

The Power of Music

When you are unhappy, you should listen to “Help!” by the Beatles. The song starts with the word “help.” Throughout the song, a person is feeling down and asking for help. You feel like this person is speaking for you. In contrast, the melody is upbeat and catchy. If you sing along, you will forget your concerns. This song will help you feel better.

The Crow and the Pitcher

A thirsty crow found a pitcher. He found water inside it. He was very happy.

But he could not drink the water. His beak did not reach it. The pitcher had very little water. “I can’t drink this, but I’m very thirsty.”

He tried many ways, but he failed. His beak was too short! He thought and thought, “Okay, I have a good idea!”

He collected a lot of small stones. He dropped those stones into the pitcher one by one. What happened then?

The water level rose because of the stones. Finally he could drink the water.

Slowly

Slowly the tide creeps up the sand,
Slowly the shadows cross the land.
Slowly the cart-horse pulls his mile,
Slowly the old man mounts his stile.

Slowly the hands move round the clock,
Slowly the dew dries on the dock.
Slow is the snail – but slowest of all
The green moss spreads on the old brick wall.

Gon, the Little Fox

One day, Hyoju was catching fish and eels in the river. Gon, a little fox, played a trick on him. Gon stole the eel out of Hyoju's basket. Ten days later, Hyoju's mother died. Gon thought, "Hyoju was catching eels for his mother." Gon was sorry for stealing the eel.

Gon put chestnuts at Hyoju's house every day. Hyoju didn't know that it was Gon. One day, Hyoju saw Gon and shot him. Gon fell down, and Hyoju found the chestnuts. Hyoju dropped his rifle.

Bed in Summer

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

The Boys and the Frogs

Some Boys were playing one day at the edge of a pond where a family of Frogs lived. The Boys had fun throwing stones into the pond to make them skip on top of the water.

The stones were flying one after another and the Boys were enjoying themselves very much; but the poor Frogs in the pond were shaking with fear.

At last, an old brave frog put his head out of the water, and said, "Oh, please, dear children, stop your terrible play! Though it may be fun for you, it means death to us!"

Mother to Son

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me hasn't been a crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor —
Bare.
But all the time
I've been climbing on,
And reaching landings,
And turning corners,
And sometimes going in the dark
Where there hasn't been light.
So boy, don't turn back.
Don't sit down on the steps
Because you'll find it's kind of hard.
Don't fall now —
For I'm still going, honey,
I'm still climbing,
And life for me hasn't been a crystal stair.

Princess Kaguya

Long ago, an old man and woman lived in a small house. He collected wood and plants from the forest. One day, he found a special bamboo plant. It was shining. He cut off the top. A small girl was sitting in the bamboo.

He took the girl home to his wife. She was happy and said, "Her name is Kaguyahime." They lived together. They were poor but happy. Kaguyahime grew into a beautiful woman.

One night, Kaguyahime looked at the moon and cried. The old man asked her, "Why do you cry?" She said, "I am from the moon. I will go home soon."

On the next full moon, Kaguyahime thanked the old man and woman. She went home.

The Lion and the Mouse

One day, a mouse climbed up on a lion's back. The lion caught the mouse. The lion said, "You look delicious."

"Please let me go and some day I will surely repay you," begged the poor mouse.

The lion was much amused to think that a mouse could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the mouse go.

The next day, the lion went to the jungle. Some hunters caught the lion with a net. The lion roared for help. The mouse heard the cry. The mouse climbed up on the net and chewed on it. The lion got away.

The lion said, "Dear mouse, you kept your promise. You are small, but you are a true friend."