

EXPLORERS 4



The Snow Queen



MACMILLAN ENGLISH EXPLORERS



Contents

<i>Pieces of Glass</i>	3
1 Kay and Gerda	4
2 Kay's journey	9
3 Looking for Kay	14
4 The rose	19
5 Gerda and the raven	24
6 The princess	29
7 The robber's child	35
8 Gerda's journey	41
9 The Snow Queen's palace	47
10 Kay and Gerda go home	52
<i>Stopping by woods on a snowy evening</i>	58
Winter sports	60

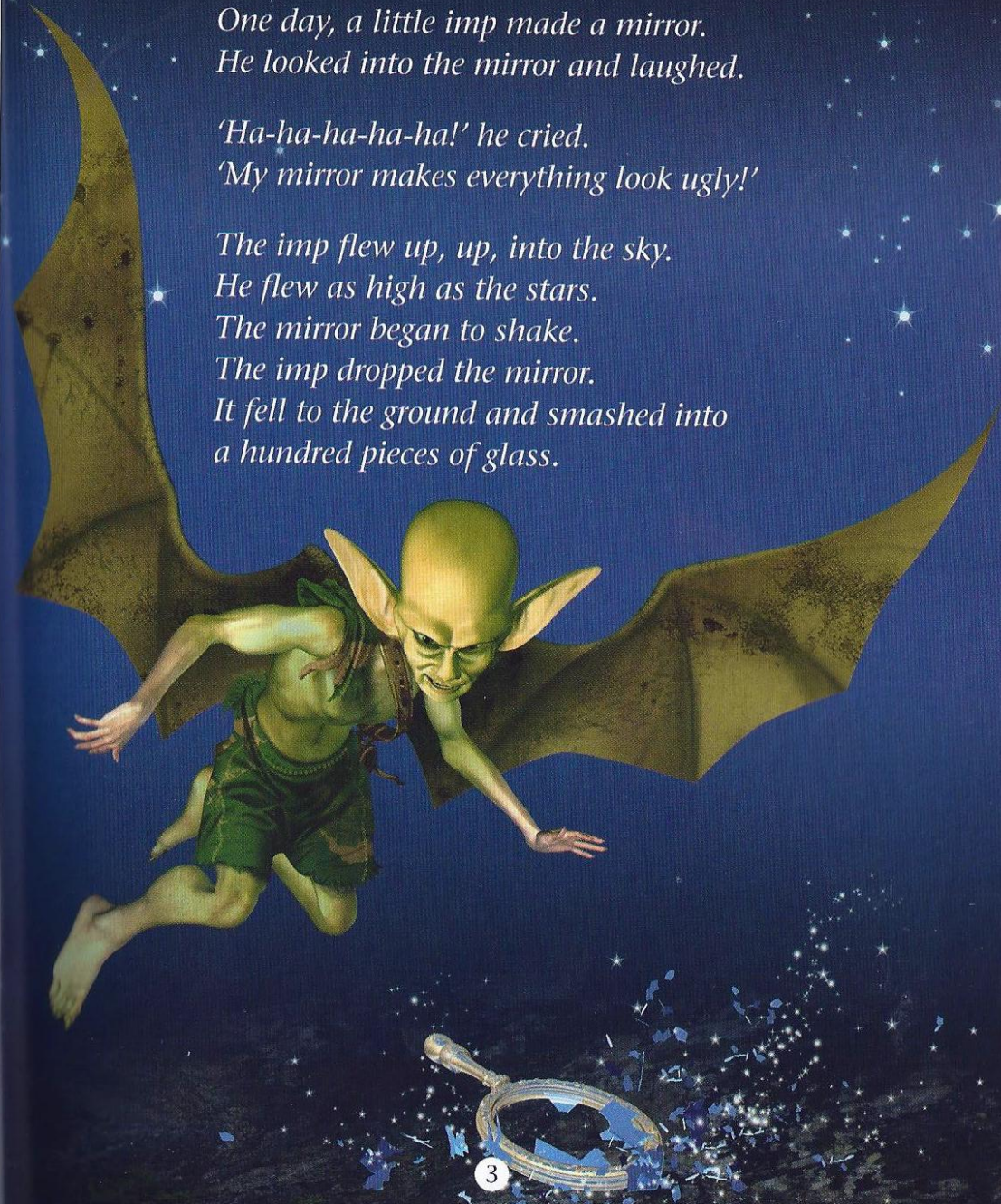


Pieces of Glass

*One day, a little imp made a mirror.
He looked into the mirror and laughed.*

*'Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!' he cried.
'My mirror makes everything look ugly!'*

*The imp flew up, up, into the sky.
He flew as high as the stars.
The mirror began to shake.
The imp dropped the mirror.
It fell to the ground and smashed into
a hundred pieces of glass.*



Kay and Gerda

Kay lived next door to his best friend Gerda. The two children spent a lot of time together. They loved each other like brother and sister.

One day, the children were playing in Kay's grandmother's house. It was warm inside the house. But outside it was getting colder.

'Look out of the window, Kay!' cried Gerda. 'Look! It's snowing!'

Kay's grandmother watched the children and smiled. Then she came and stood next to them.

'The snowflakes look like white bees on my roses,' she said.



'Have the bees got a queen bee?' asked Kay.

'The Snow Queen is the queen bee,' said his grandmother. 'She is the biggest snowflake. She flies through the streets on winter nights. She brings the snow and ice.'

That night, Kay looked out of the window again. A big snowflake lay on one of the roses. The snowflake grew bigger and bigger until it became a beautiful ice woman. The woman turned and looked at Kay coldly.



Kay was afraid of the ice woman. He turned away from the window and got into bed. Suddenly, he felt a cold wind on his face.

‘What’s that?’ thought Kay. ‘Is it the ice woman?’

The next morning, the sun was shining. It melted some of the snow. Kay and Gerda went to play in the rose garden. Then they sat and looked at a book together.

Suddenly, Kay cried out. He put his hand to his face.

‘There’s something in my eye. Ow! It hurts!’ he said.

‘Let me see,’ said Gerda and she looked into his eye. But she couldn’t see anything there.

The imp in the sky looked down and laughed: ‘Ha-ha! Kay has got a piece of glass in his eye! It came from my mirror! It will turn into ice and will make Kay naughty and rude!’

And that is what happened.

Suddenly, Kay was like a different boy. He looked angry and he spoke rudely.

‘You look ugly, Gerda!’ he shouted. ‘And so do the roses! Ugly, ugly!’ Then Kay kicked one of the roses.

‘Kay!’ said Gerda. ‘What’s wrong? Why are you being so rude?’

Kay was usually polite. But everything he said that day was rude and everything he did was naughty.



Gerda felt very sad. What was wrong with her best friend?



Kay's journey

The next day, Kay took his sledge to Gerda's house. 'I can't play with you today,' he said. 'I'm tired of playing with a silly girl.'

'But we always play together!' cried Gerda.

'Well, not today. I'm going to the town square,' said Kay. 'I will ride on my sledge with the other boys.' And he left Gerda to play alone.

When Kay arrived in the town square, there was a horse and cart there. There were lots of boys around the horse and cart. One boy tied his sledge to the back of the cart. When the horse started to walk, the little sledge was pulled behind it. All the boys laughed.



Suddenly, Kay felt a cold wind on his face. Then a big white sledge raced into the square. It was pulled by four white horses. A beautiful woman sat on the sledge. She wore a white fur coat and a big fur hat. It was the ice woman!

'I know what I will do,' thought Kay. 'The other boys will think I'm very brave!'

Kay tied his little sledge to the back of the ice woman's big white sledge and jumped on it.

Then the big white sledge began to move. Kay was pulled along behind it.

Together, the woman and Kay raced out of the town square. When they came to the gates of the town, the woman turned and smiled.

It began to snow. On and on they went, faster and faster. Kay and the woman raced across the snowy fields. The snowflakes grew bigger and bigger. They looked like white birds!



Then, at last, the horses stopped and the beautiful woman stood up. She turned and smiled at Kay again. She was tall, with white skin and cold blue eyes. There was ice on her fur hat.



'Sit next to me, Kay,' she said. 'I am the Snow Queen. I will look after you.' Then she picked the little boy up and put him on the big white sledge.

'Put this around your shoulders. It's very cold,' she said. And she wrapped him in her fur coat.

Suddenly, Kay didn't feel cold at all. He thought only of the Snow Queen and he forgot his home, his grandmother and his friend Gerda.

'We are going on a long journey, Kay,' said the Snow Queen.

'Where are we going?' asked the boy.

'We are going to my palace. It is made of snow,' she answered.

They began to move forward again. Soon they came to a river, but the horses did not stop. They flew up into the sky. The snowflakes fell and the wind blew. The horses pulled the sledge over land and sea. They went faster and faster, and higher and higher.



Looking for Kay

Gerda sat by the window. She watched and waited for Kay all day but he did not return. Where was he?

So Gerda decided to go to the town square. There she saw the boys on their sledges.

'Where is Kay?' Gerda asked them. 'He came here this morning to ride on his sledge.'

'A woman raced into the square. She was on a big white sledge,' said one of the boys. 'Kay tied his little sledge to the back of her big sledge and then they left together.'

'But where is Kay now?' said Gerda. 'Where did the woman take him?'

'I don't know, Gerda. I'm sorry,' replied the boy.



Gerda sat down and thought for a minute. Then she had an idea. 'Kay and the woman must be at the river,' she said to herself. 'The river is very deep. The woman's horses cannot cross it.'

So Gerda put on her new red shoes and went to the river. But Kay and the woman were not there.

'Where is my friend Kay?' Gerda asked the river. 'Please show me where he is. I will give you my new red shoes.'

She took off her shoes and threw them into the river. But the shoes did not sink into the water. They stayed next to the river bank.

'I didn't throw the shoes far enough,' thought Gerda.



Then Gerda saw a little green boat. It was floating next to a wooden post on the riverbank. Gerda stepped into the boat and threw her red shoes into the water again. This time the shoes sank.

But the boat was not tied to the post and it floated away from the riverbank. At first, Gerda was afraid. 'Where is the boat taking me?' she cried. 'I want to go home!' But then she thought, 'Maybe the boat will take me to Kay! Maybe the boat knows where Kay is.'

The boat floated on down the river. Gerda saw beautiful flowers and tall trees. There were sheep and cows in a field. There were woods and high mountains.



The rose

Gerda told the old woman all about Kay. She told her about Kay's grandmother's house and its beautiful rose garden. Then she told her about the woman on the white sledge.

'Don't worry about Kay,' said the old woman. 'Stay with me and I will look after you.'

The old woman was very kind. She gave Gerda some red cherries to eat. Then she combed Gerda's hair with a gold comb.

'You are my little girl now!' the old woman told her. She carried Gerda to bed and sang her a song. Gerda was tired and soon went to sleep.

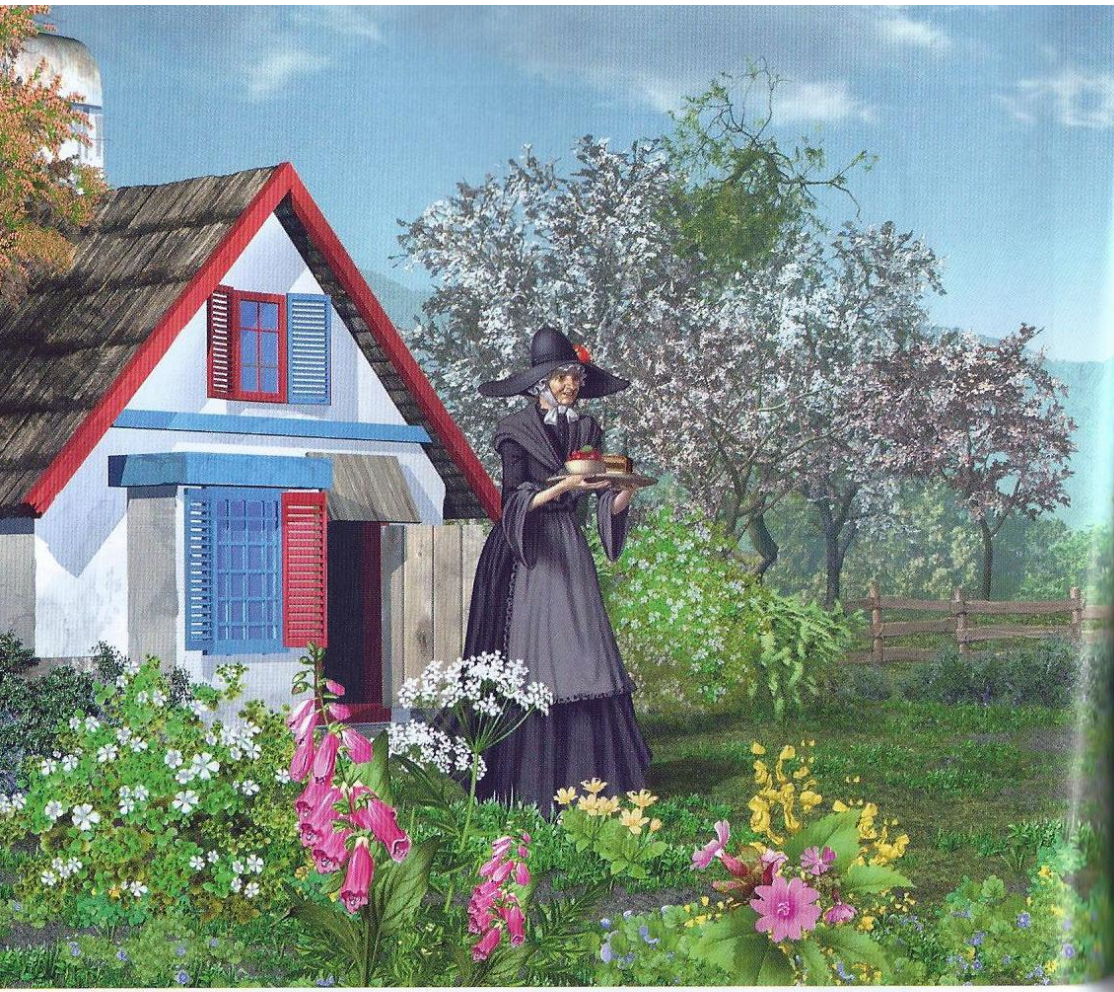


A short time later, the boat floated past a little white house with red and blue windows. The house had a beautiful sunny garden full of flowers. There was an old woman in the garden. The old woman was picking roses. She wore a long black dress and carried a stick. On her head she wore a big black hat. There was a red rose on the hat.

'Hello, little girl!' cried the old woman to Gerda. 'What are you doing? Why are you floating down the river in a boat? Let me help you!'

And the old woman pulled the boat to the riverbank with her stick. She helped Gerda up and led her into the little house with red and blue windows.





The next morning the old woman got up early. She went into her garden and pulled up every rose, one by one.

‘Gerda will see the roses and remember the rose garden at home,’ the woman thought. ‘She will remember her friend Kay and she will go to look for him. She won’t want to stay with me any more.’

But there was one rose the old woman forgot. It was the rose on her hat!

The old woman went back into her house. She made a big breakfast of eggs and fresh bread for Gerda.



After breakfast, Gerda went into the garden. She played with a ball and ran through the flowers. Then she sat in the sun and looked at a book.

‘I love it here,’ she thought. ‘The old woman is very kind and the garden is so beautiful. Maybe I will stay here forever.’

A short time later, the old woman came out of the house. She was carrying cherries and chocolate cake.

‘Thank you!’ said Gerda. She smiled at the old woman. But then she saw the rose on the old woman’s hat.

'Oh!' cried Gerda. Suddenly, she remembered Kay and his grandmother's rose garden. She remembered the boys in the square and the woman on the big white sledge.

'I must go now! I must go and find Kay!' she told the woman. She ran to the garden gate and tried to open it. But the gate was locked.



'That old woman wants to keep me here forever!' thought Gerda. 'She's not my friend.'

Then Gerda pulled the gate very hard. It opened and Gerda ran out of the garden. She ran far away from the little white house with red and blue windows. She ran far away from the old woman with the rose on her hat.

It was winter outside the old woman's sunny garden. Gerda was not wearing her red shoes. Her feet were bare and very cold as she ran through the snow.



Gerda and the raven

Many hours passed. Gerda ran and ran. She ran until she was too tired to run any more. Then she sat down to rest.

A big black raven flew down from a tree. He landed on the snowy ground next to the little girl. 'What is your name?' he asked.

'My name is Gerda,' she replied.

'Where are you going?' said the raven. 'Why are you all alone? Why haven't you got any shoes?'

'I'm looking for my friend, Kay,' Gerda said. 'He went away with a woman on a big white sledge. I want him to come home.'

'Did you say his name is Kay?' said the raven.

'It is!' said Gerda. 'Have you seen him?'

'Yes,' the raven replied. 'There is a big palace near here. A beautiful princess lives in the palace. She is looking for a husband. Lots of young men visit the princess. They all want to marry her.'

'But Kay is only a boy,' cried Gerda.

'Kay went to the palace. He talked to the princess,' said the raven.

'Will you take me to the palace?' said Gerda. 'Kay may still be there.'

The raven thought for a moment. Then he said, 'I will go and ask my wife. She will know what to do.'



So Gerda sat and waited for the raven. It was snowing now and her bare feet were very cold. Soon it was dark.

At last the raven flew back to her.

'Did you see your wife?' asked Gerda.

'Yes,' said the raven. 'She gave me a piece of bread for you.'

The raven pulled a large piece of bread from under his wing and gave it to her.

'Thank you!' said Gerda. 'Your wife is very kind.'

Gerda was very hungry and she quickly ate the bread.



'Now will you take me to the palace?' she asked the raven.

'The servants will think you are very strange,' the raven replied. 'You are just a little girl. You are alone and you haven't got any shoes. They won't let you come in.'

'Then what can I do?' said Gerda. 'I must find Kay.'

'My wife knows a secret staircase at the back of the palace,' said the raven. 'I will take you to it.'

'Thank you!' said Gerda.

So Gerda and the raven set off across the snow.



The princess



At the top of the staircase, there were six wooden doors. The raven flew up to one of them. 'That's the princess's bedroom,' he said. 'Shall we go in?' asked Gerda. 'Yes, but try to be quiet,' said the raven. 'We don't want to wake her.'

The raven took Gerda to the back door of the palace.

Gerda opened it and they went in.

It was dark inside but a candle was burning. Gerda could see the secret staircase. She walked up the stairs and thought about Kay. She remembered his golden hair and his bright blue eyes. 'When will I see Kay again?' she said to the raven. 'Will I find him here in the palace?'

'You are a good girl,' said the raven. 'And you love your friend very much. Don't worry. Everything will be all right.'



Gerda pushed the door open and walked into a beautiful room. The walls were pink and there were lots of flowers. In the middle of the room was a white bed. In the bed lay a beautiful young woman.



Gerda tried to be quiet. But the princess heard the little girl's footsteps and woke up.

'Who are you?' she asked Gerda. 'Why are you in my bedroom? What do you want?'

So Gerda told the princess her story.

'So that is why I am here,' she finished. 'I am looking for my friend Kay.'

The princess smiled. 'Kay came to the palace,' she said. 'We talked for a short time.'

'Is he still here?' asked Gerda.

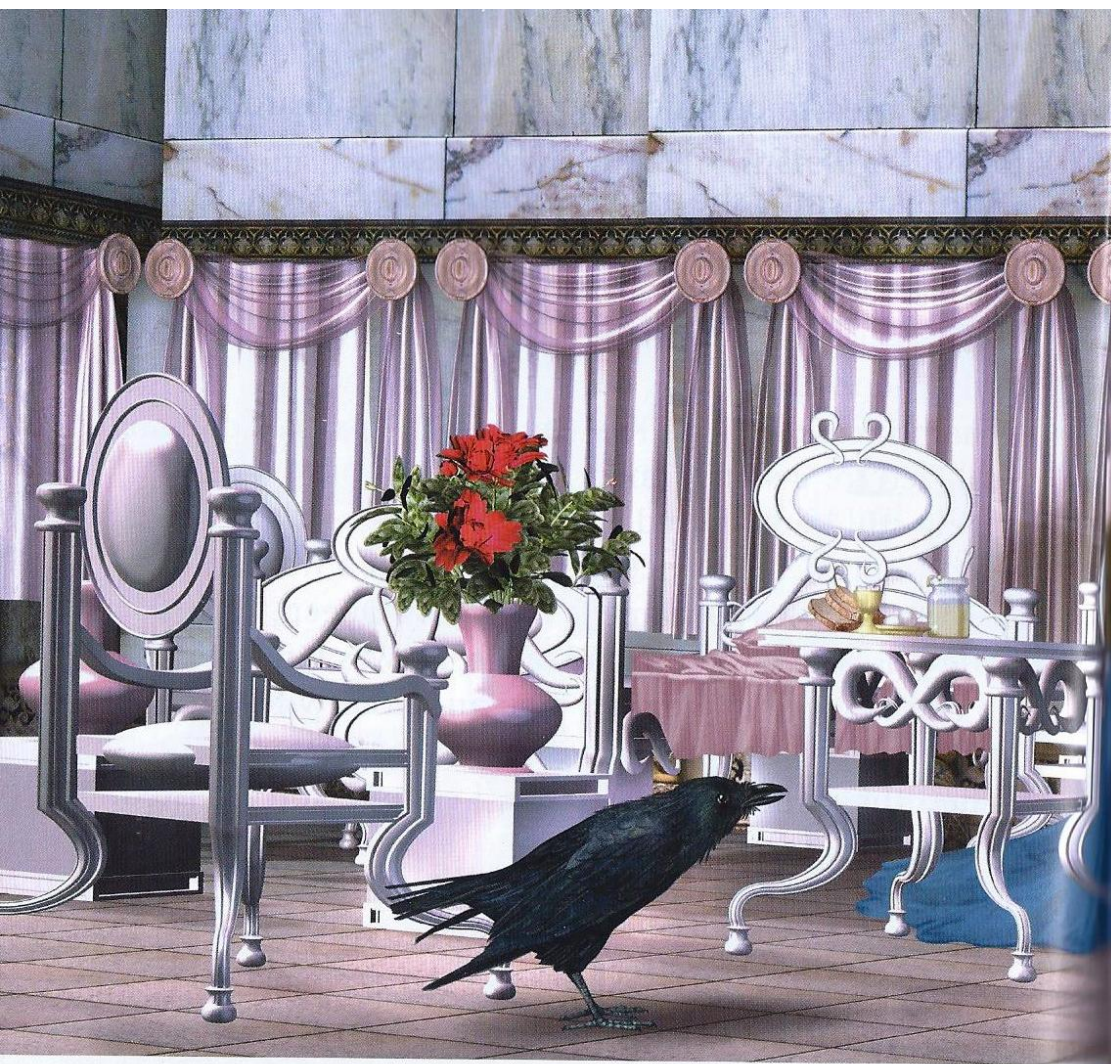
'No,' replied the princess. 'He left with a woman on a big white sledge. Her name is the Snow Queen.'

The princess turned to the raven. 'It was kind of you to help this little girl,' she said. 'You and your wife can both come to my kitchen and have some food.'

Then the princess said, 'Gerda, I can see you are tired. You can sleep in my bed.'

So Gerda jumped into the white bed. She went to sleep at once. She dreamt about Kay. He was riding through the snow on his little sledge.





When Gerda woke up, the princess gave her a breakfast of eggs, bread and honey.

'You can stay here with me if you like,' the princess said. 'There is lots of room in my palace.'

'Thank you very much,' said Gerda. 'But I must find my friend Kay.'

'Then I will give you two horses and a carriage,' said the princess. 'I will give you some new clothes, too.'



The kind princess brought a pink silk dress for Gerda. She gave her a fur coat, a fur hat, some big fur gloves and some fur boots. Gerda put them on and looked in the mirror. The little girl laughed at herself.

'Now I am ready for the ice and snow,' she said. 'Now I am ready for the Snow Queen!'

The robber's child

Then the princess took Gerda and the raven into the palace garden. A beautiful golden carriage was waiting for them. It was pulled by two golden horses. The princess gave Gerda some cakes and sweets for the journey.

Gerda and the raven got into the carriage. 'Goodbye!' the little girl called to the princess.

'Goodbye!' said the princess.

The raven travelled with Gerda for a short time. Then he looked at her sadly. 'I must go back to my wife,' he said. 'She's waiting for me. Goodbye!'

'Goodbye, my friend! Thank you for everything!' Gerda cried. And the raven flew away.



The carriage went into the woods. It was very dark and very silent. Gerda began to feel afraid.

Suddenly she heard shouting. Then a group of men ran out of the trees. The leader was tall and dark. He had a little girl with him.

'Look! That carriage is made of gold!' shouted the leader.

'And what beautiful golden horses!' said another man.

'This is a good day for us!'

The leader ran up to the carriage and opened the door. Then he pulled poor Gerda out and held her by her arms.

The little girl walked up to Gerda and smiled.

'Are you a princess?' she asked.

'No,' said Gerda. 'I'm just a little girl, like you.'

'But you have a coat made of fur and a beautiful silk dress!' said the girl. 'Father, I want this little girl to come to our house and play with me. She can sleep in my room.'

The robber looked at his daughter and smiled. 'All right,' he said. And he drove them back to his house.

Inside the house there were many piles of gold.

'Where did you get all this gold?' Gerda asked.

'I stole it!' the robber replied.





Then the robber's child took Gerda to her bedroom. Gerda's eyes opened wide with surprise. The room was full of animals! Dogs, cats, pigeons, a sheep – and a reindeer!

Gerda told the robber's child her story. The animals listened, too.

Suddenly a pigeon flew down and sat on Gerda's hand. 'I saw your friend Kay a few days ago!' the pigeon said to Gerda.

'Where?' cried Gerda. 'Where was he?'

'He was on the Snow Queen's big white sledge,' said the pigeon. 'They flew past this castle.'

'Where were they going?' asked Gerda. 'Do you know? Oh, please tell me. I must find Kay!'



'I think they were going to Finland,' said the pigeon. 'The Snow Queen lives there in a big palace made of snow. It's the coldest place in the world. Ask my friend, the reindeer. He comes from Finland.'

'Tell me about Finland,' Gerda said to the reindeer. 'I must go there at once!'

The reindeer opened his big dark eyes. 'It's a beautiful place, full of ice and snow!' he said. 'Lots of reindeer live there.'

In the morning, when the robber was asleep, Gerda heard a girl's voice whispering in her ear. It was the robber's child.

'Wake up, Gerda!' she said. 'I've got an idea!'

Gerda sat up. 'Tell me!' she said.

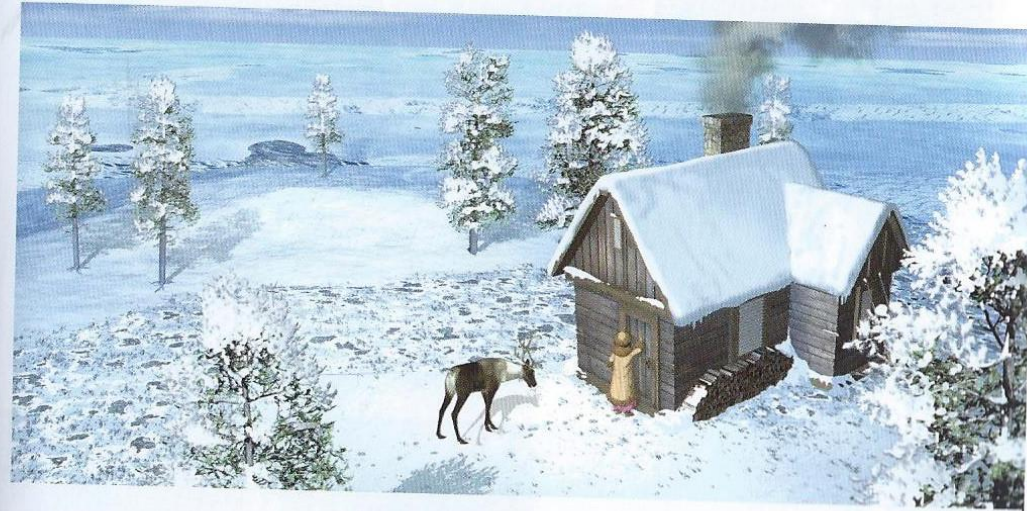
'I like you and I want to help you,' said the robber's child. 'Put on your fur coat and your hat. I will keep your gloves because I *am* the robber's child. My reindeer will take you to Finland. Then you can look for Kay and the Snow Queen.'

The girl untied the reindeer and helped Gerda on to his back. She gave Gerda some bread and water.

'Thank you!' cried Gerda. Then she and the reindeer left the robber's house and set off for Finland.



Gerda's journey



All day and all night, the reindeer carried Gerda over the snow. The next morning, they came to a little house. Gerda knocked on the door and an old woman opened it.

'Hello, who's this? A little girl and a reindeer!' the old woman said. 'What do you want, my child?'

'We're going to Finland,' said Gerda. 'We're looking for the Snow Queen. She came to my town and took my friend Kay.'

'Well, you are in Lapland now,' said the old woman. 'Come in and sit by the fire. You can rest for a short time.'

Gerda and the reindeer went into the little house. They sat by the fire and the old woman gave them some bread and fish.

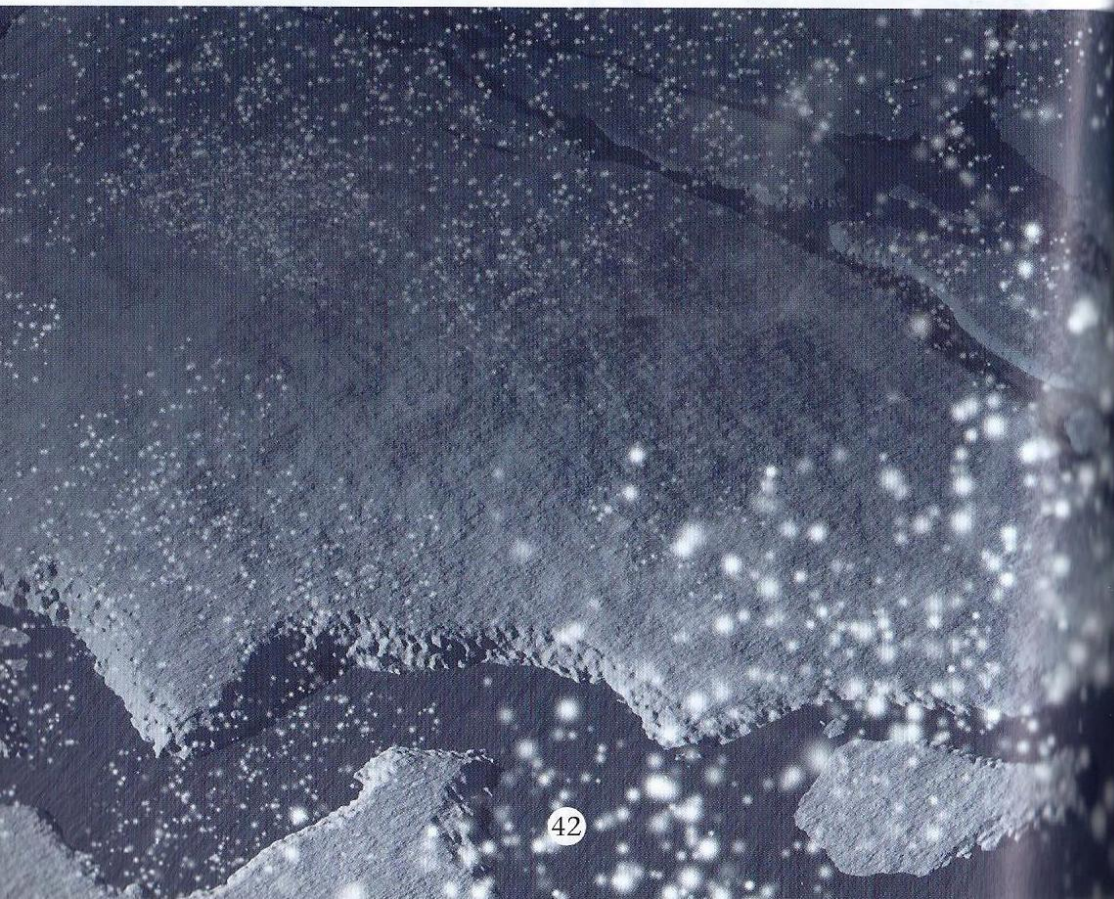
'You have many miles to travel,' said the old woman. 'It is a long way to Finland.'

'I hope it won't take too long,' said Gerda.

'The reindeer will go fast,' said the old woman. 'And I have a friend who lives there. She will look after you. I will write a letter. Please give it to her when you get there.'

So the old woman wrote a letter and gave it to Gerda. 'Now,' the old woman said. 'Off you go!'

All day and all night, the reindeer carried Gerda over the snow and across the icy rivers. Big snowflakes fell from the sky. The snowflakes landed on Gerda's fur hat and on the reindeer's back.



In the morning, Gerda and the reindeer arrived in Finland! They looked at the address on the letter. Soon they found the old woman's friend. She was very kind. Gerda and the reindeer sat by her fire and the woman gave them some food. Then she read the letter from her friend in Lapland.

'Kay has a piece of glass in his eye,' the woman read. 'It makes Kay love the Snow Queen and it makes him forget Gerda. It makes him forget his grandmother and his home with its beautiful rose garden. If Gerda doesn't take the piece of glass out of his eye, Kay will stay with the Snow Queen forever. He is happy with the Snow Queen and he doesn't want to go home.'



The Snow Queen's palace

Then the woman looked at the reindeer. 'The Snow Queen's palace is two miles away,' she told him. 'Take Gerda as far as the palace gates and leave her there.'

When they came to the palace gates, the reindeer stopped.

'I must go now, Gerda,' he said. Then he kissed Gerda's hand. 'Goodbye!'

'Goodbye!' cried Gerda. And the little girl was all alone again.



Kay was sitting on the floor of the Snow Queen's palace. He was doing a jigsaw puzzle made of pieces of ice.

The walls of the palace were made of snow. All the rooms were empty. In the middle of the palace was a lake. It was covered in ice. The Snow Queen sat on a throne in the middle of the lake.

'Come here, my little Ice Boy,' she called to Kay. 'I want to tell you something.'

Kay ran across the icy lake and the Snow Queen wrapped him in her fur coat.

'I am going away,' she told him.

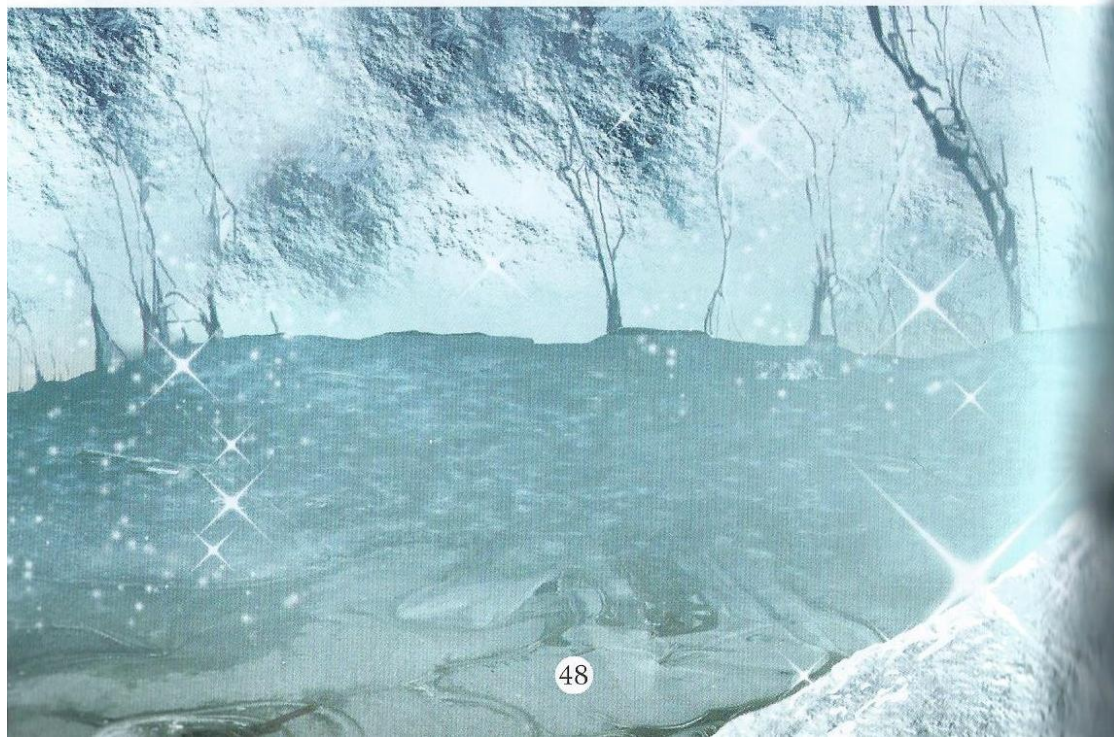
'Where are you going?' asked Kay.

'I'm going to the lands in the south,' said the Snow Queen. 'I am going to take winter to them. I will put snow on the mountains and ice in the rivers. I will make the cold winds blow.'

'But what about me?' asked Kay. 'You can't leave me.'

'You must stay here and wait for me,' the Snow Queen said. 'I won't be long.' Then she called for her horses and her big white sledge. She got on the sledge and raced away!

Kay felt sad and went back to his jigsaw puzzle. He was all alone in the palace made of snow.



Then suddenly, Kay heard a voice!

'Kay! Oh, Kay!' cried the voice. 'I have found you at last!' Kay looked up and saw a little girl running towards him.

Kay dropped his jigsaw piece. He sat very still. Who was this little girl?

'Kay, it's me! Your friend, Gerda!' she said, and she began to cry. Kay looked at the little girl's hot tears and suddenly the piece of glass fell from his eye.

'Oh, Gerda!' Kay cried. 'Of course I remember you! Where am I, Gerda? What am I doing here in this cold, empty place?'



'The Snow Queen brought you here,' said Gerda. 'You had a piece of glass in your eye. It made you forget me. It made you forget your grandmother and her house with the rose garden. The Snow Queen wanted to keep you in her palace forever. But now we can go home.'

'Home?' said Kay.

'Yes,' said Gerda. 'Do you remember your home?'

'Yes,' said Kay. 'I remember now!'

'The piece of glass has gone,' Gerda said. 'You are not rude or naughty any more! Everything is all right now. But where is the Snow Queen?'

Kay smiled. 'The Snow Queen went to the lands in the south,' he said. 'She took winter with her. Let's go, Gerda, before she comes back!'



Kay and Gerda go home

Kay and Gerda ran out of the Snow Queen's palace and through the icy garden. Wherever the two children went, the snow stopped falling and the sun started to shine.

Soon Kay and Gerda came to the palace gates. There they had a surprise. The reindeer was waiting for them!

'Here is some milk,' he said. 'You have a long way to go.'
So Kay and Gerda drank the milk quickly.

'Thank you!' they said.

'I have come to take you home,' the reindeer told them. 'You can both ride on my back.'

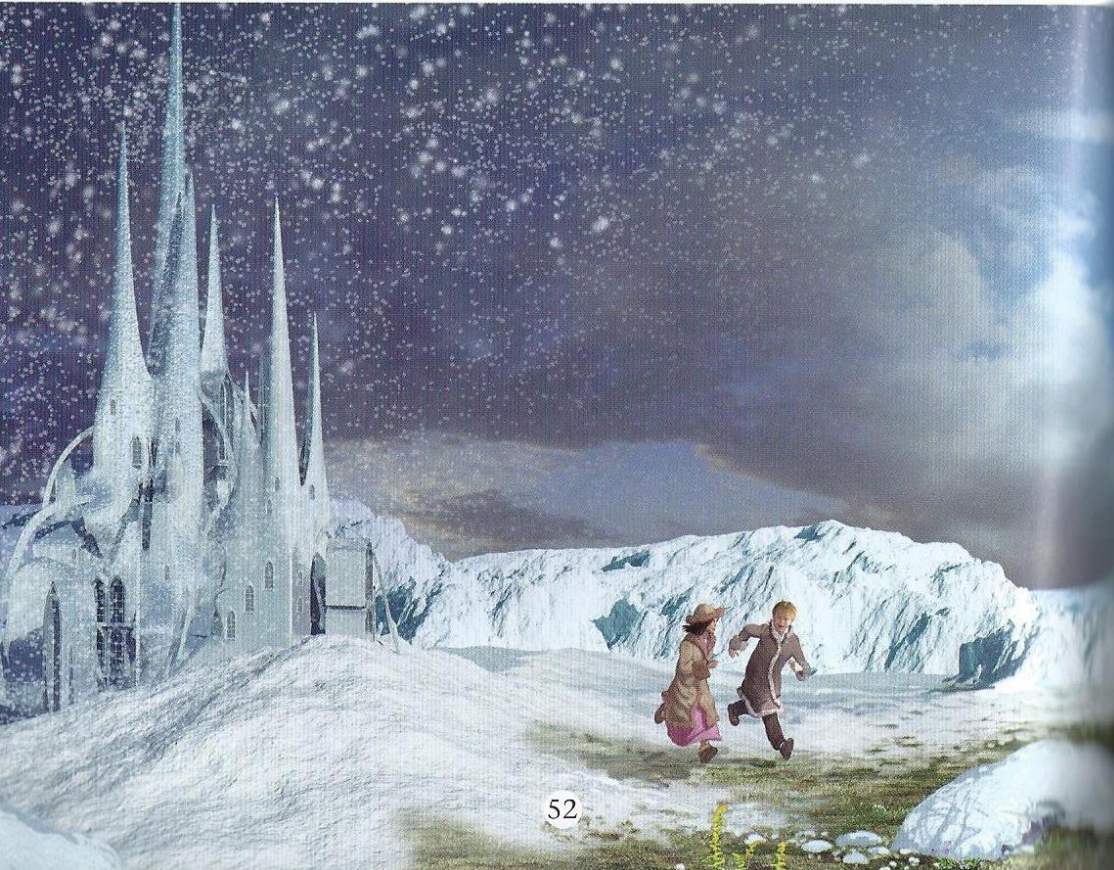
So Kay and Gerda climbed on to the reindeer's back and they set off for home. Soon they arrived at the house of the woman from Finland.

'Oh, good! You found your friend!' she said to Gerda. 'Hello, little Kay!'

The woman gave the children some dinner. She also gave some hay to the reindeer.

Then it was time to leave.

'Have a good journey!' cried the woman. 'And say hello to my friend in Lapland!'



The woman from Lapland was happy to see them, too. 'Come in and sit by my fire!' she said. 'You are still a long way from home.'

They all sat by the fire and the children told the woman from Lapland their stories. Then the woman gave them some new clothes and some food.

'We must go now,' said Gerda. 'Thank you for everything!'

Gerda and Kay travelled all day and all night until they came to the robbers' house.

There they saw the robber's child. She was riding on a golden horse.

'That's one of the horses that pulled my golden carriage!' thought Gerda.

The robber's child rode up to them, 'It's good to see you again, Gerda!' she said. 'And is this Kay? Your friend loves you very much, Kay. She made a long journey to find you.'

'I know,' said Kay. 'I will never forget what she did for me.'



'We must go home now,' Gerda told the robber's child. 'Thank you! We will never forget you.'

Then Kay and Gerda left the reindeer with the robber's child and set off again.

At last, they came to their town and to Kay's grandmother's house. Kay and Gerda hugged and kissed the old woman. Then they sat down and told her their stories.

They told her about their new friends: the raven, the reindeer, the women from Lapland and Finland. They told her about the robber's child and the princess.

But they soon forgot all about the Snow Queen and her cold, empty palace.

Later, Kay and Gerda went outside into the rose garden. Above their heads the sky was blue. The roses were growing and birds were making their nests. It was spring.

The long cold winter was over.



Stopping by woods on a snowy evening

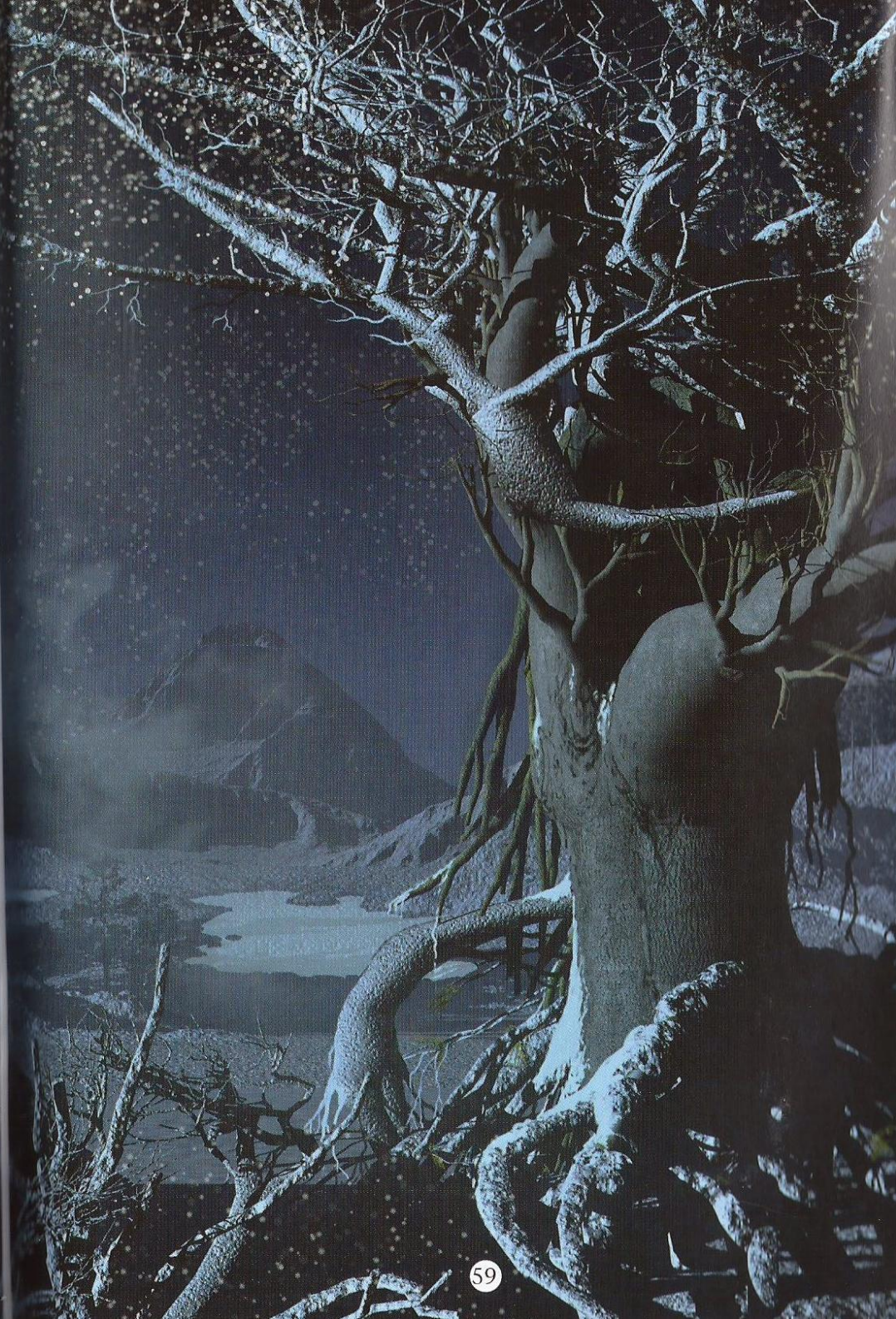
Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

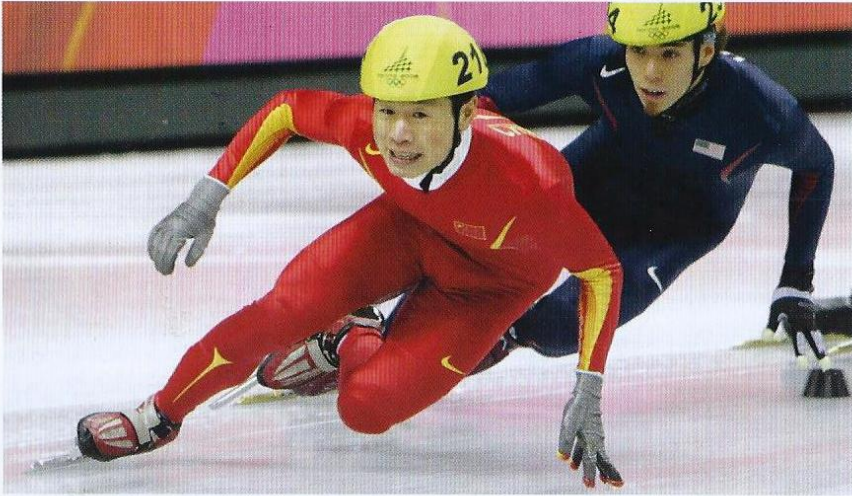
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost

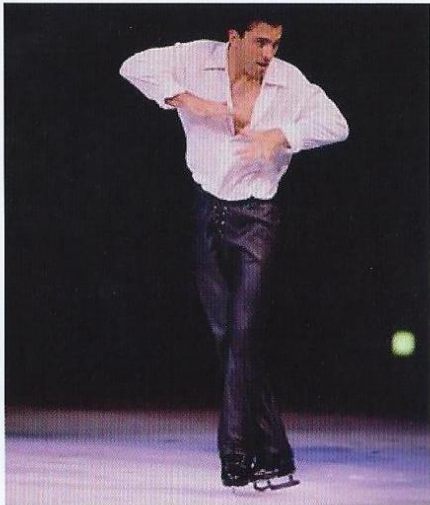


Winter sports

Winter sports are played on ice or snow. There are many winter sports in the Winter Olympic Games, which take place every four years.



In a speed-skating race, there are two skaters. They race each other. The faster skater wins.



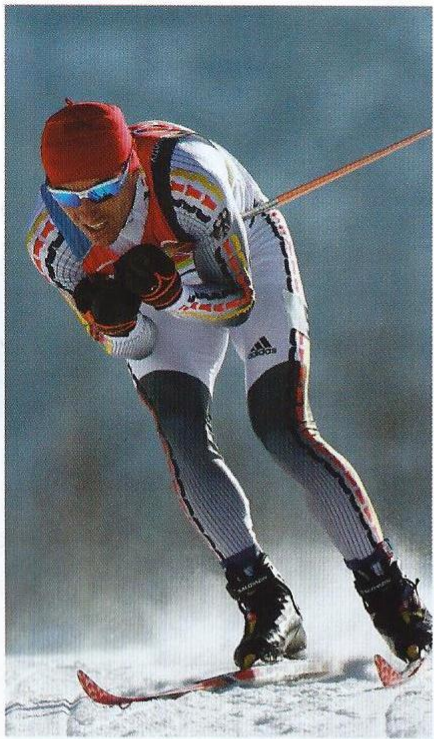
In figure skating, skaters skate on ice to music. Sometimes there is just one person and sometimes two people skate together. The skaters turn, step and jump. Judges give them marks.

In ice dancing, people always skate in pairs. They dance to the music.

Curling is like the game of bowls and is played on ice. Two teams of four players push large round stones across the ice with special brushes. They have to get to a target.



In ice hockey, two teams of six players play each other. They try to score goals.



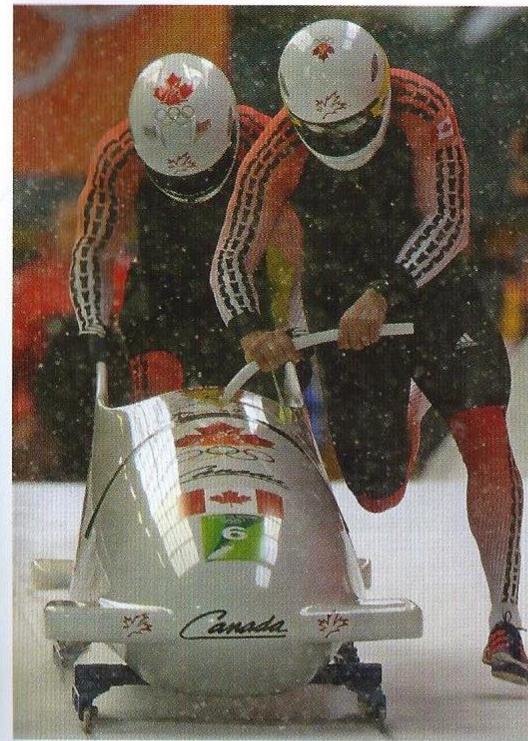
In a downhill skiing race, an Olympic skier may reach a speed of more than 140 km/h. A slalom is a race down a course. In mogul skiing, skiers have to ski over a lot of small hills in the snow.

In ski jumping, skiers jump off a snow ramp. They perform spins and turns in the air.

In Nordic skiing, skiers must complete a course of five to fifty kilometres. The course involves skiing across country and ski jumping.



Snowboarders do not use skis. They use a snowboard. You can race on a snowboard and do lots of great jumps.



Bobsled races take place on a steep, narrow, ice-covered run. Teams of two or four people take turns to steer their sled down the run. Bobsleds go very fast. The fastest team is the winner.



A luge is a very light sledge. The riders lie flat on the luge, feet-first. They use their feet to help them steer the luge.