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# Aesop Fables



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# Fairy Tales

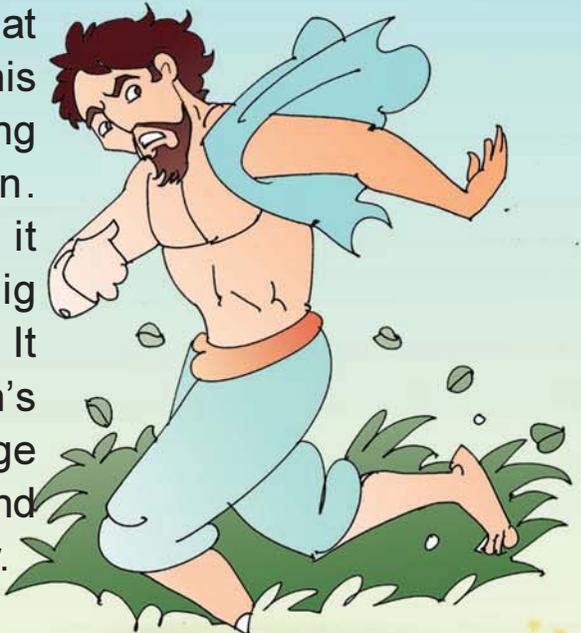


# 1. ANDROCLES AND THE LION

It happened in ancient times. A slave named Androcles escaped from his master and fled into the forest. He wandered there for a long time until he was weary. He spent a long time in hunger and despair.

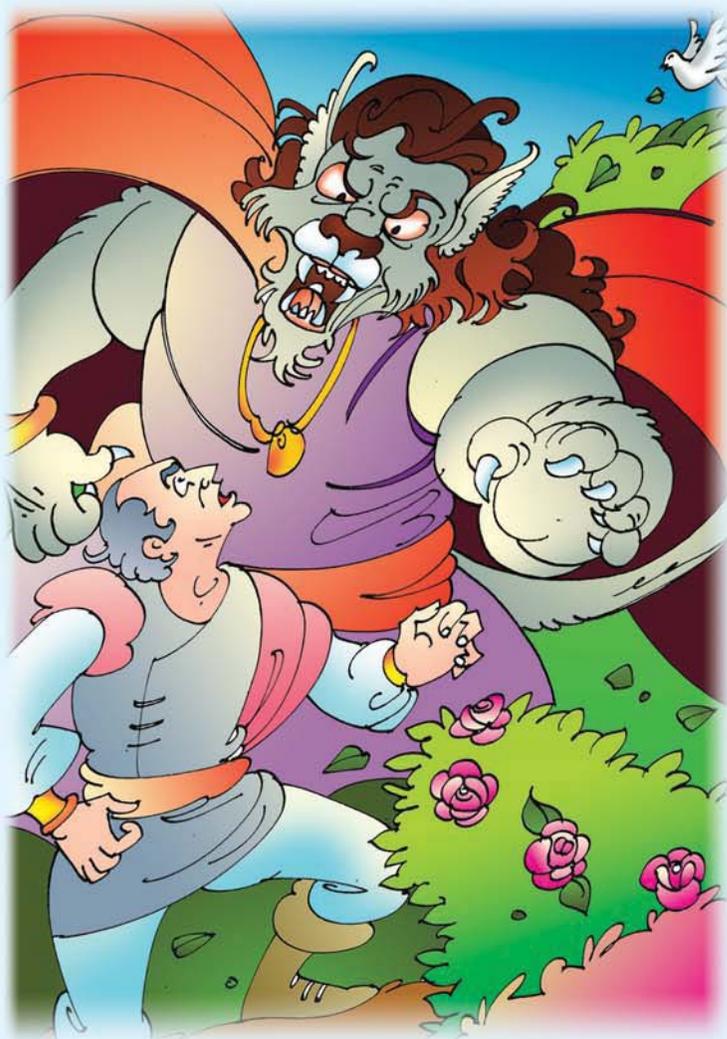
Just then he heard a lion near him moaning, groaning and at times roaring terribly. Tired as he was Androcles rose up and rushed away from the lion. But as he made his way through the bushes he stumbled over the root of a tree and fell down twisting his ankle. When he tried to get up, he saw the lion coming towards him, limping on three feet and holding his forepaw in front of him.

Poor Androcles was in despair; he had no strength to rise and run away, and there was the lion coming upon him. But when the great beast came up to him, instead of attacking him, he kept on moaning and groaning and looking at Androcles. He then saw that the lion was holding out his right paw, which was bleeding and was much swollen. Looking more closely at it Androcles saw a great big thorn pressed into the paw. It was the cause of all the lion's trouble. Plucking up courage he seized hold of the thorn and drew it out of the lion's paw.



# 1. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

A long time ago in a far away land, a merchant was returning home from a long journey. As night fell, he entered a deep forest. He was thinking of his six daughters. He had



left home in summer and now it was severe winter. It had snowed heavily and his horse stumbled on a patch of ice. He heard wolves howling and soon he realised that he was lost.

At last he saw some sort of track. At first it was rough and slippery. But very soon it led him into an avenue of orange trees covered with flowers and fruits. Here there was no snow.

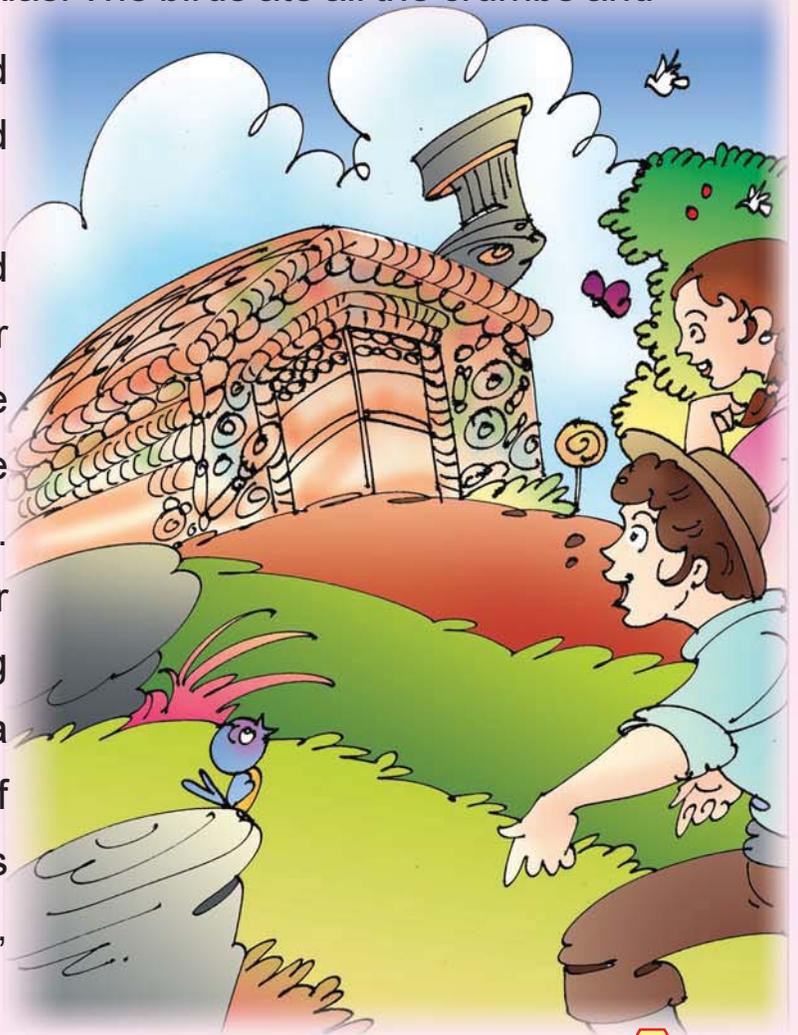
He saw a flight of stone steps. They led him into a great castle. Inside he passed through several splendid rooms. There was no one inside. At last, he stopped in a small room where the fire was burning. He lay down on a couch and very soon fell into a slumber.



## 8. HANSEL AND GRETEL

A poor shepherd and his wife had two children named Hansel and Gretel. Their mother died when they were young. Hansel and Gretel were very sad. Soon their father remarried but their step mother was very cruel. One day she took the kids deep into the forest and left them there. Clever Hansel had some bread crumbs in his pocket and had dropped them on the way so that they could find their way back home. Alas! The birds ate all the crumbs and they couldn't find the path that led back home.

Hansel and Gretel went deeper and deeper into the forest. They were hungry and tired. Finally, after walking for a long time, they saw a cottage made of chocolates, candies and cake. "Look, Hansel!



**End of Preview.**

**Rest of the book can be read @**

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