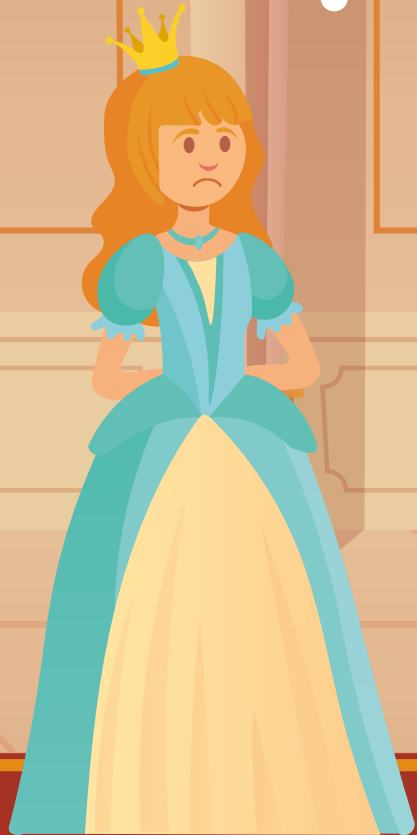


The Bored Princess



Philippa was fed up and totally frustrated. She was fed up of being a princess. You might think that it would be great fun to be a princess, but Philippa did not agree.

One of the things Philippa had to do was to practise the royal wave. Can you imagine having to practise that? How boring to just wave! Some days Philippa even had to get changed three times and she always had to wear dresses.



When Philippa ate her dinner, she had to chew each mouthful 32 times. Philippa's parents had very high expectations of her. They were hopeful she would grow up to marry a handsome prince. Philippa wasn't sure she ever wanted to get married.

What Philippa really wanted to do was to be a knight. She longed to be just like her uncle, Sir Nick. Philippa thought that Nick was absolutely amazing. He could fire a bow and arrow through the narrowest of gaps. He could even fire it through the castle's arrow-slits from 50 metres away and ride his stallion whilst wielding his sword. She had also seen him fight off three other knights at once all with one arm behind his back. Philippa idolised him.



Princesses were not supposed to go anywhere near the knight's jousting arena. They were forbidden to go down into the centre of the inner court where the knights would train and prepare for battle. However, Philippa had cleverly found a place where she could watch Uncle Nick and the other knights train. Most people didn't go up into the castle tower, as it was cold and often dark. Yet for Philippa, it was her favourite place to be.

One day Sir Nick had been called away again. This meant the knights' training had stopped and the castle seemed empty again. All tournaments had ceased. Despite their absence, Philippa would still climb up to the tower to train. She enjoyed copying what she had seen down below in the court. The princess felt she was getting stronger and braver every day. She looked forward to Sir Nick's return so that she could show him all that she had taught herself.



One particularly dull day, Philippa had been ordered to sit at the head of a ceremonial feast. She had also been ordered to be on her best behaviour. This meant just sitting there quietly. She wasn't supposed to be doing anything at all. How boring! The banquet table was set for more than eighty people.

Philippa, lost in thought, gazed out of the window. Looking out at the grey sky, she suddenly saw something. A distant shadow drew closer and Philippa's body rose up from her chair – finally some excitement!





Maths & English

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