

# BEDTIME

## Stories

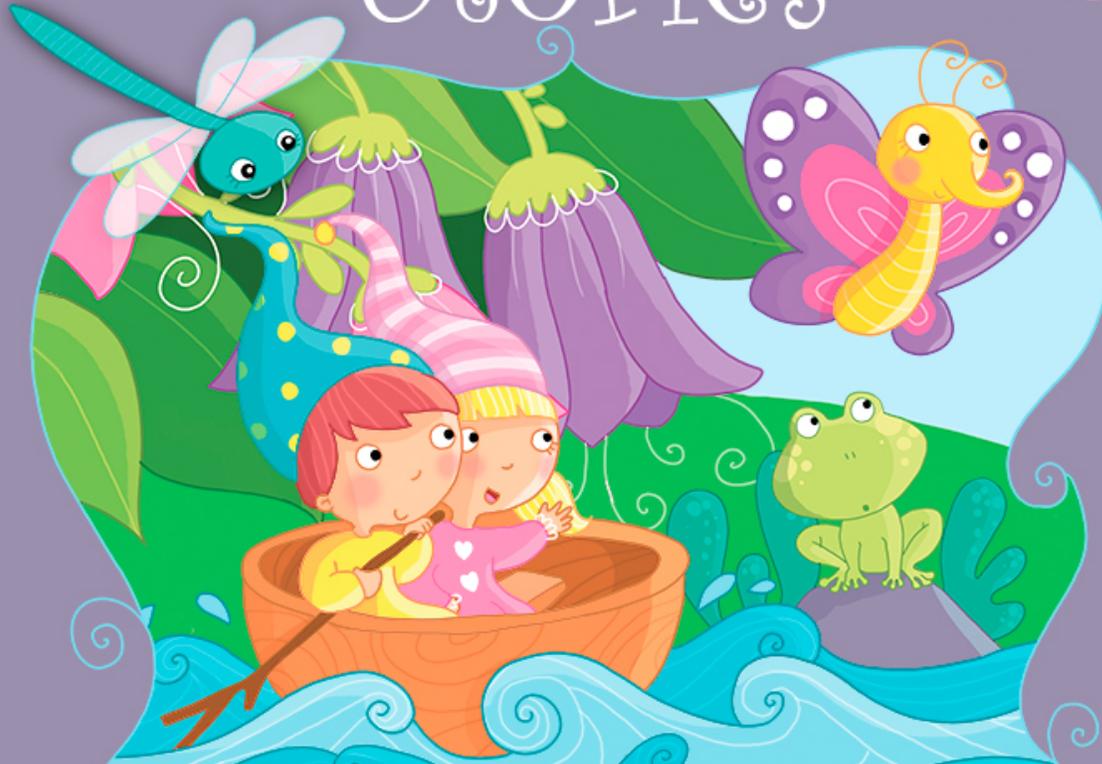


Children's  
Stories

NOVEMBER

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# **BEDTIME** Stories

TO READ IN NOVEMBER

## The Rusty Hedgehog

A hedgehog had stayed curled up for so long during the winter that he couldn't manage to uncurl himself when spring came! Something was blocked! So, he rolled along like a ball trying to find a way to unblock his spines, but it was impossible! He called for help and luckily, the green woodpecker tickled him with his pointed beak and the hedgehog wiggled about so much with laughter that he finally managed to uncurl himself!



## Patch Saves the Day

Patch the donkey was usually quiet, but when he wanted to, he could make a real racket! It was Sunday afternoon and everybody was resting.

Curly, the dog took advantage of the tranquillity to visit the ducks in the pond.

He licked his lips as he jumped in the water. Although Curly was a very good swimmer, the ducks were much better and they all escaped him.

Curly started to get tired, but when he tried to climb out, the bank was too steep and slippery. Patch saw that Curly was in danger: «Hee-haw! Hee-haw!» he cried.

He awoke the gardener, who was asleep in the hammock and rescued the dog. Curly was relieved and he decided to leave the ducks alone... at least when they are in the pond!



## Will the Little Caterpillar Grow Big?

A frog and a grasshopper were arguing to decide which one could jump the highest.

A little caterpillar passing by interrupted them.

“Don’t fight, girls. I’m the one who can jump the highest.”

“Nonsense. You can’t even leave the ground!”

“Shall we bet on it? Let’s meet here in fifteen day’s time for the competition.”

Two weeks later, the grasshopper jumped first, higher than the wheat.

When it was the frog’s turn, she jumped up to the corncobs.

“Yippee!” she cried. “And that yellow-bellied caterpillar isn’t even there!”

“Oh yes I am, girls. Look in the sky!” a butterfly called them. “I’ve won!”

But the cheeky caterpillar had cheated a bit too!



## The Island Goes on Holiday

Sunshine Island was a popular holiday resort. People came from far and wide to swim in her waters, bask on her beaches and taste her mangoes.

One day, she decided to go on holiday herself! So, she packed up her coral reefs and floated off in search of fun.

She floated around the ocean, visiting other beautiful islands. She bumped into a tropical storm that swept some sand away from her best beach. She saw some dolphins and a flock of birds that ate all her mangoes!

When the island got home to her corner of the ocean, she was greeted by boats full of confused tourists.

«Welcome to Sunshine Island,» she said. «I'm afraid the beach is a bit smaller this year and there aren't any palm trees left!»



## Missed Kisses

In the forest, Prickle and Hardhair were two hedgehogs in love. But Hardhair could see no further than the tip of his nose. So, he got confused and kissed the barbed wire or uttered words of love to the holly prickles.

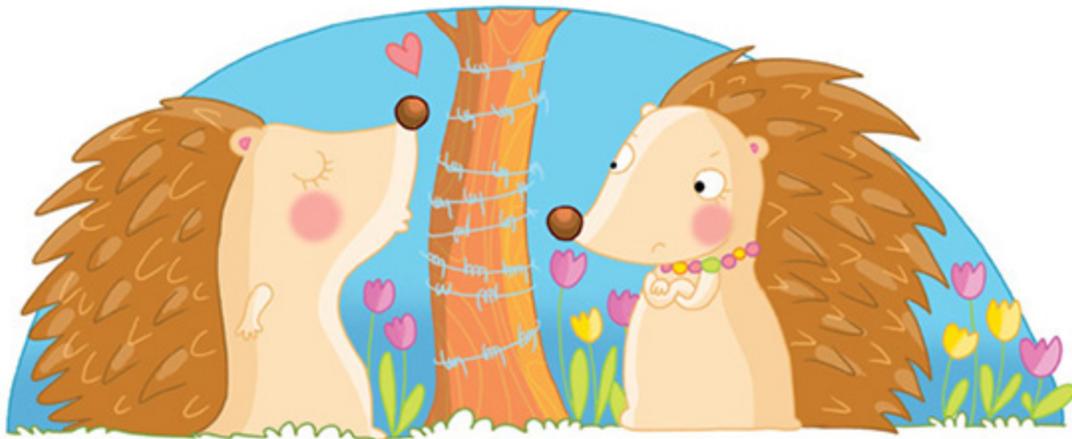
“I’ve had enough,” cried Prickle. “You should wear glasses!”

“People will make fun of me,” replied Hardhair. “Have you ever seen a hedgehog with glasses?”

“There is a first for everything. Besides, look what I have made especially for you.”

Prickle took out a pair of heart-shaped glasses that Hardhair placed on his nose.

“Never mind what people say, because from now on, I can see you and all my kisses will be for you!”



## The Twins

Mummy Kangaroo had twin babies, Jumpi and Jumpa. The problem was that she often got them mixed up when she was tired, confusing Jumpi for Jumpa and vice versa. To avoid getting mixed up again, she asked an old Koala for advice.

«Tie a piece of liana reed around Jumpi's right wrist and another around Jumpa's left wrist. Then, you shouldn't get mixed up any more.

«Oh... Okay," mumbled mummy Kangaroo.

And she followed the old wise man's advice. But she continued to get mixed up, because mummy Kangaroo got left mixed up with right!



## **Panache Has a Problem**

Panache the squirrel was a bit of a scatterbrain.

“Every week, it’s the same!” he complained to Master Owl.

“I store hazelnuts, acorns and pine nuts... then I forget where they are.”

“I have an idea!” replied the wise old bird. “I’m going to ask Iron Beak the woodpecker to carve your name above the entrance to your store... as he does for the other squirrels.”

“Great!” said Panache in wonder. “Thank you very much.”

And off he went, happily on his way. But after ten minutes, he stopped and muttered: “How will I know if it’s the right store: I can’t read!!!”



## Saved!

In the chicken coop, Ticky the chick was much smaller than his brothers. Very slender and thin, he wormed his way in everywhere. His mother would really like him to fatten up a bit. Their friend the mole had dug a burrow right underneath the chicken coop and every morning, she visited the chicks. But one evening, when night enveloped the farm, the fox approached the chicken house silently.

He went inside and ate all the chicks... except Ticky, who managed to slip into the mole's hole! He was saved and the mole welcomed him!



## Fright in the Air

Today, Sam invited his friends to take their first flight in a hot air balloon. «I'll take you where nobody has ever been before!» he boasted. Quickly, Sam started the burner and the balloon gained height. He was soon so high that he disappeared into the clouds. Sam's friends grasped onto the gondola, as they were a bit worried. Suddenly there was a loud roar, and an aeroplane brushed against the balloon. It quickly lost altitude... but luckily, it landed gently on top of a tree. Then Sam exclaimed: "Wasn't I right when I told you we would go to an exceptional place?" His friends did not reply; they were still green with fear!



## The Hairy Caterpillar

At last, Charlie, the caterpillar hatched out of his egg. He was very keen to go for a walk and stretch his legs... All 16 of them!

He walked along his branch, eating some juicy leaves on the way. He climbed down the tree to the forest floor to look for some friends to play with... but Charlie was a hairy caterpillar and nobody wanted to play with him, because his hairs were prickly. Not even the hedgehog!

Charlie was starting to feel a bit lonely, when suddenly he spotted a long line moved down the tree trunk towards him. It was his brothers and sisters; they had hatched after him. «Hey, Charlie! We were looking for you. Come and join our procession!»

You see, Charlie was a processionary caterpillar.



## The Cat and the Goldfish

When the cat saw the goldfish swimming round and round in his bowl, he thought delightfully about the succulent meal he was going to have. He dipped his paw inside the bowl and the goldfish fell on the ground. The fish thought that all was lost, but as the cat was getting closer to eat him, a large dog went by. When he saw the cat, he ran after him, but the cat managed to escape.

Then the large dog took the little fish into his mouth... and placed him back into its goldfish bowl. "Thank you," said the fish.

"You have saved my life."

"No, you're just lucky that I don't like fish!" replied the large dog.



## **Are you Fishing?**

A racoon was lying in wait next to the pond.

“Are you fishing?” he heard a voice behind him.

A sparrow was watching him curiously.

“Yes! But don’t make any noise, you’ll scare the fish.”

“Are you fishing?” he heard again, five minutes later.

“Yes, Shhh!”

“Are you fishing?” asked the same sparrow again, ten minutes later.

The racoon went away, angrily. He climbed up to the top of the hill to reach another pool. When he reached the top, out of breath, he saw the sparrow waving vigorously at him from below.

“Blast! Something must have happened,” he said to himself going back down the hill.

“So, are you going for a walk?”



## The Busy Little Spider

Weaver the spider was always busy: Spinning her web, repairing the parts of the web that sometimes got damaged in the wind, arranging her storage chambers... And today, she was particularly busy.

Betty the stag beetle passed by.

«What are you up to today, Weaver, fancy a walk?»

«Sorry, not today. I have to knit some socks.» replied Weaver.

«Well, I know you have even more feet than me, but that's an awful lot of socks!» said Betty seeing the huge pile of socks that Weaver had already knitted.

«Yes, but I'm expecting my eggs to hatch soon!

Ooh there they go!» Weaver and Betty watched in amazement as hundreds of tiny spiders emerged from a huge ball in a corner of the web.



## Wilted Azalea

For Saint Valentine's Day, Oliver gave his girlfriend an azalea. It was Clara's favourite flower, so she was delighted. But little by little, the beautiful pink flowers wilted, the plant appeared to be cramped in its little pot and its petals became paler and paler.

Clara was very sad. She didn't want to see her little azalea die. So, she decided to replant it in the garden. A few days later, Clara was pleased to show Oliver that her beautiful azalea had regained its colours... to the great delight of the bees!



# The Underwater Orchestra

Laurie the Lobster was a member of a band. Every week, he paraded at the bottom of the ocean, in the company of his friends: The octopus on the guitar, the prawn on the clarinet and the mackerel on the penny whistle.

This joyful band of merry-makers created a crazy atmosphere in the lagoon until...

Sean the shark made everybody flee.

“Don’t leave me alone!” he sobbed. “I didn’t come to eat you: I would like to join your orchestra and play the tambourine. Give me a chance!” And for the first time, as far as the fish can remember, a shark played in an underwater orchestra.



## My Own Story Book

One day, Jane found a dusty old book on top of the wardrobe. She sat down to read.

It was exactly the kind of story she liked: There were fairies and princesses and an enchanted castle. «Hey, you've got to read this book, Luke!» she said to her brother. Luke took the book and began to read: It was an adventure story about cowboys and Indians, his favourite.

Just like every evening, when mum put the children to bed, she asked them to choose a story for her to read them.

They handed her the dusty old book, but when she opened it, the pages were blank!

«Just use your imagination, mum!»

So, she did... She invented a wonderful story and the children drifted off to sleep.



## Growing up...

Rosie always had her favourite soft toy with her: In the car, at school, in the street. She held it close to her all the time.

“Rose, you’re a big girl now,” mum told her.

When Rosie’s little sister was born, her godmother gave her a soft toy. Unfortunately, it disappeared shortly afterwards and the baby was inconsolable.

Rosie felt very sorry for her. So, she decided to give her beloved soft toy to her little sister. The baby immediately stopped crying and gave a large smile.

“Bravo, my Rosie,” said mum, “you’re a real big sister now!”



## What Eats a Coypu?

The teacher asked:

“Do you know whether the coypu that inhabits our rivers is a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?”

Quentin raised his hand.

“Me. I know. The coypu is a picnicivore.”

“Well, really Quentin, that word doesn’t exist!”

“Well, the last time we went to have a picnic with my parents on the riverbank, we decided to go for a swim before eating. And when we came back, we found a coypu that had eaten all our food. He was finishing off an apple core. So, Miss, you can say whatever you want, but the coypu is a picnicivore!”



## The Magic Telescope

While strolling through an antiques shop, Mr Price discovered a very old telescope.

As the antiques seller assured him that it worked perfectly well, Mr Price was convinced and bought it. When he returned home, he awaited the night impatiently.

When daylight finally disappeared, Mr Price settled down behind his telescope and contemplated the stars. Suddenly, he discovered some pictures made up of stars.

The following day, Mr Price returned to the antiques seller to share his fabulous discovery with him, but the shop had disappeared... as if by magic!



## The Costume

Carnival was rapidly approaching and little Ophelia was worried. Her mum had not had time to buy her a costume and all the shops were closed today.

“I’ve got an idea,” her mother said to her, smiling. She went up into the loft where there was a large chest. Inside, she found pieces of multicoloured cloth. Ophelia didn’t really understand what she would want to do with them.

She had so much wanted a princess costume, like her friend Lisa!

But later, when the sewing machine was finally silent and Ophelia discovered a magnificent harlequin costume. She was very proud and her mother would also be proud!



## Cheeky Little Waves

It was the first time that baby Benji had been to the beach. He was a bit scared at first, and then he sat down near the water's edge. The waves were pleased to see him and they gradually came up to greet him. They tickled his tiny toes... Benji wiggled his toes in delight. They tickled his thighs... Benji chuckled. They tickled his belly button... Benji roared with laughter. He was having fun! Dad came to take a closer look to see if Benji was alright. He was fine, of course, but those cheeky little waves had gone all round Benji and filled his swimming costume with sand. Now he would have to go right in the water for a rinse!



## A Really Lovely Coat

Ferdinand the farmer had just bought a new cockerel at the fair. But this was no ordinary cockerel; it was a featherless cockerel! When winter came, the cockerel was cold. He always had goose bumps! So the farmer knitted him a little woollen jumper. The cockerel was very proud of his lovely striped coat. One evening, when food was scarce and he was very hungry, the fox slipped into the henhouse, determined to eat a few hens. But when the moon emerged from behind the clouds and lit up the residents of the henhouse, the fox was panic-stricken as he saw the striped cockerel and he fled, never to return again!



# The Last Unicorn

Evie was the last Unicorn! But what use is there in being the last unicorn when nobody believes in you? Nobody saw her or spoke to her. She was a bit lonely, so she decided to make some friends.

The wild boar was gathering truffles and bulbs, but some were too deep for him.

Evie helped dig them out with her horn.

He thanked her with a grunt. The deer were picking wild apples, but some were too high for them. Evie stood on her hind legs and stabbed the apples with her horn.

Then she helped the bear fish some salmon. «What are we going to do with all this food?» wondered the boar. «Let's have a party to welcome our new friend Evie the Unicorn!» suggested the deer.



## Improvised Stars

Among the bears, it was custom to get engaged beneath the light of the Great Bear. Barry had invited Laura to a pretty clearing.

“Laura, my beloved bear...” Barry began.

At that point, some enormous black clouds came and covered the sky and the stars. What a disaster! Barry could not continue, it would bring bad luck. Then he had an idea.

“Wait, I’ll be right back,” he told Laura.

He soon came back.

“It’s up to you, friends!”

Above their heads, a group of fireflies shone their lights and drew the Great Bear. Everything was perfect!

“Laura, will you marry me?”

As Barry and Laura kissed for the first time, the stars moved... to form a heart. Thank you, fireflies!



## A Leg up

That morning, Sam decided to repaint the shutters of his house, with the help of an enormous ladder.

“Do you want me to help you?”  
asked his neighbour.

“There’s no point,” replied Sam. “I’m very agile.”

Shortly afterwards, while Sam was painting, the ladder started to shake and then fell onto the grass. Sam just had time to cling onto the windowsill and to cry:

“Help!”

His neighbours quickly ran and gave him a leg up.

“Thanks,” said Sam, climbing down.

“Luckily, I’m a real acrobat!”



# The Chocolate Tree

Like most children, Vera and Ken liked sweet things: Cakes, lollipops, toffees and ice cream... but most of all, they loved chocolate.

One day, they saw a brown fairy sitting on the gate.

«We're having a party round the chocolate tree. Would you like to come?»

They didn't hesitate for a second!

The children followed the fairy into the woods. Right in the middle of the party, there was a huge tree with strange fruit. Ken and Vera soon realized that the tree was full of delicious chocolate! They ate chocolate drops, chocolate fudge, fruit and nut chocolate and drank hot chocolate.

When they got home, grandma had arrived with a surprise:

A lovely chocolate cake!

«No thank you, grandma!» said the children to her amazement.



## Very Clear Dreams

Yves, who was a little short-sighted, had just got his first pair of glasses. He wore them proudly all day. He was very pleased, because he could see very clearly. The books, the toys, the street where he rode his bicycle...

It was wonderful! When the evening came, his mum decided that he should place them on his bedside table. "I don't want to!" replied Yves.

"But why not, you might damage them. And they are no use to you while you are asleep."

"Yes they are! I need them.

I don't want to have hazy dreams!"



## The Basket

Just like every morning, Margaret gathered the most beautiful strawberries to sell them at the market. When she turned her back, her little cat Plume slid inside the basket to take a little nap. Once the basket was full, Margaret set off towards the market. There, her customers rushed forward, because her strawberries were the best in the region. At that point, a little head emerged from the basket and one of her customers offered to adopt that adorable little ball of fluff.

“No way!” said Margaret smiling.

“Plume is my little cat!”

Then, when all the strawberries were sold, Margaret gave him a big hug and took him home in the basket!



## The Button Finder

Anita was sad. She had lost a button from her favourite purple dress. She couldn't find it anywhere. "Oh, what am I going to do?" she asked herself sadly.

"Go and see the button finder!" said the dog.

Anita was surprised to hear the dog speak, but she really wanted to find her button, so she followed him up into the attic. The dog tapped three times on a loose floorboard. A little mouse popped its head out from a corner.

"What can I do for you?" asked the mouse politely.

"I've lost my lovely button... just like these ones!" sobbed Anita.

"Don't cry, now, lets see..."

The button finder went to fetch a pile of buttons and there, right in the middle was Anita's purple button!



## An Invisible Dog

Poc the witch really wanted to go to the cinema today. But dogs were not allowed inside and nobody could look after her beloved Medor. So, Poc made a special invisibility potion for him. When her dog had disappeared, only his whiskers could be seen. Poc took the path to the cinema with him. In the queue, Medor tugged crazily at the lead and nobody could understand what was wrong with Poc.

Then, in the cinema, Medor ate the popcorn that belonged to the person sitting next to them. Finally, when a cat appeared on the film, Medor started barking so loudly that Poc the witch had to leave the cinema and go back home very quickly!



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1853 Strombeek-Bever/Belgium  
Tel.: +32 2 263 20 40  
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© 2015, ebook version Primento and Caramel

e-ISBN : 978-2-511-03084-4

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