**Thumbelina**

****A** long time ago and far, far away an old woman was sitting in her **rocking chair** thinking how happy she would be if she had a child.

Then, she heard a knock at the door and opened it. A lady was standing there and she said, "If you let me in, I will grant you a **wish**." The old woman let the woman in firstly because she felt **pity**, secondly because she knew what she'd wish for...a child. After she washed the lady up and fed her, she saw that she was really beautiful.

The lady slept soundly all night long and then right before she left, she said, "Now, about your wish. What do you want?"

The lady thought about most people's wishes to be richest in the world, most **powerful** person, the smartest, and the prettiest. But the old woman wished for something the lady could not believe. She said, "I would like a child."

"What did you say?" she asked because she was **astonished** at what the old lady asked for. The old lady repeated what she said. "I would like a child."

The lady then placed a tiny **seed** in the old woman's hand and gave her instructions. "**Plant** this seed, water it carefully, **watch over** it, and give it your love. If you do all those things, then you will have a child."

So, the old woman did all of those things the lady had told her to. In a week, there was a beautiful yellow flower in place of the seed. The next day, the flower **bloomed**.
Inside the flower was a beautiful little girl who was the size of the woman's thumb so she a called her Thumbelina. She made her a little dress out of golden **threads**. Thumbelina slept in a **walnut** **shell** and brought the old woman joy and happiness.

But, one day when Thumbelina went down for her nap, a frog **hopped** through the open window and said, "You will be a perfect **bride** for my son," and she took Thumbelina to a **lily pad** and **hopped off** to find her son.

Thumbelina cried and some little **guppies** heard her and chewed the roots off the lily pad to help her **escape**. Thumbelina's lily pad floated away. A few hours later, she finally stopped floating.

During the summer, she ate berries and drank the **dew** off the leaves. But then winter came and she needed **shelter**. A kindly mouse let her stay with it, but it said, "You'll have to marry my friend, Mole, because I cannot keep you for another winter."

The next day she went to see Mole. In one of **tunnels**, she found a sick bird and said, "Poor thing, I will bury it." Then she found out that it was still alive and she cared for it until was ready to fly. It flew off. That fall she nearly had to **marry** Mole. But then she heard a familiar **tweet** and an idea **popped up** in the bird's head.

"You can come down to the warm country," said the bird, so Thumbelina **hopped on** the bird's back and flew to the warm country. The people there who were like her renamed her Erin. She married a prince and she lived happily ever after.

THE END

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**Post-Reading Task**

**1. Vocabulary**

For each bolded word from in the story, write down its Part of Speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction) and its meaning in the following table. A few examples are shown.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Part of Speech** | **Definition / Meaning** |
| **rocking chair**  |  |  |
| **wish** | noun | A hope or desire that is made real with magical powers. |
| **pity** | verb | To laugh at someone. |
| **powerful**  | adjective | Having a lot of power to control people and events. |
| **astonished** | adjective | Very surprised. |
| **seed** |  |  |
| **plant** | verb | To put seeds or a plant in the ground to make it grow. |
| **watch over** | phrasal verb | To watch and protect something. |
| **bloom** |  |  |
| **thread** |  |  |
| **walnut**  |  |  |
| **shell** |  |  |
| **hop***(hopped)* | verb | To jump on one foot or with both feet at the same time. |
| **bride** |  |  |
| **lily pad** |  |  |
| **hop off** *(hopped off)* | phrasal verb | To jump off something. |
| **guppy** | noun | A small kind of fish people often keep in aquariums in their homes. |
| **escape** | noun, verb | To get away from a bad situation. |
| **dew** |  |  |
| **shelter** |  |  |
| **tunnel** |  |  |
| **marry** | verb | To become the husband or wife of someone. |
| **tweet** |  |  |
| **pop up** | phrasal verb | Something that appears suddenly. |
| **hop on** *(hopped on)* |  |  |

**2. Questions about the story**

1) What wish did the lady give to the old woman?

2) Why did the frog take Thumbelina away from the old woman’s house?

3) How did Thumbelina escape from the frog’s lily pad? Did she get some help?

4) What animal was “Mole”? And did Thumbelina marry him?

5) What kind of people live in ‘warm country’? And, how did Thumbelina get there?

6) What is a ‘wish’ you would like to come true for yourself?

7) From the story: “*Plant this seed, water it carefully, watch over it, and give it your love. If you do all those things, then you will have a child.*”

What are other things you can plant? How would you ‘watch over’ them?