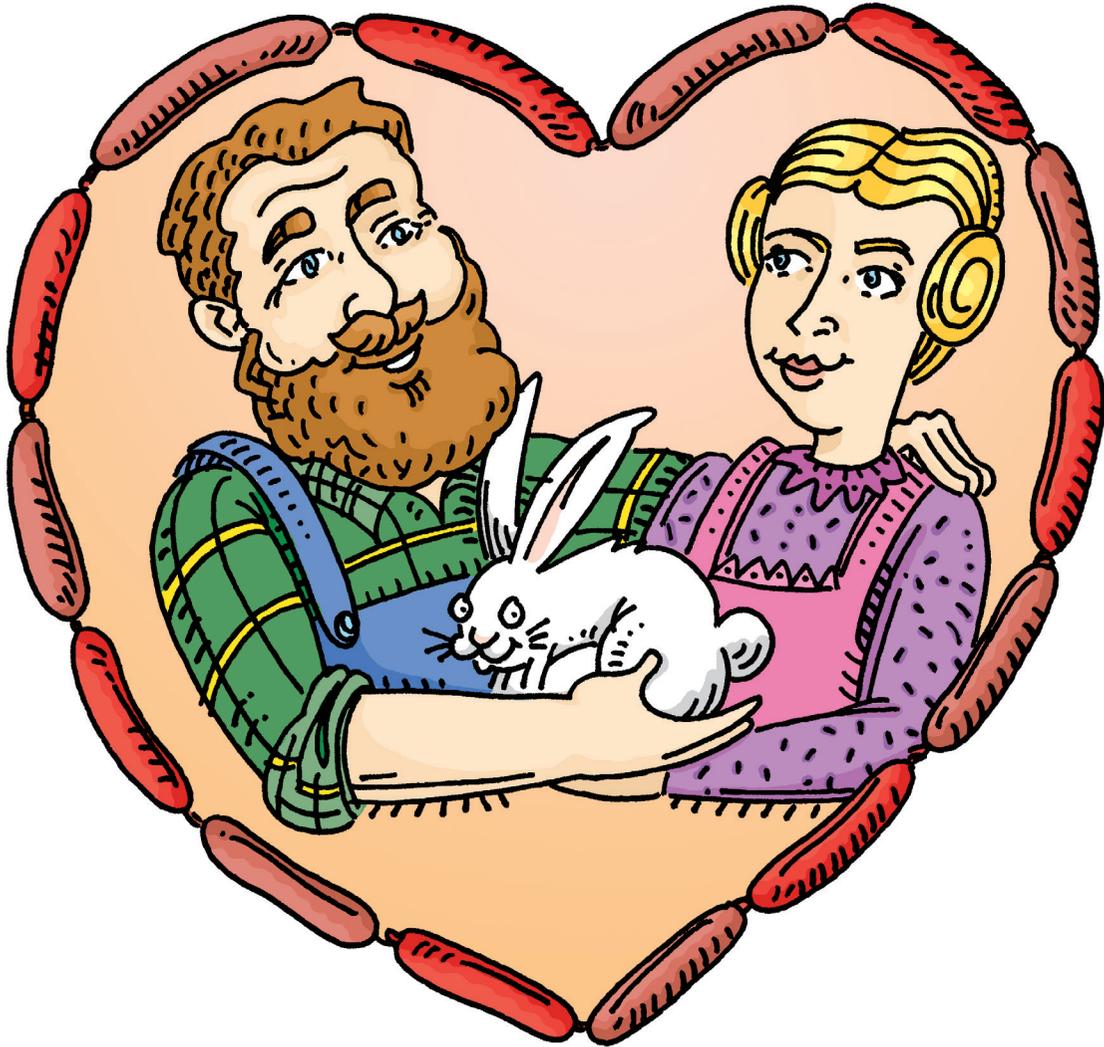


The Three Wishes



Story by Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Scott Mattern

Green Words and Challenge* Words:

1			
than	hamlet	*between	wishes
forest	*around	stomped	*disappeared
*lived	dashed	thank	
2			
things	thrilled	those	chairs
think	*clothes	lunch	*wasted
3			
*second	*gold	*sorry	*tasted
yanked	thinking	*use	

Red Words to practice every day:

there	soup	again	gone
sausage	didn't		



Once upon a time, there was a woodcutter named Garth. He lived in a small hamlet near Stockholm. One winter day, Garth went down a path to the forest. He began to chop trees.

With each chop he said, “I cut trees. (Chop!) I cannot stop. (Chop!) I must cut lots more so that my wife and I can eat. (Chop!) I must cut even more than this. (Chop!)”



Suddenly a thin white rabbit dashed out of the trees. A barking dog was chasing the scared little rabbit. The rabbit jumped into Garth's arms! Garth stuffed the thin little rabbit into his thick jacket. The dog ran around Garth's legs, looking for the missing rabbit.



“Go home, dog!” yelled Garth. He waved his arms and stomped his feet. The dog ran off with his tail between his legs.

The rabbit peeked out of the jacket.

“Thank you,” said the rabbit.



Then the rabbit jumped onto a log. Garth blinked. The rabbit had disappeared! There sat an elf with a thick beard.

“Oh!!” said Garth.

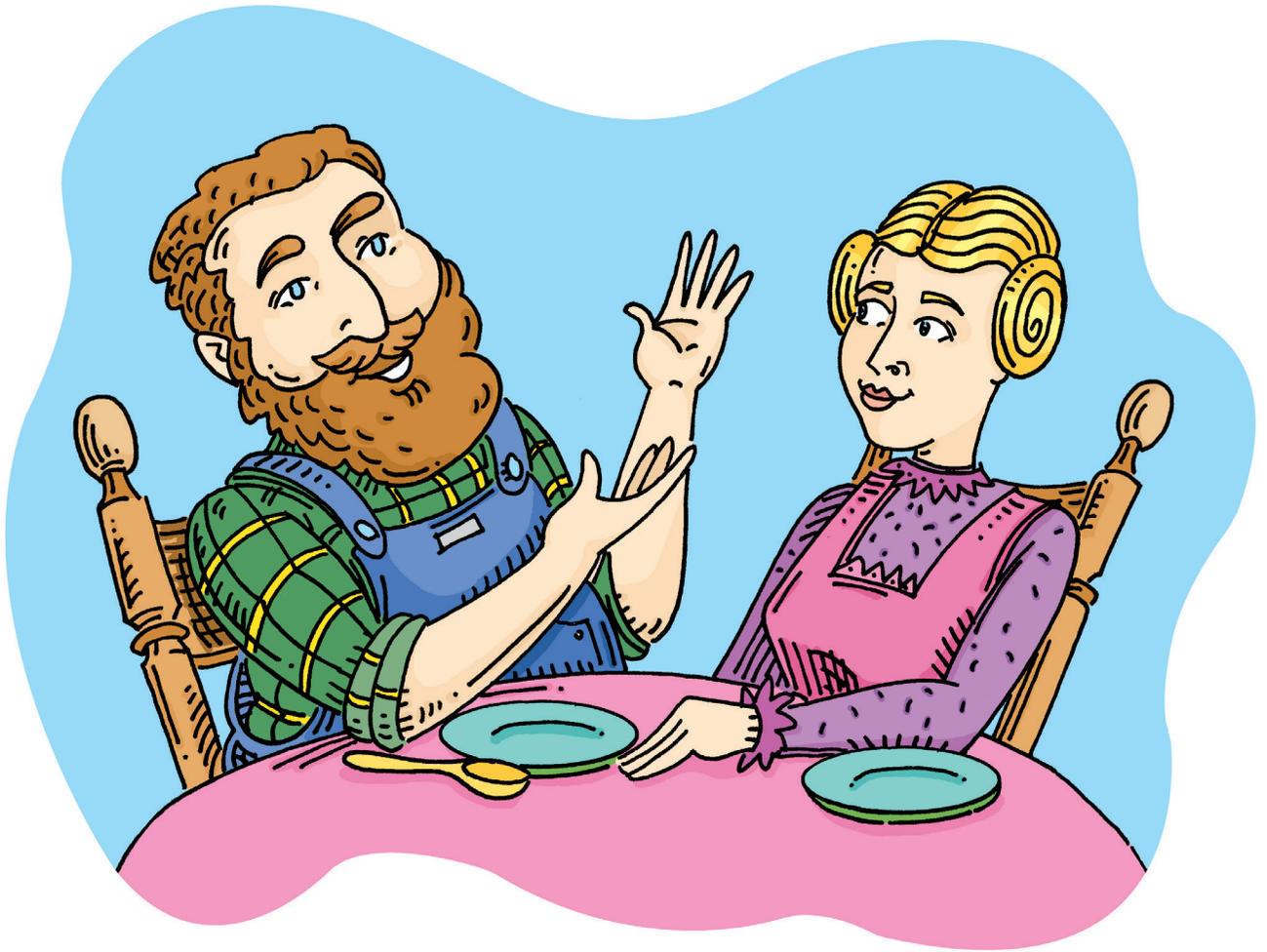
The elf said, “You are nice. You saved me from the dog. To thank you for saving my life, I will grant you three wishes.”

Then there was a flash. The elf disappeared!



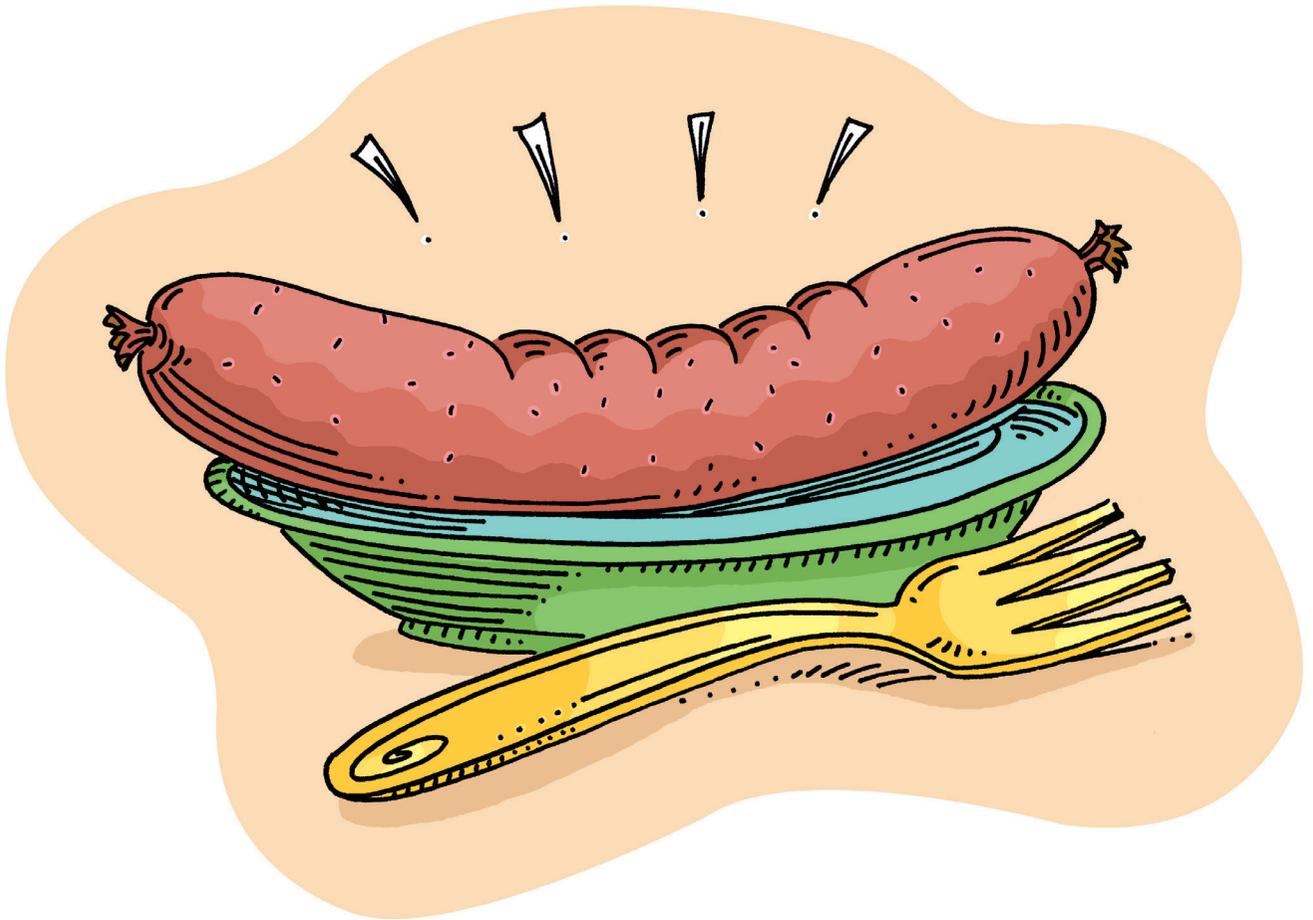


Garth ran home to tell his wife. She was thrilled.
“Let us think of the best wishes to make,” she said.
“We need more to eat. We need more clothes than we have.
We need LOTS of things!”



“Yes,” agreed Garth. “We need those things. And we need a home, not this hut. . . .”

They chatted about wishes. She made lunch. They sat in their chairs to eat.



Garth saw his lunch. “What?” he said. “This thin soup AGAIN?”

“Yes,” said his wife. “I wish we had a nice, thick sausage to eat, but. . .” And on the plate was a sausage.

“Oh, no!” Garth yelled. “You made a wish! We have wasted one of our wishes on a silly sausage for our lunch.”



The woodcutter was mad at his wife. He yelled, “I do not want this sausage. I wish it was stuck to the tip of your silly nose.” Suddenly, it was. The thick sausage was hanging from the tip of her nose.





Garth's wife stared down at the sausage hanging from the tip of her nose. She yanked it.

"Ouch!" she yelled. It was stuck fast and did not come off.

"Thanks to you our second wish is gone," she sobbed. "And now I have a sausage stuck on my nose."

Garth said, "Do not be sad. We still have one wish left. We can wish for lots and lots of gold."



“Gold?” screamed the wife. “What about my nose? I do not want this thing hanging there all my life.”

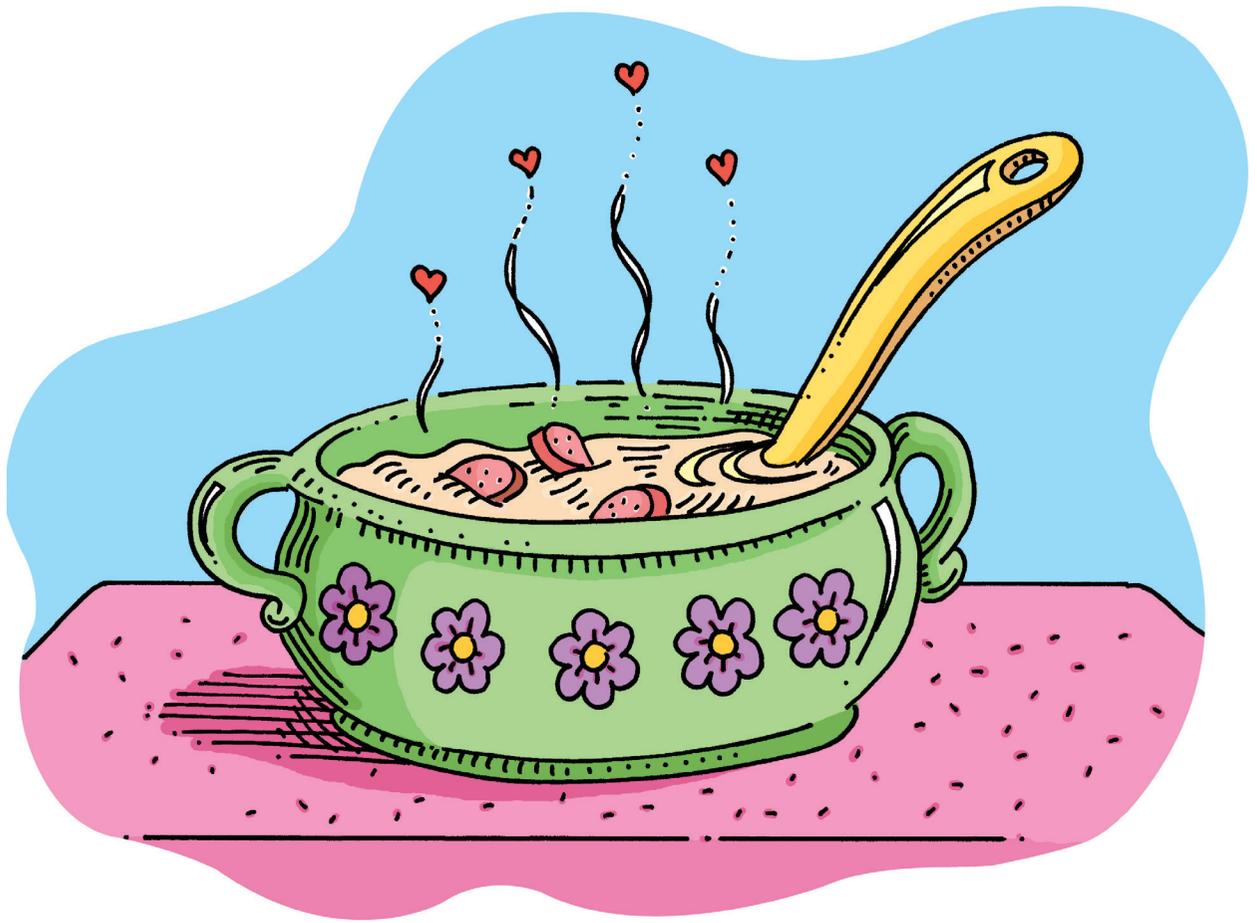
The woodcutter hugged his wife. “I am sorry I was thinking more about getting rich than I was about your feelings. We will use our last wish to get rid of that silly sausage.”



They said, “We wish the sausage would go back on the plate.” And it was.

“Oh dear,” Garth’s wife said, “We have no more wishes, and things are just the same as they were.”

“Yes,” Garth agreed, “That’s too bad. But I like to see you smile. You did not smile with that thing on your nose.”



They cut up the thick sausage and dropped it into the soup pot. Garth kissed his wife and said, “This is a good meal!”

They ate the soup for lunch. They had the soup for the rest of the week. It was the best soup they had ever tasted!

1. Where did the elf come from?

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Garth chopped trees in the _____ . stomped
 The rabbit _____ out of the trees. forest
 Garth _____ his feet to scare the dog. dashed

1. How did the sausage get stuck on Garth's wife's nose?

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Garth's wife was _____ to have wishes. clothes
 Garth's wife wanted to wish for _____. wasted
 Garth _____ a wish when he was mad. thrilled

1. Why didn't Garth wish for gold?

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Garth's wife _____ at the sausage on her nose. soup
 They _____ the sausage back on the plate. yanked
 They put the sausage in the _____. wished

Reading Roots, Level 4
The Three Wishes

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Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

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