

# 1. All Animals Were Going to the Party

(From 南一趣味繪本學文法)

It was the Lion King's birthday.  
All animals were going to the birthday party.  
Taylor the Toad and Fred the Frog were on the way.

It was raining. The road was wet and full of mud.  
Taylor and Fred were taking selfies on the way.  
Suddenly, they fell into a deep hole.  
Taylor and Fred were crying for help when a rabbit went by.  
The rabbit stood beside the hole and said, "Oh, dear. You don't jump like me. You can't get to the party before it starts. It's too difficult. Just give up." And he jumped away.

Taylor and Fred jumped over and over again.  
Later, a butterfly flew by. She laughed,  
"Oh, dear. You don't fly like me.  
You can't get to the party before it starts.  
It's not possible." And she flew away.

Two spiders passed by and said, "Oh, dear. You don't climb like us. You can't get to the party before it starts. Don't try anymore, or you could fall down to the bottom and die." And they went away.

At first, Taylor did not listen to them.  
But, after she tried many times,  
she believed them and gave up.  
Fred was also tired, but he was still trying.  
Many other animals saw them.  
"Look at you. You two are so helpless!

Fred gave it another try, and he finally jumped out of the hole.  
He arrived at the party just in time.  
All the other animals were surprised.  
"How did you get out of that deep hole?" the snake asked.  
"Where is your friend?" the rabbit asked. Fred said nothing and typed a message on his cellphone.  
The message said, "I am deaf. I can't hear you.  
You cheered me on when I was in the hole. I didn't give up because of you. Thank you. But, my friend is still there. Who can help her?"

## 2. Christmas Carol

(From 南一趣味繪本學文法)

It's Christmas Eve in London. Most people are happy, but not Scrooge. He hates Christmas. "Christmas is just a lie! It only cheats people out of their money, so I never donate anything to charity," he says.

Scrooge is rich, and he is mean to his clerk, Cratchit. He doesn't pay him very much. That night, Scrooge's old friend Marley visits him—but Marley has been dead for years. It's his ghost! The ghost speaks to Scrooge. "My dear old friend, you must change. Treat others better, Scrooge," Marley says. "Three more ghosts will visit you tonight. Listen to them, and try to become a better person."

After Marley leaves, the Ghost of Christmas Past appears. She takes Scrooge to visit his past. Scrooge's father treated him badly. One Christmas, his father didn't want him to come home and left him at boarding school alone. Only his sister cared about him and took him home. He was very close to her. After she died, he became mean to everyone and loved nothing but money.

"Enough!" says Scrooge. "I don't want to see my past anymore!"

After the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present visits Scrooge. He takes Scrooge to see Cratchit's family. Cratchit is very poor, but he has a loving family. Sadly, his youngest son, Tiny Tim, is very weak and sick. This could be his last Christmas.

"Will Tiny Tim live?" Scrooge asks. He thinks of his sister's death and feels very sad.

"No more!" he says. "I have seen enough!"

The last ghost to visit Scrooge is the Ghost of Christmas Future. He leads Scrooge to a dark room. Scrooge sees an old man lying in bed. People are talking about his death, but no one feels sad. "Who is this poor man?" Scrooge asks. "It's you!" the ghost answers.

"I have seen enough!" Scrooge cries. "No! My life hasn't ended yet.

I will change!" Then, he wakes up back in his bed.

It is Christmas morning! Scrooge gives Cratchit a pay raise and sends lots of food to his family as a Christmas present. He also donates a lot of money to charity. He has been a new man since Christmas. He wants everyone to enjoy the lovely holiday.

### 3.The Three Robbers

Once upon a time, there were three fierce robbers.

They went about hidden under large black capes and tall black hats The first had a blunderbuss, the second had a pepper blower, and the third had a huge red axe.

In the dark of the night, they walked the roads searching for victims. They terrified everyone. Women fainted.

To stop carriages, with the axe they smashed.

The blunderbuss they threatened, the passengers and plundered them

The robbers hideout was a cave high up in the mountains.

There they carried their loot .They had trunks and chests, full of gold, jewels, money, watches, wedding rings, and precious stones.

The robbers stopped a carriage that had but one passenger an orphan named Tiffany. She was on her way to live with a wicked aunt. Tiffany was delighted to meet the robbers. Since there was no treasure but tiffany, the thieves bundled her in a warm cape and carried her away.

They made up a soft bed for her in a corner of the cave and there she slept.

The next morning, Tiffany awoke to find herself surrounded by trunks of glittering riches. “What's all this for?” she asked.

The robbers choked and sputtered. They had never thought of spending their wealth. So to use their treasure, the three robbers gathered up all the lost unhappy and abandoned children they could find. They bought a beautiful castle where all of them could live. Dressed in red caps and capes, the children moved into their new home. Stories of the castle spread throughout the land. New children came or were brought each day to the doorsteps of the three robbers.

The children grew until they were old enough to marry. Then they built houses around the castle. A village grew up, full of people dressed in red caps and capes. These people built three tall high roofed towers in memory of their kind foster fathers, one for each of the three robbers.

## 4. The Christmas Gift

(From 和聲英語課本 5 (2000))

### 【音檔 Christmas Gift 1】

Della counted the money in her purse. One dollar seventy eight cents. It was Christmas Eve, and she still did not have a present for her husband, Jim. These last few months they were so poor that their small, empty apartment felt like a cage.

Della did not know what she could do. She felt she must find the money to buy her dear husband a present. But she didn't have anything she could sell. Silently, she prayed that she could find a way.

Just then Della had an idea. Her long brown hair was so beautiful that anybody would want to have it on their head. Maybe she could find somebody to buy her hair. She remembered a small shop on Milton Street. They made costumes for actors and actresses. Della left the house and hurried there in the snow.

The shopkeeper looked closely at Della. "That's some nice hair you have," he said. "I'll give you twenty dollars for it." "It's a deal!" said Della.

Fifteen minutes later Della left the store. She looked like a boy with her new haircut now. Behind her the shopkeeper took out his glue to paste her long lovely hair together into a wig. Now she had to hunt for a Christmas present for her husband. Suddenly she saw the sign of a jeweler's shop. She went in and found the perfect present for Jim—a beautiful pocket watch. The watch was old but had a lovely golden shine. Even better was the price tag next to it—twenty dollars.

### 【音檔 Christmas Gift 2】

How proud Della was when she came home! Her hair would grow back of course. But it would take many months, even years, to be so long and beautiful again. However, she knew Jim would still love her and he would love his Christmas present.

She lit the fire and waited for Jim to come back from work. At six o'clock, her husband walked through the door. Della jumped up and gave him a big hug. "Merry Christmas, darling!" she said. "I know- my hair-but I can explain. What's the matter?"

Jim opened his case and took out a box. He did not speak as he gave it to his wife. "For me? Oh, darling, how wonderful!" She opened the box and --what a surprise! Jim's Christmas present to her was a set of beautiful combs and pins for her hair. But her hair was now a wig in a costume shop downtown.

Della felt terrible. But she still hoped that her present would make everything all right. She took Jim's present out of the drawer and gave it to him.

Jim's face became a mask of horror. He began to shake. "W-Where did you get that?" he asked. Della told him. "That—that's my grandfather's watch!" he said. "I sold it to get the money to buy the combs and pins!"

What a Christmas for poor Jim and Della! How blind they were to sell the best things they had. But at least they both learned a lesson. They might have no money, but they still had each other. And in the end, that was all they needed.

Adapted from 'The Gift of the Magi' by O. Henry (a pen name for William Sydney Porter)