Helping your children choose books they will love

I ♥ reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

One Hundred Illustrated Stories

Written by

Various Authors

Published by

Usborne Publishing Ltd

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk



The Miller's Boy and the Mermaid

There was once a poor miller's boy who lived by a river. One day, he was cutting reeds when his knife slipped and sank – *splosh* – into the sparkling crystal water.

"How will I get it back?" he wondered.

A moment later, a mermaid with long, flowing hair appeared – holding a golden knife. "Is this yours?" she asked. The boy looked at it longingly, but shook his head.

The mermaid held up a silver knife. "How about this?" Again, the boy shook his head.

Finally, she held up a knife of rusty iron. The boy nodded. "That's mine, thank you!"

To his surprise, the mermaid laid all three knives on the bank before him. "Honesty deserves a reward," she told him, smiling, before diving back into the depths.

The miller's eyes lit up when he saw the knives and heard the boy's story. "Easy money," he chuckled, hurrying outside.

Splosh! Another knife sank into the water. "Oh no! How will I get it back?" he shouted.

Just as before, a mermaid appeared with a golden knife. "Is this yours?" she asked. The miller nodded, reaching out eagerly – but the mermaid snatched it away.

"There's no reward for lying," she snapped, sinking out of sight and leaving the miller empty-handed.

"I should have known," he sighed. "Honesty is always best."