The Three Wishes

Story by Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Scott Mattern
Green Words and Challenge* Words:

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>than (1)</td>
<td>hamlet (1)</td>
<td>*between (3)</td>
<td>wishes (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forest (1)</td>
<td>*around (2)</td>
<td>stomped (3)</td>
<td>*disappeared (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*lived (1)</td>
<td>dashed (2)</td>
<td>thank (3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

things (5) thrilled (5) those (6) chairs (6)
think (5) *clothes (5) lunch (6) *wasted (7)

*second (9) *gold (9) *sorry (10) *tasted (12)
yanked (9) thinking (10) *use (10)

Red Words to practice every day:

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>there (1)</td>
<td>soup (7)</td>
<td>again (7)</td>
<td>gone (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
sausage (7) | didn’t |   |

Challenge Words are starred (*).
Explain how underlined words are used in the story.
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!)”

Where did Garth live? [He lived in a hamlet.] A “hamlet” is a very small town.
What was he doing in the forest? [He was chopping trees.]
Why did he have to cut trees? [He and his wife needed money to buy food.]
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.

What did Garth see come out of the trees? [Garth saw a little white rabbit being chased by a barking dog.]

What did Garth do to help the rabbit? [He stuffed the rabbit into his jacket.]
“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.

What did Garth do to get the dog to go away? [He waved his arms and stomped his feet.]
What did the rabbit do? [He said, “Thank you.”] Could that really happen? (WGR) [no]
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!

What happened to the rabbit? [The rabbit changed into an elf.]
What is the elf going to do? [He is going to give Garth three wishes because he saved his life.]
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!”

How did Garth’s wife feel? [She was thrilled.]

What were some things that they needed? [They needed more to eat, more clothes.]

Make a Prediction: What will Garth and his wife wish for?
(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
“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.”

What did Garth’s wife wish for? [Garth’s wife wished for a nice, thick sausage.]
Did she really want to wish for a sausage, or was it an accident? [It was an accident.]
Why was Garth mad? [One of their wishes was already used.]
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 yelled something about the sausage. What did he say? [“I wish it was stuck to the tip of your silly nose.”]

Did Garth really want to wish that, or was it an accident? [It was an accident.]

How do you think Garth’s wife felt? (T-P-S)
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.”

“Stuck fast” means “stuck tight.”

What did Garth’s wife do? [She tried to pull the sausage off of her nose.]

How many wishes do they have left? [They have one wish left.]

What does Garth want to wish for? [Garth wants to wish for 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.”

Why was Garth’s wife mad at him for wishing for gold? [She wanted to use the wish for her nose. She didn’t want the sausage hanging from her nose for the rest of her life.]

What will Garth wish for? [He will wish for the sausage to fall off of her nose.]
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.”

Do they have any more wishes? (WGR) [no]
Why is Garth happy? [Garth is happy because his wife can smile again.]
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!

What did they do with the sausage? [They cut it up and dropped it into the soup pot.]
How was the soup? [It was the best soup they ever had.]
Model: **How did Garth help the rabbit?**

[Garth hid the rabbit in his jacket. / Garth saved the rabbit from the dog.]

1. **Where did the elf come from?**

[The rabbit turned into an elf.]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

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

---

Model: **What were Garth and his wife going to wish for?**

[Garth and his wife were going to wish for food, clothes, and a new home.]

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

[Garth was mad. Garth wished that the sausage was stuck to his wife’s nose.]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

   Garth’s wife was [thrilled] to have wishes.
   
   Garth’s wife wanted to wish for [clothes].
   
   Garth [wasted] a wish when he was mad.

---

Model: **How did Garth and his wife use their last wish?**

[Garth and his wife wished the sausage would go back on the plate.]

1. **Why didn’t Garth wish for gold?**

[Garth wanted his wife to be happy. / Garth wanted his wife to smile. / Garth did not want his wife to have a sausage on her nose all her life.]

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

   Garth’s wife [yanked] at the sausage on her nose.
   
   They [wished] the sausage back on the plate.
   
   They put the sausage in the [soup].
The Three Wishes

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.

Illustrations for this book were colored digitally by James Bravo.

© 2003 Success for All Foundation. All rights reserved.