The Three Little Pigs

Retold and illustrated by Heroica Books



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Where does this story come from?

It is an English folk tale. It first appeared in print in the 1840s, in a collection by James Orchard Halliwell-Phillipps, and became famous through Joseph Jacobs's "English Fairy Tales" (1890). In the original the Wolf eats the first two pigs. In this retelling for young children they escape to their brother's house and the Wolf goes away.

What is the moral of the story?

Patient, careful work keeps us safe when hard times come, and brothers and sisters who help each other are stronger.



What if the hero of the next story were your child?

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Once upon a time there were three little pig brothers. One wore a straw hat, one wore a green scarf, and the youngest always wore blue overalls. When they were grown, Mother Pig told them it was time for each to build a house of his own.

"Build strong houses and look after each other," she said, waving from the door. And off went the three down the road, each with a little bundle over his shoulder.



The pig in the straw hat wanted to finish quickly so he could go and play. He gathered a heap of straw, and in one morning his house was done. The pig in the green scarf was in a hurry too: he nailed together a few sticks and boards, and by the afternoon he was resting in his hammock.

"There! Now we can play music and dance," the two of them laughed.



The pig in blue overalls decided to do things differently. He wheeled bricks one by one in his wheelbarrow, mixed the mortar and built up the walls very carefully. It took many days, and his brothers kept passing by and asking him to come and play.

"I'll play later. First I want a house that can stand up to anything," he answered, hot and happy.



One day the Wolf came to the straw house. "Little pig, little pig, let me come in!" "Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin!" "Then I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in!" The Wolf puffed out his cheeks and blew. Straw flew everywhere!

The little pig ran to his brother's house of sticks. But the Wolf followed, blew even harder, and the sticks scattered across the ground too. The two little pigs ran as fast as they could to the house of bricks.



In the house of bricks, the three little pigs huddled by the fireplace, where a pot of soup was bubbling. Outside, the Wolf huffed and puffed and huffed again, but the walls didn't move an inch.

So he climbed onto the roof to come down the chimney. When he felt the heat of the fire and the steam from the soup, he gave up at once, scrambled down and ran off into the forest, tired and out of breath.



That night the three brothers threw a big party: one played the fiddle, one the flute, and the third beat the drum. Then they decided to live together in the house of bricks and help each other with everything.

And they learned that doing things slowly and carefully may take more work, but it keeps you safe when hard times come. The end.

NOW IT'S YOUR CHILD'S TURN

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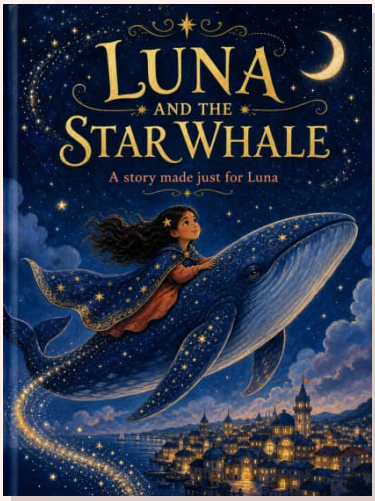

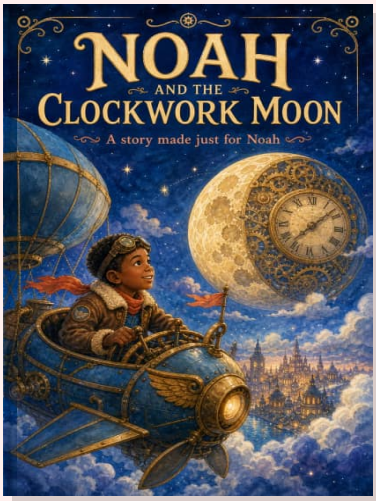



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