

The Magic Forest



Ethan's First Story
as told to Grampa John Bonthron

This story was made up by Ethan (age 4) for his big cousin Matthew (age7).

As the story was being told, Ethan drew the picture of The Magic Forest to help Grampa understand what the story was about.

One day a little girl called Goldilocks was in The Magic Forest trying to find the cottage where her friend Little Red Riding Hood lived with her Grandmother.

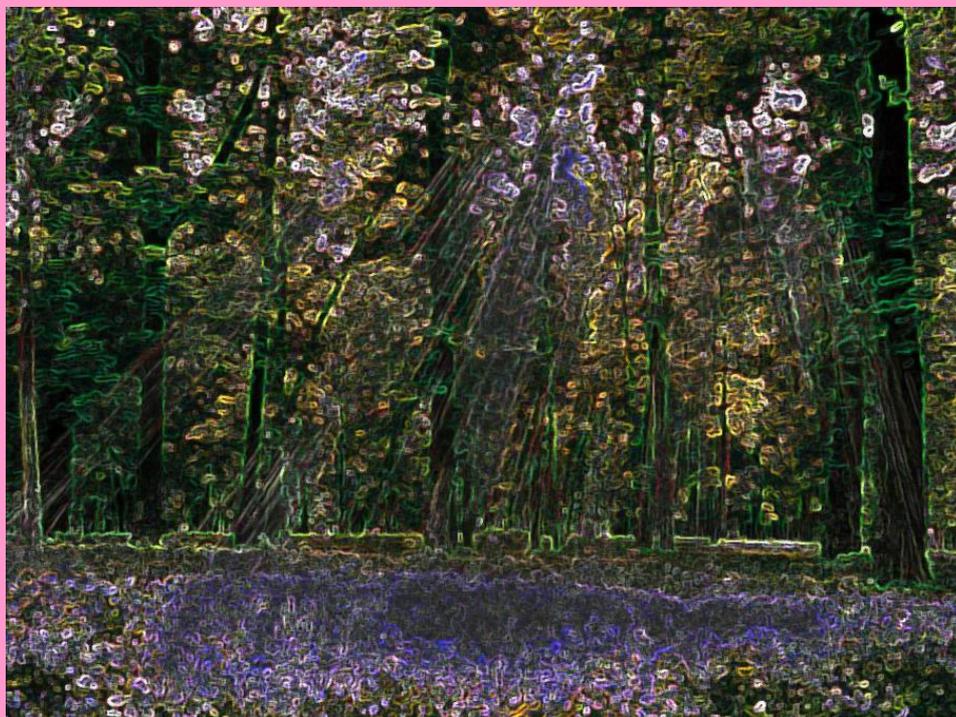


Grandma Hood's cottage was made of strong brown chocolate bricks which could not be blown down even by the strongest wind.

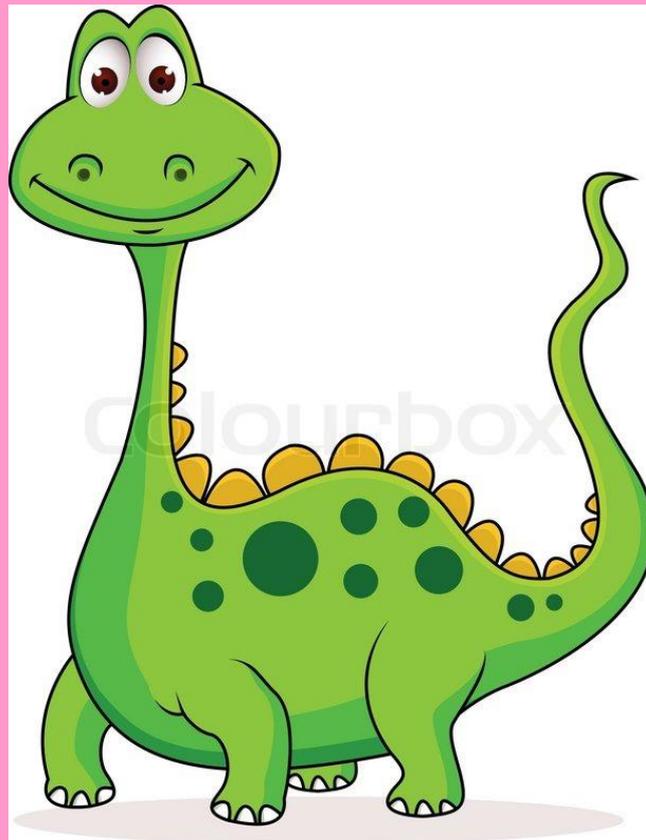


The roof was made of honey straw which tasted delicious. Everything inside the cottage was also made of honey and chocolate of different kinds and colours. Instead of eating food you just ate bits of furniture which the bees came and re-built after you left.

It wasn't easy to find Grandma Hood's chocolate brick cottage because there were lots of very tall trees blocking Goldilocks' path. She could easily have got lost in The Magic Forest but she was lucky because she was riding on top of her friend Derek the Dinosaur.



Derek was a dinosaur with a very friendly smile. He had very sharp teeth but he didn't bite anyone because he was a plant-eating dinosaur called a Veggiasaurus.



Derek also had very big feet about the size of a double-decker bus which meant when he walked, the ground shook and made a "DOINK! DOINK! DOINK! DOINK!" noise which frightened all the forest mice and rabbits back down into their underground homes. Only the spiders and ladybirds weren't frightened because they lived in the trees with the magnetic monkeys.

Goldilocks did not like walking on the forest floor because it was covered with deep piles of purple leaves full of snakes and grasshoppers and very wriggly worms which tickled your ankles.

To get to Grandma Hood's cottage Goldilocks was sitting on top of Derek's head. Because she was high up above the trees she could see the chocolate cottage.

Another thing about Derek the Dinosaur was he had tiny wee eyes but he had lost his spectacles and needed Goldilocks to tell him where to go.

Instead of reins, she guided Derek by pulling at his ears and by kicking her heels into his neck. Goldilocks had very sharp pointed heels but Derek did not mind because he had very thick strong skin like steel.

When Goldilocks got near to Grandma Hood's cottage she spotted her friends The Three Bears who were carrying bags of food to have a barbecue in the garden.

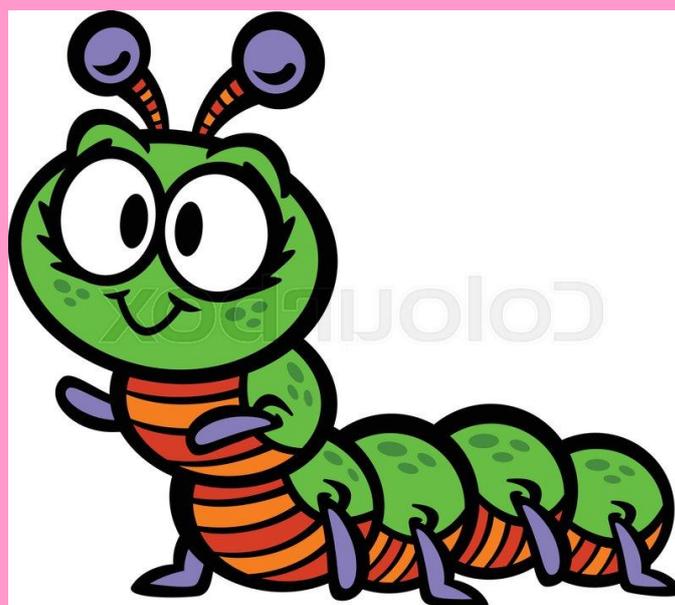


Daddy Bear was pushing a wheelbarrow with a barbecue balanced on it. Mummy Bear was wearing a big rucksack filled with nice sausages and burgers and Baby Bear was carrying a cool box filled with tubs of vanilla ice cream and trays of raspberries and strawberries and chunks of mango.

Goldilocks looked down and saw Three Little Piggies coming towards the other side of Grandma Hood's cottage. The biggest little piggy was riding on a unicorn called Matthew and the other two little piggies were on circus horses called Mirren and Jessica.



Grandma Hood and Little Red Riding Hood were standing in the garden beside the chocolate cottage waving up to Goldilocks sitting on Derek's head. Suddenly, out of the forest came a huge big caterpillar.



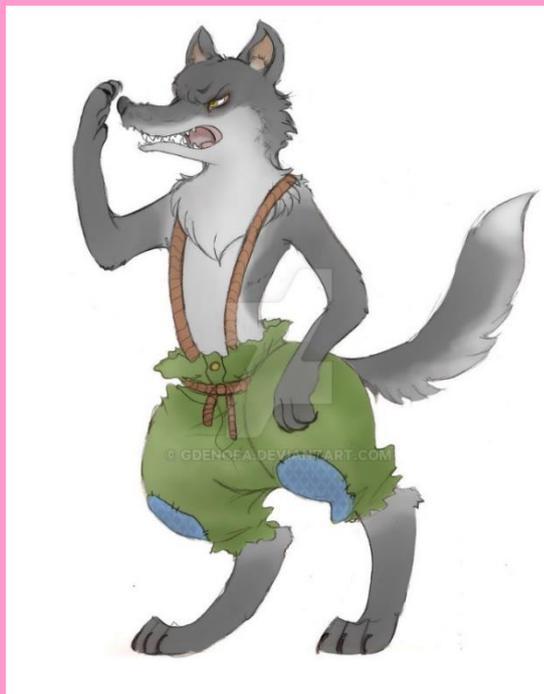
Sticking out from under this disguise was a long swishy grey tail.

Goldilocks shouted down:

"Watch out! That's not a caterpillar, it's The Big Bad Wolf."

Grandma Hood ran inside but Little Red Riding Hood used her magic boots and flew up onto the roof and hid behind the chimney.

Inside the cottage Grandma Hood shoved the kitchen table over into the corner and pulled the rug away from the trap door. She then hid in the cupboard and put her hand on the lever which could open the trap door.



Goldilocks saw the Big Bad Wolf knocking at the door of Grandma Hood's cottage and heard him saying:

"Hello in there, Little Red Riding Hood. I'm your lonely old Aunty Polly from the other side of The Magic Forest. I've come to visit you. Please open the door."



From the roof, Little Red Riding Hood shouted down the chimney:

"Oh, how nice of you to come to visit us Aunty Polly. Can you smell our very-nice-to-eat furniture with your big long whiskery wet nose? Oh, do come in and have a nibble at our lovely furniture with your very large sharp pointed teeth. But always

remember to brush them after eating sweet things.”

The Big Bad Wolf threw open the door with a loud bang and rushed in. Grandma Hood was hiding in the cupboard and turned the lever to open the trap door and The Big Bad Wolf fell through the hole down, down, down into an underground river and landed with a great big splash.



Waiting for The Big Bad Wolf was The Enormous Very Hungry Green Crocodile who swam over and swallowed The Big Bad Wolf in one huge gulp.

From inside The Green Crocodile all that could be heard was a voice saying:

"Let me out! It's dark and horrible and stinky in here. Let me out. Please let me out. I promise to be good from now on. Please."

The Green Crocodile said nothing. He just swam to the side of the underground river, crawled out, closed his eyes and fell fast asleep.

From the kitchen cupboard in the chocolate cottage, Grandma Hood turned the lever to close the trap door shut. She put back the rug to cover it and pulled back the table.

Outside in the garden Daddy Bear had the burgers and sausages sizzling on the barbecue. There was sparkling juice and crispy rolls with butter. Baby Bear was running around playing pretending to be Marshall from Paw Patrol. Little Red Riding Hood was playing hide and seek with The Three Little Piggies.

Derek the Dinosaur lowered his long neck down to ground level and Goldilocks jumped off and ran across to join the party.

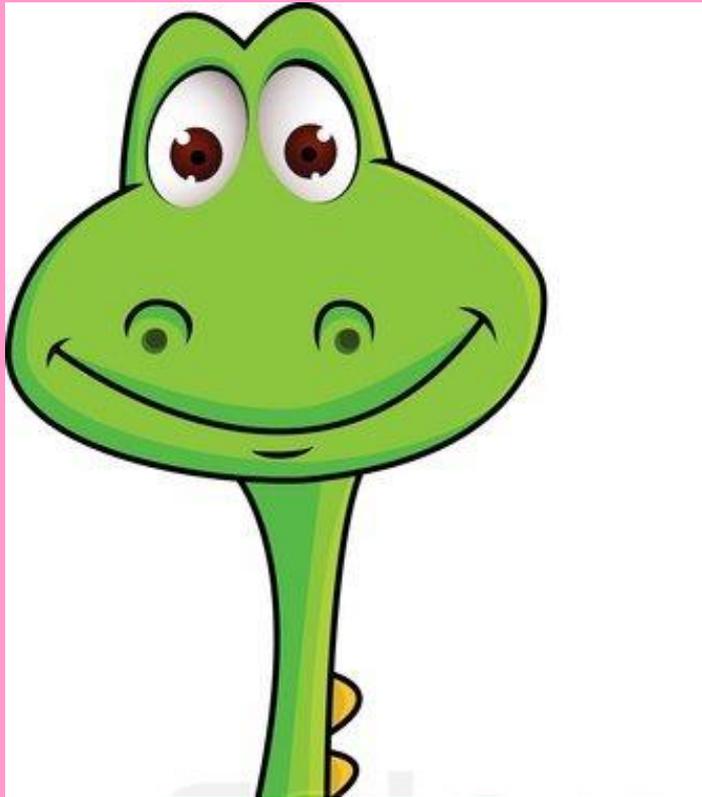
When Derek peered at the food with his tiny wee eyes he let out a big loud dino-cry:

"Aaah! Aaaaaaaah! Aaaaaaaah! I can't eat this! I'm a Veggiesaurus. I can only eat vegetables."

Grandma Hood came out of her house carrying a tray with a plate of soup and a home-made roll with lots of nice crunchy seeds in it.



"Here we are Derek, try this special tasty green soup. It's made from courgettes, spinach and broccoli. Eat it all up and it'll help your eyes see better and keep your teeth strong and sharp. Sup up, Laddie!"



Everyone was happy.

Everyone except The Green Crocodile who had horrible tummy pains because he had not chewed his food properly.

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All stories are free to download as PDFs for personal use. Some are available as hard copy booklets, apply to John Bonthron through the website. Normally free, including postage.

Here is a short list of read-to stories for younger children.

Fred the Seagull

Korban the Krokka

Dominic the Donkey

Piglets can Fly!

Matthew and the Cake Pirates

Matteo the Rook

Theo's Big Secret

Ethan and the Giant Crabs

Teo the Hare

This is a fantasy story based on familiar fairy tale characters who find themselves near Grandma Hood's cottage deep in The Magic Forest.

The outline of the story came from my grandson Ethan (age 4), who drew me a picture to explain what was happening.

It is suitable as a read-to story for pre-school and P1 and as a first reader for P2 and P3 boys and girls.

There are also lots of stories for older children and these can be accessed at:

www.thebuzzinbee.co.uk