

illustrated  
READERS

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN



# THE SNOW QUEEN

retold by Virginia Evans & Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing



## *Hans Christian Andersen*

Hans Christian Andersen is one of the world's most famous storytellers. Children all over the world love his fairy tales as much today as they did 150 years ago.

Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark, on 2 April 1805. His father was a poor shoemaker who died when Hans was 11 years old. Hans went to a school for poor children for a few years, then he left Odense, at the age of 14, and went to Copenhagen. He hoped to make a career as an actor, singer and dancer,

but he had no success. A man called Jonas Collin helped him with his education, and he went to university.

He started writing plays and novels, then in 1835 he published the first of his fairy tales. These tales became more and more popular, and by the time he was 40 Andersen was famous. He travelled around Europe, and his friends included many other famous people.

Hans Christian Andersen died on 4 August 1875 in Copenhagen.

Read the biography of Hans Christian Andersen, then answer the questions:

- 1 When and where was Andersen born? When and where did he die?

.....

- 2 What was Hans Andersen's father? When did he die?

.....

- 3 Where did Hans go when he was 14? Why?

.....

- 4 When did Andersen publish his first fairy tale?

.....

- 5 Was Andersen happy? Why (not)?

.....



# *The Snow Queen*

*The Snow Queen* was published in a collection of fairy tales in 1844. It is one of the most famous fairy tales in the world. The story has been made into several films and plays and is enjoyed by people of all ages.

The story is about the journey of a little girl called Gerda to find her best friend, Kay, who has been taken away by the Snow Queen. On her journey, Gerda meets a wonderful variety of magical characters, including talking animals, a prince and a princess, a woman who can do magic and guards made of snowflakes.

It is a story of good against evil, and it is a story of love. Brave little Gerda fights the powerful, evil Snow Queen for Kay, the boy she loves, and of course love wins. Gerda finds Kay and brings him back, and her love helps him to see that the world really is a beautiful place.

The story begins in Denmark, but Gerda's journey takes us further and further north, through Lapland\*, to the icy home of the Snow Queen. Gerda travels through wind, ice and snow to find her friend and bring him home, where it is summer again.

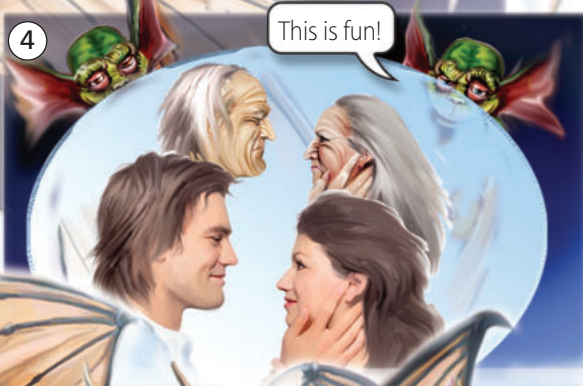
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\*region of northern Europe including areas of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia



# 1. The Broken Mirror

The story starts with a goblin and a magic mirror ...





7

Tiny pieces of broken mirror  
are blowing all over the world!

Pieces go into  
people's eyes ...

8

9

... and everything  
they see looks ugly!

Pieces go into  
people's hearts ...

11

... and their feelings  
turn to ice!

10

*Before Reading*

- 1 Look at the pictures. Find the picture(s) that show(s):
  - a boy sleeping .....
  - a gold carriage .....
  - strange shadows .....
- 2 Who are the characters in this episode? What do you think happens?

*While Reading*

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and put the events in the correct order.
  - ..... Gerda goes into the room where the prince and princess sleep.
  - ..... The prince and princess give Gerda new clothes and a carriage.
  - ..... Gerda thinks the sleeping prince is Kay.
  - ..I.. The crow's wife takes Gerda into the palace.
  - ..... The prince wakes up and Gerda sees he isn't Kay.
  - ..... Gerda tells the prince and princess why she is there.
- 4 Find words in the episode which mean the following:
  - 1 pictures or 'stories' we see when we sleep = d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
  - 2 the first part of the day = m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
  - 3 frightened, scared = a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
  - 4 having something other people want but haven't got = l \_ \_ \_ \_
  - 5 a kind of 'car', but pulled by a horse = c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

*After Reading*

- 5 Read and listen again, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 In pairs, discuss the following questions, then tell the class your answers.
  - 1 How does Gerda feel when she sees that the prince isn't Kay? How does she feel at the end of the episode?
  - 2 How do you feel when something goes wrong with your plans? Do you keep trying to get what you want?
  - 3 Do you think Gerda will ever find Kay?



### Before Reading

- 1 Look at the title and the pictures. What does 'robber' mean? Which character is the robber girl? Does she look friendly or unfriendly?
- 2 Look at the pictures again. Find the pictures that show:
  - a reindeer ... - ... • the robber girl wearing Gerda's new cloak ... - ...
  - Gerda's carriage in a dark forest ... - ... • doves ... , ...



### While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and choose the correct words in bold.

Gerda is travelling through a **small/dark** forest when robbers stop her. A little robber **girl/boy** wants to **kill/play with** Gerda. She takes Gerda's new **shoes/cloak** and carriage. Gerda tells the girl about her **journey/home**. The robber girl's **reindeer/birds** know where Kay is. He is in the Snow Queen's castle near **Lapland/Scotland**. The girl gives Gerda her **reindeer/birds** to take her there.

- 4 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- 1 where / is / We / friend / your / know .
- 2 where / is / This / live / we .
- 3 Here / some warm gloves / and / are / boots .
- 4 there / over / is / My / bed .
- 5 you / princess / a / Are ?



### After Reading

- 5 Read and listen again, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 In pairs, describe: a) the little robber girl; and b) her home. You can use these prompts to help you. Tell the class your answers.
  - big • dirty • torn clothes • red hair • dark • kind • empty
- 7 In pairs, discuss what you think will happen in the next episode.





# THE SNOW QUEEN

Little Gerda loves her friend Kay, and he loves her. Then the Snow Queen takes Kay away to her palace in the far North. Gerda goes to find him, and her long journey is full of magical adventures. But is Gerda's love strong enough to save Kay from the evil Snow Queen?

## Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



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