

1. The Princess and the Pea

Once upon a time, there lived a prince. He wanted to get married. The prince looked for the perfect wife, but he could not find a real princess anywhere! One stormy night, there was a knock on his door. When the prince opened it, he saw a girl. Her hair was wet, her clothes were muddy, and she was shivering. “Hello. I am a princess. May I stay here tonight?” she asked. “Of course,” he said kindly. The prince invited the girl in. “Come warm yourself by the fire. Have a cup of hot chocolate,” he said. “Thank you,” she said sweetly. The girl seemed very nice. Could she really be a princess? The prince had a plan to find out. First, he put a tiny pea on a bed. Second, he piled 20 mattresses on top of the pea. “Here is your bed. Sweet dreams,” he said. But the girl’s dreams were not sweet. She tossed and turned. She couldn’t sleep at all. The next morning, the prince invited the girl to have some pancakes. “How did you sleep?” he asked. “I don’t mean to be rude, but I slept very badly. It felt like there was a rock under my back!” she said with a yawn. The prince smiled. Then, he got down on one knee and asked the girl to marry him. Why? He knew that only a real princess could feel a tiny pea under 20 mattresses! The girl said yes, of course. Then they both lived happily ever after.

2. The Two Mice

A country mouse invited a city mouse to his house. The two mice had a great time. They climbed trees and took long hikes. This made them very hungry. So they went into the farm and looked for some corn. The city mouse wrinkled up his nose. "The road is so dusty. The food is so boring. In the city, I eat meat, cheese, and pie. Do you want to go there with me?" asked the city mouse. The country mouse licked his lips. "Oh, yes!" The next day, the two mice jumped on a train and went to the city. They walked to a big building and took an elevator to the top. This was where the city mouse lived. It looked big and fancy. The two mice had a great time. They listened to music, played games and ran from room to room. All of this made them very hungry. So they went into the dining room. There was a table filled with meat and a whole cherry pie. Just as they began to enjoy the food, out came a cat and a dog! "Run for your life!" said the city mouse. The two mice jumped off the table and ran into a hole. The country mouse had never been so scared. "I'm going back home," he said. "The city is nice, but corn and safety are better than cherry pie and danger." The two mice hugged and said good-bye. The country mouse jumped on a train and went back to the country.

3. The Shoemaker and the Elves

A shoemaker and his wife were very poor. One day, they only had a small piece of leather left to make a pair of shoes. The shoemaker put the leather on his table and said, "I will make one last pair of shoes to sell at the market tomorrow." But a magical thing happened. When the shoemaker woke up the next morning, the leather had been turned into a fancy pair of shoes! "Wow! I will sell them at the market," he said. The shoemaker sold the shoes for some money. With the money, he bought more leather. The shoemaker put the leather on his table. The next morning, he found two fancy pairs of shoes! Again, the shoemaker sold them and used the money to buy more leather. Life went on like this for many days. The shoemaker and his wife sold many shoes and became very rich. The shoemaker and his wife became very curious. Who was making all the fancy shoes for them? They decided to find out. Instead of going to bed, they hid behind a curtain. At midnight, two little elves came in. They made ten pairs of shoes. Then they danced and left. The shoemaker told his wife, "Did you see their old clothes? Let's make them some new ones to say thank you." All day, the shoemaker and his wife worked and worked. They made two tiny shirts and put them on the table. When the two elves came in at midnight, they were surprised to see the shirts. They put on the shirts. Then they danced and left. After that, the shoemaker and his wife never saw the two elves again.