

The Princess and the Pea

Once upon a time there was a prince who wanted to marry a princess. But, he decided she would have to be a real princess, and not just a beautiful girl who looked like a princess. He travelled all over the world to find one. But, nowhere could he get what he wanted. Certainly, he met many beautiful girls who claimed to be princesses. But, they were not real ones. There was always something about them that was not as it should be. Finally, after travelling far and wide, he returned home feeling very frustrated.

Then, one fateful evening, a terrible storm blew into the city. There was thunder and lightning, and the rain seemed to fall down in buckets. Suddenly, however, a loud knocking was heard at the city gate, and the city guard went to see who was seeking to enter the city on such a terrible night. On opening the gate, the guard was surprised to find a young woman standing in the pouring rain!

The guard let the woman enter the city gate, and took her straight to see the old king. The king was shocked by the young woman's appearance. The rain and wind from the storm had made her look terrible! The water ran down from her hair and clothes. It ran down into the toes of her shoes and out again at the heels. And yet she said that she was a real princess.

The king called for the queen to meet the young woman. The queen did not believe the young woman's claim that she was a real princess. "Well, we'll soon find out if you're really a princess," thought the old queen.

She invited the young woman to spend the night. Then, the old queen took the mattress off the bed, and laid a pea on the bottom. Then, she took twenty soft mattresses and laid them on the pea.

The princess had to sleep on top of this pile of mattresses all night. In the morning, she was asked how she slept.

“Oh, very badly!” she said. “I scarcely closed my eyes all night. Heaven only knows what was in the bed, but I was lying on something hard, and couldn’t get to sleep. It was terrible!”

Now they knew that she was a real princess, because she had felt the pea right through the twenty soft mattresses.

Nobody but a real princess could be as sensitive as that.

So the prince took her for his wife, for now he knew that he had a real princess. And the pea was put in the museum, where it may still be seen, if no one has stolen it.

There's a Monster in My Living Room!

Be careful! There is a monster in my living room! What kind of monster is it? Well, it isn't a very big monster. In fact, it isn't big at all. It is really kind of small, as far as monsters go.

Is it scary looking? Well, not really. In fact, it isn't scary looking at all. Most monsters have big teeth, horns and claws. But, this monster has none of those things. This monster looks like a big, flat box. A big flat box is not scary looking, is it?

What does this monster eat? Well, you will be surprised when I tell you that it doesn't eat anything! What does it drink? It doesn't drink anything, either!

So, there is a monster in my living room, but it isn't big or scary looking, and it doesn't eat or drink anything. So, why do I call it a monster?

I call it a monster because I think it controls my little brother! My little brother sits in front of it and watches it in the morning. He watches it in the afternoon. He watches it at night. He sometimes eats when he watches it. And he even watches it when he does his homework. My little brother sees all kinds of strange things on it. He hears all kinds of strange sounds on it. He believes everything it says to him.

The monster in my living room controls my little brother. Now, it is up to me to save him from this monster! How can I save him? Well, I can't kill the monster. If I did that, my mother and father would be angry. I also can't make the monster leave our house. He will always be in my living room. So, what can I do to save my little brother? The answer is simple. I can spend more time with him. We can play games together. I can help him do his homework. We can go to the playground and have fun. By spending more time with my little brother, the monster won't be able to control him!