THE THREE BROTHERS AND THE GOLDEN APPLE

Origin: Bulgaria

Ilustrated by 6 grade students

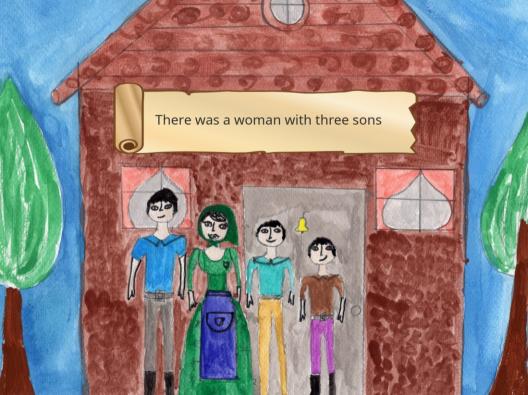
24th Primary school Heraklion Crete

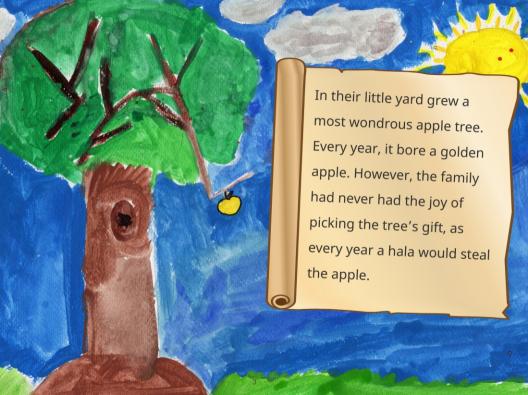
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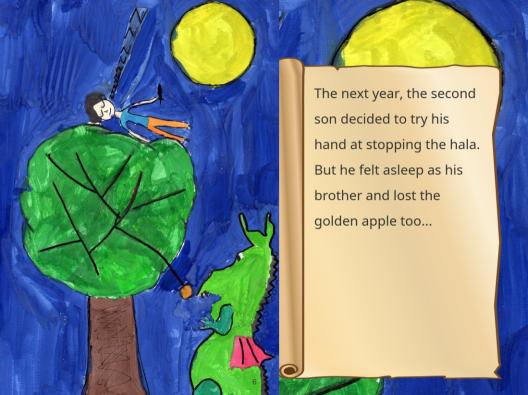
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The sons watched this repeat year after year, their anger growing at the hala's insolence. Finally, the eldest son decided to try and stop the monster. Night fell. The hours passed with not a sight of the hala. The eldest son's eyes began closing and he was fast asleep.



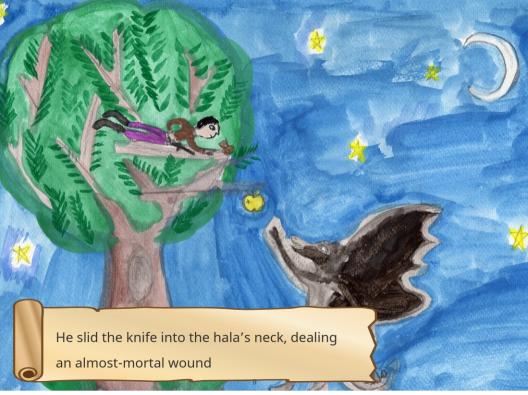




On the third year, the third son went to stop the hala. As the hour of the apple's bloom grew near, weariness began weighting the boy's eyes. Realizing it was likely one of the hala's tricks, the boy made a shallow cut into his arm. The pain cleared his mind and he was wideawake as the hala swooped into their yard,



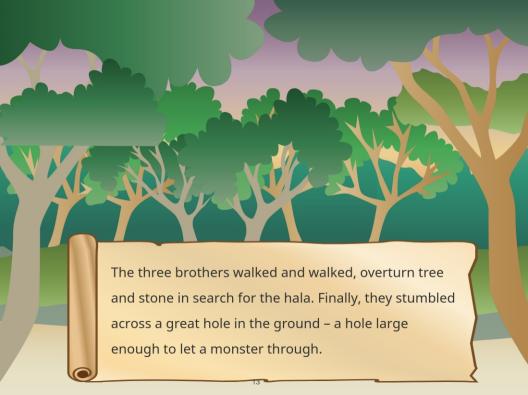


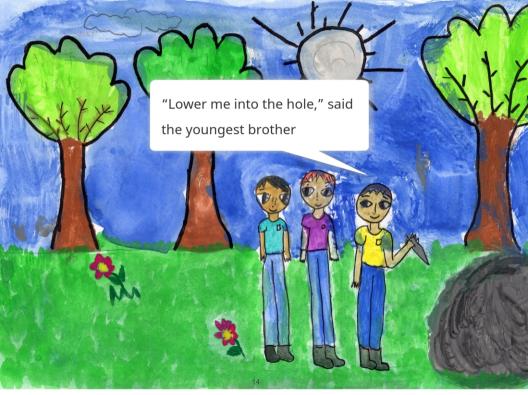




However, the hala had not yet been defeated; it would likely come back next year, if not sooner, and do more damage than simply steal their apple. Thus, the youngest son urged his brothers to go and look for the creature and kill it while it was still weak. They agreed and set out that very day.









Finally, the youngest' feet touched solid ground. He quickly untied the rope from himself and began exploring the cave, seeking the wounded hala. After walking for a time, he came upon a house - an enormous, stone-build cavern. From within it shone light. Stealthily, he made his way closer and peeked in through the windows.







He then let the three maidens out of the house and to the rope, still hanging in expectation of his return. "Come," he said to the oldest daughter. Her hair was a deep gold, her eyes dark. She was lovelier than the Sun. He tied the rope about her waist and shook it, letting his brothers pull her out.

A little while after, the rope fell down again. The youngest brother motioned to the second daughter. She was even lovelier than her sister, her hair long and soft, her face glowing with warmth. He secured the rope about her and let his brothers pull her up.



