

LEVEL B1



ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

Joseph Jacobs

ILLUSTRATIONS Sonja Wimmer



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before reading

- 1 Joseph Jacobs was born in Australia and lived in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. **Locate** these cities in the correct country.

Aberdeen Aberystwyth Adelaide Belfast Brisbane
Buffalo Cairns Cardiff Exmouth Houston Melbourne
Philadelphia Seattle Sydney Vermont

Australia	United Kingdom	United States of America

- 2 **Match** the following famous Australian, British and American athletes with their sport.

Australian	Hannah Green	Basketball
	Lleyton Hewitt	
British	Judy Murray	Tennis
	Serena Williams	
	Charley Hull	
American	LeBron James	Golf

- 3 Joseph Jacobs' book is about Celtic fairy stories. **Decide** if these facts about the Celts are True (T) or False (F).

There were Celts in Asturias, Galicia and France, as well as England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

The Romans in Britain first used the name "Celts" to describe the natives.

The Ancient Greeks first used the name "Celts" or "Keltoi", perhaps to mean "the tall ones".

Celtic judges, holy men and teachers were called Druids.

4 **Guess** which language variety these expressions come from: Australian, British or American.

Gone walkabout (meaning “go travelling”) _____

Behind the eight-ball (meaning “In an almost impossible situation”) _____

On your bike (meaning “Go away!”) _____

Tell your story walkin’ (meaning “Go away!”) _____

Better than a ham sandwich (meaning “I don’t really want it, but it’s better than nothing”) _____

Better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick (meaning “I don’t really want it, but it’s better than nothing”) _____

He ate it (meaning “He fell over”) _____

Green fingers (meaning “to be good at gardening”) _____

Green thumb (meaning “to be good at gardening”) _____

5 A lot of words used in English today come from Celtic. **Place** these words in the correct column for you - and then look up the ones you don’t know!

bog boycott clock hooligan phoney slogan whiskey

I know and use this word	I think I know this word	I don’t know this word

- 6 What do you know about these Celtic myths? **Choose** the right answer.

The Banshee...

warned people about their death.

took sailors away from their loved ones.

Fionn MacCumhaill and Benandonner were...

two fighting giants.

two separated lovers.

Dana was...

the evil spirit who ruled Gaelic Ireland.

the divine mother of the Celtic gods.

The Leprechaun was

a kind fairy who helped old ladies.

a naughty fairy with a pot of gold.

- 7 The legend says that if you catch a Leprechaun, he will give you three wishes. **Write** your three wishes.

Hudden, Dudden and Donald O'Neary

1 **Describe** the characters in the story.

angry clever fat foolish furious greedy happy
heavy imaginative jealous not happy poor
surprised surprised surprised thirsty tired

Hudden and Dudden were _____

Donald O'Neary was _____

The hotel landlord was _____

The farmer was _____

2 **Circle** the correct words for every sentence.

Donald O'Neary made marks on / holes in Daisy's hide.

The landlord watched as plates / pennies fell out of the dead cow.

Hudden put butter on his weighing-scales to check on / trick Donald O'Neary.

The dogs and the people in the town welcomed / attacked Hudden and Dudden.

Hudden and Dudden decided to take Donald O'Neary to the Brown Lake of the Bog to pay him / make him pay for his tricks with the hides and the gold.

The farmer gave Donald O'Neary all his cows in exchange for marrying the king's daughter / being thrown into the lake.

Hudden and Dudden believed that Donald O'Neary had found the fat cows in the market / at the bottom of the bog.

during reading

- 3 **Finish** the descriptions about how Donald O'Neary tricked everybody in the story.

Donald O'Neary tricked the landlord by _____

Donald O'Neary tricked Hudden and Dudden the first time by

Donald O'Neary tricked the farmer by _____

Donald O'Neary tricked Hudden and Dudden the second time by

- 4 **Draw** the part of the story when Hudden and Dudden take Donald O'Neary to the Brown Lake of the Bog.



The Sea-Maiden

1 **Find** the correct answer from the following answers.

Because he was looking for work.

Because he had divided the dead sheep for them to eat.

Because he promised the life of his son in payment for the fish.

Why was the fisherman sad? _____

Why did the animals promise to help the young man? _____

Why did the young man go to the king's house? _____

2 **Put** the next parts of the story in order.

- He killed her with her magic club.
- A little old woman lived in the giant's castle.
- The cows didn't have much grass to eat, so the fisherman's son didn't eat much either.
- He took the cows to a green park, and when a giant appeared the cowherd and the black dog killed him.
- The giant's house was full of money and elegant clothes.
- He took the cows to a green valley, and when a giant appeared the cowherd cut off his head.
- The cowherd cut off the witch's head, but she put it back on again.

during reading

3 **Decide** if the cowherd, the princess or the general did these things.

The cowherd	The princess	The general	
			Ran away
			Was terrified
			Was handsome
			Was given a gold ring
			Was given a head
			Took the head
			Gave an earring
			Hid three times
			Lied three times
			Killed the beast

4 **Unjumble** the words to finish the story.

The cowherd was taken into the *hocl* _____ on the *ansaverniry* _____ of the day his father made the *sepromi* _____ to the sea-maiden. The *tuneforlleter* _____ told the princess to play her *pahr* _____ until her husband was safe. When the sea-maiden took the princess, the young man, the black horse and the black dog caught the *rede* _____. The falcon caught the *dribgons* _____, the otter caught the *turot* _____, and the young man broke the *geg* _____ and killed the sea-maiden.

Jack and his Comrades

1 **Identify** the characters.

_____ went to make his fortune till the potatoes were ready to eat.

The _____ was stuck in a bog.

The _____ was being mistreated by the village children.

The _____ hadn't eaten for days.

The _____ was going to be eaten by the fox.

2 **Choose** the best answer to these questions.

Why did the comrades go to sleep in the wood?

Because it was a warm, dry night.

Because it was too hot to sleep inside.

Why did the cockerel crow?

Because it saw the sun.

Because it saw a light.

Why were the robbers feasting and singing?

Because they were celebrating the Lord of Dunlavin's birthday.

Because they were celebrating robbing the Lord of Dunlavin.

Why did the robbers drink the health of the Lord's serving-man?

Because he had helped the robbers.

Because he had helped the Lord.

Why were the robbers frightened?

They thought there was a gang of killers outside.

They thought there was a group of animals outside.

during reading

Guleesh

1 **Find** the words to finish the sentences.

Guleesh and the fairies _____ over the sea to France.

The feasting and dancing in the palace was to _____ the marriage of the King of France's daughter.

Guleesh _____ the king's daughter was the loveliest woman in the world.

Guleesh did not _____ her to marry somebody she did not like - a prince or a fairy.

The little man made the girl invisible and then all the fairies and Guleesh _____ out of the palace with the princess.

When they got home, Guleesh made the sign of the cross to _____ the girl from the fairies.

One angry fairy _____ the girl and his magic took away her power of speech.

2 **Write** your answers.

Did Guleesh think his family might laugh at the princess? _____

Was the priest Guleesh's friend? _____

Did the priest tell the people of the village the truth? _____

Did the princess talk to Guleesh? _____

Did the princess stay with the priest for a year? _____

Did Guleesh try to contact the King of France? _____

Did the priest fall in love with the princess? _____

3 **Match** the beginnings and endings to describe what happened next.

Guleesh listened to...

the princess.

The fairies laughed at him for...

not knowing about the plant.

A fairy called Guleesh a fool for...

loving a woman who couldn't speak.

Guleesh prepared the plant and...

drank some juice.

He slept and slept and...

woke up able to speak.

Guleesh gave the juice to...

the fairies in the castle.

She slept and slept and...

woke up feeling well.

4 What kind of plant do you imagine could cure the king's daughter?
Draw it.

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for a drawing.

during reading

5 **Put** the following scenes in the correct order.

- Guleesh says some magic words that turn the horses into old brooms, broken sticks and other objects.
- Guleesh waited for three hours until the sheehogues came like a loud storm over the tops of the trees.
- Guleesh discovered a beautiful girl, with a face like the rose and the lily, and her mouth like the red strawberry.
- Guleesh found himself riding a horse and joining a happy group of little people.
- The priest wrote to the King of France, but his letters never arrived.

6 **Choose** the right words to complete the sentences.

friend tonight whirlwind farmer man girl
wind tears head horse night

One of them asked him, “Are you coming with us _____, Guleesh?” “I am,” said Guleesh. “If you are, come along!” said the little _____, and they all went out together, riding like the _____, faster than the fastest _____ you ever saw.

And the _____ of sheehogues flew away into the _____, leaving poor Guleesh standing where they found him, and the two eyes in his _____ looking after them and thinking hard.

The beautiful _____ stayed silent, but there were _____ in her eyes. “My lady,” said Guleesh, “tell me what you would like me to do. I was never a _____ of the sheehogues who carried you away. I am the son of an honest _____, and I went with them without knowing it.

1 **Categorise** these people, animals and objects from the stories.

Bridle and saddle Cobbler Deer Otter
Neddy Blacksmith Tanner Thistle Tom

People	Animals	Objects

2 **Match** the meanings to these Irish words that appear in the stories.

Erin	A deep lake like a fjord.
Folpornee	An invented expression to describe the noise and activity inside the fairy castle.
Fulparnee	This is an Irish name for Ireland.
Loch	An invented expression to describe the noise and activity inside the fairy castle.
Rap-lay-hoota	An Irish word for a Bronze-age fort made of earth, often believed to be a fairy castle.
Rath	An invented expression to describe the noise and activity inside the fairy castle.
Roolya-boolya	An Irish word for a fairy - a fallen angel who is not good but is not completely bad either.
Sheehogue	An invented expression to describe the noise and activity inside the fairy castle.

after reading

3 **Decide** which animal from the stories is being described.

A grey, four-legged creature that ate thistles, its friends stood on its head and it kicked the robber captain into a dunghill.

A poor, thin creature that didn't often give milk or butter, but when she was dead she gave pennies! _____

A three-headed monster that lived in a deep lake and ate a human being every year. _____

A delicate animal that lived on an island with a bird and a fish and an egg in its mouth. _____

A thin, hungry animal that slept by the fire and attacked the captain who thought it was an old woman combing her hair. _____

A mammal with four legs, a long tail and brown hair, which can swim very well. _____

4 **Choose** which story the following things come from.

The three heads of the Terrible Beast come from

_____.

The sacks full of gold and silver come from _____.

The magic plant with seven little branches, and seven leaves growing on every little branch comes from _____.

The great sword, greater than any the blacksmith had ever made before comes from _____.

The weighing-scales with a bit of butter and a piece of gold stuck to them come from _____.

5 Do you **remember** how the stories ended?

Poor Donald O'Neary had as many cows as his heart desired because

The young man jumped on an egg because

Jack and his friends and his mother lived comfortably and happily in the castle because

The princess married Guleesh because

6 **Choose** one story and invent a different ending. What happens at the end in your version?

after reading

- 7** **Draw** a picture of your favourite character or scene from one of the stories.

