resting after their long journey. Their nests lay close to each other on the columns and arches of temples in forgotten cities. The trees lifted themselves as sunshades over them. The gray pyramids looked like broken shadows in the clear air of the desert. The banks of the Nile were covered with frogs. **It was a most acceptable prospect for the stork families**. The young storks thought their eyes deceived them, everything around appeared so beautiful.

"It is always like this here, and this is how we live in our warm country," said the

stork-mother. And the thought made the young ones almost **beside themselves with pleasure**.

"Is there anything more to see?" they asked. "Are we going into the country?"

"There is nothing more for us to see," answered the stork-mother. "Beyond this nice region there are thick forests, where only an elephant could force a passage for himself with his great feet. The snakes are too large, and the lizards too quick for us to catch. Then there is the desert. Your eyes will be full of sand there with the lightest wind. Here is the best place for you, where there are frogs and locusts. Here I shall remain, and so must you." And so they stayed.

The parents sat in the nest on the minaret, and rested. Then they were busy cleaning their feathers, and sharpening their beaks against their red stockings. Then they stretched out their necks, saluted each other, and raised their heads with the high forehead and soft feathers. **Their brown eyes shone with intelligence**. The female young ones walked, looking at the other young storks, and swallowing a frog at every third step, or picking up a little snake with their beaks, **in a way they considered very becoming**, and besides it tasted very good. The young male

storks soon began to quarrel. They struck at each other with their wings, and pecked with their beaks till the blood came. And in this manner many of the young ladies and gentlemen found mates. It was, of course, what they wanted, and indeed what they lived for. Then they returned to a nest, and there the quarrelling began again, because in hot countries almost all people are violent and passionate. But **for all that** it was pleasant, especially for the old people, who watched them with great joy: they liked all that their young ones did. It was wonderful to be there. Every day there was sunshine, plenty to eat, and nothing to think of but pleasure.

But in the beautiful palace of their Egyptian host, as they called him, there was no pleasure at all. The rich and powerful lord of the palace lay on his bed, in the centre of the great hall, with its many-coloured walls looking like a great tulip. The king was weak and powerless in all his limbs, and lay like a mummy. His family and servants stood round him. He was not dead, but he was very sick. The wonderful moor-flower from the north, which was promised to him by her who loved him so much, had not arrived. His young and beautiful daughter who, in swan's plumage, had

flown over land and seas to the distant north, had never returned. She is dead, so the two swans had said when they came home. **They made up quite a story about her.** This is what they told:

“We three flew away together through the air,” they said. “A hunter noticed us, and shot at us with an arrow. The arrow struck our young friend and sister, and slowly singing her last song, she fell, a dying swan, into the forest lake. On the shores of the lake, under a big birch, we laid her in the cold earth. **We had our revenge.** We saw the nest of a swallow, who lived on the roof of the hunter. We put a **wisp of straw** into the nest and set fire to it. The house of the hunter took fire too, and it **burned to ashes.** The fire was seen over the sea as far as the birch, under which we laid her. She will never return to the land of Egypt.”

And then they both cried. And the stork-father, who heard the story, snapped with his beak so loudly that it could be heard a long way off.

“All lies!” he cried. “I want to **pinch them with my beak.**”

“And perhaps break it off,” said the stork-mother, “then what a sight you would be.

Think first of yourself, and then of your family. All others are nothing to us."

"Yes, I know," said the stork-father; "but tomorrow I can easily sit on the edge of the open cupola, when the learned and wise men get together to discuss the state of the sick man. Perhaps they may come a little nearer to the truth."

And the learned and wise men got together, and talked a great deal on every point. But the stork could not understand anything they said. There were no good results from their consultations, either for the sick man, or for his daughter in the marshy land. When we listen to what people say in this world, we hear a lot, but it is an advantage to know what has been said and done before, when we listen to a conversation. The stork did, and we know at least as much as he, the stork.

"Love is a life-giver. The highest love produces the highest life. Only through love can the sick man be cured." This had been said by many, and even the learned men agreed that those were wise words.

"What a beautiful thought!" exclaimed the stork-father immediately.

"I don't quite understand it," said the stork-mother, when her husband repeated it;

"however, it is not my fault, but the fault of the thought. Whatever it may be, I have something else to think of."

The learned men had spoken also of love between this one and that one; of the difference of the love which we have for our friends, to the love that exists between parents and children; of the love of the plant for the light. All these things were so learnedly explained, that it was impossible for the stork-father to follow it, much less to talk about it. He stood the whole of the following day on one leg, with half-closed eyes, thinking deeply about the subject. So much learning was quite a heavy weight for him to carry. One thing, however, the stork-father could understand. Every one, high and low, had from their hearts expressed their opinion that the king's illness was a serious problem for so many thousands of people — the whole country indeed — to have this man so sick, with no hope of his recovery. If only he could be cured! But where could be found the cure that could bring him good health? They had tried to find it everywhere: in learned writings, in the shining stars, in the weather and wind, until at last the wise and learned men said, as we already know, that "love, the life-giver, could alone

give new life to a father." And in saying this, they said more than they understood themselves. They repeated it, and wrote it down as a recipe, "Love is a life-giver." But how could such a recipe be prepared — that was a problem they could not solve. At last it was decided that help could only come from the princess herself, who loved her father so much, especially as she thought of a plan to get the cure.

More than a year had passed since the princess had left the house late at night. She had gone to the marble **sphinx** in the desert, shaking the sand from her sandals. Then she passed through the long passage, which leads to the centre of one of the great pyramids, where the powerful ancient kings, surrounded with golden treasure, lie in the form of mummies. The learned and wise men asked her to lay her head on one of them, and then she would know where to find the cure for her father. She had done all this, and in a dream had learnt that she should bring home to her father the lotus flower, which grows in the deep sea, near the moors in the Danish land. The very place had been pointed to her. She was told that the flower would bring her father health and strength. And she had left the land of Egypt, flying over to the open marsh

and the Wild Moor in the plumage of a swan.

The father and mother storks knew all this, and we also know it now. We know, too, that the Marsh King has drawn her down to himself, and that to the loved ones at home she is forever dead. One of the wisest of them said, as the stork-mother also said, "**In some way she will, after all, manage to succeed.**" At last they comforted themselves with this hope, and decided to wait patiently. In fact, they could do nothing better.

"I should like to get away the swan's feathers from those two deceitful princesses," said the stork-father. "Then, at least, they would not be able to fly over again to the Wild Moor and do more wrong. I can hide the two suits of feathers over there, till we find some use for them."

"But where will you put them?" asked the stork-mother.

"In our nest on the moors. I and the young ones will carry them **by turns** during our flight. And as we return, if they are too heavy for us, we shall be sure to find plenty of places on the way, where we can hide them till our next journey. Certainly one suit of swan's feathers would be enough for the princess, but two are always better. In those north-

ern countries no one can have too many traveling clothes.”

“No one will thank you for it,” said the stork-mother; “but you are master. And, except the time I sit on the eggs, I have nothing to say.”

### Helpful Words & Notes

**foster-mother** — приемная мать

**in their own way** — по-своему

**in full bloom** — в цвету

**crescent** — полумесяц (*символ ислама*)

**It was a most acceptable prospect for the stork families.** — Это было очень приятное зрелище для аистов.

**beside themselves with pleasure** — вне себя от удовольствия

**Their brown eyes shone with intelligence.** — В их карих глазах светился ум.

**in a way they considered very becoming** — в манере, которая, по их мнению, им очень шла

**for all that** — несмотря на это

**They made up quite a story about her.** — Они сочинили о ней целую историю.

**We had our revenge.** — Мы за нее отомстили.  
**a wisp of straw** — пучок соломы  
**it burned to ashes** — он сгорел дотла

**to pinch them with my beak** — ущипнуть их  
КЛЮВОМ

**learned** — ученый, знающий

**sphinx** — сфинкс; мифическое чудовище с головой женщины, лапами и телом льва и крыльями орла; гигантское изваяние сфинкса охраняет пирамиды фараонов в Гизе

**In some way she will, after all, manage to succeed.** — Она как-нибудь выпутается.

**by turns** — по очереди

### Activities



#### Checking Comprehension

##### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1) How did the Viking describe his new expedition?
- 2) Where did the storks arrive for the winter?

- 3) Did the young storks like what they saw in Egypt?
- 4) Why was the stork-mother against going to other places?
- 5) How did the young storks spend their time in Egypt?
- 6) What did the old storks like about their life there?
- 7) What can you say about the lord of the Egyptian palace?
- 8) What story did the swans make up about his daughter?
- 9) What did the stork-father think about their story?
- 10) What did the learned and wise men say about love?
- 11) What advice did they give to the princess?
- 12) Why did the stork-father decide to take the swan's feathers?
- 13) What did the stork-mother think about this idea?

## 2. Say where:

- 1) the Viking went with his soldiers again.
- 2) the storks had their nests in Egypt.

- 3) the stork-father went to listen to the learned and wise men.
- 4) the princess went to find out about the cure for her father.
- 5) the stork-father decided to hide the swan's feathers.

## 3. Put the sentences in the right order.

- 1) The learned and wise men got together to discuss the state of the sick king.
- 2) The wise men decided to wait patiently and hope for the best.
- 3) The sparrows occupied the stork's nest.
- 4) The Viking left the castle, though the storms of autumn had already begun.
- 5) The young male storks soon began to quarrel.
- 6) The princess laid her head on one of the mummies and in a dream learned about the lotus.
- 7) The princess went to the marble sphinx in the desert.



## Working with Vocabulary and Grammar

### 1. Fill in the missing forms of the irregular verbs.

go	went	gone
_____	_____	begun
shine	_____	_____
_____	struck	_____
tie	_____	_____
_____	found	_____
_____	_____	flown

### 2. Fill in the prepositions in, with, on, to, under, of.

- 1) The banks of the Nile were covered \_\_\_\_\_ frogs.
- 2) Your eyes will be full \_\_\_\_\_ sand there \_\_\_\_\_ the lightest wind.
- 3) We laid her \_\_\_\_\_ the cold earth, \_\_\_\_\_ a big birch.
- 4) The stork-father snapped \_\_\_\_\_ his beak loudly.
- 5) The wise men talked a great deal \_\_\_\_\_ every point.
- 6) The ancient kings, surrounded \_\_\_\_\_

golden treasure, lie \_\_\_\_\_ the form \_\_\_\_\_ mummies.

- 7) The swans set fire \_\_\_\_\_ the nest of the swallow.

### 3. Report the sentences in indirect speech.

- 1) "There is nothing more for us to see," said the stork-mother.
- 2) "A hunter noticed us, and shot at us with an arrow," said the swans.
- 3) "I want to pinch them with my beak," cried the stork-father.
- 4) "No one will thank you for it," said the stork-mother.



## Discussing the Text

### 1. Prove that:

- 1) the storks had a good time in Egypt.
- 2) the princess's father was very sick.
- 3) the conversations of the wise men were very learned.

### 2. Imagine that you're one of the young storks. Speak about:

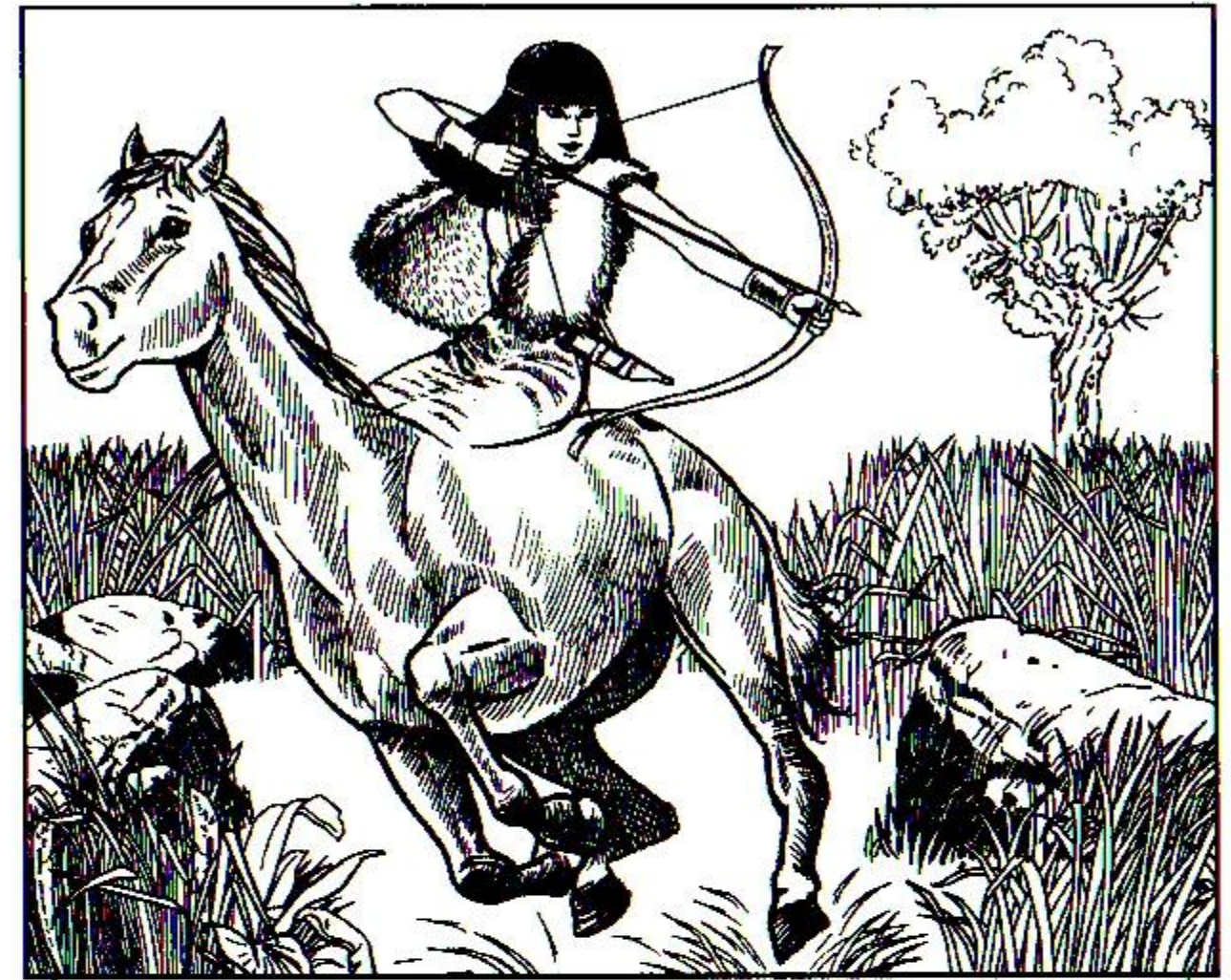
- 1) the places you saw in Egypt.
- 2) your life there.

3) the story of the princess as you heard it from your father.

**3. Give your opinion.**

The swans made quite a story about the princess. What does it prove? What do you think made them do it? Had they planned it all along or did they take the opportunity (воспользовались случаем)?

**4. Describe in detail what the princess did to find a cure for her father. Would you do the same for a person you love?**



## PART 4

In the Viking's castle on the moorland, to which the storks directed their flight in the following spring, the little girl still remained. They had named her Helga, which was a soft name for a child with a temper like hers, although her form was still beautiful. In the course of years, while the storks still made the same journeys in autumn to Egypt, and in

spring to the moors, the child grew to be almost a woman. Before any one seemed to realize that, she was a wonderfully beautiful girl of sixteen. Helga was strong and brave, but she was cruel. She was cruel even for those hard times.

The Viking was, like everyone else, charmed with her beauty, and knew nothing of the change in the form and temper of Helga at night. Without a saddle, she sat on a horse as if she were a part of it, while it ran at full speed. She never got off from its back, even when it quarrelled with other horses and bit them. She jumped from the high shore into the sea with all her clothes on, and swam to meet the Viking, when his boat was coming home towards the shore. Helga was fond of hunting and spent much time in the woods. She once cut off a long lock of her beautiful hair, and turned it into a string for her bow. "If a thing must be done well," said she, "I must do it myself."

The Viking's wife was, for the time in which she lived, a woman of strong character and will. But, compared to her daughter, she was a gentle woman, and she knew that a wicked sorcerer had the poor child in his power. It was sometimes as if Helga wanted to be

cruel. When her mother stood at the door, or stepped into the yard, Helga often sat on the edge of the well. First she waved her arms and legs in the air, and suddenly fell right into the well. Here she was able, from her frog nature, to dive in the water of the deep well many times. At last she climbed out of it like a cat, and came back into the hall so wet, so that the green leaves on the floor were carried away by the river of water that flowed from her.

**But there was one time of the day which placed a check upon Helga: it was evening.** When this hour arrived she became quiet and thoughtful, and a secret feeling seemed to bring her close to her mother. And as usual, when the sun set, the transformation took place, both in body and mind. She remained quiet and sad, and her form was changed into the shape of a frog. Her body was much larger than those animals ever are, and **because of this it was much more horrible in appearance.** She looked like an ugly dwarf, with a frog's head and webbed fingers. Her eyes had a very sad expression. She made only weak croaking sounds, like the sobs of a dreaming child.

Then the Viking's wife took her on her lap. She forgot the ugly form, as she looked into the sad eyes, and often said, "If only you

could always remain my frog child! You are too cruel when you have the form of a beauty." And the woman wrote Runic characters against sorcery and spells of sickness, and threw them over the child. But they did no good.

"One cannot really believe that she was ever small enough to lie in the cup of the water-lily," said the stork-father; "Now she is grown up, and the image of her Egyptian mother, especially about the eyes. Ah, we shall never see her again. Perhaps she has not discovered how to help herself, as you and the wise men said she would. Year after year I have flown across and across the moor, but there was no sign of her being still alive. Yes, and I may as well tell you that each year, when I arrived a few days before you to repair the nest, and put everything in its place, I have spent a whole night flying here and there over the marshy lake, but all to no purpose. The two suits of swan's plumage, which I and the young ones dragged over here from the land of the Nile, are of no use. Trouble enough it was to us to bring them here in three journeys, and now they are lying at the bottom of the nest. And if a fire breaks out,

the wooden house will be burnt down, and they will be destroyed."

"And our good nest will be destroyed, too," said the stork-mother; "but you think less of that than of your plumage and your moor-princess. Go and stay with her in the marsh if you like. You are a bad father to your own children, as I have told you already, when I hatched my first eggs. I only hope neither we nor our children may have an arrow sent through our wings by that bad girl. Helga has no idea what she is going to do next. We have lived in this house longer than she has, she must think of that, and we have never forgotten our duty. We have paid every year our toll of a feather, an egg, and a young one, as it is only right we should do it. You don't suppose I can fly about the courtyard, or go everywhere as I used to do in old times. I can do it in Egypt, where I can be a companion of the people, without forgetting myself. But here I cannot go and look into the pots and kettles as I do there. No, I can only sit up here and feel angry with that wild little girl. And I am angry with you, too for taking her from that water-lily."

"You are far better than your conversation," said the stork-father; "I know you better than you know yourself."

And with that he gave a hop, and flapped his wings twice, proudly. Then he stretched his neck and flew without moving his outspread wings. He went on for some distance, and then he flapped his wings again and flew fast away, his head and neck bending proudly before him. And the sun's rays fell on his shining plumage.

"He is the handsomest of them all," said the stork-mother, as she watched him; "but I won't tell him so."

Early in the autumn, the Viking again returned home with a lot of treasure, and bringing prisoners with him. Among them was the youngest son of **King Arthur** of Britain.

In the deep stone cellars of the castle the young prince was kept, and his hands and feet were tied together with pieces of rope. The Viking's wife thought that he was as beautiful as **Baldur**, and his suffering made her feel sympathy for him.

"I would let the dogs run after him over the moors," said Helga. "Hurrah! That would be a great sight, and better still to follow him myself."

The Viking's wife looked at the cruel, violent girl with great sadness. When night

came, and her daughter's beautiful form and temper were changed, she spoke in many words to Helga of the deep sorrow that was in her heart. The ugly frog, in its horrible shape, stood before her, and raised its brown sad eyes to her face, listening to her words. She seemed to understand them with the intelligence of a human being.

"Never once I told my husband what I suffer through you. My heart is full of pain about you," said the Viking's wife. "The love of a mother is greater and more powerful than I ever imagined. But love never entered your heart; it is cold like the plants on the moor."

Then the ugly frog trembled. It was as if these words had touched an invisible bond between body and soul. Great tears stood in the eyes.

"A hard time will come to you at last," continued the Viking's wife; "and it will be awful for me too."

And the eyes of the Viking's wife filled with tears, and she went away in anger and pain, passing under the curtain of furs, which hung from the ceiling and divided the hall.

## Helpful Words & Notes

**In the course of years** — За годы

**a string for her bow** — тетива для лука

**But there was one time of the day which placed a check upon Helga: it was evening.** — Только одно сдерживало Хельгу — наступление вечера.

**because of this it was much more horrible in appearance** — из-за этого казалась еще более отвратительной

**the woman wrote Runic characters against sorcery and spells of sickness** — женщина чертила руны, разрушающие чары и исцеляющие недуги (руны — буквы древнего алфавита, применявшиеся скандинавскими и другими германскими народами, которым приписывали мистические свойства)

**the image of her Egyptian mother** — копия своей матери-египтянки

**all to no purpose** — всё без толку

**toll** — дань

**he gave a hop** — он подпрыгнул

**King Arthur** — король Артур; легендарный король бриттов, герой кельтских сказаний и главный герой романов о рыцарях Круглого стола

**Baldur** — Балдур; в скандинавской мифологии прекрасный бог света

**sympathy** — сочувствие

## Activities



### Checking Comprehension

#### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1) What name did the Viking and his wife give to the girl?
- 2) How old was Helga now?
- 3) What kind of person did she become?
- 4) How was Helga's foster-mother different from her?
- 5) When did Helga become quiet and thoughtful?
- 6) What happened to her at night?
- 7) What did Helga's mother feel about her foster-child?
- 8) When did the Viking return from his expedition?
- 9) What can you tell about the prisoner?
- 10) What kind of treasure was brought to the castle?

- 11) What did Helga want to do with the prisoner?
- 12) Why was Helga's foster-mother worried about her?

**2. Say who:**

- 1) was charmed with Helga's beauty.
- 2) dived into the water of the deep well.
- 3) wrote Runic characters against sorcery and spells of sickness.
- 4) spent a whole night looking for the lost princess.
- 5) was angry with the stork-father for taking Helga from the water-lily.
- 6) looked at the cruel, violent girl with great sadness.

**3. Complete the sentences.**

- 1) Helga dived in the well because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) The Viking's wife wished Helga always remained the frog because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The mother stork did not like Helga because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) The Viking's wife felt sympathy for the young prisoner because \_\_\_\_\_.

**✎ Working with Vocabulary and Grammar**

**1. Find in the text the English for:**

- 1) чинить гнездо
- 2) Лебединые оперения теперь бесполезны.
- 3) Если начнется пожар, деревянный дом сгорит.
- 4) Ты гораздо добрее в душе, чем на словах.
- 5) И для тебя настанут трудные времена.

**2. Fill in the gaps with the nouns from the box.**

lap
shore
temper
clothes
dwarf

- 1) Helga was a soft name for a child with a \_\_\_\_\_ like hers.
- 2) Helga jumped from the \_\_\_\_\_ into the sea with all her \_\_\_\_\_ on.
- 3) In the form of a frog Helga looked like an ugly \_\_\_\_\_.

4) The Viking's wife often took the frog on her \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense form.**

1) Helga (swim) to meet the Viking, when his boat (come) home towards the shore.

2) Helga's foster-mother knew that a wicked sorcerer (have) the poor child in his power.

3) At sunset the transformation (take) place, both in Helga's body and mind.

4) The Viking's wife thought that the prisoner (be) as beautiful as Baldur.



**Discussing the Text**

**1. Imagine that you're the Viking's wife. Speak about Helga.**

1) Say what happens to her during the day and at night.

2) Describe Helga's behaviour.

3) Say how you tried to help Helga.

4) Say what you think about the young prisoner.

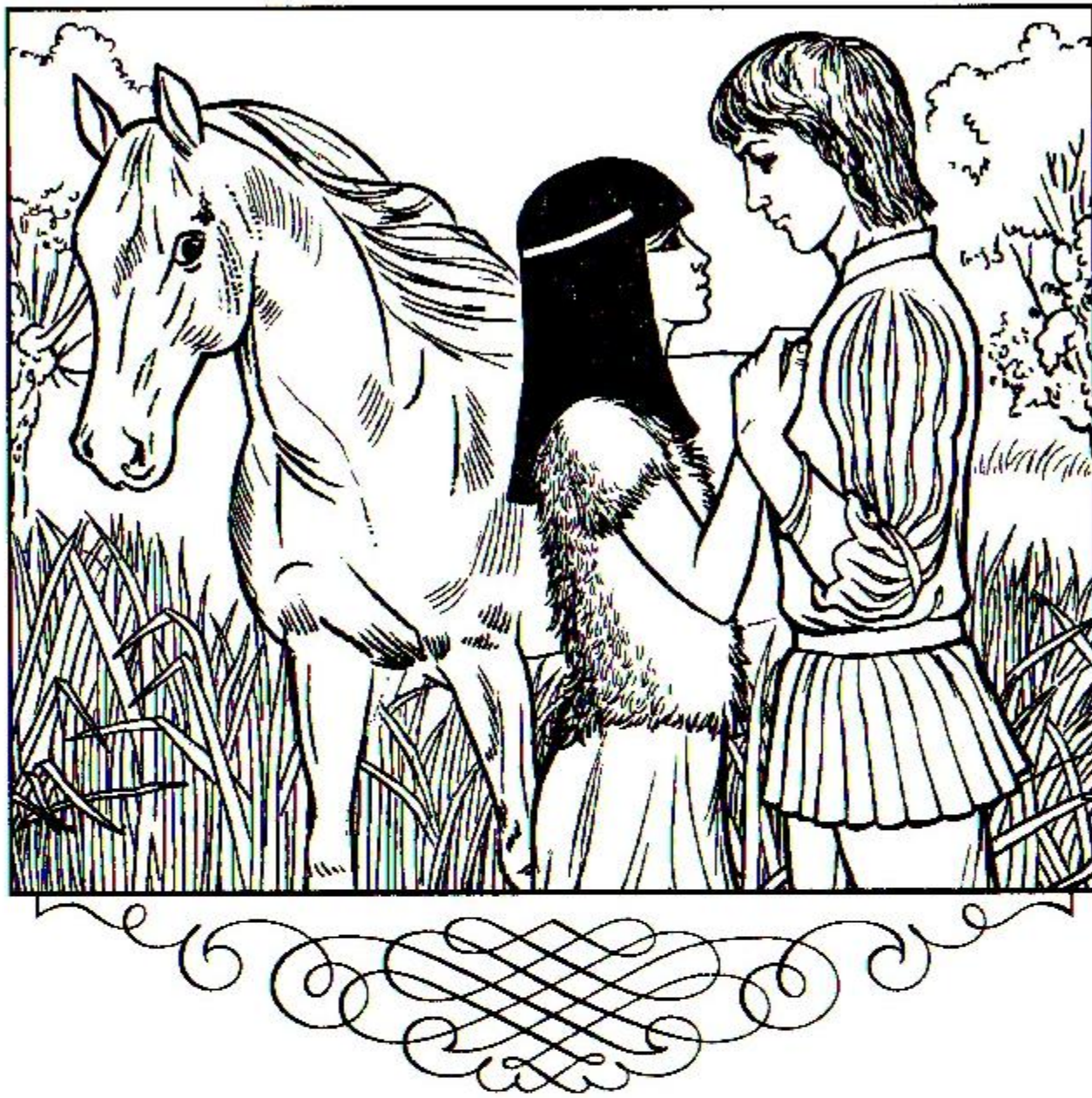
**2. Helga was wild and cruel in the form of a beautiful girl. Why do you think the Viking liked her wild ways?**

**3. Give your opinion.**

1) Helga said, "If a thing must be done well, I must do it myself." What do her words show: her independent character or self-confidence (самоуверенность)? Are you sure that you can always do things well?

2) The stork-mother was sure that her husband was the handsomest of the other storks. Was he really so handsome or was it a sign of her love for him? What man can you call handsome?





## PART 5

The young prince was alone in his dark cellar, finally asleep. He was having a strange dream. It seemed to him that he was at home, in Britain. He was standing at the window of his father's castle together with Merlin — one of the great and powerful magicians. Merlin and King Arthur were old friends. The magician knew well and loved the king's son.

"I know you're a prisoner now," said Merlin to the prince, "but there's somebody, who needs your help. Be prepared for surprises but have no fear. You will have to find the spring with magic water. Don't be frightened, but do as I tell you. I shall guide you." And he disappeared.

The frog still sat in the corner alone. In the silence of the night, at intervals, deep sighs were heard from its soul. It was the soul of Helga. It seemed in pain, as if there was something new in her heart. She took a step forward and listened. Then she stepped forward again, and seized with her clumsy hands the heavy bar which was laid across the door. Gently, and with much trouble, she pushed back the bar, silently opened the door, and then took up the lamp which stood in the hall. It seemed as if a stronger will than her own gave her strength. She removed the iron bolt from the closed cellar-door, and slipped in to the sleeping prisoner. She touched him with her cold, moist hand. The man awoke and saw the ugly form, and started to tremble as if there was a wicked ghost in front of him. She cut the ropes on his hands and feet with her sharp knife, and beckoned to him to follow her.

"Who are you?" he asked. Why do you help me?"

The frog-figure beckoned to him to follow her, and led him through a long gallery hidden by the curtains to the stable, and then pointed to a horse. It was a quick white horse. He got on it, and she jumped also before him. The prisoner understood her, and they rode fast, **by a roundabout road** which was not known to him, across the open moors.

The prince thought of the wonderful miracle that had happened to him. He remembered the dream and Merlin's words about somebody whom he should help. Was she the one who needed his help? How could he help this huge frog?

Helga raised herself up, and wanted to stop the horse and get off it, but the young prisoner held her back with all his strength. Besides, he could not let her go before he thanked her.

The horse galloped on more wildly than before. The sky painted itself red, the first rays of the sun got through the clouds, and in the clear sunlight the frog became changed. It was Helga again, young and beautiful, but with a wicked temper. The young man was holding now a beautiful young woman in his arms. It was

a real shock for him. The prisoner stopped the horse, and sprang from its back. He finally realized that **some powerful sorcery was at work.**

Helga also got off the horse and stood on the ground. The girl's short dress reached only to her knee. Suddenly she snatched the sharp knife and **rushed like lightning** at the amazed prince.

"Let me get at you!" she cried; "let me get at you. You are pale as death, you beardless slave. Are you afraid of a girl?"

The prince already knew that the poor girl was under the influence of a magician. He spoke to her, in gentle words, of what a wonderful thing she had done for him during the night, when she had come to him in the form of an ugly frog. She had led him out of the dark cellar to life and light.

Suddenly it was as if an invisible power had been given to the prince. It was Merlin who was helping him. The young man took the knife from Helga and held her in her hands. She stopped struggling, looked at him surprised. She was very pale at that moment. His action seemed to **overpower** her. He seemed to her a magician **skilled in secret arts.**

And then the prince told her about his family and the great Merlin, who wanted to

help her. He explained that she was in the power of a wicked sorcerer, and they would have to find the magic spring so that the wicked spell of the sorcerer could be broken.

“Your magic beauty has a very strong power which comes from a wicked sorcerer,” said the prince. “But I am still sure that we can overcome it.”

Meanwhile, the horse, that had carried them, stood quietly by, eating the leaves of the tall bramble, till the young berries fell down upon Helga’s hands, as if inviting her to eat. Patiently she allowed herself to be lifted on the horse, and sat there like a *somnambulist* — as one who walked in his sleep. They rode through the forest. The forest grew thicker and thicker. Bushes here and there blocked up the way, so that they had to ride over them. They also had to guide the horses round a marsh formed by the river. How far would they need to go? Where could they find the magic spring?

It is said that rain-drops can make a hole in the hardest stone, and the waves of the sea can smooth and round the rough edges of the rocks. And in this way the magic of Merlin and sympathy of the prince started to change Helga, making soft what was hard, and smoothing what was rough in her character. These chang-

es did not yet appear. She did not herself feel them, as the plant does not know, when the rain and the warm sunlight fall upon it, that it has inside the powers which will make it grow.

It was late in the evening when Helga and the young prince left the thick forest, crossed the moor, and again entered the wood. Suddenly the horse stamped on the ground; the ground burst open at once, and drops of cold water flew into the air in all directions. As they touched the ground, **the plants burst into blossom.** It was finally the magic spring they needed. It was so powerful, that new stalks started to come from the deep ground: **all life raised itself.**

At that moment the sun went down, and as its last ray disappeared, Helga was changed into the form of a frog. A pale green mouth spread half over her face. Her arms became thin and slimy. Her broad hands, with webbed fingers, spread themselves out like fans. She looked at the prisoner with eyes that seemed to cry, and from the frog’s head came a croaking sound, as when a child bursts into tears. The young man brought some water from the magic spring, and sprinkled Helga’s head and arms with the water.

The transformation began. The wicked spell was very powerful and could not be re-

moved at once. Helga stood in the form of an ugly frog, with the webbed skin on her hands, but her eyes were already different. They were more beautiful than they had ever been in her most beautiful form of a girl. They were now pure, gentle eyes in the face of a frog. They showed the deep feeling and a human heart.

The full moon had already risen, and was shining over the earth, when Helga came up to the magic spring and washed her hands in the water. The web skin fell from them like a torn glove, and her hands became white. Helga sprinkled the magic water all over herself, and the frog skin fell from her whole body. She was once more a beautiful girl. Her body needed rest, and then she slept.

### Helpful Words & Notes

**Merlin** — Мерлин; волшебник в сказаниях о короле Артуре

**beckoned to him to follow her** — сделала ему знать следовать за собой

**by a roundabout road** — по окольной дороге

**some powerful sorcery was at work** — что это сильное колдовство

**rushed like lightning** — бросилась с быстротой молнии

**overpower** — одолевать

**skilled in secret arts** — посвященный в тайную науку

**somnambulist** — лунатик

**the plants burst into blossom** — растения расцвели

**all life raised itself** — все, что только зародилось, пустило ростки

### Activities



#### Checking Comprehension

##### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1) Where did Helga-frog go at night?
- 2) What gave her strength to push back the heavy bar?
- 3) In what way did Helga make the prisoner leave his prison?
- 5) Where did she take him?
- 6) Why did Helga attack the prince when the sun rose?
- 7) What helped the young man to overpower Helga?

- 8) What did Helga think about the prisoner then?
- 9) What did the prince tell Helga about Merlin?
- 10) Where did they go?
- 11) How and when did they find the magic spring?
- 12) How long did Helga's transformation take?

## 2. Say who:

- 1) removed the iron bolt from the closed cellar-door.
- 2) started to tremble as if there was a wicked ghost there.
- 3) rode away from the castle by a roundabout road.
- 4) sat on the horse like a somnambulist.
- 5) promised to Helga to get the spell of the sorcerer broken.
- 6) sprinkled Helga's head and arms with the magic water.
- 7) showed the deep feeling and a human heart.

## 3. Put the sentences in the right order.

\_\_\_ The prince sprinkled Helga's face and neck with the magic water.

- \_\_\_ The prisoner stopped the horse, and sprang from its back.
- \_\_\_ The web skin fell from Helga's hands like a torn glove.
- \_\_\_ The frog-figure led the prisoner through a long gallery to the stable.
- \_\_\_ Helga removed the iron bolt from the closed cellar-door.
- \_\_\_ The horse stamped on the ground, and the ground burst open at once.
- \_\_\_ Helga snatched the sharp knife and rushed like lightning at the amazed prisoner.
- \_\_\_ Helga stopped struggling, looked at the prisoner surprised.

## Working with Vocabulary and Grammar

### 1. Say which word does not go with the others and why.

- 1) shock, magic, sorcerer, magician
- 2) to oppose, to struggle, to overcome, to overpower
- 3) root, branch, leave, forest
- 4) changes, robbers, feet, miracles

**2. Explain what it means.**

- 1) to rush like lightning
- 2) to point to a horse
- 3) to ride by a roundabout road
- 4) to block up the way

**3. Match up the antonyms.**

soft	rough
gentle	hot
thin	hard
quiet	wild
cool	dried
fresh	thick

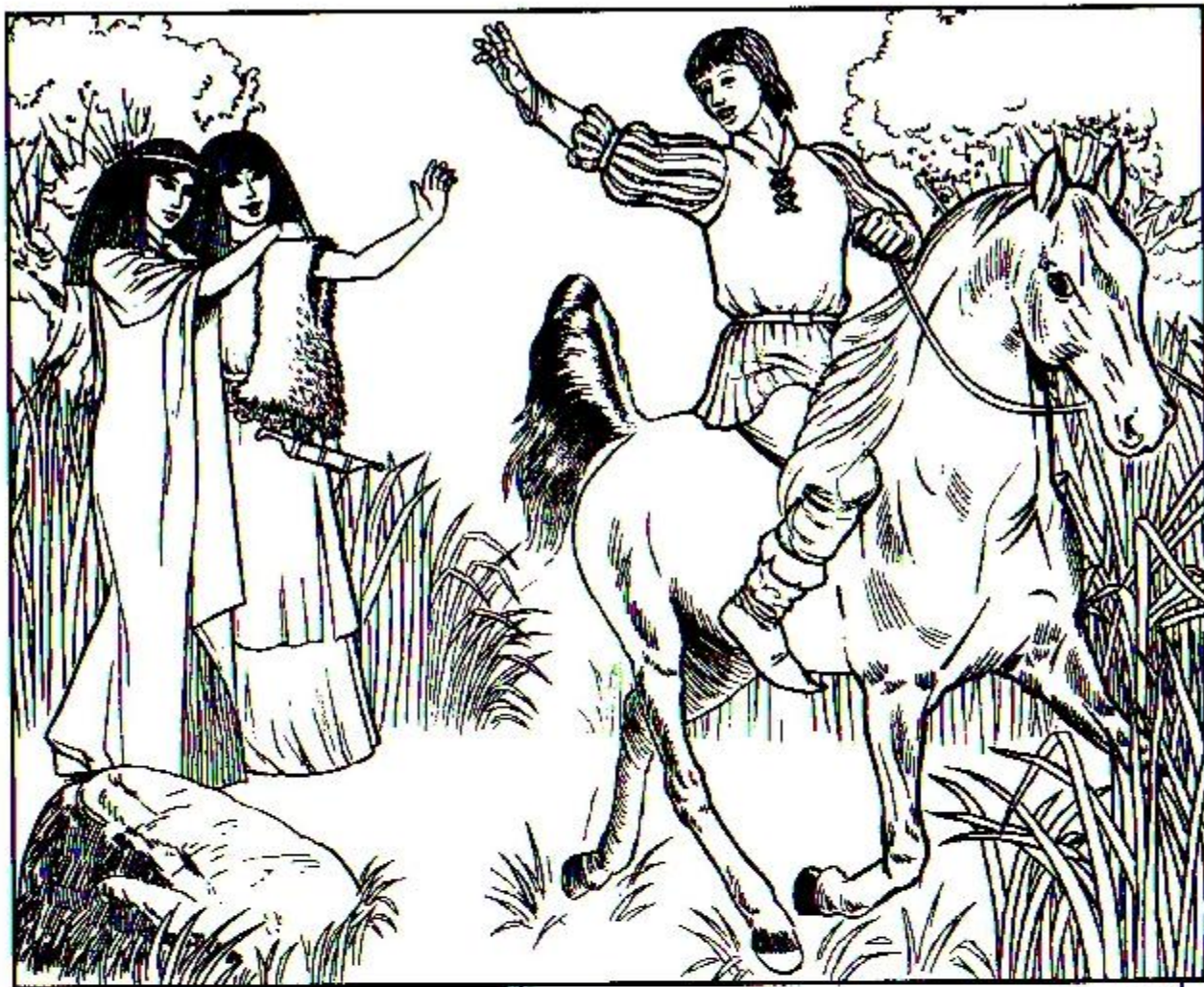
**4. Give your opinion.**

Do you agree with the saying that raindrops can make a hole in the hardest stone? Think of a Russian equivalent of this proverb. Is it easy to be hard-working and patient (терпеливый)?



**Discussing the Text**

- 1. Describe step by step how Helga-frog helped the prisoner to get away from the castle's cellar.**
- 2. Prove that the spring was magic.**
- 3. Talk about how Helga's transformation.**  
**Say:**
  - 1) why it was so long.
  - 2) how it happened.



## PART 6

As the sun rose, Helga opened her eyes. She looked around her as if she had just awoken from a painful dream. Butterflies flew around her, and close by were several ant-hills, each with its hundreds of busy little creatures moving quickly in all directions. In the air there were troops of flies, lady-birds and dragon-flies with golden wings, and

other little winged creatures. None noticed Helga but the magpies, which flew around the girl surprised. These birds hopped close to her with curiosity. Suddenly she heard the noise, and saw the prince. He was back from a walk in the woods. Helga could see now that he was beautiful. He was even more beautiful than Baldur, as the Viking's wife had said. His large, gentle eyes seemed to reach every corner of her heart. Helga remembered what he had done for her. She remembered every kind word that she had heard from him.

The prince came up to Helga. "I saw Merlin in my dream again," he said. "The great magician told me everything about you. You are the daughter of the moorland. You have been enchanted by your own father, the Marsh King, because he did not want you to leave the marsh. The spell is finally removed. But now we must go to the Wild Moor and save from the marsh the one who gave you life, your mother."

Then the prince helped her to get on the horse and gave her a bottle of water from the magic spring. And they rode through the trees to the Wild Moor. The power of magic, which had transformed Helga was so strong, that they could see magic creatures as they

rode. They passed the hills where dead soldiers lay buried in their graves each with his dead war-horse. And the ghosts rose up and galloped, and stopped on the top of the hills. The dragon, that guarded buried treasure, lifted his head and looked after them. The dwarves came out from the hills to the fields, waving blue, red, and green torches. They passed the woods and moor, rivers and marshes, till they reached the Wild moor. The prince sprinkled magic water over the marsh, and minutes later wonderful water-lilies covered the swamp like a carpet of flowers, and upon them lay a sleeping woman, young and beautiful. Helga thought that it was her own image she saw in the water. But it was her mother she saw, the wife of the Marsh King, the princess from the land of the Nile.

The prince put the sleeping woman on the horse, and then the three rode away from the marsh to firm ground.

The cock sang in the Viking's castle. The princess awoke and looked at her daughter.

"Am I looking at my own image?" said the mother.

"Is it myself that I see?" cried the daughter.

Then they came nearer to each other. The mother's heart beat quickly, and she understood why she was so excited. "My child!" she exclaimed, "the flower of my heart — my lotus-flower of the deep water!" and she kissed her child again and cried, and the tears came as a beginning of new life and love for Helga.

The prince came up to Helga when her mother stopped crying.

"Now we must part. I leave you with your mother. She'll tell what you should do. I must go to Britain. I need to tell my parents that I am alive, but be sure that my heart belongs to you," said the young man.

"I can never thank you enough for helping me. Please find me. I will wait for you even it takes forever," said Helga, looking into his eyes with love.

The prince sprang on the horse and hastened away. The mother and daughter flew into each other's arms again.

"I came here in swan's plumage," said the mother, "and here I threw off my feather dress. Then I sank down through the soft ground, deep into the marsh, which closed like a wall around me. A few minutes later I found myself in fresher water. Still a power drew me down deeper and deeper. I felt the



weight of sleep upon my eyelids. Then I slept, and had very strange dreams. It seemed to me that I was again in the pyramids of Egypt, and yet the stump of the tree, which had frightened me on the moor stood before me. I could see the cracks and wrinkles in the tree. They shone in strange colours, and took the form of **hieroglyphics**. It was the **mummy case** that I saw. At last it burst, and out of it came a king. He was thousand years old. He looked very much like a mummy form, black as ink and shining as a snail, or the slimy mud of the swamp. I did not know if it was really the mummy or the Marsh King himself. He seized me in his arms, and I felt I could die. **When I came to**, I found a little bird in my lap. It was flapping its wings and singing. The bird flew away from my lap, moving to the dark ceiling, but a long, green **band** kept it tied to me. I heard and understood her wish. Freedom! Sunlight! To my father! Then I thought of my father, and the sunny land of my birth, my life, and my love. Then I untied the band, and let the bird fly away to its home — to a father. Since that hour I had no more dreams. My sleep was long and heavy, till in this very hour, you saved me and **set me free.**”

Where was the green band which kept the wings of the bird tied to the mother's heart? The stork only had seen it. The band was the green stalk, and the cup of the flower was the bed for the child who was a beautiful girl now.

When Helga and her mother stayed in each other's arms, the old stork flew round and round them in circles. Then he flew away to his nest, and found the two suits of swan's feathers, which he had preserved there for many years. Then he returned to the mother and daughter, and threw the swan's plumage to them. The feathers immediately closed around them, and they rose up from the earth in the form of two white swans.

“And now we can talk with pleasure,” said the stork-father. “We can understand one another, although the beaks of birds are so different in shape. It is very good that you came tonight. Tomorrow we shall be gone. My wife, myself and the little ones, we will fly to the south. Look at me now. I am an old friend from the Nile, and my wife is kinder than she seems. She always said that the princess would know how to help herself. I and the young ones carried the

swan's feathers over here, and I am glad of it now, and how lucky it is that I am here still. When the sun rises we shall start with a great company of other storks. We'll fly first, and you can follow us. You do not miss your way then. I and the young ones will **have an eye upon you.**"

"And I will take with me the lotus-flower which I needed," said the Egyptian princess. "It is flying here by my side, in swan's feathers. The flower of my heart will travel with me. And so **the riddle is solved.** Now for home! Now for home!"

But Helga said she could not leave the Danish land without seeing her foster-mother once more, the loving wife of the Viking. She remembered each good moment, each kind word, every tear from the heart of her foster-mother. She felt that she loved that mother.

"Yes, we must go to the Viking's castle," said the stork; "my wife and the young ones are waiting for me there. How they will open their eyes and flap their wings! My wife, you see, does not say much. **She is short and abrupt in her manner, but she means well,** for all that. I will flap my wings at once. They will hear us coming."

Then the stork-father flapped his wings as hard as he could, and he and the swans flew away to the Viking's castle.

### Helpful Words & Notes

**even it takes forever** — даже если на это уйдет целая вечность

**hastened away** — устремился прочь

**flew into each other's arms** — бросились друг к другу в объятия

**hieroglyphics** — иероглифы, иероглифическое письмо

**mummy case** — саркофаг

**When I came to** — Когда я очнулась

**band** — лента

**set me free** — освободили меня

**have an eye upon you** — приглядывать за вами

**the riddle is solved** — загадка решена

**She is short and abrupt in her manner, but she means well** — Моя жена выражается кратко и может быть довольно резкой, но она никому не желает зла

## Activities

### Checking Comprehension

#### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1) What did Helga think about the prince after the wicked spell was removed?
- 2) What did the prince ask Helga to do?
- 3) What did he give her?
- 4) What creatures did Helga and the prince see on their way to the marsh?
- 5) How did the magic water change the swamp?
- 6) Did the princess and her daughter recognize each other at once?
- 7) Where did the prince go?
- 8) What story did the princess tell her daughter?
- 9) What did the stork do for the princess and Helga?
- 10) What form did the princess and her daughter take?
- 11) Where did the stork and the swans go before leaving the Danish land?

#### 2. Say what made:

- 1) the birds hop close to Helga.

- 2) the Egyptian princess awake from her long sleep.
- 3) Helga think it was her own image she saw in the water.
- 4) the heart of the princess beat quickly.
- 5) Helga refuse to fly to Egypt without seeing the Viking's wife.

### Working with Vocabulary and Grammar

#### 1. Use the verbs in the right form.

- 1) Helga (look) around as if she just (awake) from a painful dream.
- 2) She remembered every kind word that she (hear) from the prince.
- 3) The prince (put) the sleeping woman on the horse, and then the three (ride) away from the marsh to firm ground.
- 4) The feathers immediately (close) around them, and they (rise) up from the earth in the form of two white swans.
- 5) Helga felt that she (love) her foster-mother.

2. Write down the missing plural or singular form of the words below.

ladybird

\_\_\_\_\_

magpies

dwarf

\_\_\_\_\_

dragon-flies

water-lily

\_\_\_\_\_

mummy

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Report the sentences in indirect speech.

- 1) "The riddle is solved," said the princess.
- 2) "It is very good that you came to-night," said the stork-father.
- 3) "I am an old friend from the Nile, and my wife is kinder than she seems," said the stork-father.
- 4) "The flower of my heart will travel with me," said the princess.



### Discussing the Text

1. Imagine that in front of you there is a picture of the place Helga saw when she awoke. Describe what you see in the picture.

2. Imagine that you're Helga. Tell your mother:

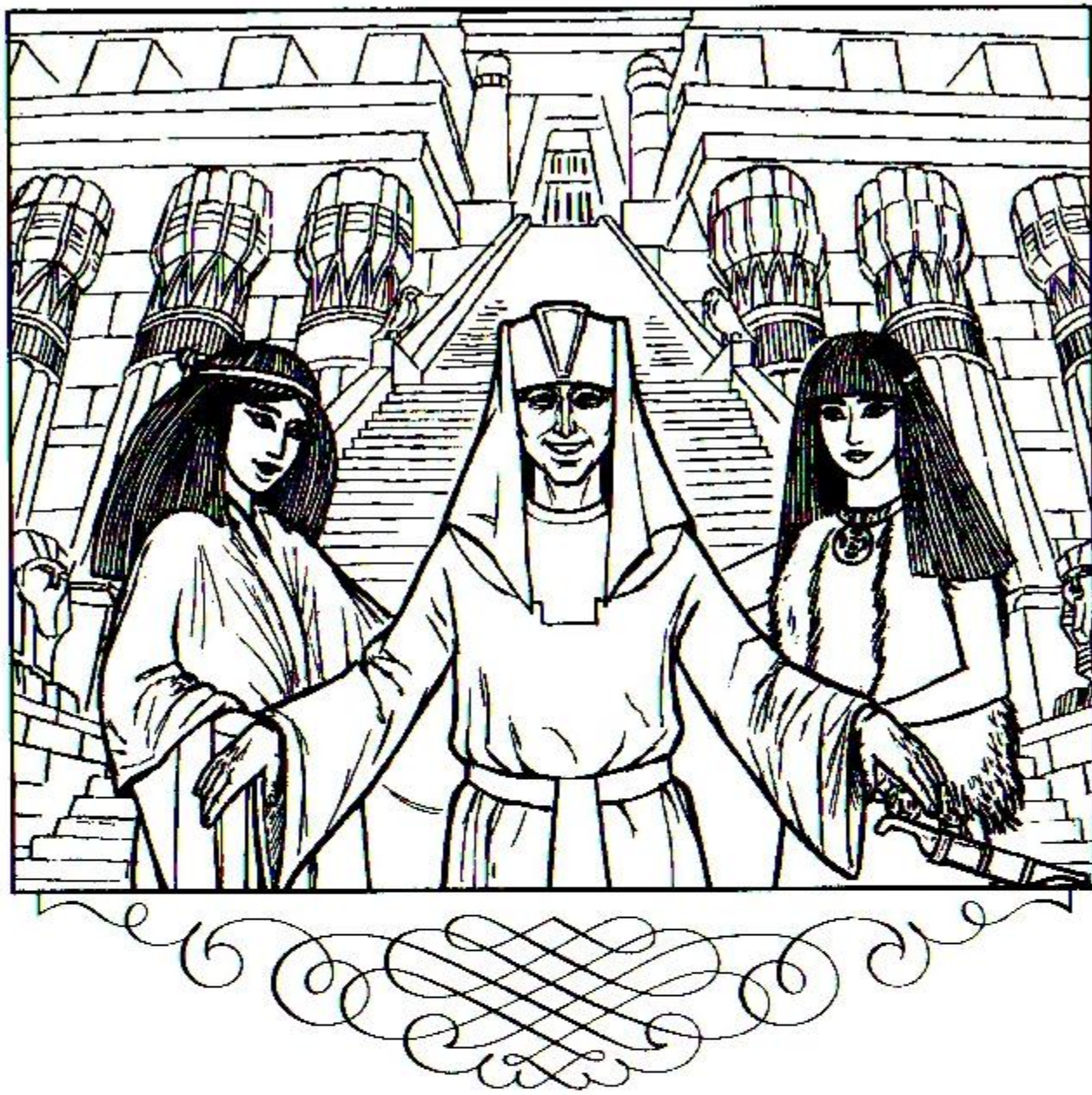
- 1) how your frog skin fell off you.
- 2) how you met the prince.
- 3) what you saw when you rode to the marsh.
- 4) how the prince and yourself saved her.

3. Prove that:

- 1) the Egyptian princess was very happy to see her daughter.
- 2) the stork-father was a good friend to the princess.

4. Give your opinion.

Helga felt that she loved her foster-mother. Why do you think she decided to go with the princess and leave her foster-mother? Was it a hard decision for her? What would you do in her place?



## PART 7

In the castle everyone was in a deep sleep. The Viking's wife had gone to sleep late in the evening. She worried about Helga, who, three days before, had disappeared with the prisoner. She thought that it was Helga who had helped him to get out of the cellar and leave the castle. Her horse was not in the stable too. But how could she do it?

The Viking's wife thoughts formed themselves into a dream. It seemed to her that she was still lying awake on her bed. And, close to the frightened woman, Helga seemed to be seated on the floor, in the form of an ugly frog, trembling. Her foster-mother took her on her lap. Suddenly she saw a beautiful young man. The Viking's wife first thought that he was Baldur, but then she looked at him again and recognized his face. It was the prisoner who disappeared together with Helga. Then she kissed her ugly frog-child on the forehead. The frog-skin fell off, and Helga stood before her in all her beauty, more lovely and gentle-looking, and with eyes full of love. She kissed the hands of her foster-mother, thanked her for all her kindness and love she had seen during the days of her life in the castle. Then beautiful Helga flew up as a white swan and spread her wings in the air.

The Viking's wife awoke. She heard the sounds of many wings outside. She knew it was the time for the storks to leave, and that it must be the flapping of their wings, which she heard. She felt she wanted to see them once more, and wish them a good journey. She got up from her bed, looked out

of the window, and there, on the roof, she saw a great number of storks. Groups of the birds were flying in circles over the castle and the highest trees. But just before her, near the well, where Helga had so often sat and alarmed her with her wildness, now stood two swans, looking at her with intelligent eyes. At that moment she remembered her dream, which seemed real to her. She realized that it was Helga in the form of a swan, and she had come to say good-bye.

The swans flapped their wings to say good-bye to her, and the Viking's wife smiled through her tears. Then all the storks flew up in the air, and started their journey to the south.

"We will not wait for the swans," said the stork-mother. "If they want to go with us, let them come now. We can't sit here till the swallows start. It is a fine thing after all to travel in families. We are not finches and the partridges. Their males and the females fly in separate groups, which, to tell the truth, I do not like at all. Why are those swans flapping their wings?"

"Well, everyone flies how he likes," said the stork-father. "The swans fly in a line. The

cranes form a triangle. And the finches fly in a line like a snake."

"Don't talk about snakes while we are flying up here," said the stork-mother. "The children can feel very hungry, and there is nothing to eat now."

"Are those high mountains?" asked Helga, in the swan's plumage.

"They are storm-clouds," replied her mother.

"What are those white clouds that are so high?" asked Helga again later.

"Those are mountains always covered with snow, that you see there," said her mother. And then they flew across the Alps towards the blue Mediterranean Sea.

"Africa! Egypt!" sang the daughter of the Nile, in her swan's plumage, as she saw her native land, the waters of the Nile. The other birds also saw Egypt and flew faster.

"I can smell the Nile mud and the wet frogs," told the stork-mother her children, "and I begin to feel quite hungry. Yes, now you will eat something nice, and you will see the ibis, and the crane. They all belong to our family, but they are not as handsome as we are. They give themselves great airs, especially the ibises. The Egyptians spoil the

ibises too much. They make mummies of them, and stuff them with spices. I'd better be stuffed with live frogs. Better have something inside you while you are alive, than to be put at the museum after you are dead. That is my opinion, and I am always right."

"The storks have come," everyone said in the palace on the banks of the Nile, where the king lay in the hall, covered with a leopard skin. He was very sick, but yet not dead. He was still waiting and hoping for the lotus-flower from the deep moorland in the far north. Relatives and servants were standing by his bed, when the two beautiful swans, who had come with the storks, flew into the hall. They threw off their soft white plumage, and two lovely women came up to the pale, sick old man. They threw back their long hair. When Helga bent over her grandfather, redness came back to his cheeks, his eyes became bright, and life returned to his weak body. The old man got up, healthy and full of energy. Daughter and granddaughter welcomed him happily.

The happiness came to the palace, as well as to the stork's nest, though the main reason for the storks was really the good food, especially a large number of frogs.

Then the learned and wise men went to put down the story of the two princesses, and spoke of the arrival of the health-giving flower as a miracle. The stork-father told the story to his family in his own way, but only after they had eaten their dinner and could listen to his stories.

"Well," said the stork-mother, when she had heard it, "you will receive a reward. I am sure they can do nothing less."

"What reward?" said the stork-father, "what have I done? Nothing."

"You have done more than the rest of them," she replied. "You helped the two princesses come to Egypt and cure the king. You will become something. They must certainly give you a doctor's degree, and our young ones will inherit it, and their children after them, and so on. You already look like an Egyptian doctor, at least in my eyes."

"I cannot quite remember the words I heard when I listened to their discussions on the roof," said the stork-father, when he was telling the story to his family. "All I know is, that what the wise men said was so learned, they received not only degrees, but presents. Even the head cook in the palace received a reward, most likely for the soup."

“And what did you receive?” said the stork-mother. “They cannot forget the most important person **in the affair**, as you really are. The learned men have done nothing at all but talk. Surely they will not overlook you.”

Late in the night, while the people in the palace were asleep, there was still one person who could not sleep. It was not the stork-father, who, though **he stood on guard** on one leg, slept soundly. Helga alone was awake. She came out on the balcony, looking at the bright stars. They shone clearer and brighter than they had done in the north, and yet they were the same stars. She remembered the Viking’s wife in the wild moorland, her loving eyes and kind words. Her poor frog-child now lived in a beautiful palace by the waters of the Nile, where the air was sweet as spring. She thought of the love that her foster-mother had shown to her, wicked as a girl, and ugly when in the form of an animal.

Early in the spring, when the storks were ready again to fly to the north, beautiful Helga took off her golden bracelet, scratched her name on it, and called the stork-father. He came to her, and she put

the golden bracelet round his neck, and asked him to get it to the Viking’s wife. Then she would know that her foster-daughter was still alive, and happy, and had not forgotten her.

“It is rather heavy to carry,” thought the stork-father, when he had it on his neck; “but the gold and honour are very important things. **The stork brings good fortune**. People will always say that.”

“**You lay gold, and I lay eggs**,” said the stork-mother; “with you it is only once, and I lay eggs every year. But no one thanks us for what we do. I think it is not fair.”

“But then we know about our importance ourselves, mother,” answered the stork-father.

“What good will that do you?” said the stork-mother; “it will neither bring you a **fair wind**, nor a good meal.”

## Helpful Words & Notes

the Alps — АЛЬПЫ

(the) Mediterranean Sea — Средиземное море

They give themselves great airs — Они сильно  
важничают



**The Egyptians spoil the ibises too much.** —  
Египтяне слишком превозносят ибисов.  
(В Древнем Египте ибис был священной  
птицей, символом бога мудрости и пра-  
восудия Тота, которого изображали как  
человека с головой ибиса.)

**stuff them with spices** — набивают их души-  
стыми травами

**to put down** — записывать

**reward** — награда, вознаграждение

**doctor's degree** — докторская степень

**in the affair** — в этом деле

**he stood on guard** — он стоял на страже

**The stork brings good fortune.** — Аист прино-  
сит счастье.

**You lay gold, and I lay eggs.** — Ты несешь  
золото, а я — яйца!

**fair wind** — попутный ветер

## Activities



### Checking Comprehension

#### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1) Whom did the Viking's wife see in her dream?

- 2) Why wasn't she surprised to hear the flapping of the storks' wings?
- 3) Helga said good-bye to her foster-mother, didn't she?
- 4) What places did the storks and swans pass on their way to Egypt?
- 5) What did the stork-mother think about cranes and ibises?
- 6) What happened when Helga and her mother came to the palace on the banks of the Nile?
- 7) How did Helga heal her sick grandfa-ther?
- 8) What made the storks happy?
- 9) What did the wise and learned men get as a reward?
- 10) What reward did the stork-father get for his help?
- 11) Why did Helga give the stork-father her golden bracelet?

#### 2. Choose the right ending.

- 1) The stork-mother did not want to talk about snakes, because \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) she was afraid of them.
  - b) she was afraid that she would feel hungry.

c) she was afraid that her children could feel very hungry.

2) The storks were happy in Egypt, because \_\_\_\_\_

a) they had a new nest.

b) they had good food.

c) they were together with their relatives.

3) Helga asked the stork-father to get her golden bracelet to the Viking's wife, because \_\_\_\_\_

a) she wanted to show to her foster-mother that she had not forgotten her.

b) she had promised to send her a present from Egypt.

c) she wanted to return her foster-mother's present.

**3. Choose the right person and make up sentences.**

*Example:* It was Helga who helped the prisoner to get out of the cellar and leave the castle.

to like to travel in families

to put down the story of the princesses

to know the bird language

to throw off the plumage

**Working with Vocabulary and Grammar**

**1. Find in the text the English for:**

родина, треугольник, линия, чудо, награда, причина, честь, умные глаза, грозные тучи, лебединое оперенье, леопардовая шкура, целебный цветок, докторская степень, попутный ветер.

**2. Fill in the prepositions in, on, through, with.**

1) The Viking's wife kissed her ugly frog-child \_\_\_\_\_ the forehead.

2) The Viking's wife smiled \_\_\_\_\_ her tears.

3) Their males and the females fly \_\_\_\_\_ separate groups.

4) I'd better be stuffed \_\_\_\_\_ live frogs.

5) The stork-father told the story to his family \_\_\_\_\_ his own way.

**3. Put as many questions to the sentences as you can.**

1) The Viking's wife had gone to sleep late in the evening.

- 2) Her foster-mother took her on her lap.
- 3) Then beautiful Helga flew up as a white swan and spread her wings in the air.
- 4) The Egyptians spoil the ibises too much.
- 5) The stork brings good fortune.



## **Discussing the Text**

### **1. Imagine that you're the Viking's wife.**

**Say:**

- 1) why you were worried about Helga.
- 2) what you saw in your dream.
- 3) how you met Helga.

### **2. Imagine that you're Helga.**

- 1) Describe your way to Egypt.
- 2) Say how you saved your grandfather.
- 3) Say why you sent your golden bracelet to your foster-mother.

### **3. Imagine that you are the stork-father.**

Did you expect a reward for your help? Was it fair that the king and his family overlooked your help? Why do you think it happened?

### **4. Give your opinion.**

The stork-father said, "The gold and honour are very important things." How do you understand these words? Do you agree with them?



## PART 8

In the autumn an eagle, standing on a pyramid, saw a long line of horses and carriages. The skins of the horses shone like the sun, and their thick manes came almost to their slender legs. King Arthur of Britain was on his way to the palace, on the roof of which the storks' empty nests might be seen. He had with him his youngest son. The prince

was handsome as a prince should be. The storks were away now in the far north, but they were expected to return very soon. And, indeed, they returned on a day that was very happy for everyone.

On that day Helga, wearing a beautiful silk dress and jewels, married the young British prince. The happy bride and bridegroom sat at the upper end of the table, between the bride's mother and grandfather. Helga and the prince were very glad that they could be together now. King Arthur and Merlin, his old friend and powerful magician, sat at the other end of the table. The magician was the guest of honour at the wedding.

The music started to play, and the guests began dancing. At that moment everybody heard the sound of wings. The storks were coming home. The old stork pair were tired with the journey and needed rest. But they flew down to the verandah at once, because they knew already about the wedding. They had heard of it far away, in the north. They also knew that Helga had ordered to paint their figures on the walls, because they belonged to her history.

"I think it is very wise and pretty," said the stork-father.

“Yes, but it is very little,” said the stork-mother; “they should do more for you.”

But, when Helga saw them, she got up and went out into the verandah to stroke the backs of the storks. The old stork pair bowed their heads in return, and even the youngest among the young ones felt happy to see this.

“That is a nice end of the story,” said the stork-father; “I really never expected it would end in this way, but it seems a very good end.”

“And what will the young ones say to it, I wonder?” said the stork-mother.

“Ah, that is a very important question,” answered the stork.

### Helpful Words & Notes

**they were expected to return very soon**

они скоро должны были вернуться

**jewels — драгоценности**

**guest of honour — почетный гость**

## Activities



### Checking Comprehension

#### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1) Who came to Egypt in the autumn?
- 2) What did horses look like?
- 3) Why did King Arthur come to Egypt from Britain?
- 4) Where were the storks?
- 5) How was Helga dressed?
- 6) Who came to the wedding as the guest of honour?
- 6) Why did the stork pair fly to the verandah at once?
- 8) What did Helga do when she saw the storks?
- 9) What did the stork-father think of the end of the story?

#### 2. Say who:

- 1) saw a long line of horses and carriages.
- 2) sat together with the bride and bridegroom.
- 3) heard about the wedding in the north.

- 4) had ordered to paint the figures of the storks on the walls of the palace.
- 5) bowed their heads in return.

### 3. Complete the sentences.

- 1) The storks were away when the guests arrived because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Merlin was the guest of honour because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The storks were tired and needed rest because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Helga ordered to paint the figures of the storks on the walls because \_\_\_\_\_.

### Working with Vocabulary and Grammar

#### 1. Say which word does not go with the others and why.

- 1) forehead, neck, nose, eyes, cheeks
- 2) tired, frightened, armed, alarmed, worried
- 3) sit, paint, say, shine, see
- 4) seriously, lovely, finally, happily, easily

#### 2. Fill in the gaps with the nouns from the box.

figures
verandah
dress
bride
rest
pyramid

- 1) An eagle standing on the \_\_\_\_\_, saw the line of horses and carriages.
- 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ was wearing a beautiful silk \_\_\_\_\_ and jewels.
- 3) The old stork needed \_\_\_\_\_ after a long journey.
- 4) Helga went out into the \_\_\_\_\_ to stroke the backs of the storks.
- 5) Helga ordered to paint the \_\_\_\_\_ of storks.

#### 3. Report the sentences in indirect speech.

- 1) "I think it is very wise and pretty," said the stork-father.
- 2) "They should do more for you," said the stork-mother.
- 3) "What will the young ones say to it?" asked the stork-mother.

- 4) "I really never expected it would end in this way," said the stork-father.

## **Discussing the Text**

### **1. Speak of Helga's wedding.**

- 1) How long did it take the prince to find Helga? Does it prove that his feelings for her were strong?
- 2) Did Helga's grandfather and mother approve of Helga's choice? Why?
- 3) Helga's foster-parents were absent from the wedding. Can you say why?

### **2. Imagine that you are the stork-father. Say:**

- 1) when you learned about Helga's wedding.
- 2) what you saw when you came to the wedding.
- 3) what you think about the end of the story.

### **3. Helga was the image of her Egyptian mother. Think how the girl could look. Draw a picture of Helga at her wed-**

**ding and describe her face, her hair and her dress.**

### **4. Give your opinion.**

- 1) Helga ordered to paint the figures of the stork pair on the walls. What did the stork-father think about it? Was it the reward the stork-mother had expected? What reward would you give to the stork-father if you were Helga?
- 2) The stork-father thought that the story of Helga had a very good but unexpected end. Why? Do you agree? Give your reasons. Is the end unexpected? Can you think of a different end?

## **Final discussion**

- Did you like the book? What characters did you like best? Why?
- What do you think of Helga? What kind of person was she at the beginning? What made her change? Was it magic or love?
- There are other examples of love in this book. Can you name them?

## VOCABULARY

### А

**advantage** [əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ] *n* преимущество,  
польза

**affair** [ə'fɛə] *n* дело, вопрос

**affect** [ə'fekt] *v* влиять, затрагивать

**alarm** [ə'lɑ:m] *v* тревожить

**alarmed** [ə'lɑ:md] *a* встревоженный

**amazed** [ə'meɪzd] *a* изумленный, поражен-  
ный

**ant-hill** ['ænthɪl] *n* муравейник

**appearance** [ə'pɪəns] *n* внешний вид

**approve** [ə'pru:v] *v* одобрять

**arch** [ɑ:tʃ] *n* арка

**area** ['ɛəriə] *n* область, участок

**awake** [ə'weɪk] *v* (awoke, awoken) будить;  
просыпаться

**awoke** [ə'wouk] *past om* awake

**awoken** [ə'woukən] *p.p. om* awake

### В

**band** [bænd] *n* лента

**bar** [bɑ:] *n* зд. засов

**bark** [bɑ:k] *n* кора (дерева)

**beak** [bi:k] *n* клюв

**beam** [bi:m] *n* луч

**bear** [beə] *v* (bore, borne) нести; выно-  
сить; выдерживать (вес)

**becoming** [bi'kɒmɪŋ] *a* подходящий; подо-  
бающий

**bend** [bend] *v* (bent, bent) нагибать, гнуть

**bent** [bent] *past u p.p. om* bend

**beyond** [bi'jɒnd] *prep* за, по ту сторону

**bilberry** ['bɪlberi] *n* черника

**birch** [bɜ:tʃ] *n* береза

**bit** [bit] *past om* bite

**bite** [baɪt] *v* (bit, bitten) кусать(ся)

**bitten** [bitn] *p.p. om* bite

**blew** [blu:] *past om* blow

**blow** [blou] *v* (blew, blown) дуть; *n* удар

**blown** [bloun] *p. p. om* blow

**bond** [bɒnd] *n* связующая нить, узы

**bore** [bɔ:] *past om* bear

**borne** [bɔ:n] *p. p. om* bear

**bow** [bau] *v* сгибать; наклонять

**bramble** ['bræmbəl] *n* ежевика

**bride** [braɪd] *n* невеста

**bridegroom** ['braɪdgru:m] *n* жених

**bud** [bʌd] *n* бутон

### С

**carriage** ['kærɪdʒ] *n* карета, повозка

**cellar** ['selə] *n* подвал



**charm** [tʃɑ:m] *v* очаровывать  
**clumsy** [ˈklʌmzi] *a* неловкий, неуклюжий  
**cock** [kɒk] *n* петух  
**comfort** [ˈkʌmfət] *v* утешать  
**constant** [ˈkɒnstənt] *a* постоянный  
**courage** [ˈkʌrɪdʒ] *n* смелость, мужество  
**crack** [kræk] *n* трещина  
**crackle** [krækl] *v* потрескивать  
**crane** [kreɪn] *n* журавль  
**creature** [ˈkri:tʃə] *n* существо  
**cup** [kʌp] *n* *зд.* чашечка (цветка)  
**cure** [kjʊə] *v* излечивать; *n* лекарство  
**custom** [ˈkʌstəm] *n* обычай, традиция

## D

**damp** [dæmp] *a* влажный  
**Danish** [ˈdæniʃ] *a* датский  
**deceitful** [diˈsi:tful] *a* коварный  
**desert** [ˈdezət] *n* пустыня  
**dip** [dɪp] *v* окунать(ся)  
**disapprove** [ˌdɪsəˈpru:v] *v* не одобрять, осуждать  
**disgust** [dɪsˈgʌst] *n* отвращение  
**distant** [ˈdɪstənt] *a* далекий  
**dive** [daɪv] *v* нырять  
**drag** [dræg] *v* тащить  
**dragon-fly** [ˈdræɡənflaɪ] *n* стрекоза  
**dwarf** [dwɔ:f] *n* карлик

## E

**eagle** [i:gl] *n* орел  
**edge** [edʒ] *n* край  
**empire** [ˈempraɪə] *n* империя  
**enchant** [ɪnˈtʃɑ:nt] *v* заколдовывать  
**evil** [ˈi:vl] *n* зло  
**extend** [ɪkˈstend] *v* простираться; тянуть(ся)

## F

**fair** [feə] *a* *зд.* справедливый  
**fair wind** попутный ветер  
**fate** [feɪt] *n* судьба  
**favourable** [ˈfeɪvərəbl] *a* благоприятный  
**fear** [fiə] *n* страх  
**feathery** [ˈfeðəri] *a* напоминающий перо, пушистый  
**female** [ˈfi:meɪl] *n* самка  
**finch** [fɪntʃ] *n* зяблик  
**flap** [flæp] *v* хлопать (крыльями)  
**flow** [fləʊ] *v* течь  
**forehead** [ˈfɔ:ɪd, fɔ:hed] *n* лоб  
**foster-mother** [ˈfɒstə,mʌðə] *n* приемная мать  
**frighten** [fraɪtn] *v* пугать  
**frightened** [fraɪt(ə)nd] *a* испуганный

## G

**gentle** [ˈdʒentl] *a* нежный, ласковый  
**ghost** [goust] *n* призрак, привидение  
**glitter** [ˈglɪtə] *v* блестеть, сверкать

## H

**hammer** [ˈhæmə] *v* колотить, барабанить  
**hang** [hæŋ] *v* (**hung, hung**) вешать; висеть  
**hasten** [ˈheɪsn] *v* спешить, делать что-то в спешке  
**hasten away** поспешно уехать  
**head** [hed] *n* голова, *a* главный, старший  
**heal** [hi:l] *v* вылечивать  
**height** [haɪt] *n* высота, рост  
**held** [held] *past* и *p. p. om* hold  
**hold** [hould] *v* (**held, held**) держать(ся)  
**horrible** [ˈhɒrəbl] *a* страшный, ужасный  
**host** [houst] *n* человек, принимающий гостей  
**huge** [hju:dʒ] *a* большой, огромный  
**hung** [hʌŋ] *past* и *p. p. om* hang

## I

**ibis** [ˈaɪbɪs] *n* ибис  
**immense** [ɪˈmens] *a* огромный, бескрайний  
**inherit** [ɪnˈherɪt] *v* наследовать  
**irritation** [ˌɪrɪˈteɪʃn] *n* раздражение

## L

**ladybird** [ˈleɪdɪbɜ:d] *n* божья коровка  
**laid** [leɪd] *past* и *p. p. om* lay  
**lap** [læp] *n* колени (верхняя часть ног у сидящего человека)  
**lay** [leɪ] *v* (**laid, laid**) класть  
**learned** [lɜ:n] *a* ученый, знающий  
**learnedly** [ˈlɜ:nɪdli] *adv* по-ученому  
**likely** [ˈlaɪkli] *adv* вероятно  
**limb** [lɪm] *n* конечность (человека или животного)  
**live** [laɪv] *a* живой  
**lizard** [ˈlɪzəd] *n* ящерица  
**lock** [lɒk] *n* локон  
**locust** [ˈloukəst] *n* саранча  
**loosely** [lu:sli] *adv* свободно

## M

**magic** [ˈmædʒɪk] *n* волшебство; *a* волшебный  
**magician** [mæˈdʒɪʃn] *n* волшебник  
**magpie** [ˈmæɡpraɪ] *n* сорока  
**maid** [meɪd] *n* служанка  
**male** [meɪl] *n* самец  
**mane** [meɪn] *n* грива  
**marsh** [mɑ:ʃ] *n* болото  
**marshy** [mɑ:ʃi] *a* болотистый

**master** [ˈmɑːstə] *n* хозяин, господин  
**mate** [meɪt] *n* *зд.* один из пары (муж, жена)  
**meadow** [ˈmedəʊ] *n* луг  
**meal** [mi:l] *n* еда, трапеза  
**measure** [ˈmeʒə] *n* мера  
**minaret** [mɪnəˈret] *n* минарет  
**mind** [maɪnd] *n* ум  
**moist** [ˈmoɪst] *a* влажный  
**moor** [muə, mɔː] *n* болотистая местность, поросшая вереском  
**moorland** [ˈmɔːlənd, ˈmuələnd] *n* вересковая пустошь  
**mosque** [mɒsk] *n* мечеть  
**mud** [mʌd] *n* грязь; тина  
**mummy** [ˈmʌmi] *n* мумия

## N

**nightingale** [ˈnaɪtɪŋgeɪl] *n* соловей

## O

**oppose** [əˈpəʊz] *v* противиться, сопротивляться  
**overcame** [ˌoʊvəˈkeɪm] *past of overcome*  
**overcome** [ˌoʊvəˈkʌm] *v* (*overcame, overcome*) преодолевать

**overlook** [ˌoʊvəˈlʊk] *v* пропустить; игнорировать  
**overpower** [ˌoʊvəˈpaʊə] *v* одолевать

## P

**palace** [ˈpælɪs] *n* дворец  
**partridge** [ˈpɑːtrɪdʒ] *n* куропатка  
**pass** [pɑːs] *v* проходить  
**pasture** [ˈpɑːstʃə] *n* пастбище  
**peck** [pek] *v* клевать  
**persuade** [pəˈsweɪd] *v* убеждать, уговаривать  
**place** [ˈpleɪs] *v* помещать, класть  
**plumage** [ˈplʊːmɪdʒ] *n* оперенье  
**point** [pɔɪnt] *v* указывать, показывать; *n* пункт  
**pour** [pɔː] *v* лить  
**praise** [preɪz] *v* хвалить, восхвалять  
**preserve** [prɪˈzɜːv] *v* сохранять, сберегать  
**prisoner** [ˈprɪznə] *n* пленник  
**proverb** [ˈprɒvəːb] *n* пословица

## Q

**quail** [kweɪl] *n* перепелка

## R

**realize** [ˈriːəlaɪz] *v* понимать, осознавать  
**recipe** [ˈresɪpi] *n* рецепт; лекарство

**recovery** [rɪ'kʌvəri] *n* выздоровление  
**reed** [ri:d] *n* камыш; тростник  
**refrain** [rɪ'freɪn] *n* припев  
**remove** [rɪ'mu:v] *v* удалять, устранять  
**revenge** [rɪ'vendʒ] *n* месть  
**reward** [rɪ'wɔ:d] *n* награда  
**ridden** ['rɪdn] *p. p. om ride*  
**ride** [raɪd] *v (rode, ridden)* ехать верхом  
**rise** [raɪz] *v (rose, risen)* подниматься  
**risen** ['rɪzn] *p. p. om rise*  
**rode** [roud] *past om ride*  
**rope** [roup] *n* веревка  
**rose** [rouz] *past om rise*  
**rough** [rʌf] *a* грубый  
**rule** [ru:l] *v* править

## S

**saddle** ['sædl] *n* седло  
**sank** [sæŋk] *past om sink*  
**save** [seɪv] *v* спасать  
**scratch** [skrætʃ] *v* царапать  
**seize** [si:z] *v* хватать  
**servant** ['sɜ:vənt] *n* слуга  
**shield** [ʃi:ld] *n* щит  
**shine** ['ʃaɪn] *v (shone, shone)* светить(ся), сиять  
**shone** [ʃɒn] *past и p. p. om shine*

**sight** [saɪt] *n* вид, зрелище  
**sign** [saɪn] *n* знак  
**sink** [sɪŋk] *v (sank, sunk)* тонуть; опустаться  
**slender** ['slendə] *a* стройный, тонкий  
**slimy** ['smaɪmi] *a* липкий  
**slip** [slɪp] *v* скользить; проскальзывать  
**smooth** [smu:ð] *v* сглаживать  
**snail** [sneɪl] *n* улитка  
**snap** [snæp] *v* щелкать  
**snatch** [snætʃ] *v* выхватывать  
**sob** [sɒb] *n* всхлипывание  
**soot** [sut] *n* сажа  
**sorcerer** ['sɔ:s(ə)rə] *n* колдун  
**sorrow** ['sɔ:rou] *n* печаль  
**sound** [saund] *v* звучать, раздаваться; *n* звук  
**soundly** ['saundli] *adv* крепко  
**spell** [spel] *n* заклинание, колдовской наговор  
**spoil** [spɔɪl] *v зд.* баловать  
**spot** [spɒt] *n* место  
**sprang** [spræŋ] *past om spring*  
**spring** [sprɪŋ] *v (sprang, sprung)* прыгать; *n* источник, родник  
**sprinkle** ['sprɪŋkl] *v (o)брызгать*  
**sprung** [sprɪŋ] *p. p. om spring*  
**stalk** [stɔ:k] *n* стебель

**stamp** [stæmp] *v* зд. стукнуть копытом  
(о лошади)  
**state** [steit] *n* состояние, положение  
**step** [step] *v* ступать; делать шаг  
**storey** ['stɔ:ri] *n* этаж  
**stork** [stɔ:k] *n* аист  
**straw** [strɔ:] *n* солома  
**stretch** [stretʃ] *v* тянуть(ся)  
**stretch out one's neck** вытягивать шею  
**strike** [straik] *v* (**struck, struck**) бить, ударять  
**strike a blow** наносить удар  
**stroke** [strouk] *v* гладить, ласкать  
**struck** [strʌk] *past* и *p. p. om* strike  
**stump** [stʌmp] *n* пень  
**suffer** ['sʌfə] *v* страдать  
**sunk** [sʌŋk] *p. p. om* sink  
**sunshade** ['sʌnʃeɪd] *n* зонтик от солнца  
**swallow** ['swɔləu] *n* ласточка  
**swamp** [swɔmp] *n* болото  
**swan** [swɔn] *n* лебедь  
**sympathy** ['sɪmpəθi] *n* сочувствие

## Т

**tear** [tɛə] *v* (**tore, torn**) рвать  
**temper** ['tempə] *n* характер, нрав  
**temple** ['templ] *n* храм

**tie** [taɪ] *v* завязывать, привязывать  
**tip** [tɪp] *n* кончик  
**torch** [tɔ:tʃ] *n* факел; фонарь  
**tore** [tɔ:] *past om* tear  
**torn** [tɔ:n] *p. p. om* tear  
**towards** [tə'wɔ:dz, tɔ:dz] *prep* по направлению к  
**trace** [treɪs] *n* след  
**treasure** ['trezə] *n* сокровища  
**tremble** ['treɪbl] *v* дрожать  
**triangle** ['traɪæŋgl] *n* треугольник  
**turf** [tɜ:f] *n* торф

## W

**wave** [weɪv] *v* махать, размахивать  
**wearisome** ['wiəri:səm] *a* утомительный  
**webbed** [webd] *a* перепончатый  
**wedding** ['wedɪŋ] *n* свадьба  
**wicked** ['wɪkɪd] *a* злой, злобный  
**wickedness** ['wɪkɪdnəs] *n* злобность, подлость  
**wild** [waɪld] *a* необитаемый; грубый  
**will** [wɪl] *n* воля  
**wisp** [wɪsp] *n* пучок, клочок  
**wrinkle** [rɪŋkl] *n* морщина  
**wrong** [rɔŋ] *n* зло; плохой поступок

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