

# The Tale of the Easter Bunny

Once upon a time, there was a powerful, pompous and greedy king who had a very skilful magician in his court. The magician wanted to be in the king's favour, and one day, gave him a magical hen, who laid beautiful eggs. "What more could the king want?" the magician wondered to himself. "Now he will think I am so clever, and I will be his favourite servant".

Unfortunately, the magician's dreams didn't come true, for the king liked the eggs, but he was greedy. He told his magician that he would like the hen better if she could lay eggs of gold. Without a moment's thought, the magician cast another magic spell, to please the king. Before long, the hen started laying eggs of gold.

The king was delighted. As the months passed by, he became very rich and the other kings grew jealous. He kept his special hen in a golden cage next to his throne. However, the king grew nervous of all others. He knew that someday, someone would try to steal his hen, and he hated this. "It is my hen," he would mutter to himself, even when there was no one around to listen. Whenever visitors came, he would have his magician come and hide the special hen, swapping it for an ordinary hen in the cage.

As the king predicted, one day, a rascal came along and sprinted off with the hen in the golden cage. "It's lucky I'm so smart and switched the hens!" he declared. He sent word for the magician to bring back his hen. But the next day, when the king looked in his golden cage all he found was a white rabbit. "What's this?!" screamed the king, alarmed. The king opened the cage and demanded his footman take the rabbit back out to the woods where he belonged. Then he called for his magician.

"Where is my magic hen?" asked the king, his eyes bulging. "I told you to bring her back!". "I did bring her back," the magician responded. "I put her in the cage – I just didn't have time to change her back into a hen." The magician's face fell as he realised his mistake.

They never did find the little white rabbit, but from that day forward, children found colourful eggs hidden all over the kingdom.



# Questions

DIFFICULTY:  

1. Read the first paragraph.

Write down 3 words used to describe the king.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did the magician make the magical hen for the king?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read the second paragraph. Find and copy a phrase that suggests the magician was really keen to please the king.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. 'The king was delighted. As the months passed by, he became very rich and the other kings grew jealous'.

How was the King feeling at this point?

Write down 2 reasons he was feeling this way.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

# Questions

DIFFICULTY:  

5. What do you think the word 'mutter' means?

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6. What did the king do with his hen when visitors came?

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7. Put these events from the story in order, using the number 1–5.  
The first one has been done for you.

- The magician made a hen that could lay beautiful eggs 1
- The magician made a hen that could lay golden eggs
- The king set the rabbit free
- The king realised his mistake
- The king became paranoid that somebody would steal his hen

8. What do you think is the moral in this story?

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# Answers

1. Read the first paragraph.

Write down 3 words used to describe the king.

1. powerful
2. pompous
3. greedy

2. Why did the magician make the magical hen for the king?

Because he wanted to be in the king's favour.

3. Read the second paragraph. Find and copy a phrase that suggests the magician was really keen to please the king.

Without a moment's thought

4. 'The king was delighted. As the months passed by, he became very rich and the other kings grew jealous'.

How was the King feeling at this point? The king was feeling delighted.

Write down 2 reasons he was feeling this way.

1. He was rich
2. The other kings were jealous of him

# Answers

5. What do you think the word 'mutter' means?

Speak quietly to yourself (accept another appropriate definition).

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6. What did the king do with his hen when visitors came?

He asked the magician to hide the hen, and swapped it for a normal one.

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7. Put these events from the story in order, using the number 1–5.  
The first one has been done for you.

The magician made a hen that could lay beautiful eggs 1

1

The magician made a hen that could lay golden eggs

2

The king set the rabbit free

4

The king realised his mistake

5

The king became paranoid that somebody would steal his hen

3

8. What do you think is the moral in this story?

The moral of the story is to be happy with the things you have, and not to want more.

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