

# 8

# Once upon a time

## Reading

### Before reading

#### 1 Discuss these questions.

- 1 Think of a traditional story you know. Tell your story to your partner.
- 2 Does your story have a happy ending?
- 3 Does your story have a moral, or an important message?

#### 2 Read and listen.

### The Greedy Farmer

Once upon a time, there was a farmer who lived in a small village. He was not very **wealthy** but he was very **ambitious**. He wanted to make more and more money. In the spring time, when it was rainy, he called out, "If it were sunny, I could plant some wheat. I wish it were sunny!" The next day, by chance, it became sunny, and the farmer planted some wheat. After a few weeks, he began to get **impatient**. His **crop** needed rain now. He called out, "If it were rainy, it would be useful for my wheat." The following day, it rained.

Now he thought he could get everything he wanted. The very next day he called out, "If it rained more, my wheat would grow higher and higher." The following day, it rained again.

That summer he had the biggest and best crop he had ever had. He **harvested** his wheat and collected it in a big **pile**. He should have been happy, but he was so greedy he called out, "If it had rained even more, my wheat harvest would have been even bigger!"

**Suddenly** heavy rain began to pour. It rained harder and harder and didn't stop until all of the farmer's wheat washed away with the water.



# Brotherly Love

A long, long time ago, two brothers lived in a village. They were both farmers and grew corn. The older brother had many children to feed so he had very little money. The younger brother also had a big family to look after. Although the brothers were poor, they lived happily.

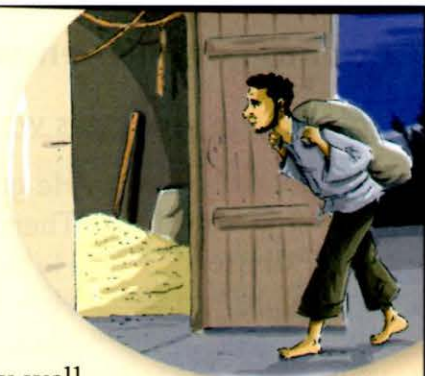
One year, there was a **drought** and the corn did not grow well. The brothers collected their small harvest and stored the **grain** in their barns.

That night, the older brother could not sleep. He was worried about his brother. Would he have enough grain to feed his family? At last, the older brother got out of bed. He went to his barn and filled a bag with grain. Then he went silently to his brother's house and **secretly** added the grain to his brother's pile.

Every night, he did the same thing. He took some of his own grain and added it to his brother's store. But, after a while, he noticed something **strange**. His pile of grain never looked smaller in the morning.

One night, he decided to find out why. After it had got dark, he hid near his barn and watched. At last, a man **approached** with his own bag of grain. At first he did not know who it was. Then, he was amazed to see his own brother. Every night the younger brother had done the same thing - taken grain from his own pile to give to his brother.

It was true brotherly love!



## Vocabulary

### 3 Match the words from the text to the definitions.

- 1 ambitious (adjective) wanting to be successful
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) not wanting to wait for something
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a long time without rain
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (adverb) without other people knowing
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) the seeds of a plant
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) very rich
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) unusual or suprising
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) cut or picked vegetables or grain
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ (adverb) quickly or unexpectedly
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a lot of things on top of one another
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) all the plants of one kind that a farmer grows
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) came near



## Reading comprehension

### 4 Match the sentences with the correct story.

#### The Greedy Farmer



He grew corn on his farm.  
There was no rain, so the harvest was small.  
He was a kind man.  
He was poor, but he was ambitious.  
He was poor, but he was happy.  
The harvest was the biggest ever.  
He was a greedy man.  
He became impatient when it didn't rain.

#### Brotherly Love



### 5 Number the sentences in the correct order for *Brotherly Love*.

One year, it didn't rain.

He saw his younger brother bringing him a bag of grain.

He noticed his pile of grain never got smaller.

The brothers harvested their crop.

The brothers had large families and were happy.

The brothers put their grain in their barns.

The older brother was worried, so he gave some grain to his brother.

One night, he waited near his barn.

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### 6 Correct the information in **bold** for *The Greedy Farmer*.

1 Once upon a time, there was a <sup>poor</sup>~~rich~~ farmer.

2 He wished he had more **farm land**.

3 He planted some **vegetables** in the spring.

4 He wished for some **snow** so his crop would grow.

5 Everything he wished for came true and his crop grew **badly**.

6 He had the **worst** harvest ever.

7 He was so **happy**, he asked for more rain.

8 He wished for more **money** – and it came and came.

### 7 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

1 Do you prefer reading stories yourself or when someone tells you a story?

2 Why do you think parents tell their children stories?

3 One of these stories ended happily, the other did not. Which did you prefer? Why?



## The Handsome Stag

Once upon a time, there was a handsome stag with enormous, amazing antlers. One day, he stood quietly and looked at himself in a lake. He thought, 'My antlers are beautiful! But these thin legs of mine are so horrible I wish I could hide them. I wish they were bigger.'

Just then, a hunter came along and shot an arrow toward the stag. Immediately, the stag leapt into the deep, dark woods and ran quickly out of sight. As he ran, his beautiful antlers got caught on the branches of a low-growing tree. He finally pulled himself free. Without the incredible speed of his legs, he would have been hit.

After that, when he looked at his thin legs, he was happy and proud.

When you write a story ...

- Start by **setting the story in the past**: **Once upon a time ... / A long, long time ago ...**
- Say **who the story is about**: **there was an old woman who ...**
- Use **interesting adjectives** to make the place, characters and events come to life: **enormous, amazing antlers / deep, dark wood / incredible speed**
- Use **adverbs** to make the actions come alive: **stood quietly / ran quickly**
- Finish by saying **how the story ends**: **he was happy and proud.**

8 Match the lines from the story with the suggestions.

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 Once upon a time, long, long ago, there was a little house in the woods. | A Say who the story is about. |
| 2 In the house lived a little boy.   | B Say how the story ends.     |
| 3 The house was tiny and crowded.  | C Use adverbs.                |
| 4 He walked slowly and quietly down the road.                              | D Use adjectives.             |
| 5 At last he went home, where everyone loved him best.                     | E Set the story in the past.  |

9 Write a story from your country, maybe a story your parents used to tell you. Answer these questions to help you.

Where was it set? Who are the main characters? How does it begin?

What happens? How does it end? Use phrases like this:

One day ... / Just then ... / That night ... / Suddenly ... / At last ...