

Educational Tales for Children  
From 8 to 10 years

# Listen, Basboos



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## *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.



Basboos was playing with a ball when it fell on his two younger brothers.

His mom yelled, "Listen, Basboos! We have nine souls. With every crazy thing we do, we lose one soul."



“What should I do, mom?”

“Be quiet and reasonable like our grandfather Bisbis!”

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Basboos went out to the garden.  
He saw his grandfather lying down on the grass. He did not think much about what his mother had just said to him. He hurried toward Bisbis and shouted into his ear, "Meow..." His grandfather shuddered and slapped him hard.



Basboos jumped high in the air and fell in front of Antar, the rooster. The rooster shook his feathers and attacked him.

Basboos became extremely frightened and said, "Ah...now, I've lost one soul."







Basboos soon became thirsty.  
He ran toward the jar of milk that a  
neighbor had left in front of the door.  
There was some milk in the jar.

Basboos stretched out his neck, put his  
head into the jar and drank.





His head got stuck in the jar.  
He went around and around and  
jumped until the jar loosened a little.  
He struck the fence, and the jar broke.  
Basboos became very dizzy. He could  
not get up. And now he lost his second  
soul.



Basboos became quiet and went to a nearby field. He saw a frog jumping on the grass. Then, it went down to play in a small stream. Basboos followed the frog quickly, but he slid into the water and almost drowned.

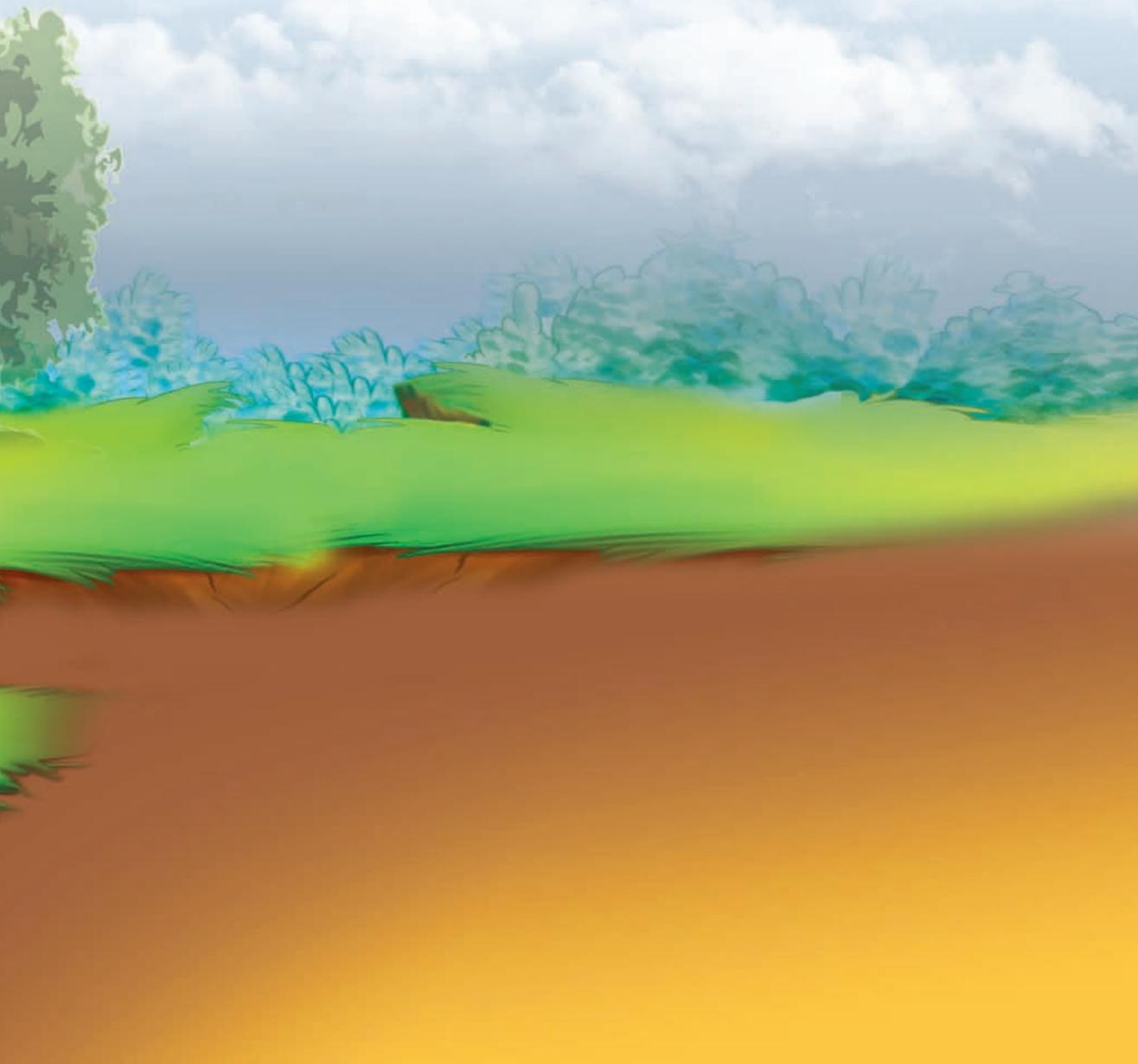


The frog jumped to the river bank. Basboos splashed his head and hands in the water, and this made the frog laugh. He yelled, "Meow...help me!" One, two, three. Now, six souls remained.



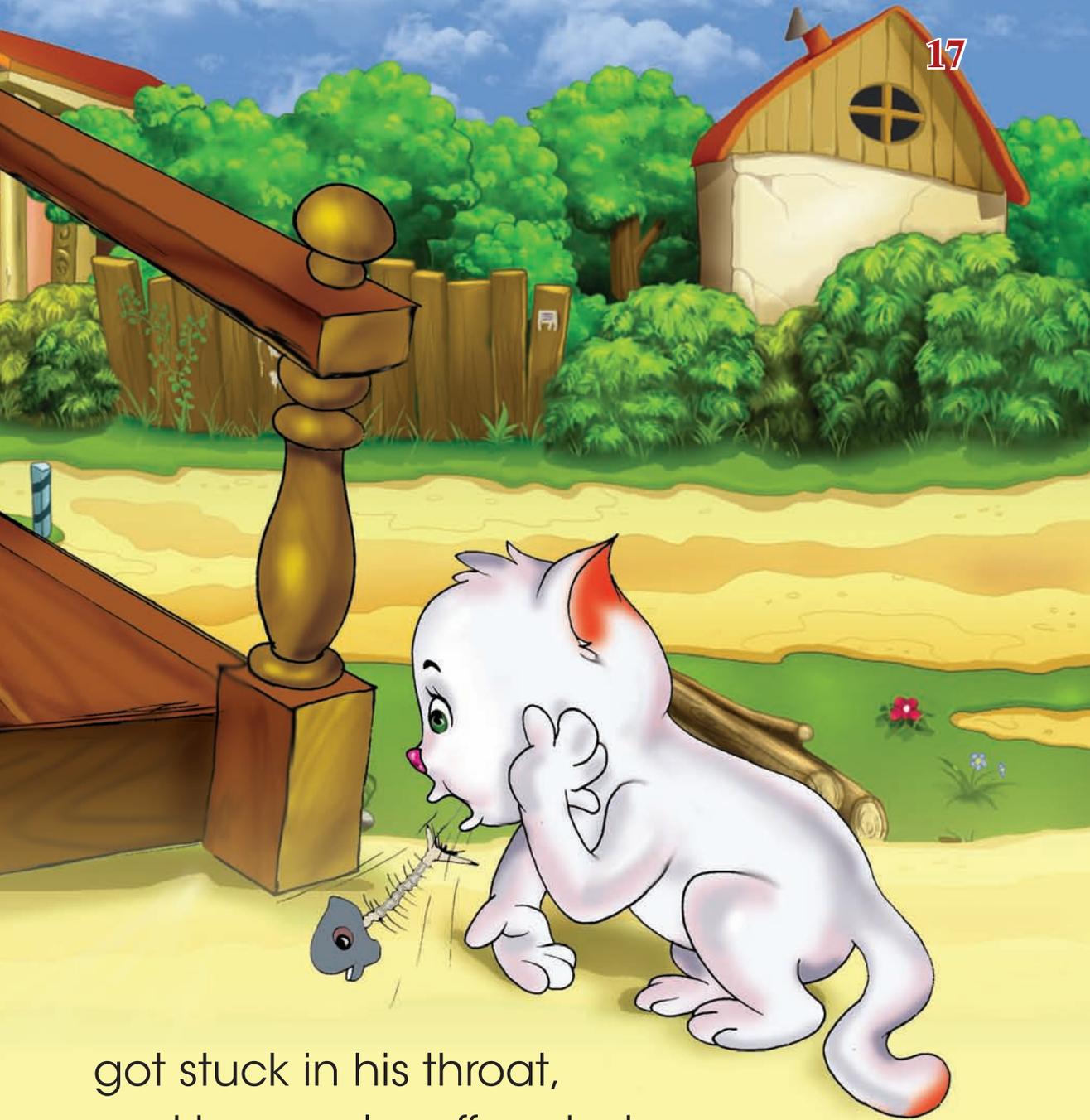


Basboos felt cold and hungry. He dried his fur in the sun. Then, he ran to the village to search for food. He smelled the odor of fried fish coming out from one of the houses, so he stopped in front of it and waited.





When the people of the house threw out the bones in front of the fence, all the neighborhood cats hurried to grab their share. Basboos ran off with the big fish head. He swallowed it quickly, but it



got stuck in his throat,  
and he nearly suffocated.

Basboos had a very hard time before  
he was able to throw up the fish head.  
Now, five souls remained.

Basboos felt tired and went to rest in the green area in front of the village bakery. There, he lay comfortably under the sun. He began to dream of loaves of bread and slept.

While he was sleeping, a fast car sped by the bakery, and it almost ran over him.



Extremely terrified, Basboos jumped to escape and lost his fifth soul.





Basboos went to the apple orchard. It was calm there, and he felt safe. Before



entering from the garden gate, he noticed a large hairy tail behind it. He jumped at it and then bit it.

What a big dog it was! It jumped from behind the gate and began to chase the cat. The cat jumped to a nearby tall tree and clenched to its branches. Basboos had only three souls left.







Basboos decided to stay in the tree until sunset, the time the sparrows returned to their nests.



The cat noticed a sparrow flapping its wings near the tall branches. He hoped to catch it for his dinner.



Basboos crawled and climbed the tree very carefully until he reached the top. Suddenly, he meowed loudly. He jumped at the sparrow, but the sparrow flew away, and the soft branch broke. The cat fell off screaming. Only two souls remained!





On the way home, the cat chased a mouse that was sneaking into a large trash can. Basboos did not know how to catch him because of the piles of trash and empty boxes.

One of the residents passed by, and the strong unpleasant smell bothered him, so he closed the trash can. Basboos spent a long, terrible night in that place. Basboos lost his eighth soul that night!





His two brothers were playing with the ball in front of the house. Then, it fell on his head. He became angry and wanted to hit them, but he remembered that he only had one soul left.



He said to himself, "Listen Basboos! You must be calm and reasonable like your grandfather Bisbis and your neighbor Tumtum."



Tumtum was sitting comfortably on the garden bench reading his newspaper. This newspaper seems to be an excellent goal. What do you think, Basboos?

***1- Answer the following questions.***

1- How many souls do cats have?

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2- According to Basboos's mother, how do cats lose their souls?

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3- What is the piece of advice his mother gives him in order not to lose his souls?

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4- What did the rooster do when Basboos fell in front of him?  
How did Basboos feel?

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5- Why did not Basboos hit his brothers when they bothered him?

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**II- Basboos lost eight souls. Write the actions he did that made him lose these souls.**

- 1- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- \_\_\_\_\_
- 4- \_\_\_\_\_
- 5- \_\_\_\_\_
- 6- \_\_\_\_\_
- 7- \_\_\_\_\_
- 8- \_\_\_\_\_

**III- Circle the correct answer.**

- 1- Basboos has \_\_\_\_\_ brothers.  
a. 2                      b. 3                      c. 4                      d. 5
- 2- Basboos shouted in his \_\_\_\_\_ ear.  
a. brother's              b. father's              c. mother's              d. grandfather's
- 3- When Basboos felt thirsty, he wanted to drink \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. juice                      b. water                      c. milk                      d. pepsi

4- Basboos became \_\_\_\_\_ when the jar on his head broke.

- a. angry                      b. dizzy                      c. happy                      d. annoyed

**IV- Fill in the graphic organizer by referring to the story.**

Cause	Effect
Basboos followed the frog.	
	Basboos dried his fur in the sun.
Basboos swallowed the fish head.	
	He went to rest.

**V- Complete the following sentences.**

1- If I were Basboos, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2- Basboos is mischievous because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3- I do not think that Basboos will bother Tumtum because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

