



Oscar Wilde

The Happy Prince

The Selfish Giant



Free Audiobook





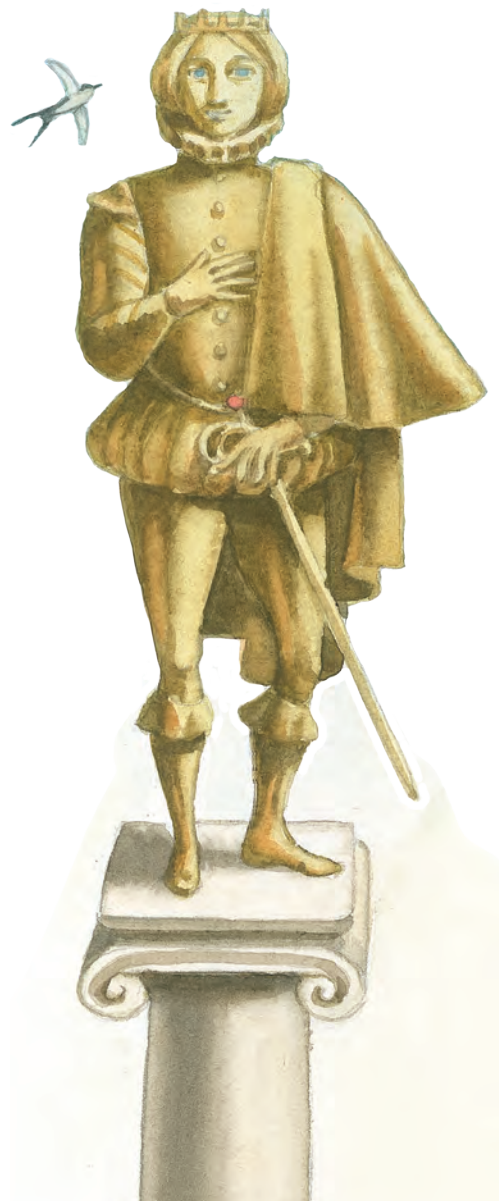
Oscar Wilde

The Happy Prince

The Selfish Giant

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by **Gina D. B. Clemen**





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THE STORIES ARE FULLY RECORDED.



ABOUT the AUTHOR

Name: Oscar Wilde

Born: 16 October, 1854 in Dublin, Ireland

First book: *Poems* (1881)

Most famous short stories: *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* (1888)

Most famous novel: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891)

Most famous plays: *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), *An Ideal Husband* (1895)

Most famous poem: *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* (1898)

Travels: United States of America, Canada, Italy, France

Died: 30 November, 1900 in Paris, France

INTRODUCTION

The Happy Prince and *The Selfish Giant* are stories called ‘fairy tales’ or ‘fables’. They happen in an imaginary ¹ world. In fairy tales there are a lot of magical things. They are not true stories, but they have a moral. ²

The characters in these stories are the Prince and the Giant. They don’t have names because they aren’t real people. They can teach you about kindness, friendship and love.

1. Which of these stories is a fairy tale? Put a tick in the box.

1. ☐ *Peter Pan*
2. ☐ *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*
3. ☐ *Cinderella*
4. ☐ *Sherlock Holmes and the Red Circle*
5. ☐ *Snow White*
6. ☐ *Romeo and Juliet*
7. ☐ *Pinocchio*
8. ☐ *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

2. Do you have a favourite fairy tale? Why do you like it?

.....

.....

.....

3. Look at the title of each story: *The Happy Prince* and *The Selfish Giant*. What do you think?

1. The Prince is
a ☐ always happy. b ☐ often happy. c ☐ never happy.
2. The Giant is
a ☐ a friendly man. b ☐ an unfriendly man. c ☐ a big man.

1. **imaginary** : not real.

2. **moral** : a lesson you can learn from a story.

BEFORE YOU READ

1. Here are some words from *The Happy Prince*. Match the words with the correct picture.

column • swallow • statue • angel • nest • ruby • sword •
drop • heart • tears • matches • melt • sapphire • lion • Sphinx



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

BEFORE YOU READ



13



14



15

2. Here are some words from *The Selfish Giant*. Match the words with the correct picture.

blossoms • frost • hole • ogre • axe • roof • hail • nail • branches



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

BEFORE YOU READ

3. Complete the sentences with some of the words from pages 6 and 7.

1. There's a flying in the sky.
2. Ice cream can in the hot sun.
3. There are beautiful pink on the tree.
4. The is a red stone.
5. The Prince has a long in his hand.
6. I need the to make a fire.
7. The is a part of a house.
8. Birds make their in a tree.
9. He uses an to cut the wood for the fire.
10. The is a big animal.
11. The is a blue stone.
12. The little girl is crying and there are in her eyes.
13. The of the Prince is on a tall
14. The birds are sitting on the of the tree.

4. Find and circle the nine words from pages 6 and 7 that you don't use in exercise 3. Some of the words are diagonal.

W	O	X	A	I	L	H	R	Z	O	A	B	R	F
H	P	D	B	O	G	R	E	S	X	L	U	W	O
A	O	H	T	U	M	C	L	P	I	V	R	S	D
I	E	F	E	R	H	G	X	A	Y	D	T	P	M
L	F	K	R	A	Y	H	N	U	S	J	N	H	I
Y	R	T	C	O	R	O	S	N	H	E	O	I	C
A	O	L	D	W	M	T	M	I	V	H	E	N	S
A	S	M	H	N	O	B	O	L	U	D	F	X	E
M	T	V	W	I	E	S	H	O	L	E	R	B	U
I	A	N	G	E	L	H	R	E	S	B	D	S	T
S	V	O	X	V	F	D	S	H	D	R	O	P	K

The Happy Prince





CHAPTER 1

The Gold Statue



In the city there's a tall column with a statue of the Happy Prince. He's very beautiful. He's covered with gold. He has two blue sapphires for eyes. There's a big red ruby on his long sword.



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When people walk near the statue, they look at it and smile. Everyone likes the statue of the Happy Prince.

A young mother says to her little boy, 'Look at the Happy Prince. He never cries. He's always happy.'

One night a little swallow flies over the city. His friends are in Egypt¹ and he wants to go there, too. Suddenly he sees the statue of the Happy Prince on a tall column.

'What a beautiful statue!' he thinks. 'Tonight I can sleep here, near the Prince's feet. I have a golden bedroom!' The little swallow is tired

1. **Egypt** : a warm country in North Africa.

and sleepy. But suddenly a big drop of water falls on his head. Then another drop falls.

‘Oh, no!’ thinks the little swallow. ‘It’s raining.’

He looks up at the sky and says, ‘But there aren’t any clouds.’

The little swallow tries to sleep again. Another drop of water falls and the swallow looks up. The Happy Prince is crying. There are big tears on his golden face. His face is very beautiful.

The little swallow asks, ‘Who are you?’

‘I’m the Happy Prince.’

‘The Happy Prince!’ says the little swallow, surprised. ‘Then why are you crying?’

‘The people in the city call me the Happy Prince. In the castle I was ² always happy. Everything in the castle was beautiful. But now I am on this tall column. I can see all the misery ³ of my city. I can see poor people, hungry people and unhappy people. My heart is made of metal ⁴ but I cry...’

The little swallow looks at the Prince sadly.

2. **was** : past simple of the verb to be.

3. **misery** : unhappiness, poverty, suffering.

4. **metal** : a very hard substance; a sword, a knife, a spoon and a fork are made of metal.





‘Little swallow, look over there!’ says the Prince. ‘There’s an old house and one of the windows is open. Can you see it?’

‘Yes,’ says the little swallow. ‘I can see it.’

‘There’s a woman,’ says the Prince. ‘She’s very poor and she’s working hard. She’s making a beautiful dress for a rich girl. I can see a boy in bed. He’s not well. He wants some oranges, but his mother can only give him water. Now he’s crying. Swallow, little swallow, can you take her the ruby from my sword?’

‘I’m sorry,’ says the little swallow, ‘but I must go to Egypt. My friends are there. It’s very warm and sunny in Egypt. My friends fly up and down the Nile⁵ River. They talk to the flowers. They sleep near the statue of the great King.’

‘Swallow, swallow, little swallow,’ says the Prince, ‘can you stay with me for one night? Can you help me, please? I’m a statue and I can’t move. That poor boy is ill and his mother is worried.’

The Happy Prince is sad and the little swallow is sorry.

‘It’s very cold here,’ says the little swallow, ‘but I can stay with you for one night and help you.’

5. Nile : a very long river in Egypt.



The Gold Statue

'Oh, thank you, little swallow,' says the Prince, smiling. 'Thank you very much!'

The little swallow takes out the red ruby from the Prince's sword. Then he flies away with the ruby. He flies over the houses of the city. He flies over the church and sees statues of white angels. He flies near the castle and hears lovely music. There are people dancing and having fun at the castle. He flies over the river and sees the ships. He sees all the stars in the night sky.

Finally he comes to the old house and looks inside. Everything is cold and dark. The sick boy is in his bed. His mother is sleeping because she's very tired. The little swallow puts the ruby on the kitchen table.

Then he flies out of the window and back to the Prince.

The little swallow says, 'The night is very cold, but I'm warm and happy now.'

'That's because you did a good thing,' says the Prince.

6. **did** : past simple of the verb *to do*.



THINK!

The little swallow meets the Prince and the Prince asks for *help*. The little swallow is kind and *helps* the Prince. The Prince wants to *help* the poor boy and his mother. He gives them his red ruby. Kind people *help* others. What do you do when someone asks for help? Choose one or more answers.

- a ☐ You always help people.
- b ☐ If you know the person, you help him/her.
- c ☐ If you don't like the person, you don't help him/her.
- d ☐ You ask someone else to help the person.
- e ☐ You never help people.

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