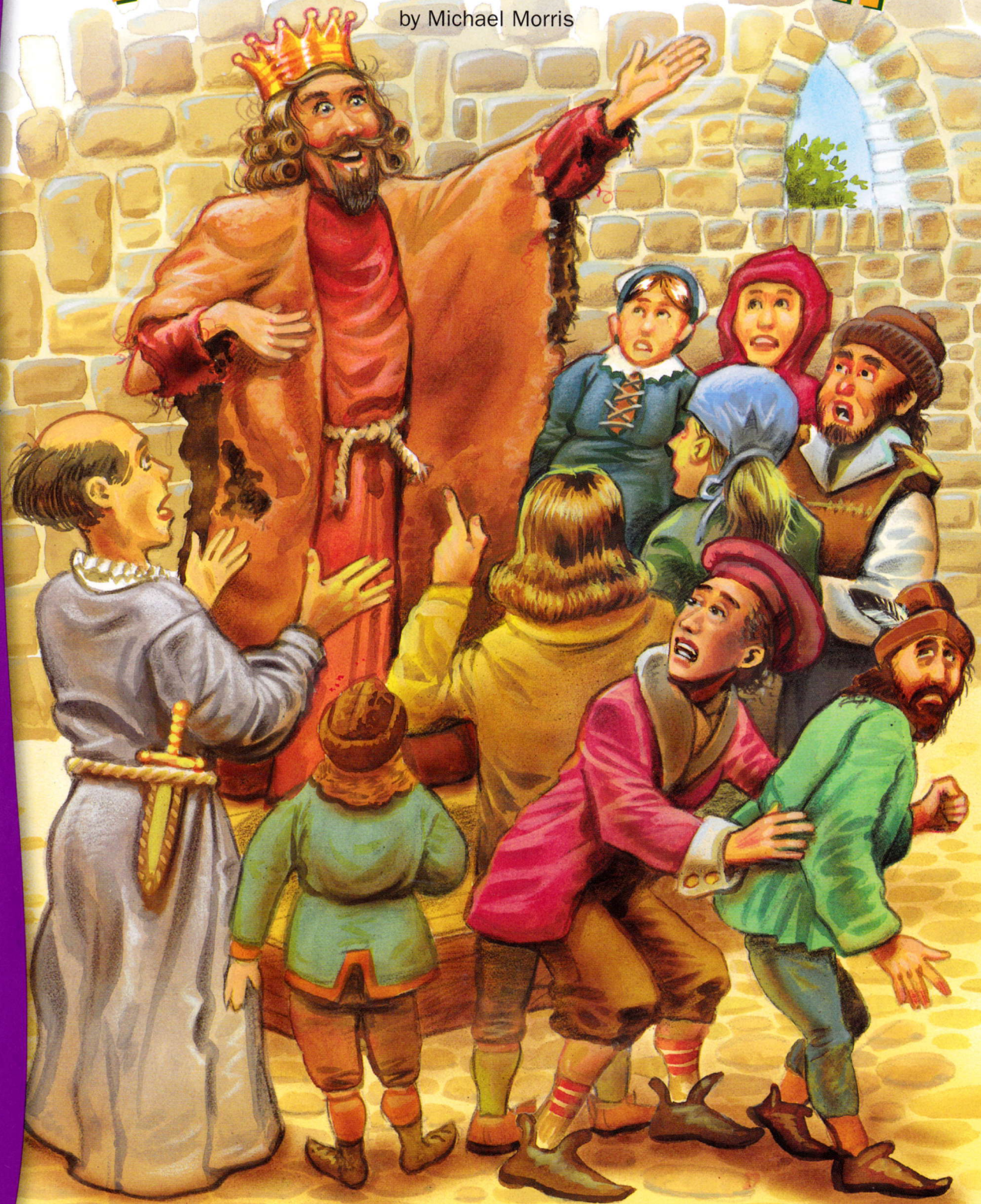


The King's Lesson

by Michael Morris



- 1 A long time ago in a land far away lived a very snooty king. He was supposed to be ruling his kingdom, but all he really cared about was himself. He especially liked to look grand. He spent huge amounts of money on clothes. He probably had more clothes than all the people in his entire kingdom combined.
- 2 Now it just so happens that a lot of people passed through the king's kingdom. Some were good. Some were not. One day a couple of not-so-good people came to town. They heard about the king's interest in clothes and saw a chance to make some money. They went to the palace and said they were weavers. They told the king they could make the finest cloth he or anyone had ever seen. They said that not only was it the most beautiful and colorful cloth ever woven, it was also invisible to anyone who was not clever. The king quickly gave the thieves bags of gold, which they hid. The weavers wasted no time pretending to be hard at work.
- 3 After a while the king was curious about how the cloth was coming. He thought about going himself, but he didn't want to risk not being able to see it. He couldn't have the people saying he was not clever. He sent his advisor because he knew the advisor was very smart.
- 4 When the advisor arrived, the weavers pretended to hold up the cloth. They made a big deal of how beautiful it was. "Don't you just love the silky feeling?" they asked the advisor. "Don't you just adore the brilliant colors?" The advisor was shocked because he couldn't see anything. He didn't want anyone else to know that, so he agreed with them.
- 5 Later at the castle, the advisor confided to one of the servants that he hadn't really seen anything. As luck would have it, the king overheard. The next day he went to look at the cloth himself. As with the advisor, the weavers raved about the cloth. The king also could not see it, but he did not let the weavers know this. He was hurt that they had taken advantage of his love of clothing and had stolen his money.
- 6 The king decided to teach the weavers a lesson. He announced that there would be a grand parade and he would wear his new clothing. The weavers pretended to work day and night to sew a fine suit for the king. However, the king had a set of old rags that he intended to wear.
- 7 On the day of the parade, the king walked down the street wearing the tattered clothes with his head held high. All the people gasped. Then the king spoke. He said, "I've been a fool. I let my desire for clothes get in the way of everything else. But these men are not weavers. They are thieves. They took my money, but these clothes are better than what they made. I'll tell everyone in the kingdom what shoddy work they do."
- 8 The thieves quietly and quickly left town. They left so quickly that they left the king's gold behind. The king used the gold to buy new clothes for everyone in the kingdom, and the weavers were never seen again.

COMPREHENSION

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

- 1 An important lesson in this story was that the
 - a king lost money.
 - b thieves learned they couldn't cheat people.
 - c king changed his attitude toward clothing.
- 2 The king probably liked clothing so much because he
 - a liked people to notice him.
 - b looked good in clothes.
 - c had lots of money to spend.
- 3 The thieves said people who are not clever cannot see the cloth because they
 - a knew that no one in the kingdom was clever.
 - b knew no one would ever want to admit that they are not clever.
 - c were not clever themselves.

- 4 When the king learned that he had been tricked, he didn't say anything because he
 - a was too embarrassed.
 - b thought the advisor was lying.
 - c wanted to surprise the thieves with a lesson of their own.
- 5 The thieves probably left town so quickly because they
 - a were angry.
 - b were ashamed.
 - c wanted to spend their gold.

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 snobbish; thinking you are better than everyone else (1)
- 2 one who gives advice (3)
- 3 told as a secret (5)
- 4 talked with too much enthusiasm or feeling (5)
- 5 worn or ragged; having holes and tears (7)
- 6 want (7)
- 7 unacceptable; of poor quality (7)

C A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

The *fly* buzzed around the room.
The bird will *fly* to its nest.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

- 8 **grand** (1)
 - a a thousand dollars
 - b magnificent
- 9 **saw** (2)
 - a tool for cutting
 - b to have seen
- 10 **spoke** (7)
 - a talked to
 - b support in a wheel

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** undone = **un** + done
redone = **re** + done

The letters *un-* and *re-* are called prefixes. A prefix is added to the beginning of a word. It changes the word's meaning. *Un-* sometimes means "not." The word *undone* means "not done." *Re-* means "again." The word *redone* means "done again."

Read each set of sentences. Choose the word in parentheses () that makes sense. Write the word.

- 1 The king's interest in clothing was not healthy. He had an (unhealthy, rehealthy) desire for clothes.
- 2 The thieves will never visit this kingdom again. They will not (unvisit, revisit) where they are not welcome.
- 3 The thieves were not lucky that the king had learned a lesson. They were (relucky, unlucky).
- 4 The story of the king and his foolishness has been told again and again. It has been (untold, retold) for ages.
- 5 The king was not happy that the thieves made him look like a fool. He was very (rehappy, unhappy).

- E** Some contractions are made by putting a verb and *not* together.

isn't is made from *is not*

Other contractions are made by putting a pronoun and a verb together.

she's is made from *she is*

they've is made from *they have*

Read each sentence. Which two words make up each underlined contraction? Write the two words.

- 6 The advisor didn't see the special cloth.
- 7 The king announced that there'd be a big parade so he could show off his new clothes.

- 8 The advisor wasn't in a good mood after he went to the weavers.
- 9 The king told his people, "I've been a fool."
- 10 The thieves could've taken a lot of money from the king.

- F** Writers try to make stories more interesting by using colorful or funny language that doesn't mean exactly what the words say.

The man was *scared to death*.

This sentence means that the man was very scared. It doesn't mean the man died.

Read the sentences. What does each sentence really mean? Write *a* or *b*.

- 11 The weavers "made a big deal" about how beautiful the cloth was means they
 - a played cards.
 - b said wonderful things about it.
- 12 The king really liked to "dress up" means he
 - a wore nice clothes.
 - b put on his shoes first and his hat last.
- 13 The king finally saw "the big picture" means he
 - a understood what the thieves were doing.
 - b was looking at a painting.
- 14 The king "felt blue" when he realized he had been a fool means he
 - a was actually turning blue.
 - b felt sad.
- 15 The king learned that the weavers were "pulling his leg" means they
 - a were fooling him.
 - b grabbed his foot and pulled.