

1 The Magic Playhouse

Long ago, there lived a king who loved his little daughter so much that he fulfilled all her wishes. The princess loved toys. She never shared them with anyone.

One night, the princess dreamt that she was happily playing with a hundred toys in a small magical playhouse in the royal garden. The next morning she went to her father and told him about her **delightful** dream.

"Father, I want a **playhouse** with a hundred toys," she said.

The king sent the message across the kingdom: "A toymaker who can make a playhouse with a hundred toys will be given 1,000 gold coins."

All the toymakers in the kingdom tried to make the most beautiful playhouse they could, but the princess did not like any of them.

One day, a clown came to the kingdom. He said, "I can make the playhouse and the toys." He kept working in the royal garden day and night.

Seven days later, a lovely playhouse stood in the garden. It **resembled** a beautiful **castle** with towers and colourful windows.

delightful: causing delight; charming

resembled: looked similar to

playhouse: a toy house for children to play in

castle: a large building protected against attacks



"This is the playhouse I had dreamt of!" exclaimed the princess. Each toy inside the playhouse was new and unique.

The king was pleased with the clown and gave him 1,000 gold coins.

"Your Majesty, the playhouse and the toys are magical. **Her Highness** must play with each toy every day. If she does not play with each one of them, the **left out** toys will disappear along with a part of the playhouse," warned the clown and left.

The princess played with the toys each day. She spent the **entire** day in the playhouse and was **overjoyed**.

After some time, she was tired of playing with all the 100 toys each day. One day, she played with only 70 toys. Next morning, the 30 left out toys **vanished** along with a small part of the playhouse.

The princess remembered the words of the clown. She was sad and started crying. The royal gardener's little daughter, Lata, heard her.

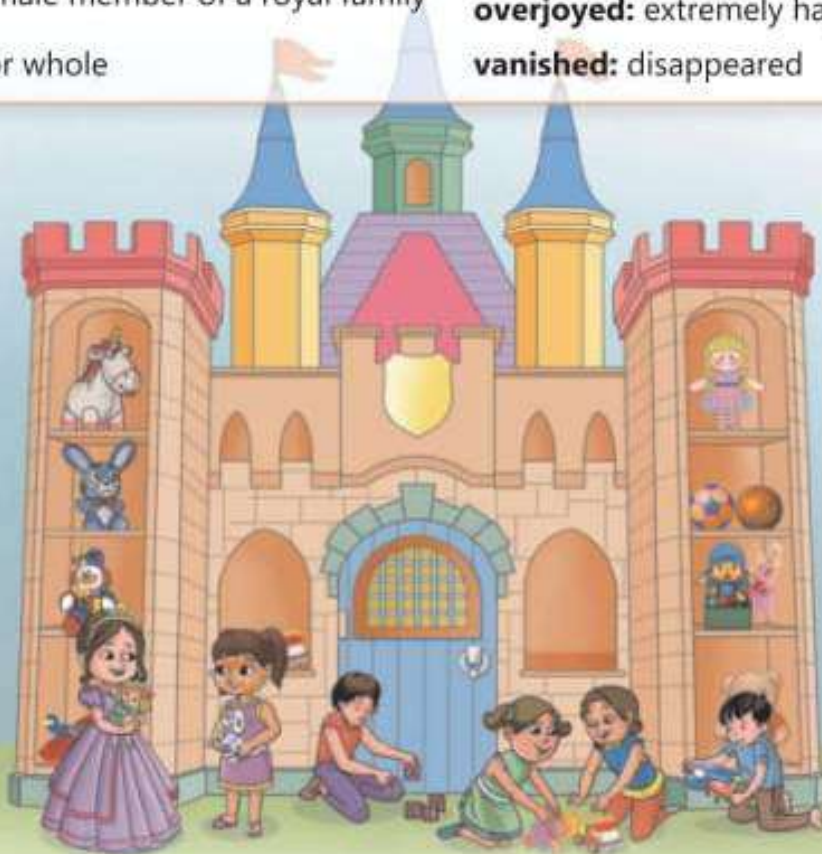
Her Highness: a formal way to address or refer to a female member of a royal family

left out: not included in something

entire: full or whole

overjoyed: extremely happy

vanished: disappeared



"Your Highness, why are you crying?" asked Lata.

"My playhouse and toys are vanishing. I cannot play with 100 toys every day," **sobbed** the princess.

"May I see your playhouse, Your Highness?" asked Lata.

The princess thought for some time. Then, she took Lata into her playhouse and together they played with the toys.

The princess had never shared her toys with anyone before. She now realised that it was actually fun to share and play together.

Before long, she invited all the children of the kingdom to her playhouse to play with her. The playhouse became whole again and was filled with a hundred toys.

sobbed: cried noisily

Did You Know

- Dolls are the oldest toys in the world and the yo-yo is the second oldest.
- The teddy bear was made by Ideal Novelty and Toy Co. It is named after a former U.S. President Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt. He refused to shoot a bear which was trapped during a hunt.
- Play-doh was actually invented to clean soot off wallpaper. It wasn't until 1954 that someone considered using it as a toy.
- Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.
- The bestselling toy of all times is the Rubik's Cube.
- LEGO is a portmanteau of the first two letters of the Danish phrase *leg godt* (meaning play well).



Comprehension



1. Fill in the blanks.

- The king loved his little so much that he fulfilled all her wishes.
- The princess had never shared her with anyone.
- The king gave gold coins to the clown.

- d) The clown told the king that the playhouse and the toys were .
- e) The princess invited all the of the kingdom to play with her.



2. Answer the following questions.

- a) What did the princess dream about?
- b) What message did the king send across the kingdom?
- c) What did the playhouse look like?
- d) What made the princess sad?

Language

3. Fill in the blanks with suitable nouns from the text.

One night, the dreamt that she was playing with 100 in a small magical in the royal . A made a playhouse that looked like a with and colourful .

4. Write the antonyms of the following words.

- a) beautiful x
- b) little x
- c) happy x
- d) cry x
- e) tall x
- f) remembered x

Writing

5. Organise a 'Care to Share' week in the class. Keep a sharing box in the classroom. Each student brings an old story book/children's magazine and puts it in the sharing box. Each student takes any book/magazine from the box, reads it and keeps it back in the box. Try and read as many books/magazines you can in that week.

At the end of the week, write a few sentences on the 'Care to Share' week.

Speaking and Listening

6. Do you share your things with others? How do you feel after sharing your toys/food/books with others?



Books are what I like
Best **companions** thro' life.

Giving me joy, giving me comfort,
Unlike friends that sometimes hurt.
Unlike toys that sometimes break,
Get old or do not work.

A book is like a door
To a land unseen before
Of kings and dragons, stars and planets
Of people and places, animals and plants

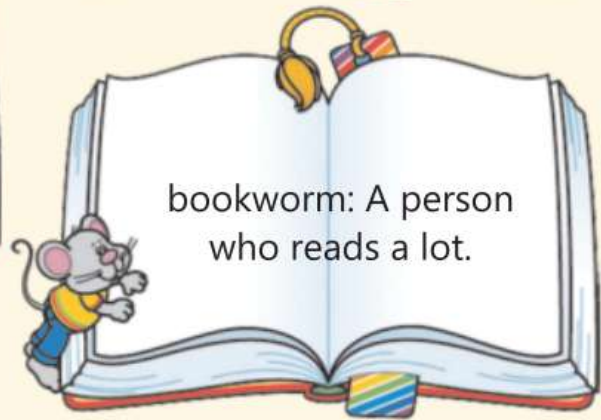
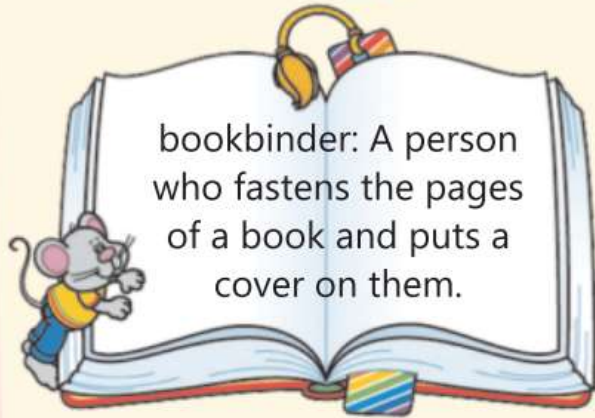
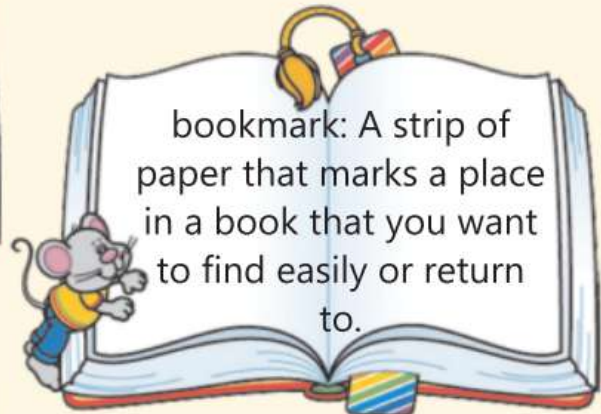
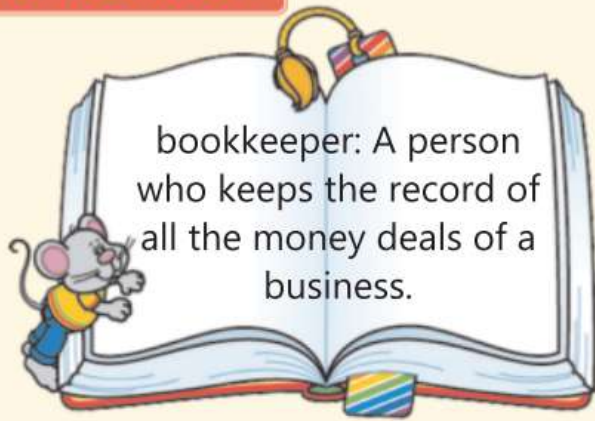
Open a book to **scatter** the darkness
And fill your world with brightness.



companions: friends

scatter: separate, move apart

Did You Know



Comprehension

1. Tick the correct option

- a) The poet feels that books are .
- i) the same as friends
 - ii) better than friends
 - iii) worse than friends
- b) The poet compares a book to a .
- i) door
 - ii) magic wand
 - iii) light



- c) When you open a book you fill your world with .
- i) darkness
 - ii) brightness
 - iii) cleanliness

2. Answer the following questions.

- a) Why does the poet think that books are better than toys?
- b) What happens when you open and read books?
- c) Which unseen lands will books take you to?
- d) Why does the poet call books the 'best companions'?



Language

3. Create an acrostic poem for the word 'book'. For each letter, write a word that describes books.

For Example:

B	Beautiful
O	Open
O	Clean
K	Knowledge

B	<input type="text"/>
O	<input type="text"/>
O	<input type="text"/>
K	<input type="text"/>

Writing

4. What do you do in your leisure time?

In the purple box write the activity that you spend the maximum time on and in the green box write the activity that you spend the least time on.

Speaking and Listening

5. Do you like to read books?

Name a book that you would like to read or a favourite book that you have read.

Discuss the book with your partner.