CHAPTER 1

It's a boy!

Two babies were born on the same day. It was 12 October 1537. They were born in London, England. They were both boys. One was called Tom, and the other was called Edward.

Tom Canty's family were very poor. They had no money. They did not want him. No one cared for him. He went to sleep in **rags**.

Edward Tudor's family were very rich. They wanted him very much. His father was Henry VIII, King of England. Everyone was very excited. Edward was the prince. He would be the **next** king. They had a big party. Many servants looked after him. He went to sleep in expensive sheets.

Edward and Tom were very different.

Tom's family were beggars. His mother and his two sisters begged for money every day. His father was **mean**. When Tom didn't get enough money, his dad hit him. His father was also a thief.

rags (noun) old and dirty clothes
next (adjective) coming after this one
mean (adjective) not kind; cruel; causing trouble

Two babies were born on the same day.

"We need more money," said Tom's dad. "You must be a **thief** too."

"No!" said Tom. "I do not want to be a thief."

Tom's dad was angry. He hit Tom more.

Tom did not want to be at home, so he played in the streets with the other children. There was a priest called Father Andrew. Father Andrew taught Tom how to read and write. Tom was lucky. Most **beggars** cannot read or write. Father Andrew spoke Latin. He taught Tom how to speak Latin too. Father Andrew told the children stories.

"Tell us a story about a prince," said Tom. "Princes are not poor. They have lots of money. I want to be a prince."

When Tom was nine years old, he went for a walk. He wanted to see a real prince. He went to the palace. He looked into the garden. He was excited. He could see the prince! Suddenly, a man **grabbed** him.

"You are **in trouble** now!" said the man.

Tom was scared.

"I'm not allowed here," he thought. "Rich people do not like poor people. He will hurt me!"

thief (noun) a person who steals
beggar (noun) a person who lives by asking people for money or gifts
grab (verb) to hold something/someone with your hand suddenly and firmly
be in trouble (idiom) to be in a difficult situation

Father Andrew told the children stories.
"Tell us a story about a prince," said Tom.

"Wait!" said the prince. "I want to see this boy."

The prince told people what to do. The man let Tom go. The prince took Tom inside. They were the same age. They looked the same. They were very interested in each other.

"Let's swap clothes!" said Prince Edward.

"Yes," said Tom. "It will be fun!"

The boys **swapped** clothes. They laughed.

"You look like me!" said Prince Edward.

"And you look like me!" said Tom.

Edward saw something on Tom's arm. It made him angry.

"The man hurt you!" he said. "He is in trouble now!"

The prince went to find the man. When he found the man, he shouted at him. But the man just laughed.

"You are just a beggar!" he said. "You can't tell me what to do."

The man put Edward outside the palace.

"I cannot get back in," said Edward, "because I am not wearing the right clothes!"

swap (verb) to give something to someone and receive something in return

The boys swapped clothes.
They laughed.

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Quiz 2

Choose the correct answer.

1. These clothes are not good enough to wear anymore, so they will become ....

    a) rags   b) expensive   c) poor

2. The .... man shouted at the children.

    a) nice   b) mean   c) calm

3. I trapped a spider in a jar, but it ....

    a) begged   b) escaped   c) removed

4. We are .... we are asleep so the children do not bother us.

    a) singing   b) hoping   c) pretending

5. He painted the fence first. .... he will paint the gate.

    a) once   b) before   c) next

6. She got 10 out of 10 on the test, and her dad was ....

    a) upset   b) impressed   c) annoyed

7. He had to .... his shoes before he could take them off.

    a) tie   b) lock   c) untie

8. This umbrella will ….............. you from the rain.

    a) remove   b) protect   c) soak

9. I .... the bus, so I will have to catch the next one.

    a) caught   b) held   c) missed

10. .... are people who do crimes.

    a) criminals   b) judges   c) princes