

Two Boys



*The people danced and sang when the new prince was born.
But no one sang for the poor boy.*

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentences under the picture.
 4. Read the first paragraph of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that long ago, on the same day,
 a. two boys were born.
 b. two princes were born.
 c. two kings were born.
 d. two girls were born.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out what happens when Tom meets the prince.

Two Boys

A long time ago, in the city of London, a poor family had a new baby boy. On the very same day, the king and his wife had a baby, too. All the people were happy about the king's baby boy. They sang and danced in the streets. Edward, the new little prince, had fine clothes. He could have anything he wanted.

The other baby was named Tom Canty. No one sang or danced for him. A rag was all that kept him warm. His family did not know how they would find food for him.

Tom Canty lived in a poor, dirty part of London. He did not even have a bed and had to sleep on the floor. So did his sister Bet and his other sister, Nan. Tom's mother and sisters were good and kind, but his father was not.

Every day, Tom's father sent him out to ask people for money. If Tom came home with nothing, his father would be angry.

Young Tom did not go to school. A kind man named Father Andrew showed him how to read and write. Father Andrew told wonderful stories, too, all about kings and princes.

Tom wished he had fine, clean clothes like a prince. But there was one thing he

wanted more than anything. His big wish was to see a prince with his own eyes.

One day Tom found himself in a strange part of the city. Suddenly he saw a great gate of gold. And then he saw something that almost made him shout. It was a boy dressed in shiny clothes, with a long feather in his cap. Tom's eyes were big with wonder. He knew this boy must be a prince.

Just then, one of the guards at the gate pulled Tom away. The young prince cried, "Do not hurt the boy! Open the gate."

Inside, Prince Edward asked Tom about his family and his life. Tom told him about his two sisters.

"I wish I could run and play as you do," said the prince.

"I wish I could, just once, wear fine clothes as you do," said Tom.

"Then take off your rags," said the prince, throwing his own clothes to the floor. Soon the two boys were dressed in each other's clothes. But what a surprise!

"We look so much like each other that you could be my twin," cried the prince. "Only our clothes are different."

Then the prince saw that

Tom's hand was cut. He rose to go find the guard who had hurt Tom. But first, he took something round and shiny off the table. He looked for a place to hide it. Then he ran out to tell the guard he should not have hit Tom. To the prince's surprise, the guard threw him into the road.

"I am the prince!" Edward shouted.

The guard and the others just laughed. This was no prince. This was just a poor boy dressed in rags. Nothing but a pauper!

Two Boys

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. Prince Edward
 a. could have anything he wanted.
 b. did not have to go to school.
 c. was not well liked.
 d. was a crybaby.
2. Tom Canty
 a. came from a poor family.
 b. had lots of money.
 c. had a kind father.
 d. was an only child.
3. Tom Canty had
 a. many brothers.
 b. two sisters.
 c. two mothers.
 d. two fathers.
- ④ Tom Canty did not like
 a. money.
 b. fine clothes.
 c. being poor.
 d. London.
5. Tom's big wish was to
 a. go to school.
 b. read and write.
 c. have his own bed.
 d. see a real prince.
6. When Tom saw the prince at the gate,
 a. the prince told the guard to let Tom inside.
 b. the guards chased him away.
 c. he ran home to tell his sisters.
 d. he ran home to tell his friends.
7. When Tom and the prince changed clothes, they were surprised to find that
 a. the king was watching.
 b. the guards were laughing.
 c. they looked just like each other.
 d. the prince had a hole in his shoe!
8. The guard threw Edward into the road because
 a. he thought he was just a poor boy dressed in rags.
 b. Edward pushed him.
 c. Tom Canty told the guard to throw him out.
 d. the king told the guard to throw him out.
9. Another name for this story could be
 a. "Tom's Wish Comes True."
 b. "The Gate Made of Gold."
 c. "Tom's New Friend."
 d. "Long Ago in London."
10. This story is mainly about
 a. Tom and his poor family.
 b. a boy who wanted to be a prince.
 c. how Tom learned to read and write.
 d. how a little fun changed the lives of two boys.

Preview Answer:

- a. two boys were born.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.

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