

Chapter 15

Snow White

Once long ago, in a far away land, there was a queen who was very beautiful, but she was vain and wicked too. She was a witch, and secretly she dabbled in magic, and wove spells.

She had a magic mirror, and each day she would look at her reflection in it, and say, "Mirror mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?"

And the mirror would reply : 'Thou art the fairest !'

This pleased the vain Queen very much, but all the same she feared that one day the mirror would answer differently. She had a step-daughter named Snow White, who was growing up and becoming lovelier with every day that passed.

She had hair black as raven's wing, milky white skin, and lips like ripe red cherries. One day, the mirror answered differently. It said, "Thou were the fairest one till now, but now, Snow White is fairer than thou !"



Hearing these words, the Queen flew into a terrible rage, and her beautiful face look anything but lovely. She was trembling with fury. She calmed herself and called for the huntsman. He was an evil fellow, whom the Queen often used to carry out the sort of wicked task that nobody else would undertake.

"Take the Princess Snow White deep into the forest and kill her," ordered the Queen.

"Kill Snow White, Your Majesty?"

"Yes—kill her. And when you have killed her, you will bring me her heart, so that I will know you have done your job properly."

Teacher's Note: Encourage the students to read more of fairy tales.

And as the evil huntsman went away, she whispered to herself, “And once again I shall be the fairest one of all !”

Snow White was delighted when the huntsman told her that she was to have a day out in the forest, and happily climbed up behind him on his horse. As they rode along, deeper and deeper into the dark forest, Snow White chattered happily about all the things she saw. She jumped down and played in between a huge bunch of flowers. She was so busy playing that she did not even notice when the huntsman led his horse quietly away and fled.

Even the evil huntsman did not have the heart to harm Snow White. When he got back to the palace, he told the Queen that the dreadful deed was done, and he gave the heart of an animal he had killed to prove it. Then he fled away.

Snow White was alone in the forest. She was frightened. Soon she found a little cottage in a clearing. In it seven little dwarfs lived. They gave her shelter and food. In return, she looked after their cottage for them and cooked their meals.



She was very happy with the seven dwarfs, for they were very kind to her.

On the other side, the Queen was quite sure that Snow White was dead. She asked the mirror her usual question,

“Mirror mirror on the wall,
Who is the fairest on of all ?”

But the mirror said,

“In the dwarfs cottage, neat and small,
Snow White still is the fairest of all !”

The Queen screamed with rage. The huntsman had tricked her ! She disguised

herself as a quaint old woman and carried a basket of poisoned apple along with her to find the dwarfs' cottage.

When Snow White saw the old woman, she asked her to rest in. She was delighted when the old woman gave her a ripe rosy apple.

As soon as, Snow White took a bite from it, she at once fell down, dead on the ground. The wicked Queen cackled with horrid glee and changed into her true form, a hideous witch !

But her triumph did not last long. The seven dwarfs came home and saw her, and saw poor Snow White, lying still upon the ground.

The wicked Queen had to run for her life ! Screaming with rage, she fled through the forest, with the angry dwarfs in hot pursuit.

But as she fled she did not see a deep dark hole in the ground until it was too late, and down she fell, never to be seen again.

The witch Queen was dead. When the seven dwarfs got back to their cottage, Snow White was so still and cold.

They all started weeping because their beautiful friend had died. They built for her a most beautiful coffin, made from sparkling crystal, and they laid Snow White in it, to keep her always in their cottage. Every day they brought fresh flowers and placed them around the crystal coffin. Then one day a gallant and handsome young prince came there riding on his horse. He saw the tiny cottage and dismounted to see who might live there. Inside he found the seven dwarfs, gathered in mourning around the crystal coffin, in which lay the most beautiful girl he had ever seen.

He fell in love with her at first sight and sadly he kissed her gently.

And with this first kiss of true love, a miracle happened. Snow White sat up, looked around and saw the Prince and she too fell in love at first sight !

The seven dwarfs were happy to see Snow White alive again. The Prince took Snow White away to be his bride and they lived happily thereafter !

Words to Learn

vain	wicked	dabbled	fairest	trembling	hunter
delighted	chattered	dreadful	frightened	dwarf	quaint
disguised	cackled	hideous	glee	triumph	pursuit
rage	coffin	gallant	mourning	miracle	

Skill Test

WORK OUT

A. Answer the following questions :

1. What did the Queen ask the mirror ?
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2. Describe the beauty of Snow White.
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3. What order was given to the huntsman ?
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4. Where did Snow White find shelter in the forest ?
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5. What happened to Snow White after eating the apples ?
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GRAMMAR

A. 'Much' is used for uncountable nouns.

'Many' is used for countable nouns.

Now, complete the following sentences using 'much' or 'many' :

1. The sun does not give warmth in winter.
2. There is milk in the jug.
3. She has dolls.
4. The old man doesn't have teeth in his mouth so he can't eat
..... food.
5. The pages of this book contain beautiful illustrations.

B. Change these sentence into passive voice :

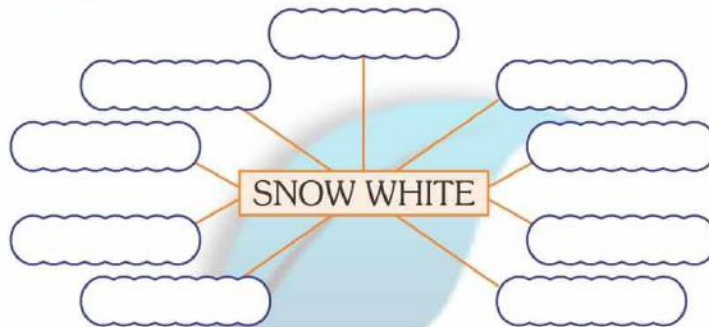
1. Ashoka ruled the kingdom.
.....
2. The girls told the whole story.
.....
3. He caught the thief.
.....
4. The tiger killed the old woman.
.....
5. The monkey broke the branch of a tree.
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VOCABULARY

A. Match the words that go together :

magic	cherries
red	deed
milky-white	mirror
evil	fellow
dreadful	apples
poisoned	skin

B. Find out as many smaller words as you can in this word :



C. Write the opposites :

beautiful	.....	answer	.....
different	.....	ripe	.....
dead	.....	usual	.....
true	.....	mount	.....
fresh	.....	young	.....

COMPOSITION

Imagine you are Snow White. Now describe the whole story in you own words — what all happened with you and how ?

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