

Educational Tales for Children
From 8 to 10 years

In the Witch's Cottage



Written by: **Ma'amun Hammoud**

Translated by: **International Languages Home**

Edited by: **Samir Abu Teen**

Illustrations: **Hesham Hussein**

Dar Al-Namouzajya



Charif Al-Ansari Sons Company

Printing - Publishing - Distribution

Saida - Beirut - Lebanon

- **Al-Maktaba Al-Assrya**

Khandaq El Ghamiq: P.O. Box: 11/8355
Telefax: 00961 (01) 659875 - 655015 - 632673
Beirut - Lebanon

- **Dar Al-Namouzajya**

Dr. Nazih AL Bizri Boulevard: P.O. Box: 221
Telefax: 00961 (07) 729259 - 720624 - 729261
Saida - Lebanon

- **Al-Matba'a Al-Assrya**

Kfarjarra - Saida Jezzin Main Road
Telefax: 00961 (07) 230841 - 230195
Saida - Lebanon

First Edition
2015 - 1436 H

All Rights Reserved For The Publisher

It is prohibited to use any page of
this book without a written
permission from the publisher

alassrya@terra.net.lb

E. Mail: alassrya@cyberia.net.lb
info@alassrya.com

Website:

www.almaktaba-alassrya.com

Preface

These entertaining and educational tales are meant to meet the reading needs of 8 to 10 years old children. They also provide easy and enjoyable reading for children slightly order.

This series seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Suitability of the story subject to the addressed age group.
2. Choice of words that are within the range of this age-group's vocabulary.
3. Necessity of having a lively story language: a simulation of the child's world, thinking, and psychological life.
4. Language expressed easily and simply, with no complicated expressions or difficult structures.

To achieve these objectives, we made it a point to:

1. Enrich the story with bright and expressive visuals that fuel the child's imagination and speak to his senses and sentiments.
2. Match the visual with the reading text to help child understand the situation and relate to similar situations.
3. Use large, readable characters.

We have all through aimed at creating an exciting atmosphere in which the child recognizes the language, uses the story, and identifies him/herself with the main characters. In this sense, the child's sense of creation will develop, and his/her skills and abilities will grow in a balanced world that combines interest with fun.

The child may need some help at the beginning but later he/she should be left on his/her own for independent reading, starting from the second half of the eighth year.

Hany and Ruba were two little children who lost their mother. They lived with their father, a poor lumberjack, and his cruel wife in a cottage at the edge of the enchanted forest.



The wife always complained of poverty and the shortage of food. She asked her husband to get rid of his children because he no longer had enough money.



6

She said to him, "Let us take them far away to a place in the forest and leave them there. The old witch will find them and be happy with them. They will live and grow up with her."





The lumberjack grew angry whenever his wife spoke these words. He refused the wicked wife's idea, but she was determined to carry out her plan. One night, she said to him, "I do not want to



die of hunger. Tomorrow we will take them to the forest.”



Hany and Ruba heard the wicked wife and became terrified, but the brave boy went out to the road after everybody had slept. He began to gather pebbles and fill his pockets. Then, he slept, waiting to see what would happen.

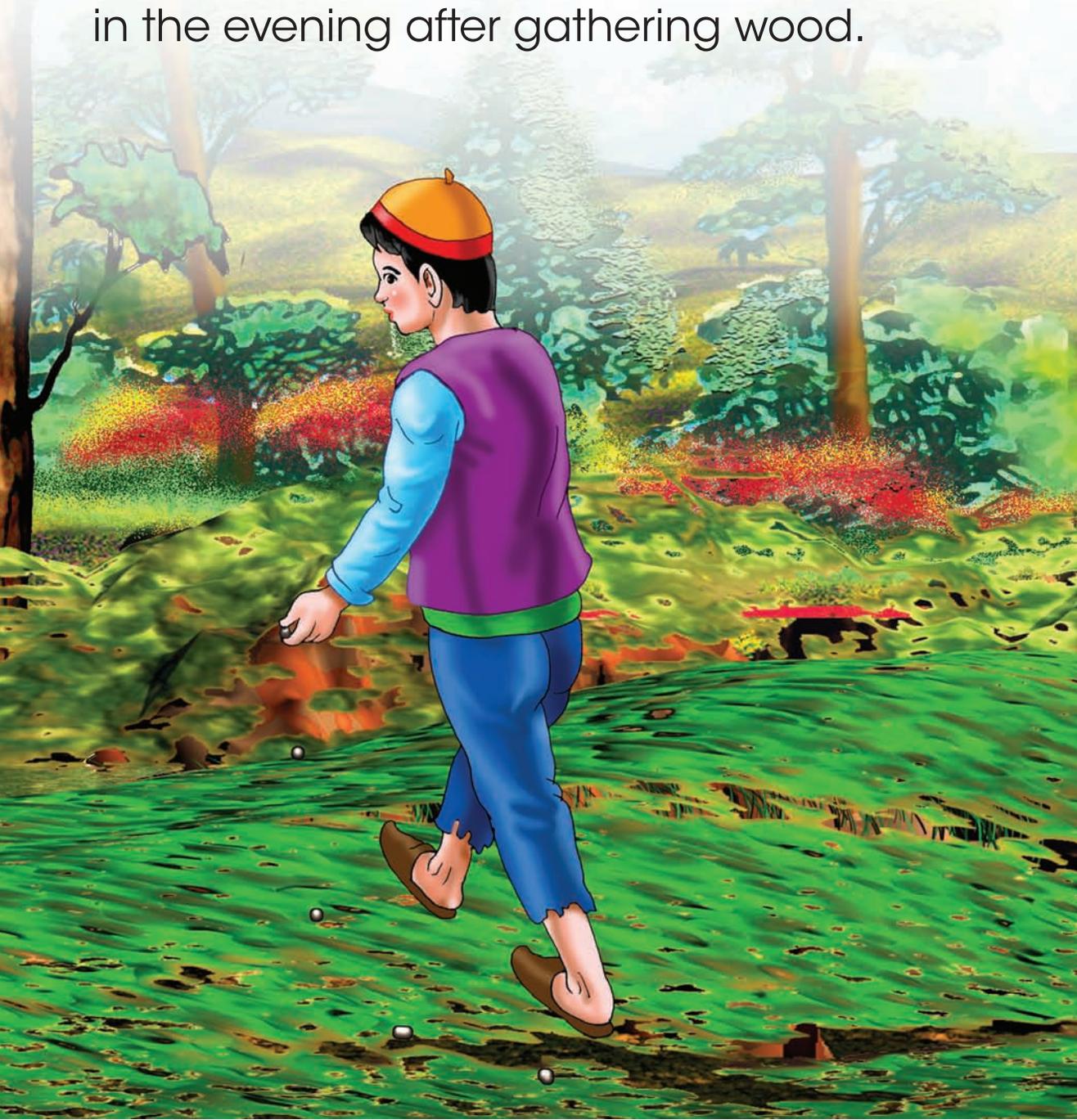




In the morning, they all headed for the forest. Hany threw down a pebble every time he walked a short distance to know his way back home.



When they reached the center of the forest, the wife gave the children a piece of bread. She asked them to wait for their father who would take them home in the evening after gathering wood.

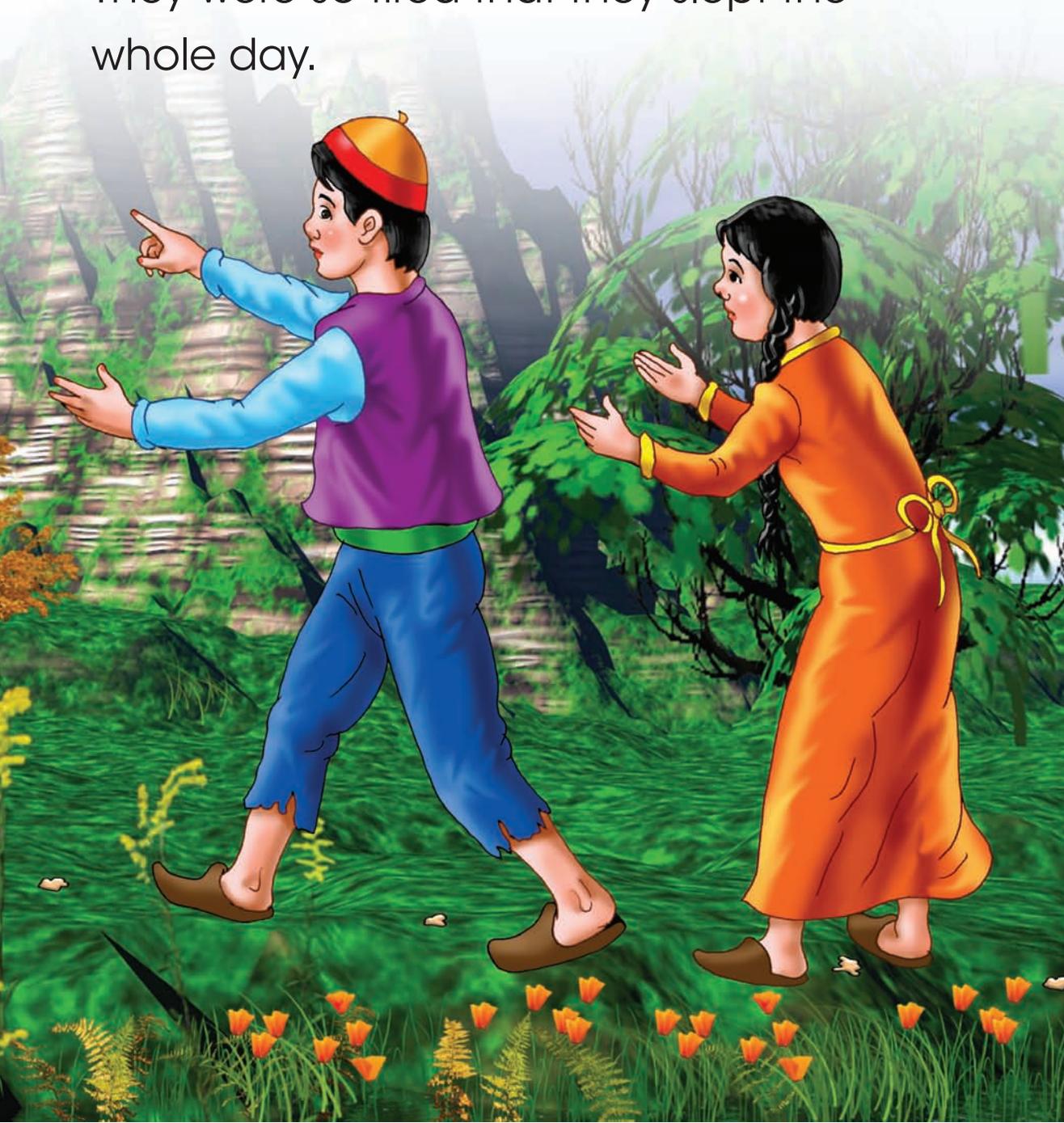


It was dark, but their father did not come back. The boy said, "Don't be afraid, Ruba. We will walk in the moonlight, and these pebbles that I had



thrown on the road will show us the way home.”

In the morning, they reached home. They were so tired that they slept the whole day.



A few days later, they heard the wicked woman ask their father to leave them in such a far place that they could not return from. At night, Hany wanted to gather pebbles, but the door was locked.



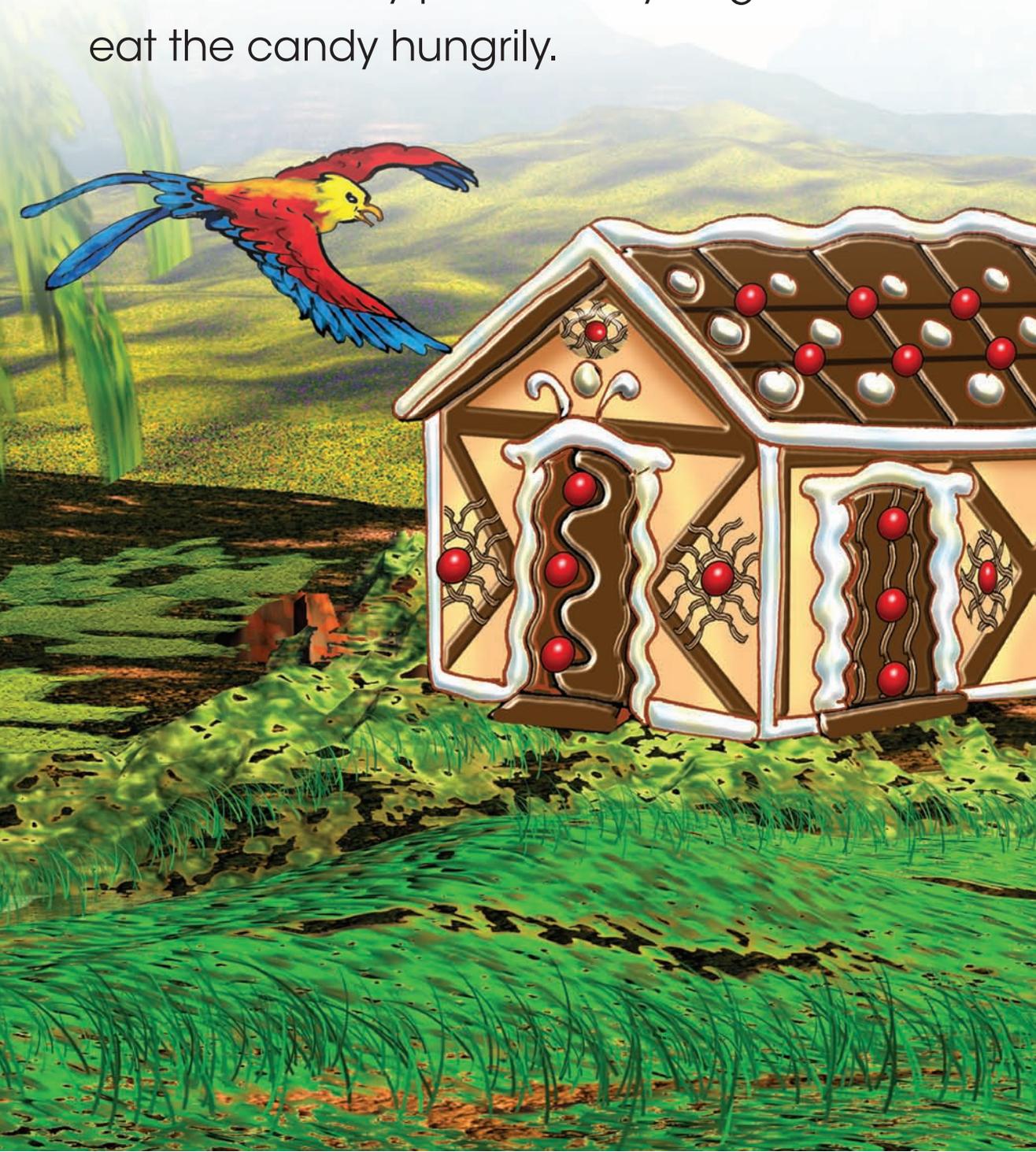
In the forest, he started to throw bread crumbs to leave a trail, but the birds ate these pieces, so the children lost the trail.



The children walked in the forest the whole day. Tired and hungry, they slept for some hours. When they woke up, they found



a strange, colored bird. It flew above them and led them to a strange cottage made of candy pieces. They began to eat the candy hungrily.



Then, an old, ugly, skinny woman opened the cottage door. She invited them inside. Although they were afraid, they entered the cottage to rest. They found hot, delicious food and two beds with covers on which their names were written.





But in the morning, Hany found himself imprisoned in a cage, and his sister thrown on the ground. The old witch ordered her

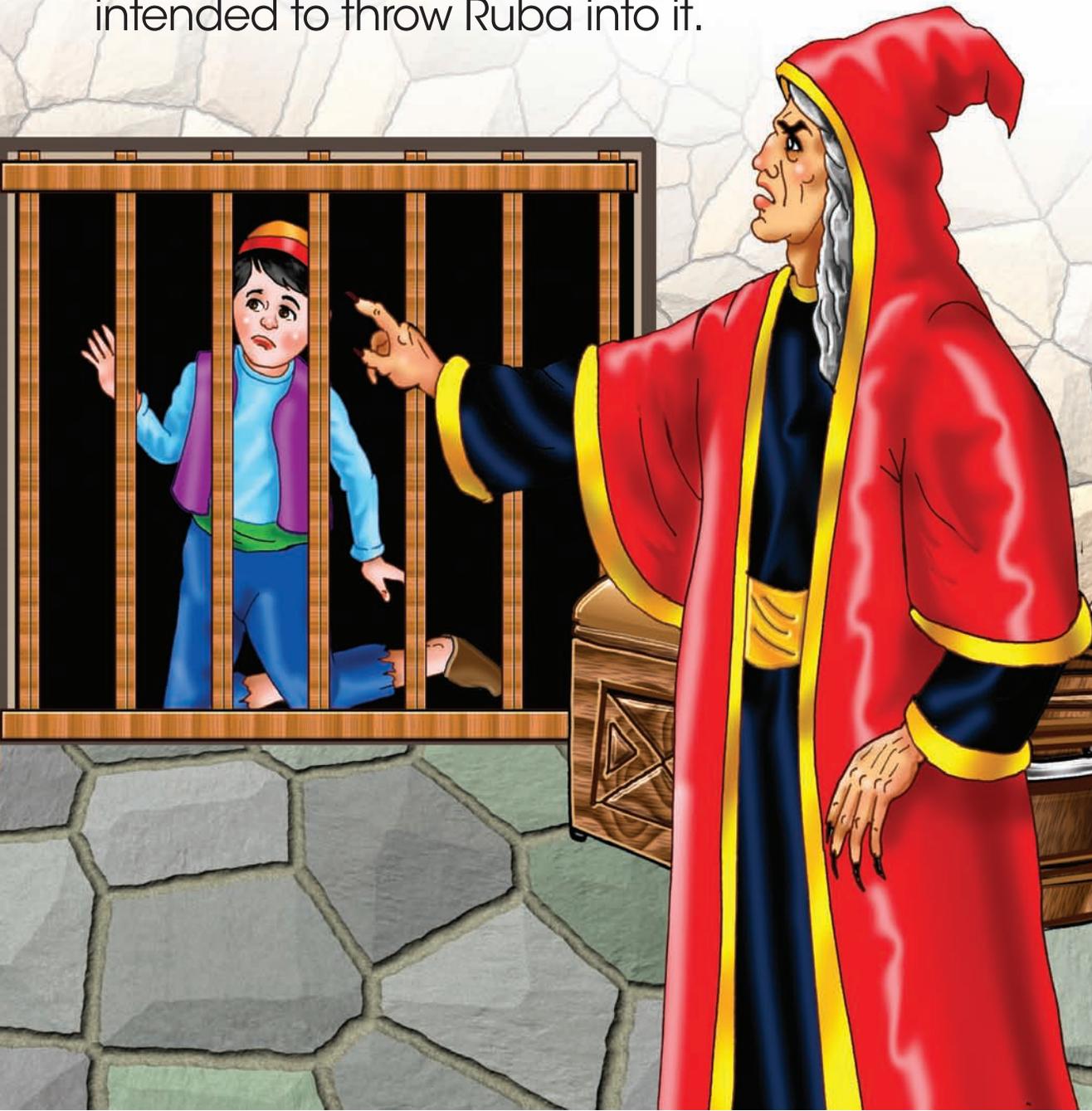


to clean the kitchen and prepare good food to fatten the boy so that he could become a hearty meal.





After a few days, the wicked witch decided to cook the children and eat them. She lit the oven and asked Ruba to look inside to make sure it was hot. She intended to throw Ruba into it.





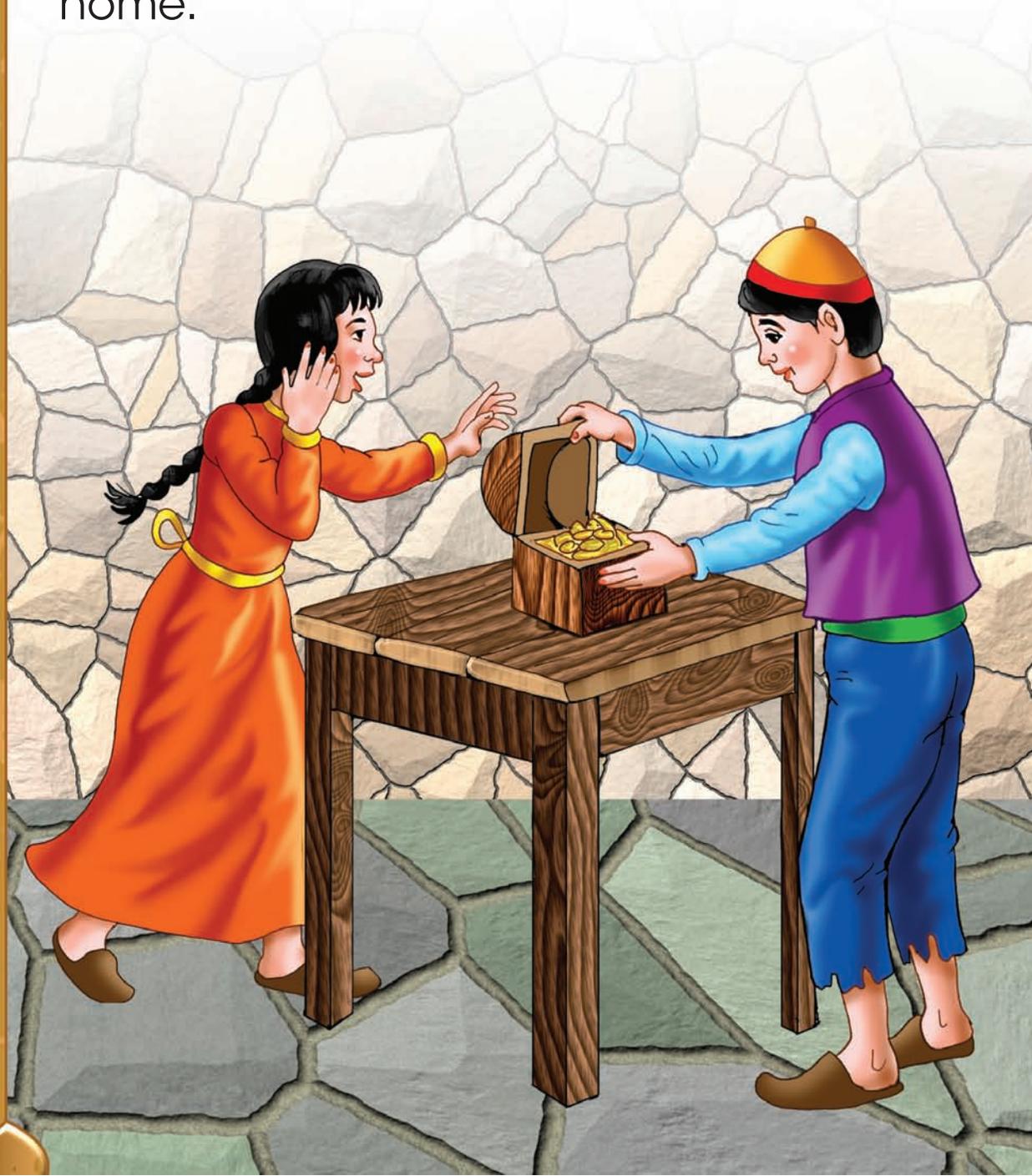
But the smart girl begged the witch to show her how to do it. When the old witch put her head inside the oven, Ruba pushed her inside and got rid of her.



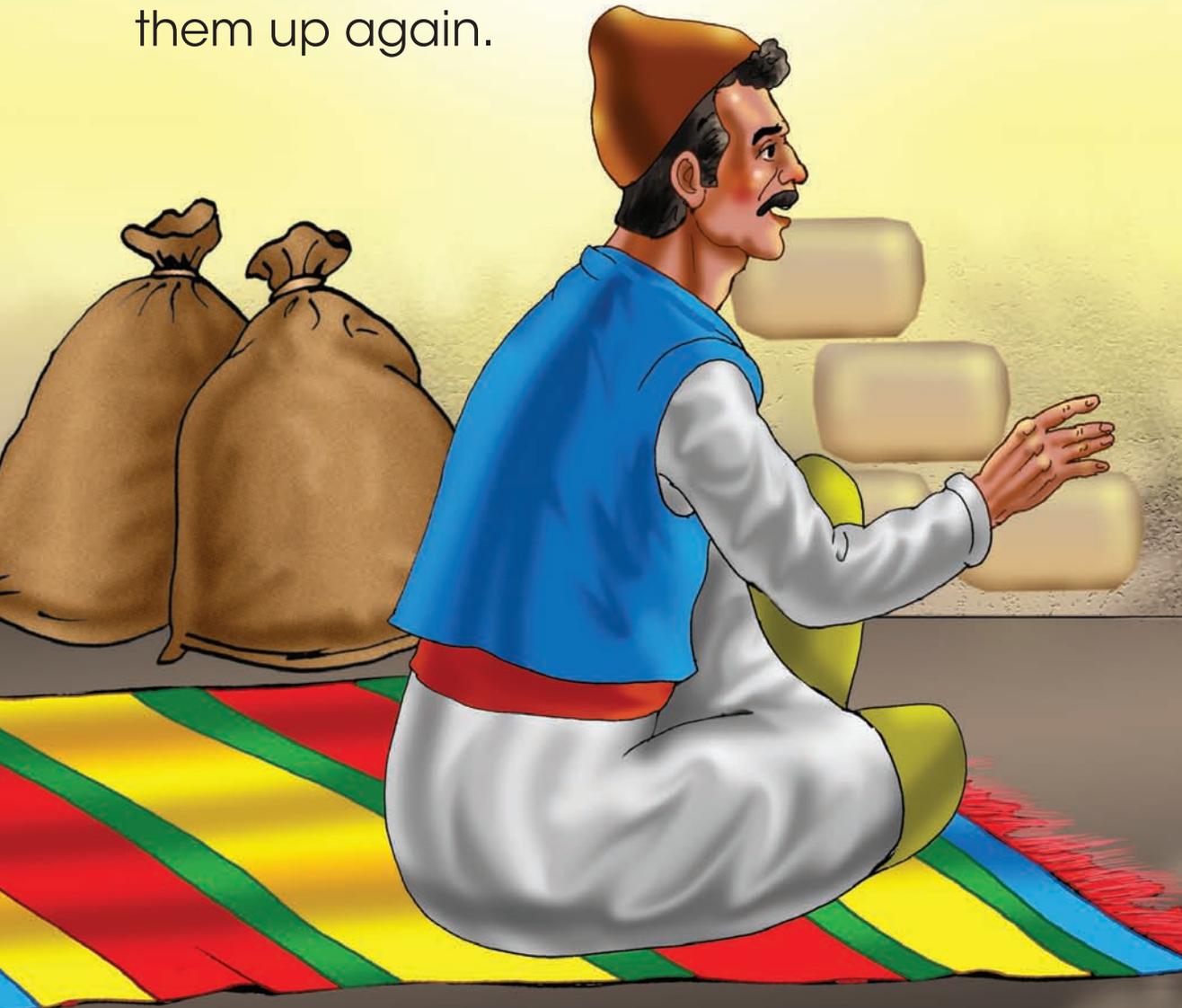
The girl freed her brother from the cage. Overjoyed, they began to dance. They were full of happiness when they found a box full of jewelry and gold in the witch's cottage.



Then, they hurried outside the cottage and walked in the forest. The forest birds helped them find their way home.



The lumberjack shed tears of joy when he saw his two children return safely from the enchanted forest. Then, he told the children that the woman who had deprived him of them would not return home. He swore that he would never give them up again.





The children gave their father the jewelry and gold.



I. Answer the following questions.

1. Who are the characters in the story?

2. What is the conflict?

3. Why does the lumberjack agree to take his kids to the forest?

4. Why did Hani throw pebbles on his way to the forest?

5. Why did the kids sleep a whole day?

6. Why did the kids lose the trail?

II. Complete the following.

1. I can tell that the wife of the lumberjack is mean because _____

2. I can tell that Ruba is brilliant because _____

3. I can tell that the father loves his kids because _____

4. I can tell that Hany is intelligent because _____

III. Circle the correct answer.

1. When the kids knew that they would be taken to the forest, they felt

a. excited b. angry c. annoyed d. terrified

2. At night, Hany went out and collected

a. leaves b. pebbles c. sand d. apples

3. Because the door was closed, Hany

a. could not visit his friend.

b. could not collect pebbles.

c. could not call his sister.

d. could not buy loaves of bread.

4. _____ **led them to the strange cottage.**

- a. A woman b. A man c. A bird d. The pebbles

5. **Why did the wicked witch ask Ruba to look inside the oven?**

- a. She wanted her to check if the oven was hot.
b. She wanted her to check if it was clean.
c. She wanted her to remove the pebbles.
d. She wanted to throw Ruba in the oven.

IV. Rearrange the following events.

1. Hany throws pebbles on the way to the forest.
2. The lumberjack takes his kids to the forest.
3. Hany throws crumbs of bread on the way to the forest.
4. The wicked witch decides to eat them.
5. Ruba pushes the witch into the oven.
6. The lumberjack leaves his kids in a very far place.
7. The kids go back to their father.
8. Hany and Ruba find some jewelry and gold in the witch's house.

V. If the sentence is correct, write correct. If the sentence is incorrect, rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. The lumber jack was rich.
-

2. The wife asked the lumberjack to get rid of his children because they misbehaved.

3. The birds ate the crumbs of bread.

4. The witch decided to take care of the kids.
