

The Queen's Shawl

by Eleanor Nicholson



1 Once there was a greedy queen. She had many jewels and furs. She had four dresses for every day of the year. She had shoes of gold and silver. She had everything. But she always wanted something more.

2 One day the queen was looking for something to wear. She looked in all the rooms of the castle. But nothing pleased her. She picked up a shawl. It was a beautiful shawl. She had worn it once or twice.

3 "I'm tired of this old thing," she said. She threw the shawl out the window. It fell on the back of a poor old woman who was passing below.

4 A clever man saw this happen. He had an idea. He went up to the old woman.

5 "I will give you five hundred gold coins for that shawl," he said.

6 Now that was a lot of money. The old woman gladly sold the shawl. Then the clever man ran to the queen.

7 "Isn't this a lovely shawl, Your Highness?" he said. "It is for my wife."

8 The queen didn't realize that it was the same shawl she had thrown away. "It is lovely," she said. "I want it."

9 "I'm sorry," said the man. "You may not have it. It's for my wife."

10 "I *will* have it!" said the queen.

11 "No," said the man.

12 No one had ever said *no* to the queen before. She was furious.

13 "YES!" she screamed.

14 "No," he answered quietly.

15 "I will give you half my jewels and half my furs. I will even give you my gold bicycle," said the queen.

16 "Oh, all right," said the clever man.

17 The queen gave him all she had promised. She put the shawl round her shoulders. "It's the most beautiful thing I ever saw," she said happily.

18 Isn't that a nice story? Everyone was happy. The clever man was happy. His plan had worked. He was a very rich man now.

19 The old woman was happy too. She had five hundred gold coins. She never had to work again.

20 Even the greedy queen was happy. It was the first time she had ever given anything up to get what she wanted. And that made her love the shawl very much!



COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 The queen learned that
 - a** only someone with a lot of money can be happy.
 - b** something hard to get means more than something you get easily.
 - c** it is important to have many nice clothes to wear.
- 2 The queen's problem was that
 - a** she did not see well.
 - b** she had too many jewels.
 - c** she wanted too much.
- 3 The queen became furious with the man because
 - a** she was used to always getting her own way.
 - b** he had fooled her into buying her own shawl.
 - c** he charged her more than he paid the old woman.

- 4 The man knew his plan was working when
 - a** his wife wanted a present.
 - b** the old woman walked by.
 - c** the queen got very angry.
- 5 You know the man was clever because he
 - a** guessed the queen wouldn't know her own shawl.
 - b** wanted to buy a present for his wife.
 - c** helped the poor woman by giving her money.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 large stone building with towers; palace (2)
- 2 satisfied; gave pleasure to (2)
- 3 cloth covering for the head or shoulders (2)
- 4 smart; quick-thinking (4)
- 5 beautiful; attractive (7)
- 6 understand; recognize (8)
- 7 very angry; raging (12)
- 8 agreed; given her word on (17)



LEARN ABOUT WORDS *(continued)*

C **too** = also

two = the number after *one*

Words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings are called homophones. *Too* and *two* are homophones.

Look at each word in **bold type**. Note the paragraph number. Look

at the paragraph and find the homophone. Which of the two words fits in the blank in the sentence? Write the word.

9 fore (1)

She wore _____ dresses today.

10 maid (20)

The shawl _____ her happy.

THINK ABOUT IT

D The bird's **song** was as **sweet** as **honey**.

This sentence helps you understand how sweet the bird's song was. The phrase "as sweet as honey" is a figure of speech. It is a different way of saying that the bird's song was very lovely.

Choose the word from the first two sentences that best fits in the blank. Write the word.

- 1** Milk is cloudy. Glass is clear. The queen's diamonds were as _____ as glass.
- 2** The flowers are young. The hills are old. The house was as old as the _____.
- 3** A fox is quick. A turtle is slow. The clever man was as quick as a _____.
- 4** The night is dark. The sun is bright. Her gold bicycle was as bright as the _____.
- 5** A king is rich. A church mouse is poor. The clever man became as rich as a _____.

E A dictionary is a list of words in alphabetical order. The top of each dictionary page has two words printed in large, heavy type. These words are called guide words. They are the first and last words on the page. By thinking about whether the word you are hunting for fits between the guide words, you can find the word quickly.

Read the pair of guide words. Would each word below appear on the same page as the guide words? Write *Yes* or *No*.

shawl/shook

- 6** shoes
- 7** share
- 8** she
- 9** shall
- 10** shoulders