

# THE HAPPY PRINCE

a story of true love and happiness

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## LIFE AND WORKS OF OSCAR WILDE

**LIFE** - Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was an Irish writer and poet. Born in Dublin, he studied at the famous Trinity College in Dublin and later in Oxford. There he started to have an important role in Aesthetic and Decadent movement of the time. After university he moved to London, where he became famous for his unconventional clothes and manners (he dressed in an eccentric way, walked up and down Piccadilly with a sunflower in his hands) and for his wit and humour, that soon turned him into one of the most famous personalities of the Victorian period (his personality, conversation, and behavior attracted public attention). He soon acquired a reputation, not only for his art, but also for his eccentricity, his Dandyish behavior, his poses and irony.

**ART** - Wilde applied to his works the main themes of the Aesthetic movement: life is only a series of experiences and the only way to give it meaning is to live those as intensely as possible. Art is the only way of stopping time. Wilde believed that art was superior to life because it could be controlled and made perfect and so satisfy man's need for perfection. He didn't want to be serious or to write seriously, because he believed that seriousness was boring and it was only an attitude adopted by people who had little imagination. So when he wrote or he spoke he tried to make people laugh, but also think. Wilde's irony is a sign of great wisdom.

**WORKS** - Today Oscar Wilde is considered one of the most successful playwrights of the second half of the 19th century (his most famous play is "The Importance of Being Earnest"), but he was also a writer, a poet and a great celebrity. He wrote some well-known children's stories and an extremely successful novel, "The Picture of Dorian Gray".

"THE HAPPY PRINCE AND OTHER TALES" (sometimes called "The Happy Prince and Other Stories") is a collection of stories for children first published in May 1888. It contains five stories, "The Happy Prince", "The Nightingale and the Rose", "The Selfish Giant", "The Devoted Friend", and "The Remarkable Rocket". It is most famous for its title story, "The Happy Prince".

**Comprehension - Answer the questions. Give complete answers.**

1. Where was Oscar Wilde born?

---

2. Where did he study?

---

3. Did he die at the age of 46?

---

4. What was he famous for?

---

5. What are the main themes of his works?

---

6. What is "THE HAPPY PRINCE AND OTHER TALES"?

---

## GETTING INTO THE STORY

Answer the questions. Give complete answers.

1. Do you like short stories?
2. Can you tell short stories?
3. Do you prefer telling, listening to or reading stories?
4. How do you imagine a short story?
5. Imagine you are the character of a short story. What would you be?
6. Imagine someone turns you into a short story... which one would you like to become?

1. What is a prince?
2. Have you ever seen one?
3. Do you know stories about princes?
4. Do you know famous princes?
5. Would you like to be a prince?
6. If you were a prince what would you do?
7. What instead are you?
8. How would you feel if you met a prince?
9. What would you tell him?
10. What would you ask him?

1. What is a statue?
2. Where can we find statues?
3. Have you ever seen statues?
4. Do you like statues?
5. Do you know famous statues?

1. What are the four seasons?
2. Which is your favourite season? Why?
3. What's the weather like in the different seasons?
4. What do you wear in the different seasons?
5. What fruit and vegetables do you eat in the different seasons?
6. Which season would you like to be? Why?
7. Which season would you like to cancel? Why?
8. What activities can you do during your favourite season? What sports or activities do you play during this time of the year? How often?

1. Do you like animals?
2. What's your favourite animal? Why?
3. Can you describe your favourite animal?
4. What animal would you like to be? Why?
5. Can you describe a swallow?

1. How do you feel now? Are you sad or happy?
2. When are you happy?
3. When are you sad?
4. What are sadness and happiness?
5. What do people do when they are sad?
6. What do people do when they are happy?
7. Do you prefer happiness or sadness? Why?

1. Friendship is a wonderful word. What does it mean?
2. Have you got any friends?
3. Who is your best friend?
4. Can you describe your best friend?
5. Why is friendship important?
6. What do you do with your friends?
7. How often do you go out with your friends?

Introduce yourself with an **ACROSTIC**

Example

A good angel

Never

Goes away, but with his

Eyes, he always

Looks after people

## PRESENTATION OF THE CHARACTERS



prince



statue



swallow



sick child



young novelist



poor match girl



god and angel



villagers

## BUILDING VOCABULARY

### 1. Read the clues and then fill in the missing letters.

1. An animal that can fly                      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ D
2. The King's son                                P \_ \_ \_ \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_
3. The season after winter                    S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ G
4. A yellow precious metal                   G \_ \_ \_ \_ D
5. A feeling                                        H \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ I \_ \_ \_ \_ S \_ \_

### 2. Match the words from Column A with their definitions in Column B.

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1. square   | a. bright because it reflects light   |
| 2. gemstone | b. not having good health   |
| 3. lead     | c. you use this to light a fire   |
| 4. shiny    | d. a jewel (= precious stone), especially when cut into a particular regular shape. |
| 5. sick     | e. very heavy grey metal  |
| 6. match    | f. an open area with buildings around it, often in the centre of a town             |

## THE HAPPY PRINCE

Once upon a time, a beautiful statue stood in the middle of a town square. It was the statue of a prince. His body was covered in shiny gold leaf, and his eyes and the dagger on his belt were ornamented with precious gemstones. From his place on the square, he could see everything going on around him. People called him the Happy Prince.

One cold and windy night, a swallow wandered into the square. The other swallows had all gone south for the winter, but this one had gotten lost and was left behind. Circling the square, the swallow saw the statue of the Happy Prince.

"It's too cold to fly tonight. I will stay here for the night. It's so cold."

As the swallow settled down, a drop of water fell on his head.

"Oo, that's cold! Can it be raining?"

The swallow glanced up, and saw that the sky was clear. It wasn't raining at all.

"How odd. Where did that drop of water come from, then?"

Curious, the swallow flew to the top of the statue. When he reached the top, he saw that the Prince's eyes were filled with tears.

"Why are you crying, Prince?"

"I am crying because I am sad."

"Why? How could you be sad?"

"I was once a happy Prince, and all my days were filled with joy. Now, when I am a statue, I can look over the whole town. I see so much misery and poverty. Swallow, just take a look at that little house there."

"Where?"

The swallow looked at where the prince pointed. He saw an old, run-down house. A sick child lay on the bed inside.

"That child is very ill, but the family is too poor to buy the medicine she needs."

"Oh, how sad."

"Swallow, would you do something for me? Pluck out the ruby from my dagger and bring it to that house. If they sell it they will have enough money to buy the medicine."

"Of course, I will do as you ask."

The swallow plucked out the ruby and carried it to the child's house.

The following day, the Swallow stayed in the square. He wanted to stay with the prince a little longer. In the afternoon, he flew up to the prince's shoulder to say farewell.

"Good-bye, Prince. I must fly south now."

"Swallow, can I ask for one final favour before you go? There is a young man living in an attic on that side of the village. He is writing a novel, but he is so poor that he hasn't eaten anything in days. Can you please take one of my sapphire eyes and bring it to him?"

"Your eye? ... Very well, Prince."

The Swallow took one of the prince's eyes and flew to the writer in the attic. When he discovered the sapphire, the poor writer shed tears of joy, because he knew he wouldn't starve. The swallow didn't go south that day, but he was very happy.

The next day, the swallow tried to say good-bye to the prince once more.

"Prince..."

"I am so sorry Swallow, but I have one last favour to ask of you. Do you see that girl selling matches in the street? Give her my other eye."

"I can't do that. You would be blind then, Prince!"

"It doesn't matter. Please give my eye to that poor girl."

The swallow took out the prince's last remaining eye and dropped it into the match girl's basket.



“Where did this come from? Oh Swallow, thank you so much! With this sapphire, I can stay warm this winter. Thank you so much. “

Now that the prince had given away both of his eyes he couldn't see anymore.

“Thank you, Swallow. You have helped me very much. I know I have kept you back too long. Please fly south now.”

“No, my prince. I cannot leave you alone now. I will be your eyes.”

The swallow had grown to love the prince for his generous heart and wanted to stay with him. From that day on, the swallow stayed by the prince and flew around the town, telling the prince about everything he saw.

“Prince, I saw some homeless children living under a bridge. They will soon starve or freeze to death.”

“Please strip some gold leaf from my body and bring it to those children.”

“Yes, prince.”

Every day, the swallow would strip bits of gold from the prince's body and bring them to those who were ill or in need.

As more and more people became happy, the prince's body grew more and more ugly.

Winter came, and the swallow could feel his body freezing. One snowy day he flew up to the prince's face and kissed him.

“Thank you my prince. You have taught me the true meaning of happiness. Thank you...”

As he said those words, the swallow fell to the ground and died.

“My poor, faithful Swallow! You didn't fly south and died because of me. Even my gold cannot save you. My poor, little swallow...”

Tears flowed from the prince's empty eyes and a cracking sound came from deep within his body.

The cold winter winds passed, and the warm sunshine of spring filled the air. The villagers emerged into the square to drink in the sunlight and saw what had become of the prince's state. They pointed their fingers at him saying:

“Look at that! What has happened to the statue? It looks dreadful, more like a homeless prince, not a happy one. This statue is making the whole square look grubby. We've got to tear it down right away!”

The villagers tore down the statue and cast it into the fire to melt it down. Oddly, as the statue melted away in the heat, the prince's lead heart remained.

Looking down over the earth, God turned to one of his angels and said:

“Bring me the two most beautiful things in the world.”

“Yes, Lord.”

The angel floated down to earth and brought back the frozen body of the swallow and the prince's lead heart. God was very pleased.

“The people do not understand what true happiness really is. The swallow and the prince will live eternally in Heaven. “

The Prince and the Swallow lived on happily ever after in Heaven. But, sometimes, they would look down upon the world and shed tears for the people below.

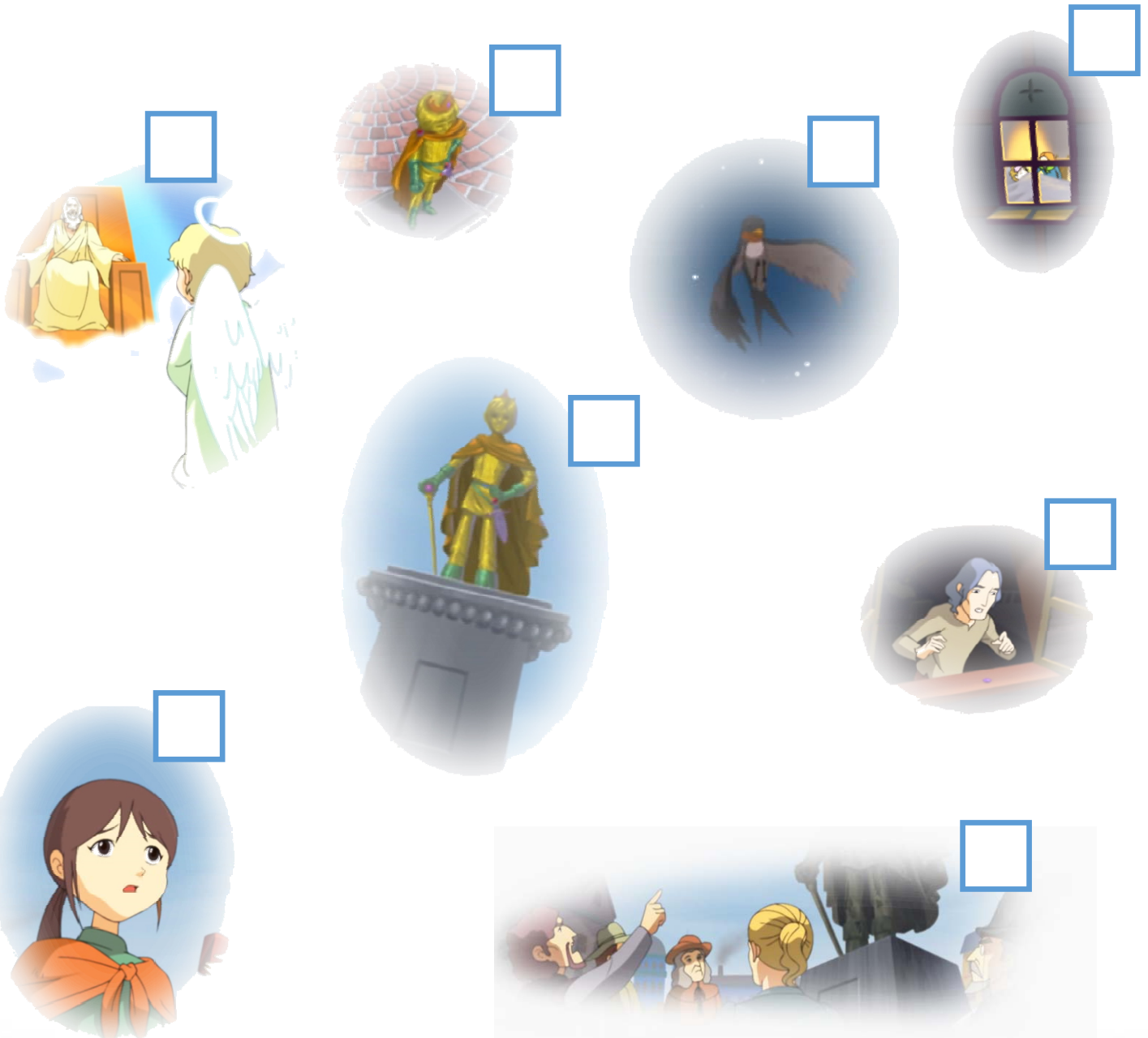
(Adapted from Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*)

(Adaptation from <http://www.multimedia-english.com/>)

## INTO THE TEXT

### 1. Match the words with the pictures

1. Prince      2. Statue      3. Swallow      4. A sick child  
5. A young novelist      6. A poor match girl      7. Villagers      8. God and angel



## 2. Complete the following table

| General information                           |  |
|---|--|
| Title of the story                            | _____  |
| Author of the story                           | _____  |
| Setting of the story                          | _____  |
| The setting is...                             | <input type="checkbox"/> real <input type="checkbox"/> fantastic |
| The setting is well described                 | <input type="checkbox"/> true <input type="checkbox"/> false     |
| The seasons represent the characters' mood    | <input type="checkbox"/> true <input type="checkbox"/> false     |
| Characters of the story                       | _____  |
| In the story characters are                   | <input type="checkbox"/> real <input type="checkbox"/> fantastic |
| The main character of the story is            | _____  |
|   |  |
| In your opinion ...                           |  |
| •How does the Happy Prince feel?              | _____  |
| •What's the message of the story?             | _____  |
| •What are the main ideas?                     | _____  |
| •Do you like it? Why?                         | _____  |
| •What do you like in the story?               | _____  |
| •What don't you like in the story?            | _____  |
| •Why is the Prince sad?                       | _____  |
| •Why is he happy?                             | _____  |
| •How does the writer portray poverty?         | _____  |
| •Write about a different ending for the story | _____  |

### 3. MULTIPLE CHOICE - Choose the correct alternative

- Where was the statue of the Happy Prince?
  - In a garden
  - In a house
  - In a town square
- Why was the Prince called the Happy Prince?
  - Because when he was alive he was really happy
  - Because when he was alive he was rich
  - Because when he was alive he helped people
- What was the Prince covered with?
  - Gold and gemstones
  - Silver and diamonds
  - Plastic and iron
- What animal did the Happy Prince meet?
  - A hawk
  - A swallow
  - A bat
- Why was the Prince crying?
  - Because he was happy
  - Because he was sad for the people in the town
  - Because he had no friends
- What did the Prince ask to the swallow?
  - To take the ruby from his eyes
  - To take the ruby from his crown
  - To take the ruby from his dagger
- What did the swallow take to the sick child?
  - It took a sapphire
  - It took the ruby from the dagger
  - It took a golden leaf
- What was the young man in an attic doing?
  - He was having dinner
  - He was reading a book
  - He was writing a novel
- What did the swallow bring for the young novelist?
  - It brought a sapphire
  - It brought a golden leaf
  - It brought a ruby
- Why did the swallow decide to stay with the Prince?
  - Because the Prince gave it a lot of jewels
  - Because they were friends
  - Because it had a broken wing

11. What did the swallow learn?
  - A. It learned the importance of being famous
  - B. It learned the importance of having food
  - C. It learned the importance of helping people
  
12. Why did the swallow die in the end of the story?
  - A. Because the weather was too cold for it.
  - B. Because it was too tired after flying around in the city.
  - C. Because it felt too sad for the Happy Prince.
  
13. Why did the villagers burn the statue?
  - A. Because it was old
  - B. Because it was too big
  - C. Because it was dreadful
  
14. What did the angel bring to God?
  - A. The angel brought the Prince and the novelist to God
  - B. The angel brought the dead swallow and the Prince's heart to God
  - C. The angel brought the sick child and the poor match girl to God
  
15. Where did the Prince and the swallow live forever?
  - A. In the Heaven
  - B. In the town square
  - C. In the hell

**4. TRUE/FALSE - Mark the following statements as TRUE or FALSE**

1. Once upon a time, a beautiful statue stood in the middle of a town park.
2. The Prince's body was covered with gold.
3. His eyes and his belt were ornamented with precious gemstones.
4. People called him the Handsome Prince.
5. The swallow was left behind because it had got lost.
6. The family of the sick child couldn't afford the medicine she needed.
7. The swallow took the ruby from the Prince's dagger to the poor writer.
8. The swallow dropped the Prince's last remaining eye into the girl's hand.
9. The swallow refused to fly south because he wanted to stay by the Prince and be his eyes.
10. As more and more people became happy, the Prince's body grew more and more beautiful.
11. The swallow thanked the Prince because he gave him some of his gold.
12. When the villagers threw the statue into the fire, the Prince's heart did not melt.
13. God told the angel to bring him the dead swallow and the Prince's heart.
14. Although they lived happily ever after in Heaven, the Prince and the swallow still sometimes cried for the people on earth.

**5. SCRAMBLED - Reorder the letters in the brackets in order to complete the sentences.**

- The Happy Prince is a \_\_\_\_\_ by Oscar Wilde (ELAT).
- The statue is on a column in the town \_\_\_\_\_ (SUQREA).
- The Swallow takes the \_\_\_\_\_ from the Prince's sword (URYB).
- That night the Swallow sleeps at the Prince's \_\_\_\_\_ (FTEE).
- The Swallow sits on the Prince's \_\_\_\_\_ for the last time (SOULDERH).
- The Prince's \_\_\_\_\_ does not melt in the fire (TEAHR).

**6. SCRAMBLED - Reorder the main sentences from the story.**

- town square beautiful statue in the A middle stood of a
- wandered swallow cold square and windy night a One into the
- swallow house took the to the sick ruby The child's
- eye swallow the prince's The to the took young writer
- swallow girl match took the prince's eye The to the poor
- The poor took the prince's people gold to swallow the
- The died heat and the prince's swallow melted in statue the
- brought The angel bird God the heart and the prince's dead

**7. FILL IN THE GAP - Choose the answer a, b or c which best fits each space.**

**PLOT SUMMARY**

High above the city (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a tall column stood the statue of The Happy Prince. He was covered with thin leaves of fine gold; his eyes (2) \_\_\_\_\_ two sapphires and a large red ruby was on his sword hilt.

One day a swallow came and decided to spend the night (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the feet of the statue. The swallow discovered that the Prince (4) \_\_\_\_\_ weeping at the sight of the poverty and misery of the poor people in (5) \_\_\_\_\_ city. So, the swallow was persuaded to stay long enough to help the Prince give his gold to the poor.

First, the swallow took the ruby (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a mother with a sick child. Then the swallow carried one sapphire (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to a starving writer in a cold attic. The other sapphire eye was flown to a little homeless girl.

Then, one by one, the swallow carried all the leaves of gold (8) \_\_\_\_\_ covered the Prince's body to give aid to poor people.

(9) \_\_\_\_\_ day, in the cold of the winter, the swallow died and the Prince's leaden heart cracked.

'Bring me the two (10) \_\_\_\_\_ precious things in the city,' said God to one of his angels; and the angel brought him the leaden heart of the Prince and the dead bird.

- |             |            |          |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| 1. a. on    | b. in      | c. up    |
| 2. a. had   | b. were    | c. are   |
| 3. a. above | b. between | c. under |
| 4. a. was   | b. is      | c. were  |
| 5. a. her   | b. his     | c. its   |
| 6. a. for   | b. of      | c. to    |
| 7. a. ear   | b. eye     | c. hair  |
| 8. a. who   | b. that    | c. this  |
| 9. a. One   | b. This    | c. On    |
| 10. a. more | b. best    | c. most  |

## 8. CLOZE TEST - Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the box below.

angel - feet – forever – happiness - heart – melt – misery – precious - ruby – sapphires

### PLOT SUMMARY

When the Happy Prince is alive, he lives in a palace where sorrow is not allowed to enter. He lives a life of (1) \_\_\_\_\_. However, when he dies his courtiers set up his statue on a tall column. The statue of the Happy Prince sees all the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the city. He weeps when he sees people in trouble. He wants to help them. A swallow stays at the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the statue of the Happy Prince for the night. On Happy Prince's request, he prolongs his stay and helps the poor with the ruby and the (4) \_\_\_\_\_. When the happy Prince cannot see any more, the swallow decides to stay with the happy Prince (5) \_\_\_\_\_. So he helps the people with the gold covering of the Happy Prince. At the end, he dies frost. The (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Happy Prince also breaks. Once, the mayor and the town councilors pass by the stature of the Happy Prince. They are shocked to see it without (7) \_\_\_\_\_, sapphires, and gold covering. It looks ugly without them. They pull it down and decide to make another statue. The heart of the Happy Prince does not (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in the furnace and the workers throw it on the dust heap where the dead swallow is already lying. An (9) \_\_\_\_\_ comes and takes both the heart and the dead Swallow to God as two (10) \_\_\_\_\_ things.

## 9. COMPLETE - Read the passage about the main themes of the story and insert the following sentences:

- A. Acts of true love and devotion for the poor can help us achieve true happiness
- B. the contrast between shallowness and altruism, idleness and sacrifice, contempt and compassion
- C. great gap between the rich and the poor
- D. love and sacrifice are two saving forces
- E. outward beauty is nothing
- F. is a moral and social allegory

The story "The Happy Prince" (1) \_\_\_\_\_: through the eyes of The Happy Prince, who once was adored by all and now is a statue, it analyses (2) \_\_\_\_\_. As an allegorical story, characters and events stand for larger ideas for a moral instruction: "(3) \_\_\_\_\_".

The story has at least **three main themes**.

- The first theme of the story is that (4) \_\_\_\_\_. It is just a show. The real beauties are love and sacrifice. The Happy Prince has a lead heart, but this heart is full of sympathies for the poor and the needy. He sacrifices his eyes and beauty just to help them. He gives away his gold covering bit by bit to the poor. Now without his eyes and gold covering, he looks so ugly that he is sent to furnace to melt. He has lost outward beauty, but with sacrifice and love, he has achieved spiritual beauty. God is pleased with him. After his death, he is taken to the city of gold. The same happens with the Swallow. He sacrifices his life for the love of the Happy Prince. Nevertheless, he also achieves spiritual beauty. He will sing forever in God's garden of Paradise.
- The second theme is that (5) \_\_\_\_\_. This world is full of poverty, hypocrisy, and exploitation. If there were no love and sacrifice, the world could not go on its axis. It is because of love and sacrifice that this life is going on. Therefore, it is true that love and sacrifice are two saving forces.

- The third theme is social injustice: (6) \_\_\_\_\_, the rulers and the masses. The third theme of the story is that there is great gap between the rich and the poor, the rulers and the masses. The Happy Prince did not know about the poor and their problems when he was alive. Therefore, it means that the rulers at that time did not know about the problems and the difficulties of the masses.

**10. MATCHING - Match each sentence on the left with its ending on the right.**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The writer has portrayed         | A. is so poor that he has not eaten anything for days. |
| 2. A woman with a sick child who    | B. is selling matches in the street.                   |
| 3. A young novelist in an attic who | C. poverty in a very beautiful manner.                 |
| 4. A girl who                       | D. has not enough money to buy the medicine.           |

**11. MATCHING - Match the words from Column A with their opposites in Column B.**

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. BEAUTIFUL | A. SELFISH    |
| 2. SHINY     | B. HAPPY      |
| 3. COLD      | C. BIG        |
| 4. SAD       | D. FIRST      |
| 5. LITTLE    | E. HEALTHY    |
| 6. OLD       | F. HOT        |
| 7. SICK      | G. FULL       |
| 8. POOR      | H. UGLY       |
| 9. LAST      | I. DULL       |
| 10. GENEROUS | J. FALSE      |
| 11. EMPTY    | K. YOUNG      |
| 12. TRUE     | L. RICH       |
| 13. DREADFUL | M. UNFAITHFUL |
| 14. NEW      | N. DIRTY      |
| 15. CLEAR    | O. WONDERFUL  |
| 16. FAITHFUL | P. OLD        |



## WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

### PAST SIMPLE

**Past Simple is used for:**

Actions that took place at a definite moment in the past.

*Ex. One cold and windy night, a swallow wandered into the square.*

Past habits and routines.

*Ex. When he was alive, he always smiled.*

Actions in the past with no connection with the present.

*Ex. Oscar Wilde died in 1900.*

We form the Past Simple by adding **-ed** to the end of regular verbs.

*Start > Started, Walk > Walked*

For the negative we use: **did + not + verb**

*Drink > Did not drink.*

To make questions we use: **did + subject + verb**

*Eat > Did you see?*

Key words: *yesterday, last night, 2 years ago, in 1999.*

Irregular verbs have their own form in the Past Simple, which you must memorise. However, in the negative and interrogative they are left in their base form.

*Ex. Eat > I ate it. I did not eat it. Did you eat it?*

### 1. Use the correct form of the Past Simple to fill in the blanks (regular verbs)

1. People ..... (call) him the Happy Prince.
2. A swallow ..... (wander) into the square.
3. The swallow ..... (want) to stay with the Prince.
4. The swallow ..... (try) to say goodbye to the Prince.
5. One snowy day the swallow ..... (kiss) the Prince.
6. The cold winter winds ..... (pass).
7. The warm sunshine of spring ..... (fill) the air.
8. The villagers ..... (emerge) into the square.
9. The statue of the Prince ..... (melt) away in the heat
10. The Prince's lead heart ..... (remain).

**2. Circle the correct letter in order to complete the sentences (irregular verbs).**

1. Oscar Wilde ..... (be) born in Dublin  
a. were                      b. been                      c. was
2. Once upon a time, a beautiful statue ..... (stand) in the middle of a town square.  
a. standed                      b. stood                      c. stended
3. Circling the square, the swallow ..... (see) the statue of the Happy Prince.  
a. seen                      b. seed                      c. saw
4. As the swallow settled down, a drop of water ..... (fall) on his head.  
a. falled                      b. fell                      c. felt
5. Curious, the swallow ..... (fly) to the top of the statue.  
a. flew                      b. flied                      c. flown
6. The Swallow ..... (take) one of the Prince's eyes.  
a. taken                      b. taked                      c. took
7. The Prince ..... (give) away both of his eyes.  
a. gived                      b. gave                      c. given
8. The Swallow ..... (tell) the Prince about everything he saw.  
a. telled                      b. told                      c. talled
9. More and more people ..... (become) happy.  
a. became                      b. becomed                      c. becamed
10. A cracking sound ..... (come) from deep within his body.  
a. came                      b. comed                      c. camed

## PAST CONTINUOUS

**Past Continuous is used to talk about:**

an action in progress at a particular moment in the past.

*Ex. What were you doing yesterday at this time, swallow? I was flying in the sky.*

two or more past simultaneous actions.

*Ex. While the swallow was flying the Prince was crying.*

We use the Past Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually an action in the Past Simple.

*Ex. While the swallow was circling the square, the swallow saw the Prince.*

*Ex the swallow saw the Prince while it was circling the square.*

We form the Past Continuous with the verb **To Be in the Past** and the main verb + **ing**.

*Read > I was reading, Walk > I was walking*

We form the negative with the verb **To Be in the Past** + not + the main verb + **ing**.

*Read > I wasn't reading, Walk > I wasn't walking.*

To make questions we use the verb **To Be in the Past** + subject + the main verb + **ing**.

*Read > Were you reading?*

### 3. Circle the correct alternative in order to complete the sentences.

1. The swallow was circling the square when it **saw/was seeing** the statue of the Happy Prince.
2. While the novelist **wrote/was writing** the novel, the swallow arrived.
3. The girl was selling matches when the swallow **gave/was giving** her the Prince's sapphire eye.
4. While the swallow **helped/was helping** the Prince, winter came.
5. The swallow **thanked/was thanking** the Prince when it died.
6. The villagers were walking in the square when they **saw/were seeing** the ugliness of the Prince's statue.

## FUTURE TENSES

**The Present Continuous is used:**

for pre-arranged events in the future.

*Ex. Tomorrow I am leaving, Prince.*

**Going to ... is used for:**

future intentions which have already been decided.

*Ex. The prince is going to help people.*

prediction based on a present situation or evidence.

*Ex. Be careful, swallow! It's going to rain.*

personal decisions or intentions.

*Ex. The swallow is going to help the Prince.*

**Will + base form is used for:**

assertions

*Ex. I will be your eyes.*

predictions.

*Ex. You will be blind.*

willingness.

*Ex. I will help you.*

promises.

*Ex. I will love you forever.*

offers.

*Ex. I will give you my support.*

Immediate decisions.

*Ex. I will take your ruby to the sick child.*

### 4. Circle the correct alternative in order to complete the sentences.

- The swallow \_\_\_\_\_ the Happy Prince. It has just planned.
  - is helping
  - will help
  - is going to help
- 'I \_\_\_\_\_ your eyes', said the swallow.
  - am being
  - will be
  - am going to be
- The Prince's intentions are clear: he \_\_\_\_\_ people happy.
  - is making
  - will make
  - is going to make
- The swallow \_\_\_\_\_ the Prince's ruby to the sick child. Everything is arranged.
  - is giving
  - will give
  - is going to give
- "I \_\_\_\_\_ here for the night", thought the swallow.
  - will stay
  - am staying
  - am going to stay
- The swallow's intentions are clear: it \_\_\_\_\_ with the Prince.
  - is staying
  - will stay
  - is going to stay

## ADVERBS

Adverbs tell us in what way someone does something.

**Rule** Adverbs are often formed by adding **-ly** to an adjective

*Ex. The swallow was flying slowly.*

### Exceptions

If the adjective ends in **-y**, change **-y** to **-i**. Then add **-ly**.

*Ex. happy - happily*

If the adjective ends in **-le**, the adverb ends in **-ly**.

*Ex. terrible - terribly*

### Irregular forms

|      |      |
|------|------|
| good | well |
| fast | fast |
| hard | hard |

## 5. Complete the sentences with the adverb of the adjectives in brackets.

- The Happy Prince smiled \_\_\_\_\_. (gentle)
- The swallow was flying \_\_\_\_\_. (fast)
- The Prince's eyes were \_\_\_\_\_ filling with tears. (slow)
- The swallow worked \_\_\_\_\_ to help the Prince. (hard)
- People do not understand what true happiness \_\_\_\_\_ is. (real)
- \_\_\_\_\_, as the statue melted away in the heat, the Prince's lead heart remained. (odd)
- The swallow and the Prince will live \_\_\_\_\_ in Heaven. (eternal)
- The Prince and the Swallow lived on \_\_\_\_\_ ever after in Heaven. (happy)

## COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

- Adjectives have comparative and superlative forms.

| ADJECTIVE          | COMPARATIVE             | SUPERLATIVE             |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>old</i>         | <i>older</i>            | <i>oldest</i>           |
| <i>small</i>       | <i>smaller</i>          | <i>smallest</i>         |
| <i>expensive</i>   | <i>more expensive</i>   | <i>most expensive</i>   |
| <i>intelligent</i> | <i>more intelligent</i> | <i>most intelligent</i> |

- We use the comparative when we compare two things or people.

**Ex. The swallow is *smaller than* the statue.**

**Ex. You're *more generous than* I am**

- We use the superlative when we compare three or more things or people.

**Ex. Which is the *poorest* character in the story?**

**Ex. You're the *most generous* person I know**

- We generally use *than* after the comparative and *the* before the superlative.

**Ex. *Smaller than* – *the smallest***

- Form of comparative and superlative adjectives:**
  - short adjectives (adjectives of one syllable) add *-er/-est*.

| ADJECTIVE    | COMPARATIVE    | SUPERLATIVE     |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>old</i>   | <i>older</i>   | <i>oldest</i>   |
| <i>small</i> | <i>smaller</i> | <i>smallest</i> |

- longer adjectives (adjectives of three or more syllables) take *more/most...*

| ADJECTIVE                           | COMPARATIVE             | SUPERLATIVE             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>expensive (ex-pen-sive)</i>      | <b>more</b> expensive   | <b>most</b> expensive   |
| <i>intelligent (in-tel-li-gent)</i> | <b>more</b> intelligent | <b>most</b> intelligent |

- adjectives of two syllables ending in a consonant + *-y* (eg *-py*) take away the *-y* and add *-ier/-iest*.

| ADJECTIVE             | COMPARATIVE    | SUPERLATIVE     |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>happy (hap-py)</i> | <i>happier</i> | <i>Happiest</i> |

- most other adjectives of two syllables take *more/most*.

| ADJECTIVE                 | COMPARATIVE         | SUPERLATIVE         |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>boring (bor-ing)</i>   | <b>more</b> boring  | <b>most</b> boring  |
| <i>nervous (ner-vous)</i> | <b>more</b> nervous | <b>most</b> nervous |

- some words have irregular comparative and superlative forms. For example:

| ADJECTIVE   | COMPARATIVE            | SUPERLATIVE              |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>good</i> | <i>better</i>          | <i>best</i>              |
| <i>bad</i>  | <i>worse</i>           | <i>worst</i>             |
| <i>far</i>  | <i>further/farther</i> | <i>furthest/farthest</i> |

We use *as...as* to say that two things or people are the same.

**Ex. I'm *as strong as* you are.**

We use *not as...as* to say that two things or people are not the same.

**Ex. I'm *not as generous as* you.**

**6. Circle the correct alternative.**

1. Winter is \_\_\_\_\_ than summer.  
a. cold      b. colder      c. the coldest
2. The swallow was as \_\_\_\_\_ as the Prince.  
a. good      b. more good      c. better
3. The Prince is \_\_\_\_\_ character in the story.  
a. sad      b. sadder      c. the saddest
4. Swallows are \_\_\_\_\_ than snails.  
a. quick      b. quicker      c. the quickest
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ characters in the story are the villagers.  
a. bad      b. worse      c. worst
6. 'I'll do my \_\_\_\_\_', said the swallow.  
a. good      b. better      c. best

**7. Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.**

1. The Prince is \_\_\_\_\_ than the villagers. (good)
2. The golden statue is \_\_\_\_\_ than the leaden statue. (beautiful)
3. The Prince was \_\_\_\_\_ when he was alive. (happy)
4. The Prince's statue is \_\_\_\_\_ than people around. (sad)
5. The Prince's heart is the \_\_\_\_\_. (sweet)
6. The Prince's heart is \_\_\_\_\_ than evil people. (strong)

## BEYOND THE TEXT

### ♣ BEST FRIENDS

The story of the Happy Prince tells about a wonderful friendship between the Prince and the Swallow. Answer the following questions:

- Have you got any friends?
- Who is your best friend?
- Can you describe your best friend?
- Why is friendship important?
- What do you do with your friends?
- How often do you go out with your friends?

### ♣ SEASONS

***“Winter came, and the swallow could feel his body freezing.”*** The story takes place in different seasons. **With a partner discuss the following questions:**

1. Do you like winter? (Why/not?)
2. What’s the weather like in winter?
3. What do you wear in winter?
4. What do you do in winter?
5. What fruit and vegetables do you eat in winter?
6. What is your favourite season?
7. What activities can you do during your favourite season? What sports or activities do you play during this time of the year? How often?

### ♣ EMOTIONS

**In the short story there are some important words expressing emotions. Can you find them? And you? How intensely do you live your emotions? With a partner discuss the following questions:**

1. How do you feel today?
2. How do you feel when you get good/bad marks at school?
3. When did you first feel frustrated?
4. How often do you feel exhausted?
5. Do you ever feel angry? Why?



## FINAL ACTIVITIES

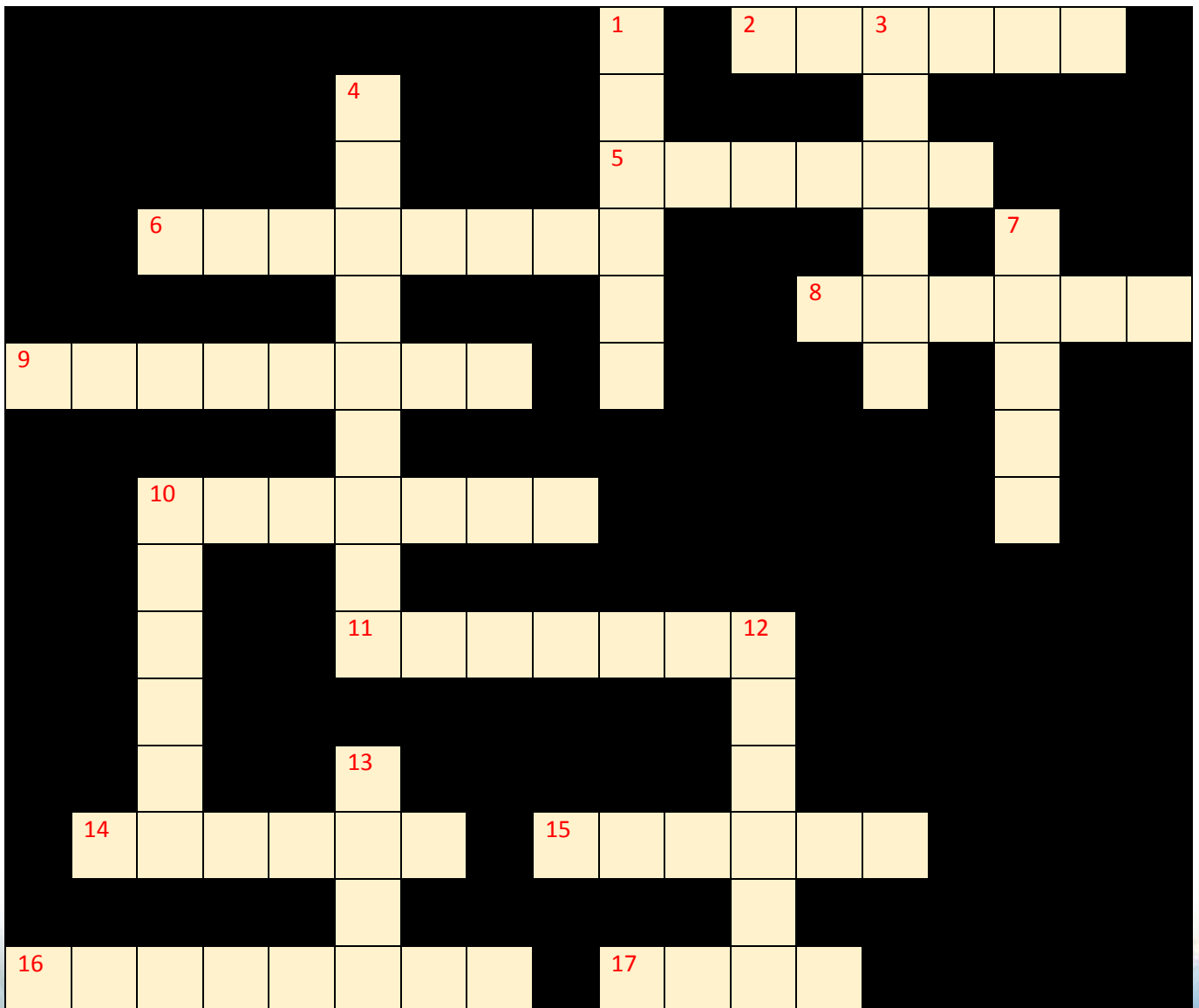
### 1. Solve the following crossword

#### ACROSS

2. the swallow dropped the prince's eye into the match girl's ...
5. the prince's statue stood in the middle of a town ...
6. the prince's eyes were made of ...
8. they live in Heaven together with God
9. the author of novels
10. a synonym of misery
11. the bird of the story
14. where God and angels live
15. the Prince's one was very sad
16. the Prince saw some homeless ... living under a bridge
17. the swallow helped the poor match ...

#### DOWN

1. a synonym of poverty
3. the season after winter
4. the opposite of sadness
7. it beats for love
10. he was once happy
12. the season after autumn
13. flowing from the Prince's eyes ...



## CHARACTERS

### 2. Read the main characters' descriptions and insert their names.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - They bring God the lead heart of the statue and the body of the dead Swallow.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - He orders his angels to bring him the two most precious things from the city
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - He is too poor to buy the medicine and lies in bed next to his mother. He receives the ruby.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - He orders that the statue be torn down.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ - He is a starving artist struggling to complete a play, but he cannot concentrate because he is so hungry. He receives the first sapphire eye.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ - A golden statue that can see what's going on around him, but cannot move. He was happy all through his life, but now he weeps for the poverty and misery of people.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ - A bird who stayed behind when the rest of his flock migrated.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ - She sells matches. She receives the second sapphire eye.

## A FAIRY TALE

### 3. Unscramble the words and complete the passage.

No doubt, the story "The Happy Prince" is a fairy tale. In a fairly (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (LETA) we find **unreal characters** like fairies, giants, witches and talking (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (MALSANI). It is a story which is hard to believe. The events of a fairy tale do not happen in real (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (FELI). Moreover, like a fairy tale, it has a happy conclusion.

Here are all the elements of a fairy tale:

1. Firstly, we find two imaginary characters – a talking swallow and a talking (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (TUESTA). In our daily life, we do not find such characters.
2. Secondly, we see the statue of the Happy Prince shedding (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (RSTEA) on the sufferings of the poor. He has sapphire eyes and a lead (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (RTHEA). However, he can see through these sapphire eyes and has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (VELO) and sympathies for the poor in his lead heart. This is highly unbelievable and it does not happen in real life. A statue has no (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (ESEY) and no heart.
3. Thirdly, the end of the story is typical of a fairy tale: the swallow will always (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (NGSI) in the garden of Paradise and the Happy Prince will always praise God in the city of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (LDGO).

### 4. Who is your favourite character? Why? Describe him/her in 25-35 words.

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