

they had no lamp, for their store of oil was gone. And this meant they had no fire either; for such things as matches were unknown in that land at the time of this story.

35. One day they were sitting huddled together, to try and keep some warmth in them, and they were talking sadly of their fate, when a sound outside made them start to their feet. In this silent winter world they often heard no sound for weeks together, save the sighing of the wind, or the screaming of the gulls as they flew overhead.

36. "What can it be?" cried Arnara; and together they crawled through the little passage which led from their house to the white world outside.

37. But when they came forth from the passage, they saw a sight which drove all their sad thoughts from their minds. Just outside the entrance to the hut lay a pile of fishes, little and big. But there was no sign of anyone who could have put them there.

38. However, Salick and Arnara were too hungry to stop to think about that. Seizing the fish with cries of joy, they ran into the house, and, sitting down, were soon making a good meal. The fish had to be eaten raw, for they had no fire on which to cook it; but this did not matter to children who were almost starving.

39. It was not until they had eaten enough