



Meet Tony Ross

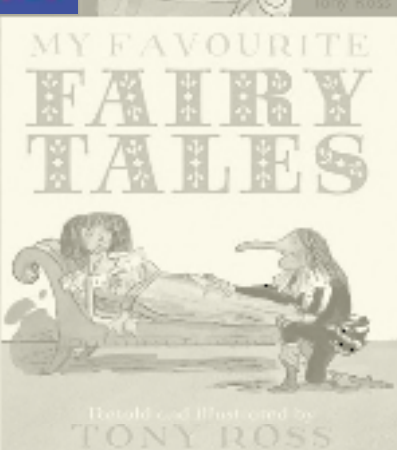
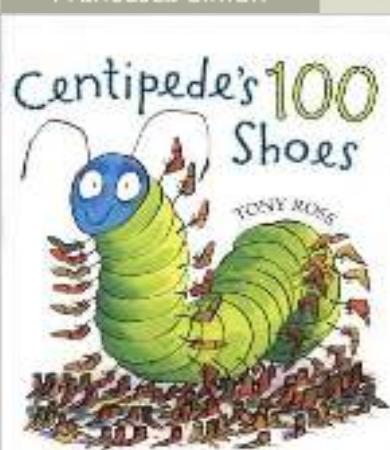
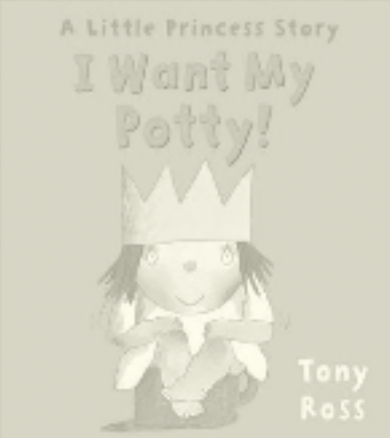


The Greedy Man

Reading Booklet

2016 key stage 1 English reading booklet





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Meet Tony Ross

Tony Ross is one of the most famous children's authors in the UK.

You might have seen some of the books he has written or illustrated in your classroom or in the library. As well as writing over 50 books himself, can you believe that he has illustrated over 800 books for lots of other authors?

Read on to find out more information about Tony, including an interview with him.

Tony the author

One of Tony's best-loved characters is the Little Princess. He has written many books about her and all the things she wants and doesn't want to do.

The Little Princess is 4 years old. Tony says that she reminds him of his daughter when she was little. Often, the Little Princess doesn't do as she is told.

For example, she always wants to stay up late when it's bedtime. The first Little Princess book was called *I Want My Potty*.

Tony the illustrator

Tony has illustrated many books for other writers. These include the famous Horrid Henry series by Francesca Simon.

He also brought aliens to life in stories about Dr Xargle, written by Jeanne Willis.



Hello! My name is Horrid Henry. There are over 20 books about me!



Tony Ross, in his own words

Why did you become an illustrator and writer?

It just happened. I didn't like my job at the time and I wanted to do something to cheer myself up. I never thought I'd be an artist as I always wanted to work with horses. I once wrote to an actor to ask if I could be a cowboy in one of his films!



Where did you write your first book?

I wrote my first book when I was at work. It was called *Tales from Mr Toffy's Circus*.

How long does it take to write a book?

It can vary. Sometimes, it is as little as a few days to do the story and the pictures, but thinking about the idea can take weeks, months or even years.

Are there any characters that you really enjoy drawing?

I love drawing Miss Battle-Axe from the Horrid Henry books. She never smiles.

Is it hard to do illustrations for other writers' books?

It's easier to illustrate your own because every illustrator has things they don't like to draw or can't draw. If you write the story yourself you don't include those things in the story!



The Greedy Man

A long time ago in China, there were two neighbours, a kind farmer and a greedy merchant. One evening, when they were walking along a riverbank, they saw a wounded bird. The tiny sparrow was hurt and its body was throbbing in pain. The farmer stopped to pick it up and stroked its ruffled feathers.

“Why bother with a creature that is half dead? It will be nothing but trouble to you,” said the greedy man impatiently.

“You go on ahead,” said the farmer.

He brought the bird home to care for it, talking to it each day as if it were a little child. When the bird’s broken wing was better, he knew he must let it go, although he was sad to say goodbye.



“Go, little one, fly away,” he said, gently.

And then an odd thing happened. The bird spoke. “You were so kind to me and expected nothing in return. I shall return with your reward.”

Later that day, the little bird returned carrying a large pumpkin seed for the farmer to plant. The seed grew into a long vine with many little pumpkins on it. Delighted, the farmer watched the pumpkins ripen, then he split one open to eat. It burst, not with pumpkin flesh but with gold! Every single pumpkin he cut was filled with riches. The farmer was so pleased with his good fortune that he rushed to tell everyone.

The greedy man was so jealous that he felt sick. He was determined to get rich in the same way.





The very next morning, the greedy man went looking for a wounded bird. For two days, he searched along the riverbank but each night he returned home empty-handed. On the third day, he lost all patience and took a slingshot with him.

After many attempts, he finally hit a bird and broke its wing. As he put the bird in a box he said, "Listen, little bird! I will care for you until you are well, if you will get me a pumpkin seed bigger than the farmer's."

In time, the bird's wing healed and the greedy man got ready to set it free. He was happy to hear the bird speak.

"You will get your just reward," it promised, and very soon the bird returned with a pumpkin seed.

The greedy man planted it straight away. By day, he would pace up and down his garden, looking for signs of growth. At night, he would gaze at the moon, dreaming of the riches awaiting him.

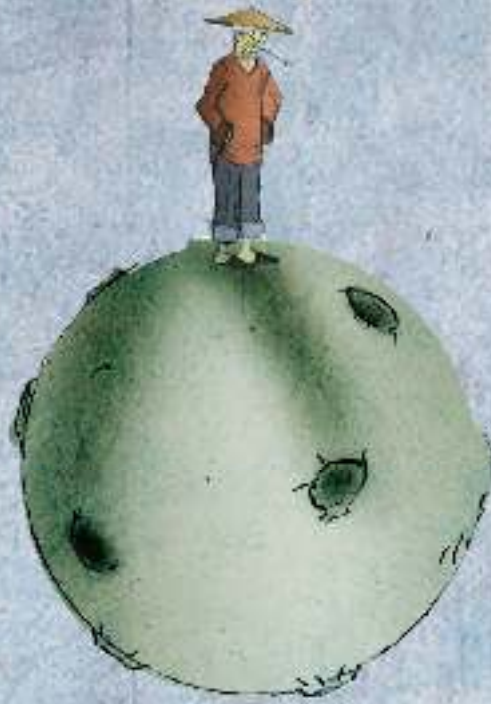


Before long, the seed had grown into a strong vine. Every day, it grew higher and higher. It seemed to the greedy man that the vine was reaching up to the moon itself! But why were there no pumpkins on the vine?

“Maybe my reward is going to be greater than the farmer’s. Perhaps I am meant to go up to the moon itself and collect my riches,” he said to himself, clapping his hands in delight.

The greedy man began to climb the vine, which did indeed lead to the moon. He immediately began searching for the glint of gold or silver, but found nothing. He felt sure that the bird had cheated him. “Wait till I get my hands on that bird!” he cried.





He looked around for the vine, but he was in for another surprise. The whole plant had vanished. Gone! He moaned and groaned and beat his head with his fists. He was stranded on the moon.

And he has lived there to this day.

That is how the old tale explains why, on some nights, you too may see this greedy man on the moon.



Standards
& Testing
Agency

2016 key stage 1 English reading

Paper 2: reading booklet

Print version product code: STA/16/7362/p ISBN: 978-1-78315-905-5

Electronic PDF version product code: STA/16/7362/e ISBN: 978-1-78315-906-2

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The Greedy Man: Bloomsbury Children's Books

Author: text adapted from *The Greedy Man*, in *Moon Tales* by Rina Singh

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