

Boys and Girls.

The Careful Messenger.

A pound of tea at one-and-three,
A pot of raspberry jam,
Two new-laid eggs, a dozen pegs,
And a pound of rashers of ham.

I'll say it over all the way,
And then I'm sure not to forget,
For if I chance to bring things wrong
My mother gets in such a pet.

A pound of tea at one-and-three,
And a pot of raspberry jam,
Two new-laid eggs, a dozen pegs,
And a pound of rashers of ham.

There, in the hay, the children play,
They're having such jolly fun;
I'll go there, too, that's what I'll do,
As soon as my errands are done.

A pound of tea at one-and-three,
A pot of—er—new-laid jam,
Two raspberry eggs, a dozen pegs,
And a pound of rashers of ham.

There's Teddy White flying his kite,
He thinks himself grand, I declare;
I'd like to make it fly up sky high,
And then—but there—

A pound of three, and one at tea,
A pot of new-laid jam,
Two dozen eggs, some raspberry pegs,
And a pound of rashers of ham.

Now here's the shop, outside I'll stop
And run my orders through again;
I haven't forgot; no, ne'er a jot—
It shows I'm pretty cute, that's plain.

A pound of three, and one at tea,
A dozen of raspberry jam,
A pot of eggs, with a dozen pegs,
And a rasher of new-laid jam.

The Three Golden Heads.

Very long ago there was a king
who was much loved by his subjects,
and for long all went very well with
him; but one day his queen, whom
he dearly loved, died, leaving behind
her an only daughter, a very lovely
maiden of about fifteen.

After a time the king made up his
mind to marry again, and chose as
his wife a very rich widow, who had
likewise an only daughter. Now the
second wife was old, ugly, hook-nosed,
and hump-backed, and it was only to
get her money that the king married
her. Moreover, her daughter was also
ugly, and also envied and ill-natured—in fact, very much like her mother.

The new queen and her ugly daughter
had not been long in the palace
before they began plotting against the
king's daughter, telling him all kinds
of tales about her, which he was foolish
enough to believe. So in time the
poor princess could bear to live at
her father's court no longer, and one
day asked the king, with tears in her
eyes, to give her something to take
with her and let her go and seek her
fortune.

The king consented, and bade the
queen give her some money—as much
as she thought needful—and let her
go. The queen, however, only gave
her a bag of brown bread and hard
cheese, with a bottle of water, and no
money, these the maiden took, and
travelling her stepmother, set out on
her journey. She went through woods
and valleys, till at length she saw an
old man sitting on a stone at the
mouth of the cave, who said—

"Good day, fair maiden, where are
you going so fast?"

"Aged father," said she, "I am going
to seek my fortune." "What have
you in your bag and bottle?" "In my
bag I have got bread and cheese, and
in my bottle clear water," said she.
"Will you have some?"

"Yes," said the old man, "with all
my heart." With that the maiden
pulled out the bread and cheese and
water and bade him eat and welcome.
He did so, thanked her heartily, and

said:—"You will soon come to a thick,
thorny hedge, which will look as if
there were no way of getting through
it. But take this wand in your hand,
strike three times, and say—"Pray,
hedge, let me come through," and it
will open at once and let you through.
Then a little further on you will find
a well; sit down on the edge of it and
there will come up three golden
heads, which will speak. Do whatever
they ask you."

Promising to do just what he had
told her, the maiden took leave of the
old man, and presently reached the
hedge. She did as he had said, and the
hedge opened and let her through.
Then a little further on, she came
to the well, and had no sooner sat
down on its edge than a golden head
came up singing:

"Wash me and comb me,
And lay me down softly,
And lay me on a bank to dry,
That I may look pretty
When some one comes by."

"So I will," said she, and she combed
the head with a silver comb and
put it upon a primrose bank to dry.

Then came a second head, and then
a third, and each asked her to comb
them and lay them down softly, which
she did. She then took out her bread
and cheese and water and ate her dinner.

Presently she heard the heads talking
together and saying—"What shall
we do for this maiden who has treated
us so kindly?" And the first said—
"I will make her so beautiful that she
will charm the most powerful prince
in the world"; and the second one
said—"I will make her so smell so
sweetly that she will be far sweeter
than the sweetest flowers"; and the
third said—"My gift shall not be the
least, for, as she is a king's daughter,
I'll make her so fortunate that she
shall be queen to the greatest prince
in the world."

Then the three golden heads asked
to be again let down into the well,
which the maiden did, and then went
on her way.

She had not gone far before she saw
a king hunting in a park with his
nobles, and would have gone another
way, but the king caught sight of her,
went up to her, and seeing her great
beauty and smelling the sweet scent
about her, fell so much in love with
her that he asked her to marry him
at once, and took her to his palace.

After a time he found out that his
bride was the King of Gloucester's
daughter, so he ordered some chariots
to be got ready and set out to
pay the king a visit.

When the king saw his daughter
drive up with her husband in a very
fine chariot adorned with gold and
precious stones, he was at first amazed,
but afterwards very much glad; as for
the court, they all rejoiced to see
their beautiful princess again and
so happily married—all except the old
queen and her club-footed daughter,
who were ready to die with envy.
There were great feasts and dancing
held at court, which lasted for
many days, and at length the princess
returned home with her husband and
a rich dowry that her father had given
her.

The deformed daughter now
thought that she would go and seek
her fortune, so her mother got ready
for her some rich clothes, quantities of
sweetmeats, sugar and almonds, and a
large bottle of choice wine. Then
she set out on the same road as her
half-sister had taken, and when she
came near the cave there was the
same old man, who said—"Young
woman, where are you going so fast?"

"What is that to you?" said she.

"Then," said he, "What have you in
your bag and bottle?" "Good things,"
she answered, "but they are not for
you." "Wont you give me a little
bit?" asked he. "No, not a bit, nor
a little drop, unless it would choke

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