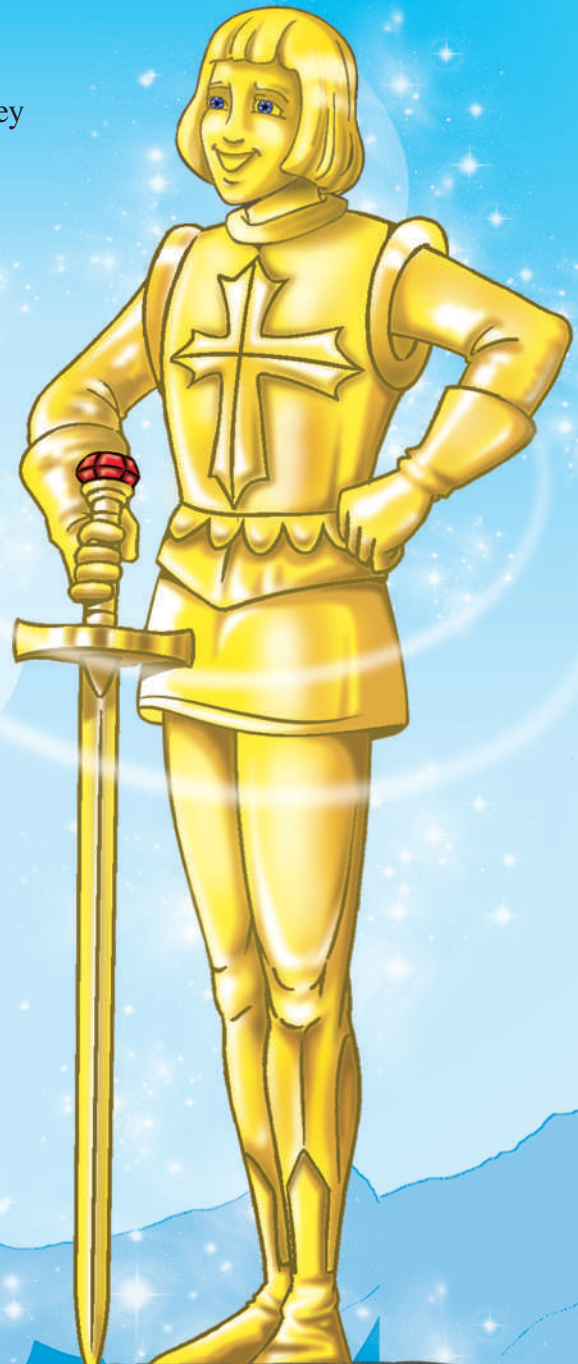


The Happy Prince

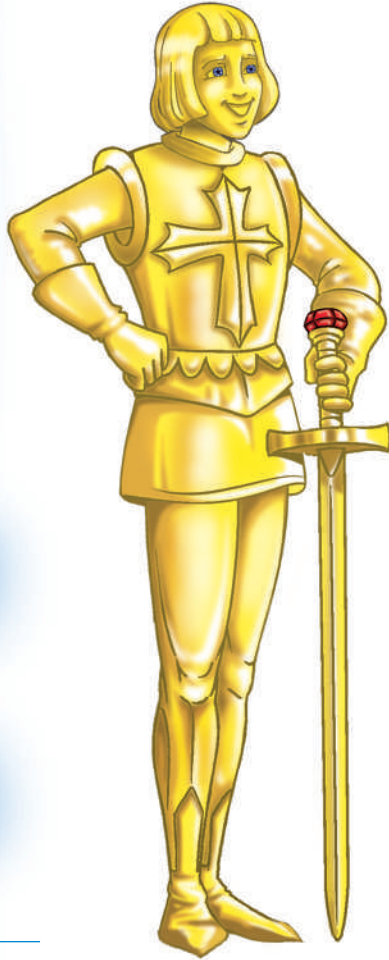


Oscar Wilde

retold by Virginia Evans - Jenny Dooley



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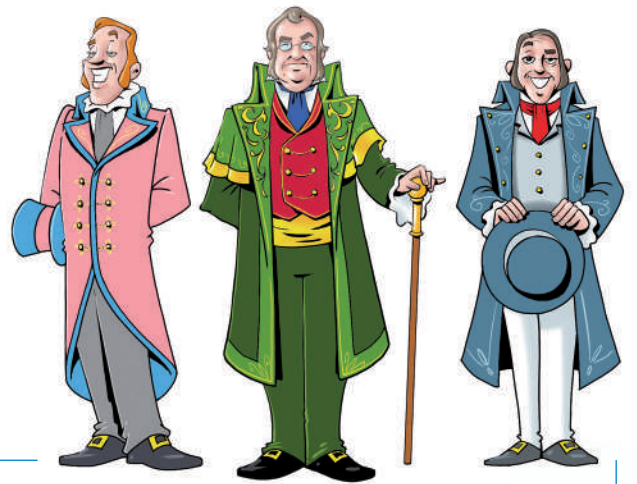
The Happy Prince

... once lived a happy life in a beautiful palace. He sang and danced and played with his friends every day. When he died, the Town Councillors put up a statue of him where he could see all of the city and all of the people of the city, too. The Prince is very kind so when he sees how poor and hungry the people are, he tries to help them.



The swallow

... is a bird that lives by the river. He stays in the city when the other swallows go to Egypt, where it is warm, for the winter. The swallow and the Prince are friends, and the little bird does many things to help the Prince and the people of the city.



The Town Councillors and the Mayor

... are the leaders of the city but they do not care about the people there. They like the statue of the Happy Prince only because it is covered with gold and jewels. They are very selfish men.

The poor match girl

... is a child who sells matches in the streets of the city. She sells them to get money for her family so that they can buy food to eat.

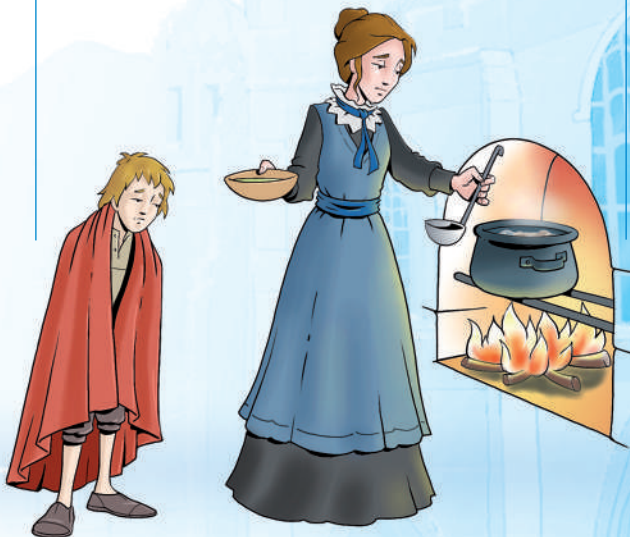


The writer

... is a poor man who is writing a play for the Director of the Theatre. Because he has no food or wood for a fire, he is hungry and cold. He has a lot of good ideas but he is too hungry and cold to think or write.

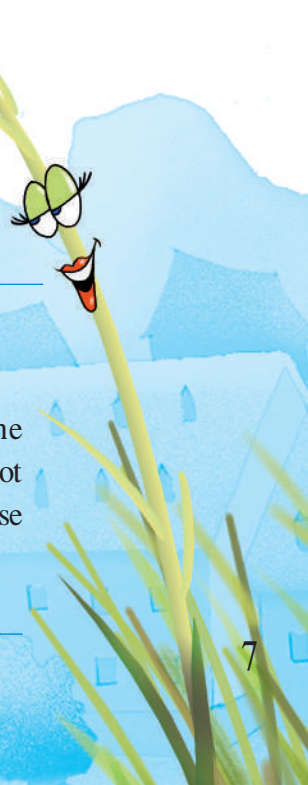
The poor woman

... lives with her young son, who is very sick. She sews dresses all day and all night to try to make money so they can eat.



The reed

... is a beautiful plant that lives in the river. She loves the swallow but she cannot go away with him to see the world because she loves her home.





1 | The Statue

The statue of the Happy Prince was in the centre of the city. He stood on a tall column, so he could see all of the city. He was wonderful to look at and he shone in the sun. Fine gold leaves covered his body from head to toe. His eyes were two bright blue sapphires, and a red ruby glittered on his golden sword.

Everyone loved the statue. The Town Councillors thought that he was very beautiful.

“He is even more beautiful than the weathercock on top of the cathedral,” said one.

The other Town Councillor thought for a moment.

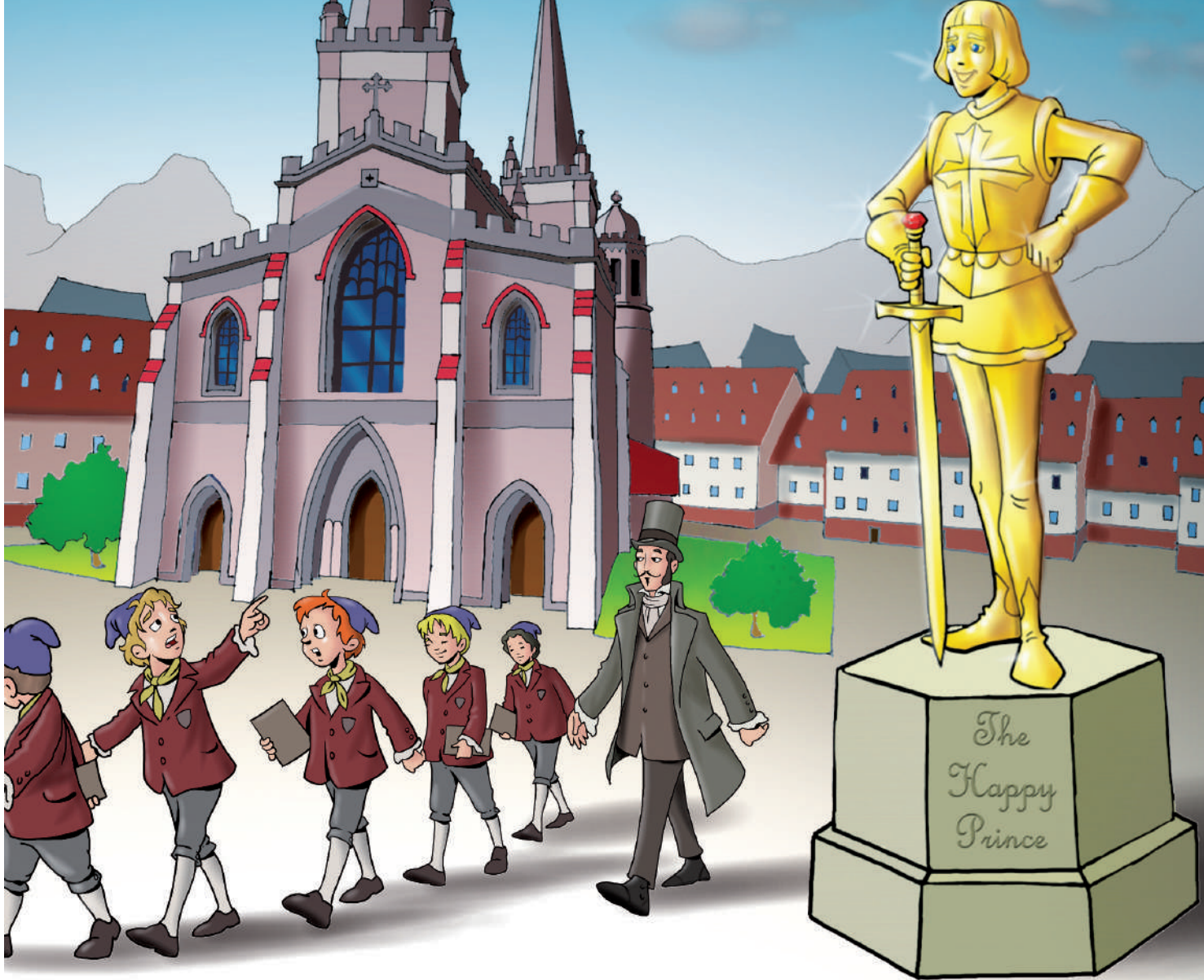
“That’s true, but he is not as useful.”

The second Town Councillor was a sensible man and he wanted people to know that there were more important things than beauty.

The Happy Prince smiled all the time. When mothers saw him, they told their children not to cry.

“Why can’t you be like the Happy Prince? He never cries about anything.”

When their children looked up at the Happy Prince, they stopped crying and smiled. Nobody could feel sad when they saw such a beautiful statue.



People looked at the statue when they felt sad and they knew that there was always a reason to smile and be happy. The statue gave hope to all the people who lived in the city.

The poor children who lived in the city loved the statue most of all. They looked at him every day on their way to school. One day, one of the children looked up at the statue and smiled.

“He looks just like an angel.”

The child’s teacher looked at him.

“How do you know what an angel looks like? When did you see an angel?”

“I sometimes see angels in my dreams.”

The child looked up at the Happy Prince with love in his eyes. The teacher shook his head. He did not like the children to dream.

“Hurry up, it’s time for school!”

The children followed the teacher away from the statue, waving at the Happy Prince as they left and calling out to him.

“Goodbye, Prince! See you soon!”

The Leaves of Gold

Before Reading

1 Read the chapter title and look at the pictures on pages 24 and 25. Then answer the questions. Listen, read and check.

- 1 What is the swallow holding in his beak? Why, do you think?
- 2 Are the children in the picture on p. 24 rich? How can you tell?
- 3 Is the statue in the picture on p. 25 the same as it was before? What is happening?

While Reading

2 Match the halves to make sentences.

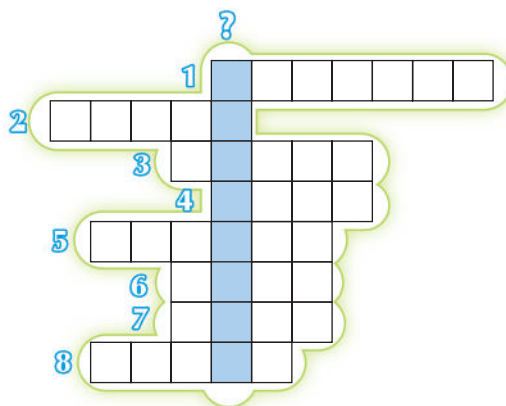
- 1 The swallow told the Prince stories
 - 2 The swallow flew over the city
 - 3 The rich people
 - 4 The poor people
 - 5 The swallow took the gold leaves from the statue
 - 6 It started snowing, and
 - 7 The baker wanted the swallow
 - 8 The swallow kept himself warm
- a were eating and drinking.
 - b of the places he had visited.
 - c the snow covered the city.
 - d by flapping his wings.
 - e to look at the people.
 - f to go away.
 - g had no homes, food or clothes.
 - h and gave them to the poor.

After Reading

3 Complete the crossword and find the hidden word.

- 1 The swallow told to the Prince about his journeys.
- 2 The swallow had a heavy feeling in his
- 3 The shouted at the swallow and chased him away.

- 4 The people were drinking and eating.
- 5 of gold covered the Prince's body.
- 6 The was full of sad and lonely people.
- 7 covered the city in a white blanket.
- 8 The swallow flapped his to keep warm.



4 Use these phrases to tell the class a summary of the chapter.

tell stories interested in people
fly over the city
rich eating and drinking
poor starving leaves of gold
one by one dull and grey
heavy heart blanket of snow
cold and hungry pick up crumbs
baker's door flap wings
keep warm

5 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why did the swallow fly over the city?
- 2 If you were the Happy Prince, would you give away your gold leaves?
- 3 Do you think that gold can make people happy?



The Happy Prince

Everyone loves the Happy Prince. He is very beautiful and smiles all the time. The poor people take hope from him but they don't know that he also shares their sadness with them. The only one who knows is the little swallow, the Prince's true friend. When his friends fly to Egypt for the winter, he begins a journey of his own: a journey into love and kindness, a journey into the Prince's heart.

COMPONENTS

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level A



Level B



Level C



Level D

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