

Module 4

The Wish

FICTION



Name _____

Year Group _____

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The Wish

- 1 Mary opened the pantry door. It was just as she'd thought. Only half a loaf of bread - nothing else at all. With a sigh, she began to slice it for supper.

The three of them sat round the rough wooden table - Mary, her husband Ben, and Grandmother. Grandmother reached out a papery hand to feel the food on her plate.

- 2 "Dry bread again, Mary?" she croaked. "I do wish we could have a juicy beef and onion pie or a fat roast chicken. I may not be able to see - what a curse it is to be blind! - but at least I can enjoy my food."

"I'm sorry," said Mary. "But you know that our crop of wheat has failed and we have no money for food. Don't make things worse by complaining."

Quick check

Mary was sad because
a) she was tired
b) she didn't like Grandmother
c) the table was rough
d) there wasn't much to eat

Underline the evidence.

Grandmother complained because
a) she was old
b) she was bored of only having dry bread to eat
c) she could enjoy her food
d) she could see

Underline the evidence.



Questions to write about

- 1 What does Mary get for supper? _____

- 2 Why does Grandmother complain? _____

3 She put the rest of her bread on Grandmother's plate, and hurried out of the room so that Ben would not see her crying. She went into the tiny bedroom and lay down on the bed, looking through her tears at the little carved crib in the corner. If only she had a baby! Nothing else would matter then.

4 The next morning, Ben picked up his gun and strode out into the forest. He'd had enough of this - an empty stomach and the two women quarrelling all the time. He'd shoot a rabbit or a partridge for tonight's supper and maybe the good food would cheer them all up.

5 All day, he searched. But he found nothing, not even a tiny pigeon and by nightfall he was cold, hungry - and cross.

He shouldered his gun and began to make his way home. But as he stepped out of the forest, something very peculiar happened.

Quick check

Mary was upset because

- a) Ben was rude to her
- b) her bedroom was too small
- c) she wanted a baby
- d) she had to give her bread to Grandmother

Underline the evidence.

Ben wanted to

- a) quarrel with his wife
- b) go for a walk
- c) shoot some food for supper
- d) cook supper

Underline the evidence.

Ben

- a) shot a pigeon
- b) couldn't find anything to hunt
- c) was peculiar

Underline the evidence.



Questions to write about

3 Why does Mary cry? _____

4 Ben goes hunting to

☐ cheer himself up

☐ quarrel with Mary

☐ get some food for supper

☐ empty his gun

6 The first thing he saw was a patch of soft white light, glowing against the deep blue of the sky. And from it, a strange creature danced up to him on delicate hooves, angling its head to show off the long, pointed horn which grew from its forehead.

QUICK CHECK

Ben saw

- a) the sun
- b) his mother
- c) a deep blue patch
- d) a strange creature

Underline the evidence.

7 He'd read about unicorns in books, of course. And this one was beautiful! But his family was hungry and he was in a desperate situation. He raised his gun. He stared into the unicorn's large, violet eyes

Ben doesn't shoot the unicorn because

- a) he is hungry and desperate
- b) it is beautiful and magical
- c) his gun doesn't work
- d) the unicorn was in a book

Underline the evidence.

... No. It was impossible to shoot.

And then the unicorn spoke.

8 "Thank you for sparing my life. I am grateful. So grateful that I will reward you with a gift - the gift of one wish!"

The unicorn gives Ben a

- a) silky white tail
- b) a fortune in gold
- c) a wish
- d) a hundred wishes

Underline the evidence.

With that, it turned and galloped away with a whisk of its silky white tail.

A wish! He could wish for a fortune in gold! But he'd better talk to Mary and Grandmother before he made a decision.



Questions to write about

6 7 Put these sentences in order (number 1-5).

- ☐ The unicorn spoke to him.
- ☐ On the way home, he saw something very peculiar.
- ☐ A strange creature danced towards him.
- ☐ Ben wanted to shoot but he couldn't.
- ☐ Ben couldn't catch anything. He wanted to go home.

8 How does the unicorn reward Ben? _____

- 9 "I haven't seen your face for a long time, my son!" Grandmother pleaded. "Surely you will use your one wish to give me back my sight?"

"No, Mother," said Ben. "If we don't eat a good meal soon, we will all die - blind or not! I must wish for gold - and then at least we will be able to buy food. Don't you agree, Mary? Wouldn't you like to be able to fill your pantry?"

"I would," replied Mary sadly. "But there is something that is even more important to me - please, husband, won't you wish for a dear little baby?"

- 10 Ben stood under the stars, thinking. What should he wish for? The sun was rising when he finally made up his mind and went back into the house.

Mary was still in bed. Ben called Grandmother, asking her to join them.

"I have decided," he told them. "Now I want you both to hear me make my wish."



Quick check

- Grandmother wishes for
- a) some good food to eat
 - b) a new baby
 - c) gold
 - d) her eyesight

Underline the evidence.

- Ben goes outside to
- a) look at the sun
 - b) think carefully about his wish
 - c) get away from Grandmother and Mary
 - d) go fishing

Underline the evidence.

Questions to write about

- 9 What are the three different things that Ben, Mary and Grandmother want?

Grandmother wants _____

Mary wants _____

Ben wants _____

- 11 "I wish... for my mother to be looking at our new baby, asleep in a crib made of pure gold!"

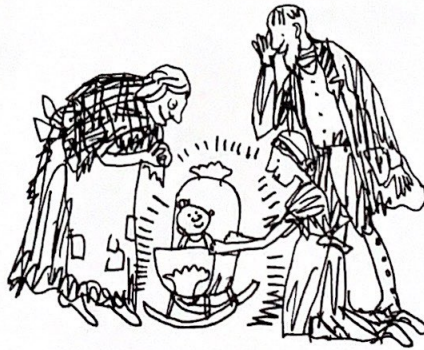
A soft white light began to fill the dark corner of the bedroom where Mary kept the wooden crib. And as the light faded away, Ben and Mary saw a gleaming gold one - with a smiling, pink-cheeked baby inside it!

"It's a baby, Mother! A beautiful baby in a crib of pure gold!"

"I can see it, too!" cried Grandmother.

- 12 From that day, everything changed. Ben and Mary sold the gold crib so that they would always have enough to eat and they loved their new baby. Now that she could see, Grandmother was in a better temper. All because of a wish wisely used.

If **you** could have one wish - what would **you** wish for?



Quick check

Ben wishes for

- a) a wooden crib
- b) just a new baby
- c) a baby in a golden crib and for his mother's sight
- d) a light in the bedroom

Underline the evidence.

Ben used his wish wisely because

- a) he wished for gold
- b) he wished for three things in one wish
- c) his Grandmother was in a better temper

Underline the evidence.

Questions to write about

- 11 Do you think Ben is clever in the way he uses his wish? Why?

Do you think this is a true story? Give your reasons.
