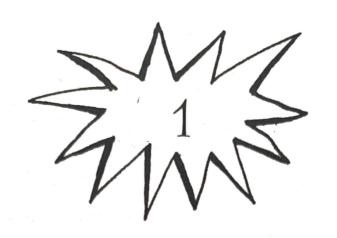


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Magic Beans

Once upon a time, long long ago, in a land far far away, in olden days, when wishing was having, some children started school.

'Hello, everyone!' said the teacher.

'Welcome to your new school. Let's start with the register. Gretel?'

'Here, miss.'

'Hansel?'

'Here, miss.'

'No sweets in school, please,' said the teacher.

'Hansel, those are my sweets!' said Gretel.

'No they're not!' said Hansel.

'Mine!' said Gretel, snatching the

'Mine!' said Hansel, snatching it back.
'Children, stop squabbling,' said the
teacher. 'Put those sweets away until after

Silence.

'Cinderella?'

Silence.

The teacher made a mark in her register. 'Not here. Three little pigs?'

'Oink.'

'Oink Oink.'

'Oink Oink Oink.'

'Sleeping Beauty? Sleeping Beauty!'

A girl asleep on the carpet woke up.

'Yes, miss,' yawned Sleeping Beauty.

'Little Red Riding Hood?'

'Yes, miss.'

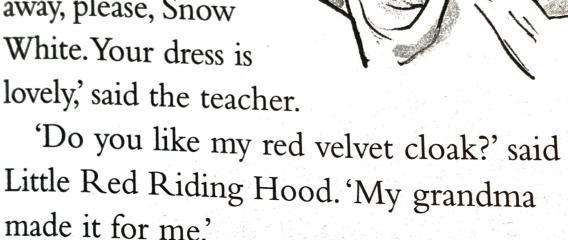
'Goldilocks?'

'Here, miss.'

'Snow White?'

Snow White was smiling at herself in a small mirror. 'Here, miss. Do you like my new dress?'

'Put the mirror away, please, Snow White. Your dress is



'It's lovely,' said the teacher. 'Jack?'

'Here, miss. I've got something for show and tell - magic beans!'

'They don't look magic to me,' said Goldilocks.

'They are magic!' said Jack. 'You'll see.'

'Please put them away,' said the teacher. 'You can show them later.'

'But I want to show them now,' said Jack.

'Later, Jack,' said the teacher. 'Well done, everyone!' The door banged and a girl with a dirty face and dusty dress burst in, panting. 'Sorry I'm late,' she whispered. Then she began to cry. 'Come and sit next to me and tell me what happened, Cinderella,' said the teacher, handing her a hankie. The girl blew her nose. 'My stepsisters made me fetch the water and make the fire and cook and scour and 'You're here now, that's the main thing,'

I've only just finished,' she said tearfully. said the teacher. 'Sit down on the carpet with the other children. I'm your teacher, Miss Good Fairy. I hope you'll all be very happy here, and learn to work hard, play fair, think for yourself, listen, and get along well together. Some of the big children may be a bit rough, but don't worry. You'll soon learn how to handle them.



'Now I want you to write a sentence about what you did in the holidays. Don't worry if you can't spell everything – I'll come round to help.'

The children sat at the tables and went to work.

Little Red Riding Hood leaned over to see what Jack was writing.

'Don't be so nosy, Little Red Riding Hood,' said Miss Good Fairy.

When they'd finished writing, everyone read their sentences aloud.



I visited my grandmother who isn't very well _



My stepsisters made me pick peas rut of the ashes



We got lost in the forest but Hansel dropped white pebbles on the ground and we found over way home again



I found a spinning wheel In the attachtick



worked very hand washing and sewing and knutting



Howards where three bears



Dink, Dink, Dink, Dink, Cink

'You built a big house out of straw. Really!' said Miss Good Fairy.



'You built a great big house out of wood! Fancy that!' said Miss Good Fairy.



'You built a great big giant house out of brick! My goodness!' said Miss Good Fairy.



'Clever boy!' said Miss Good Fairy. 'I'll bet your mum was proud of you.'

'Actually, she got very cross,' said Jack.

'Oh dear,' said Miss Good Fairy. 'Never mind. What clever children you are! And what a lot of adventures. Keep up the good work, everybody. Now it's time for sums. Goldilocks, sit in your own chair, please! Gretel, if Hansel dropped ten breadcrumbs and the birds ate four, how many crumbs would be left?'

'Six,' said Gretel.

'Well done,' said Miss Good Fairy. 'Snow White, if there were seven dwarves, and five of them went to work, how many would be left?'

'Three?' said Snow White. Goldilocks waved her hand wildly. 'I know, I know,' she shouted.

'Please raise your hand if you want to speak,' said Miss Good Fairy. 'Can you help her, Little Red Riding Hood?'

'Two,' said Little Red Riding Hood, leaning back in her chair.

'Correct,' said Miss Good Fairy. 'Be careful how you're sitting, Little Red Riding Hood, or you'll fall off and hurt yourself.'

Little Red Riding Hood paid no attention and leaned back even further.

Gretel waved her hand.

'Miss! Miss!'

'Yes, Gretel?' said Miss Good Fairy.

'My tooth is wobbly,' said Gretel.

'Don't wobble it now, please,' said Miss Good Fairy.

CRASH!

Little Red Riding Hood fell off her chair. 'OWWWWW,' shrieked Little Red Riding Hood.

'One day you'll get into trouble for not listening,
Little Red Riding
Hood,' said Miss
Good Fairy,
helping her up.

'I don't think so,' said Little Red

Riding Hood merrily.

'Hmmn,' said Miss Good Fairy. 'Jack, if a magic hen laid four golden eggs on Monday and five golden eggs on Tuesday, how many eggs would she lay?'

'Eight?' said Jack.

'Not quite,' said Miss Good Fairy.

'Nine!' said Cinderella.

'Clever girl,' said Miss Good Fairy.

'Sleeping Beauty, sit up please!'

'Sorry, miss,' yawned Sleeping Beauty.

'Silent reading on the carpet, please,' said Miss Good Fairy.