

### The Three Wishes

Long, long, ago, a man and woman lived near a great forest. Every day, they went into the forest to cut wood. They worked very hard, but still they were poor and often went hungry. One morning they walked farther into the forest than ever before where they came upon a huge oak. “We could cut many logs from this tree,” said the man. “Then we would have enough money to buy food for many days.”

Just as the man was about to swing his ax, a beautiful fairy appeared. “Please don’t cut down my tree,” she begged. The man and his wife were surprised. “Very well, we’ll spare your tree,” they said. The fairy excitedly flew up into the air. “Thank you!” she cried. “For this, I will grant you three wishes.” Then she disappeared.

The couple was so excited. All day they talked about the wishes they would make. A fancy coach, fine clothes, and a grand house with a lovely garden. They imagined huge chests of jewels and piles of gold coins, all theirs for the asking. Finally, they went home, tired, hungry and cold.

Inside their tiny cottage, they sat resting and warming themselves in front of the fire. They were thinking about the wishes. “Ah! We could wish that we would never go hungry again,” exclaimed the woman. “Indeed,” said the man. “But right now, I wish we had some tasty sausages for dinner.” All of a

sudden, a pan of sausages appeared!

“You fool!” the wife cried. “See what you’ve done! Why, I wish those sausages were hanging from your nose!” Suddenly, the sausages hung from her husband’s nose.

“What have you done?” cried the man. He pulled at the sausages, but they stuck. The wife tried to pull, but they stuck. They pulled and tugged together, but it was no use. “What’s to be done now?” cried the man. The two thought about their very last wish and of everything they had dreamed.

“What’s the good of all that now?” asked the wife. “You’d have to live your whole life with sausages on your nose.” “Indeed,” said the man sadly. They knew they would have to wish the sausages off his nose. So they wished their last wish. Immediately, the sausages were back in the pan sizzling on the fire.

Though the couple didn’t get a fancy coach, fine clothes, or a grand house with a lovely garden, they were still cheerful as they sat down to eat. “At least we have this fine dinner of sausages, which is more than we had before,” said the wife. “Indeed,” said her husband. “Indeed!”