TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 236

Short Stories with Peter: The Golden Goose

English learning resource · EN

Full episode script · English

83 lines

Study task: Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

There was once a young man whose family never expected much from him.

Then one small act of kindness led him to a very strange discovery.

Welcome to Short Stories with Peter.

Today's story is The Golden Goose, a traditional tale collected by the Brothers Grimm.

Long ago, a woodcutter lived with his three sons near a forest.

The two older brothers thought they were clever.

They often laughed at their youngest brother, Jack.

If a task was difficult, they told him to stay out of the way.

One morning, the oldest brother went into the forest to cut wood.

His mother gave him good food and a bottle to drink.

On the path, he met a little old man.

Please, could you share a little food with me?

The brother held his bag close.

If I give you some, there will be less for me.

He walked on without another word.

Later, while cutting a tree, he hurt his arm and had to return home.

The next day, the second brother went into the forest.

He carried good food too.

He met the same old man, who asked him for something to eat.

I need my food for myself.

The second brother walked away.

Before long, he hurt his leg and also returned home.

Then Jack asked if he could try.

His father did not believe he could do the work.

But Jack took an axe and set off.

His mother gave him a small, dry cake and a bottle of sour drink.

At midday, he sat down beneath a tree.

The old man appeared beside him.

I am hungry and thirsty.

Would you share what you have?

My lunch is not very good.

But you are welcome to share it.

Jack opened his bag and broke the cake in two.

To his surprise, the dry cake had become soft and fresh.

The sour drink tasted sweet.

They ate together in the shade.

You shared what little you had.

Cut down that old tree, and look among its roots.

Jack did as the old man suggested.

Under the roots sat a goose with feathers as bright as gold.

Well, you are not what I expected to find.

He gently picked up the goose and took it with him.

That evening, Jack stopped at an inn.

The innkeeper's daughters saw the golden feathers and each wanted one.

The first daughter reached out and touched the goose.

Her hand stuck fast.

The second tried to pull her away, and she stuck fast too.

The third came to help, and she joined the line.

The next morning, Jack left the inn with the goose under his arm.

Behind him came all three daughters, still unable to let go.

A man on the road saw them and tried to pull the last daughter free.

But he stuck to her as well.

Another person tried to help him, and the line grew longer.

I only wanted a quiet walk.

By the time Jack reached the town, the curious procession was following him through the streets.

In that town lived a princess who rarely laughed.

Her father had promised a reward to anyone who could make her laugh.

From a palace window, she saw Jack and the strange line of people behind his goose.

One person stumbled.

Another tried to keep their balance.

Soon the princess began to laugh.

Jack looked back and finally understood why everyone had been following him.

I think we should find a way to help them.

Just then, the old man from the forest appeared.

You found something valuable, Jack, and you still think of the people around you.

He touched the goose, and the people could let go at last.

The king thanked Jack and invited everyone to a celebration.

The princess thanked him too, and Jack found a warm welcome at the palace.

His brothers had called him foolish, but he had shared his meal when someone needed it.

End of the story.

Now, let’s dive into the language and break down some of the key vocabulary from the story.

To share means to let someone use or enjoy part of what you have.

Jack shared his food with the old man.

A feather is one of the light, soft things that cover a bird.

The goose had golden feathers.

If something sticks fast, it stays attached and is difficult to move.

The daughters touched the goose and stuck fast.

A procession is a line of people moving together.

In our story, it was a very unusual procession.

Finally, to be set free means to be allowed to move or leave.

The people were set free after the princess laughed.

Which moment from the story will you remember?

Thank you for listening, and I hope you will join me for another story soon.