

The Monkey King

Retold by Rosemary Border

Read this passage. Circle any words in the highlighted section that you do not understand.

In the garden, Monkey was finishing the last peach. He looked at the empty bowls. 'The Emperor will be angry,' he thought. 'I must leave now.'

Just then the Master of the Emperor's soldiers arrived. The Twelve Thunder Generals were with him. They saw the empty bowls.

'Bad monkey!' the Master of the Emperor's soldiers shouted. 'I'm going to punish you!' He lifted his big axe and ran towards Monkey. Monkey took his stick from behind his ear. 'Bigger!' he ordered. The two of them fought like tigers.

'Grow!' shouted the Master of the Emperor's soldiers. Suddenly he was a hundred feet tall.

'Grow!' shouted Monkey, and he was a hundred feet tall too.

They fought for a long time. The Twelve Thunder Generals watched. They waited for orders. Suddenly Monkey shouted, 'Smaller!' He jumped into the air. He flew over the Master's head, and hit him with his stick.



(from pages 38–39)

How many words have you circled? Write the number here:

What level should you be reading?

If you circled 0 words, this level may be too easy for you. Try the level above this one.

If you circled 1–4 words, this level may be right for you. Try another sample to be sure.

If you circled 5 words or more, this level may be too hard for you. Ask your teacher about the following series of readers published by Oxford University Press:

- *Read with Phinnie* (Level 6)
- *Reading Rainbow* (Level 6)
- *Oxford Storyland Readers* (Level 12)

The Emperor's New Clothes and Other Stories by Hans Christian Andersen

Retold by Janice Tibbetts

Read this passage. Circle any words in the highlighted section that you do not understand.

One night there was a storm. There was loud thunder and lightning. The rain poured down the streets like rivers. Suddenly there was knocking on the castle door. A servant opened the door. Then the family heard voices.

'Please let me in. I'm so wet and cold,' said a girl's voice.

'Go away. This is the King's castle. If you have something to sell, go to the kitchen door. Or if you want a job, come back tomorrow.'

'I'm not selling anything,' said the girl. 'And I'm not a servant. I'm a princess. My carriage fell into a river. All my servants ran away. I'm lost. I just want to come out of this storm.'

'A princess!' said the Prince.

'A princess?' said the Queen. She turned to the old King. 'Go and see if she really is a princess.'

So the King went to the door. But the girl did not look at all like a princess. Water was running down her face. Her hair looked like rats' tails. The rain ran down into her shoes. But she said she was a real princess. So the old King brought her in to meet the family.



(from *The Princess and the Pea*, pages 41–42)

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