1. The Goose With the Golden Eggs

One day a countryman going to the nest of his Goose found

there an egg all yellow and glittering. When he took it up it was

as heavy as lead and he was going to throw it away, because he

thought a trick had been played upon him. But he took it home on

second thoughts, and soon found to his delight that it was an egg

of pure gold. Every morning the same thing occurred, and he soon

became rich by selling his eggs. As he grew rich he grew greedy;

and thinking to get at once all the gold the Goose could give, he

killed it and opened it only to find nothing.

1. The Crow and the Pitcher

A Crow, half-dead with thirst, came upon a Pitcher which had

once been full of water; but when the Crow put its beak into the

mouth of the Pitcher he found that only very little water was left

in it, and that he could not reach far enough down to get at it.

He tried, and he tried, but at last had to give up in despair.

Then a thought came to him, and he took a pebble and dropped it

into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped it into

the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into

the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into

the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into

the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into

the Pitcher. At last, at last, he saw the water mount up near

him, and after casting in a few more pebbles he was able to quench

his thirst and save his life.

1. The Ant and the Chrysalis

An Ant nimbly running about in the sunshine in search of food came

across a Chrysalis that was very near its time of change. The

Chrysalis moved its tail, and thus attracted the attention of the Ant,

who then saw for the first time that it was alive. "Poor, pitiable

animal!" cried the Ant disdainfully. "What a sad fate is yours!

While I can run hither and thither, at my pleasure, and, if I wish,

ascend the tallest tree, you lie imprisoned here in your shell, with

power only to move a joint or two of your scaly tail." The Chrysalis

heard all this, but did not try to make any reply. A few days after,

when the Ant passed that way again, nothing but the shell remained.

Wondering what had become of its contents, he felt himself suddenly

shaded and fanned by the gorgeous wings of a beautiful Butterfly.

"Behold in me," said the Butterfly, "your much-pitied friend! Boast

now of your powers to run and climb as long as you can get me to

listen." So saying, the Butterfly rose in the air, and, borne along

and aloft on the summer breeze, was soon lost to the sight of the

Ant forever.

1. The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

A Wolf found great difficulty in getting at the sheep owing to

the vigilance of the shepherd and his dogs. But one day it found

the skin of a sheep that had been flayed and thrown aside, so it

put it on over its own pelt and strolled down among the sheep.

The Lamb that belonged to the sheep, whose skin the Wolf was

wearing, began to follow the Wolf in the Sheep's clothing; so,

leading the Lamb a little apart, he soon made a meal off her, and

for some time he succeeded in deceiving the sheep, and enjoying

hearty meals.

5) The Vixen and the Lioness

A Vixen who was taking her babies out for an airing one balmy

morning, came across a Lioness, with her cub in arms. "Why such

airs, haughty dame, over one solitary cub?" sneered the Vixen. "Look

at my healthy and numerous litter here, and imagine, if you are

able, how a proud mother should feel." The Lioness gave her a

squelching look, and lifting up her nose, walked away, saying

calmly, "Yes, just look at that beautiful collection. What are they?

Foxes! I've only one, but remember, that one is a Lion."

6) The Lion and the Mouse

Once when a Lion was asleep a little Mouse began running up

and down upon him; this soon wakened the Lion, who placed his huge paw upon him, and opened his big jaws to swallow him. "Pardon, O King," cried the little Mouse: "forgive me this time, I shall never forget it: who knows but what I may be able to do you a turn some of these days?" The Lion was so tickled at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him, that he lifted up his paw and let him go. Some time after the Lion was caught in a trap, and the hunters who desired to carry him alive to the King, tied him to a tree while they went in search of a waggon to carry him on. Just then the little Mouse happened to pass by, and seeing the sad plight in which the Lion was, went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes that bound the King of the Beasts. "Was I not right?"

said the little Mouse.

7) The Peacock and the Crane

A PEACOCK spreading its gorgeous tail mocked a Crane that passed

by, ridiculing the ashen hue of its plumage and saying, "I am

robed, like a king, in gold and purple and all the colors of the

rainbow; while you have not a bit of color on your wings."

"True," replied the Crane; "but I soar to the heights of heaven

and lift up my voice to the stars, while you walk below, like a

chicken, among the birds of the dunghill."

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