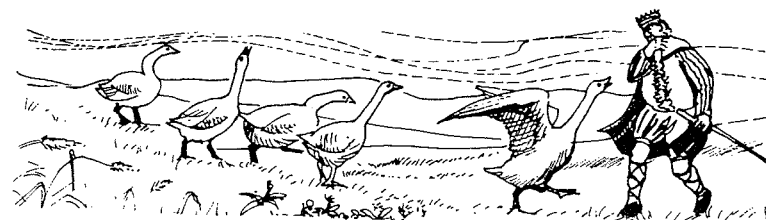


## Contents

	Page
1. The King and the Gooseherd . . . . .	5
2. Androcles and the Lion . . . . .	14
3. <i>The Duck's Ditty</i> , by Kenneth Grahame . . . . .	25
4. The Hedgehog and the Hare . . . . .	26
5. <i>Owl-Light</i> , by M.E. Sargent . . . . .	37
6. The Princess and the Shepherd . . . . .	38
7. <i>My Dog</i> , by Emily Lewis . . . . .	49
8. A Strange Treasure . . . . .	50
9. Anansi in Jamaica . . . . .	59
10. A Kind-Hearted Boy . . . . .	61
11. <i>Bedtime</i> , by Eleanor Farjeon . . . . .	71
12. A Clever Trick . . . . .	72
13. <i>The Moon</i> , by R.L. Stevenson . . . . .	80
14. The Golden Touch . . . . .	81
15. Brer Rabbit Goes Fishing . . . . .	91
16. The Story of a River . . . . .	101
17. Rumpel-Stilts-Kin . . . . .	112
18. <i>Goodbye</i> , by Enid Blyton . . . . .	127
19. A Hot Land . . . India . . . . .	128
20. Pinocchio the Puppet . . . . .	139
21. <i>The Mice</i> , Anonymous . . . . .	150
22. An Unseen Foe . . . . .	151
23. Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves . . . . .	160
24. <i>The Shepherd</i> , by Enid Blyton . . . . .	171
25. The Wonderful Ant . . . . .	172
26. The Wooden Horse of Troy . . . . .	181
27. Anansi and the Fairies . . . . .	190

## The King and the Gooseherd 1



Long ago, in a land across the sea, there lived a good king, who loved books more than anything else in the world.

One morning he was out walking in the country, where he had gone on holiday for a few days. As the sun was very hot, he stopped and sat down to rest on a seat under a tree. He took a book out of his pocket and tried to read it but, as he was very tired, he soon fell asleep.

When the king awoke, it was past noon. He rose, picked up his cane, and started for home. He had walked a mile or more, when he suddenly remembered his book. He felt for it in his pockets, but could not find it. He had left it under the tree.

The king did not wish to walk back so far. Neither did he wish to lose the book. What should he do?

"Perhaps I can find someone who will go for it," said the king to himself, as he looked about him.

At the foot of a hill, not far away, he saw a boy tending a flock of geese. The birds were eating the short grass and wading in a shallow brook.

The king walked towards the boy and said to him, "My boy! Do you know the seat under the tree? It is about a mile from here and close to the road-side. I have left my book there. I will give you this gold coin if you will get it for me."

The eyes of the boy sparkled when he saw the piece of money. "I would like to go," he said, "but I cannot leave the geese. They would run away and soon be lost."



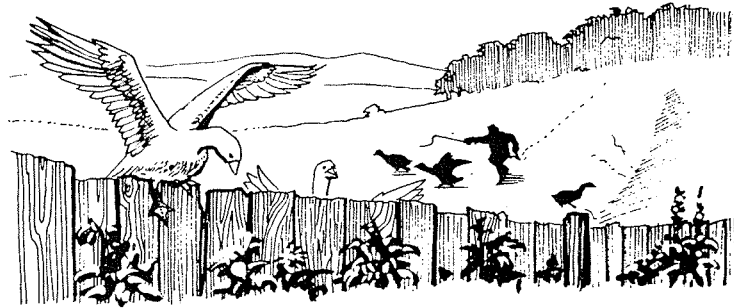
"The geese will be all right," replied the king. "I will take good care of them."

"Take my whip," said the boy. "I will go for your book. Be sure to keep watch on the big gander. He is the leader, and the whole flock will follow him wherever he goes."

The king took the whip, and the boy set off to get the book. When some distance away, the lad stopped and called back, "If you want to keep them together, just crack the whip!"

The king sat on a stone and laughed at the thought of being a gooseherd. It was not long until the geese discovered that their master had gone. With a great cackling and hissing, the birds went running across the meadow.





The king ran after them, but he could not run fast enough. He tried to crack the whip, but failed. To make matters worse, the geese flew over a fence and began to eat the flowers and vegetables in a garden.

About half-an-hour later, the goose-boy came back with the book. When he saw that the geese had run away, he began to scold.

"I have found the book and now you have lost the geese. I knew this would happen. You must help me to drive them out of the garden."

Without saying a word, the good king handed back the whip

"Stand there at the end of the fence," ordered the boy. "When I crack the whip, you must shout with all your might."

The king did as he was told. The boy went into the garden and after a great deal of shouting and cracking of the whip all the geese returned to the meadow.

"I hope you will forgive me if I have not been a good gooseherd," said the king. "Here are two gold pieces — one for bringing my book and one for all the trouble I have caused you. You see, I am the king, and I am not used to such work."

"The king!" cried the boy in surprise. "I did not know. I am sorry if I made you angry. You are a kind man, and everyone says that you are a good king."

"Yes," replied the king with a smile. "I may be a good king, but I am a poor gooseherd."

*(Adapted)*



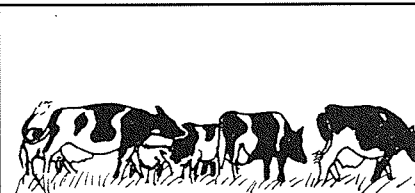


### Do You Remember ?

1. What is the name of the story ?
2. Where did the story take place ?
3. Why did the king sit on the seat ?
4. What happened when he began to read the book ?
5. When did he awake ?
6. Some time later, what did he miss?
7. Who was near-by ?
8. What did the king ask him to do ?
9. What reward did the king promise him ?
10. How did the boy keep the geese together ?
11. What happened when the boy went away ?
12. Where did the geese go ?
13. What did the boy say when he returned ?
14. How did they clear the geese out of the garden ?
15. What reward did the king give the gooseherd ?



A **flock** of sheep



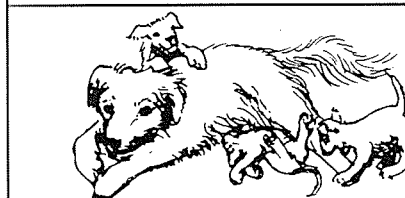
A **herd** of cattle



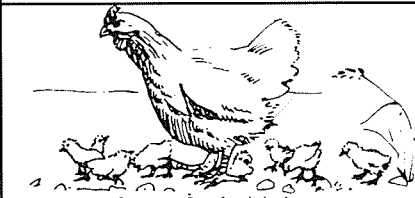
A **swarm** of bees



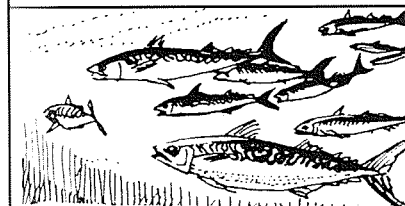
A **flock** of birds



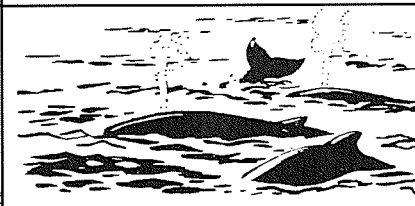
A **litter** of puppies



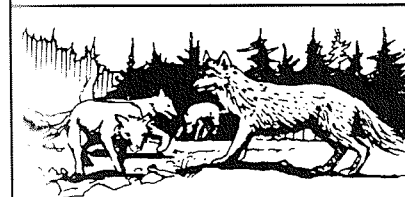
A **brood** of chickens



A **shoal** of fish



A **school** of whales



A **pack** of wolves



A **troop** of monkeys

### Can You Tell ?

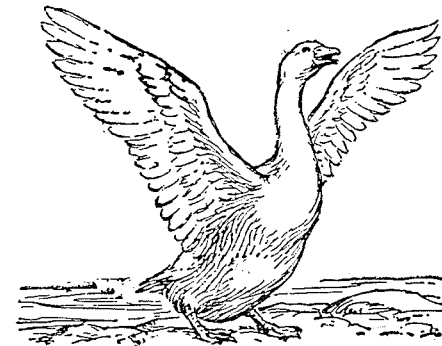
1. A gooseherd is a person who looks after geese. What is a (a) cowherd, (b) shepherd, (c) swineherd ?
2. When the king awoke it was past noon. What is (a) noon, (b) midnight, (c) morning, (d) afternoon, (e) evening, (f) sunrise, (g) sunset, (h) dawn ?
3. A number of geese together is called a **gaggle** or a **flock**.

What name is given to a number of:

cows, sheep, birds, bees, fish, puppies, trees, people ?

4. The king promised to give a **gold** piece to the boy.
  - (a) How many other types of metals can you name ?
  - (b) What is an ingot and a carat ?
  - (c) Name two things which are measured in carats.
5. We say one **goose** but say two **geese**.
  - (a) We say one cow but say two .....
  - (b) We say one fox but say two .....
  - (c) We say one fly but say two .....
  - (d) We say one wolf but say two .....
  - (e) We say one mouse but say two .....
6. The **gander** was the head of the flock.
  - (a) Give feminine of: gander, bull, ram, Billy-goat, tom-cat.
  - (b) Give feminine of: king, prince, boy, brother, uncle.

7. The geese **cackled** and **hissed**.  
What sounds do these creatures make ?  
dog, cat, sheep, pig, donkey, wolf, lion, horse, frog, cow.
8. The boy **found** the book but the king **lost** the geese.  
What are the opposites of these words in the story ?  
land, loved, morning, hot, stopped, asleep, remembered, short, fast, after.



### Some Things to Do

- Draw or make a model of a crown.
- Find out about precious stones.
- Find out in which countries gold is mined.