

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.





# 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

### The Plot

Evil goblins have a mirror which makes everything look ugly. When the mirror breaks, the pieces fly all around the world. Some pieces go into people's eyes, so everything looks ugly to them. Some pieces go into people's hearts, and those people hate everything around them.

Kay and Gerda are two young friends who love each other very much. They are happy, until one day Kay gets a piece of the broken mirror in his eye, and another in his heart. He starts being unkind to Gerda and sees only bad things around him. Then the Snow Queen comes and takes him away to her castle in the far North. Gerda is very sad. She tries to find Kay, and she has a lot of adventures on the way.



**Gerda**

is a little Danish girl. She loves her best friend, Kay. When Kay goes away with the Snow Queen, Gerda goes to find him.

**Kay**

is Gerda's best friend – until he gets pieces of the goblins' mirror in his eye and in his heart.



**The Snow Queen**

is beautiful but evil. She makes the world cold and white, and she takes Kay away to her castle of ice in the far North.

**The Magic Flower Garden Woman**

wants Gerda to stay with her, so she uses magic to make Gerda forget about Kay.





### **The Crow**

tells Gerda about a young boy who lives in a palace with the princess. Gerda is sure the boy is Kay, so the crow takes her to the palace.

The Crow's Wife takes Gerda into the palace to see the princess and the young boy.



### **The Prince and Princess**

feel sorry for Gerda. They give her new clothes, and a golden carriage to help her find Kay.



### **The Little Robber Girl**

takes Gerda's gold carriage and new clothes, but she gives Gerda her reindeer, Bac, to take her to Lapland.



### **Bac the reindeer**

is from Lapland, and he takes Gerda there to look for Kay.

### **The Lapland Woman and the Finland Woman**

live in the far North, and they know where the Snow Queen lives.





## 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

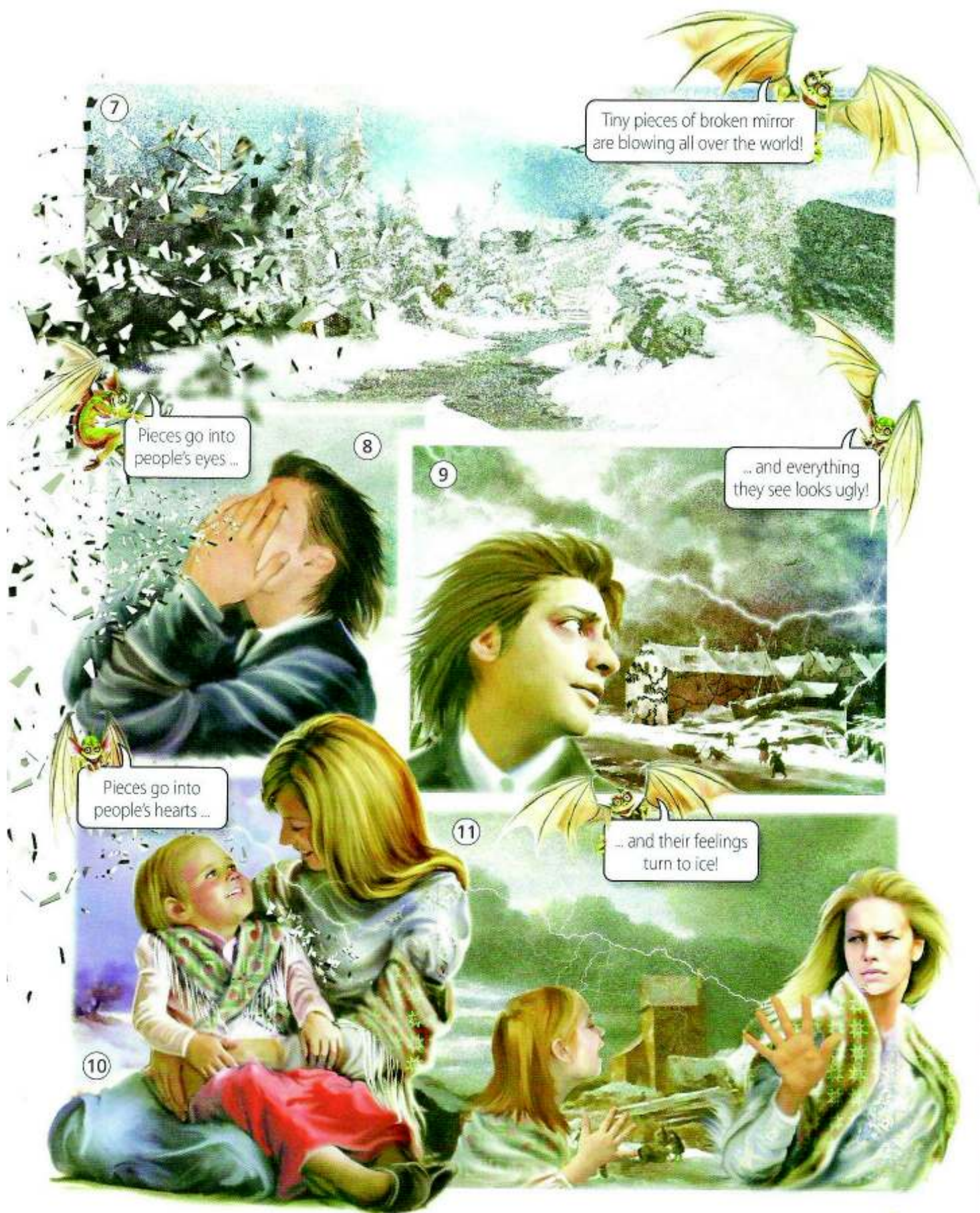
... and everything  
they see looks ugly!

Pieces go into  
people's hearts ...

11

... and their feelings  
turn to ice!

10





## 2. Kay and Gerda

Kay and Gerda were two little friends who loved each other very much ...

They played outside among the roses all summer long ...

1

Oh, Kay, I love the summer! The birds, the roses ...

Yes, I love roses, too. They're my favourite flowers. Here, Gerda - this is for you.

... and they played inside when winter came.

2

Grandma! It's snowing! Look at the snowflakes!

3

That's right, Kay - the Snow Queen is here.

The Snow Queen?

That night, when Kay was going to bed ...

5

4

Yes, Gerda - she makes the world cold and white.

The Snow Queen! Oh, she's beautiful!



But pieces of the mirror were still blowing in the air. The next day ...

6

Owl! My heart!

7

And something went in my eye!

Kay! What is it? Are you all right?

8

Let go of me, you stupid girl! I'm fine!

9

Oh, Kay! Why are you being so cold?

10

Stop it, Gerda!  
Do you know how ugly your face looks when you cry?

Don't be angry, Kay. Here – it's the last rose from the rose garden. It's for you.

11

Stupid roses!  
Roses are ugly.

12

Only snowflakes are beautiful ...

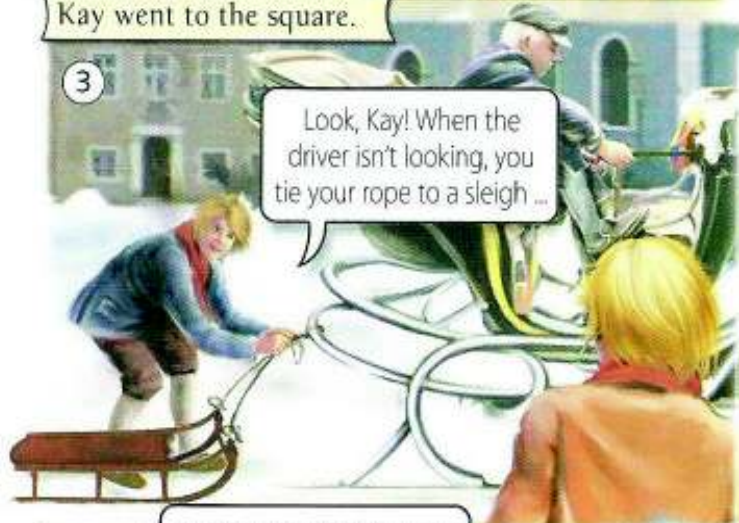


### 3. Kay and the Snow Queen

There was a piece of the goblins' mirror in Kay's heart, so his feelings turned to ice.



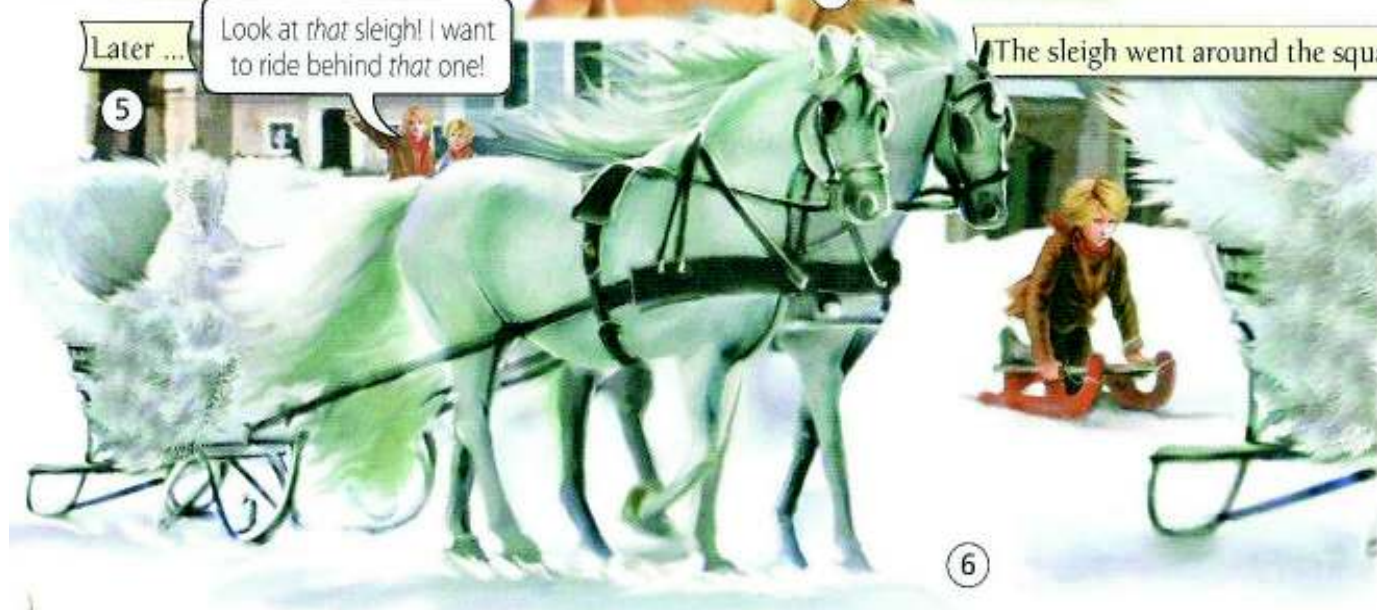
Kay went to the square.



Later ...

Look at that sleigh! I want to ride behind that one!

The sleigh went around the square ...





... then out of the town ...



Wait! Where are we going?

7

... faster and faster ...



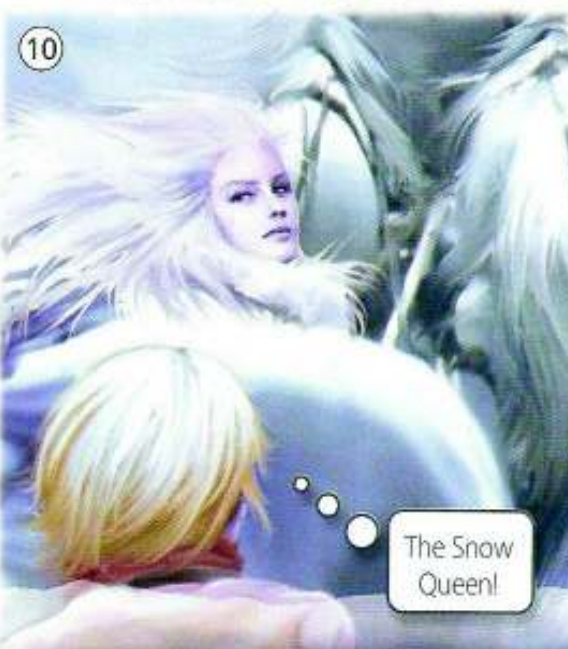
Stop! I want to get off! Help!

8



We're stopping at last!

9



The Snow Queen!

10



Come here, Kay. Are you cold?

Y-yes, I am.

11

12

Are you still cold?

Yes – but I like it.





## 4. Gerda's Journey Begins

Kay went away with the Snow Queen. Spring arrived, but he still didn't come back.

Gerda, come and play!



What's the matter?  
Are you crying  
about Kay again?

2



3



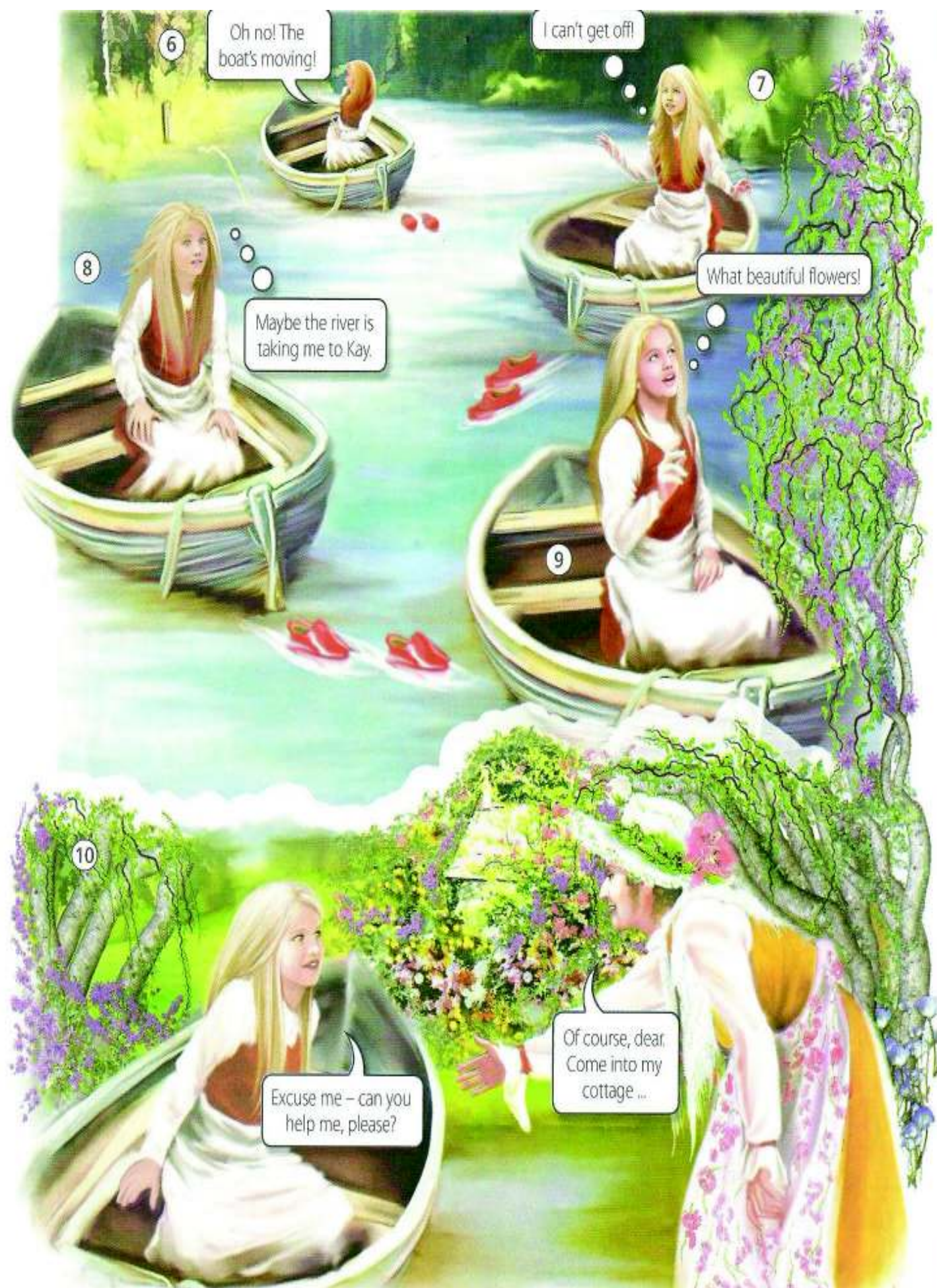
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5









## 5. The Magic Flower Garden

Gerda went to find Kay, and the river carried her to a beautiful flower garden ...

1

Come in and tell me why you're here.

Gerda told the woman about looking for Kay.

... and the river brought me here.

2

What a pretty girl - I don't want her to go.

3

I must use magic to make her stay with me.

4

Let me brush your hair ... relax ... forget about everything ...

5

Oh, roses! They're Kay's favourite flowers ...

Yes, dear. Go to sleep now.

6

Roses, disappear! You make Gerda think of Kay ...



So Gerda spent many happy months there, until one day ...

They're beautiful flowers – but there's one missing.

What's missing?  
Oh, why can't I remember?

A rose ... Kay's favourite flowers. Kay ... Kay!  
Now I remember!

Wait, dear – don't go!

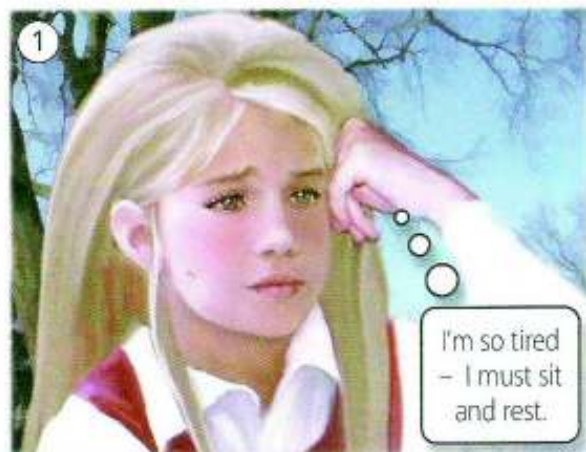
I must go – I must find Kay!

It's autumn out here!  
I mustn't waste any more time!

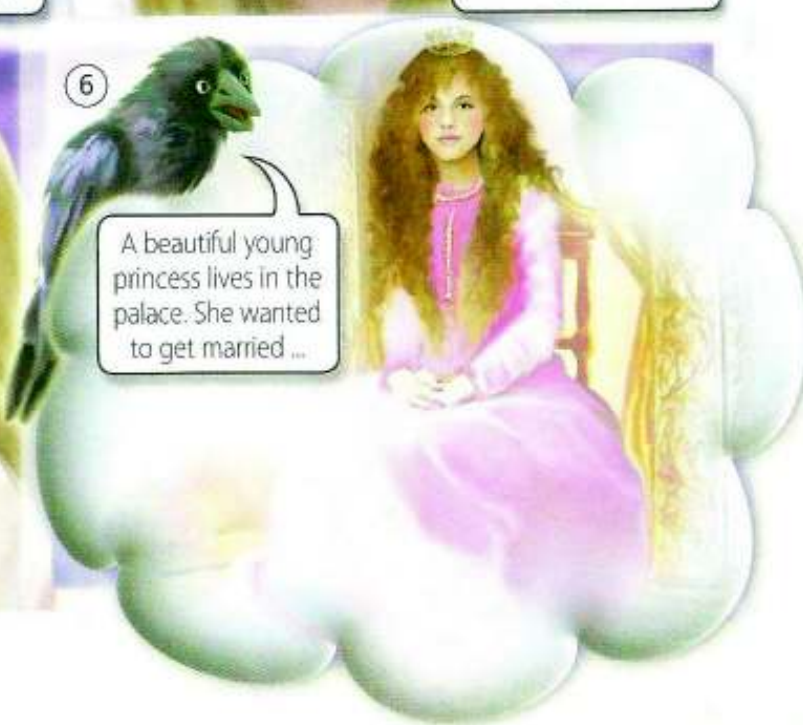


## 6. The Crow's Story

Gerda ran from the old lady's flower garden and continued her journey ...



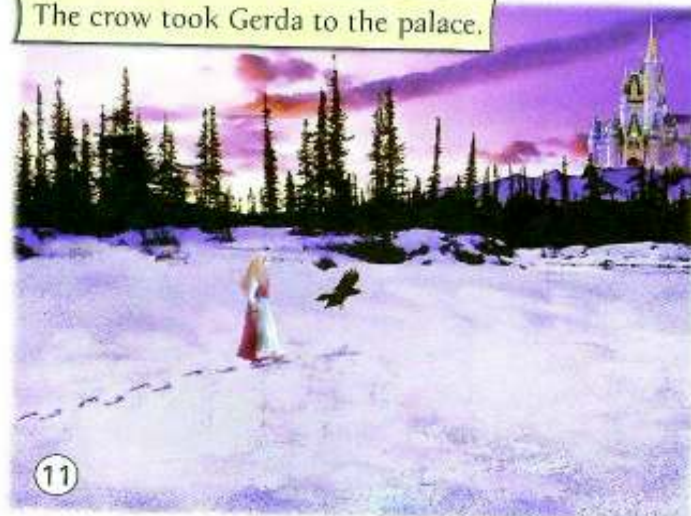
Gerda told the crow her story.







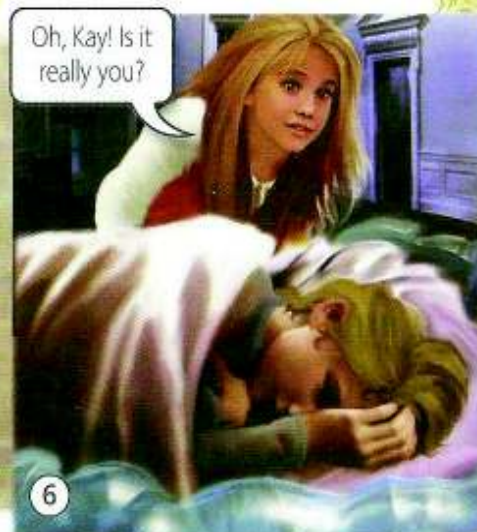
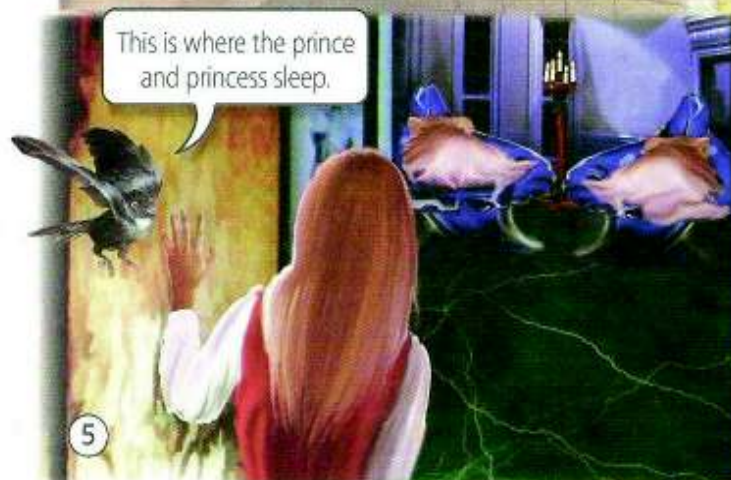
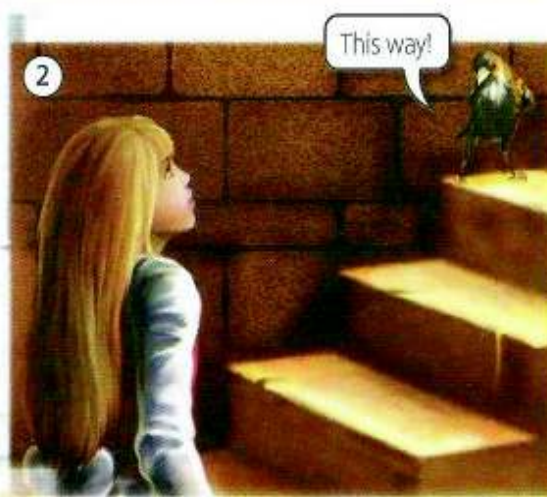
The crow took Gerda to the palace.





## 7. The Prince and Princess

The crow took Gerda to the palace. The crow's wife met them at the back door ...









## 8. The Little Robber Girl

Gerda left the palace in her new carriage, and travelled through a dark forest ...

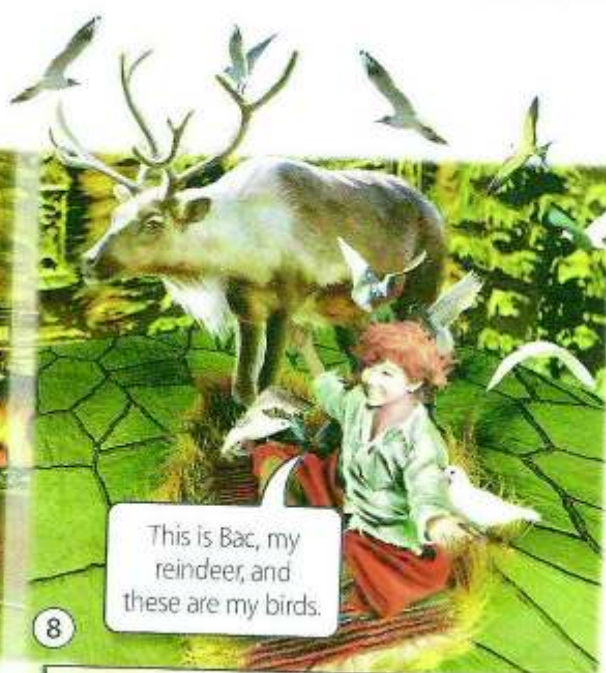






7

This is where we live.  
My bed is over there.



8

This is Bac, my  
reindeer, and  
these are my birds.



9

Now, tell me again  
about little Kay.



Gerda began to tell her story again ...

We know  
where your  
friend is!

He's in the  
Snow Queen's  
castle, near  
Lapland.

10



11

Oh, I must  
go there and  
find Kay!

All right. Take Bac -  
he's from Lapland, so  
he knows the way.



12

Here are some warm  
gloves and boots.  
Look after her, Bac.

Thank you! Goodbye!



## 9. The Two Old Women

Gerda left the robber girl, and Bac the reindeer carried her north to Lapland ...





Bac took Gerda to the Finland woman's house.





## 10. The Snow Queen's Castle

Bac took Gerda to the Snow Queen's castle, as the Finland woman told him to ...





Gerda's tears washed the piece of broken mirror from Kay's heart ...

7



Where am I? Gerda? Is it really you? Oh, Gerda!

... and Kay's tears washed the piece of mirror from his eye.

8



It's so cold here – empty and cold. Let's go home.

Kay and Gerda left the Snow Queen's castle for ever. They found Bac the reindeer at the Finland woman's house, and Bac took them home. They saw all Gerda's friends on the way.

9



When they got home, it was summer again.

10



Look, Kay – our roses!

They're beautiful ... and so are you. Here – this is for you.

11



I love you, Gerda!

Oh, Kay! I love you, too!