

CHAPTER 1

Once upon a time, there was a mirror. It was not a normal mirror. It was a **magic** mirror. And it was not a good mirror. It was a bad mirror.

A **troll** was the maker of that mirror. He liked his mirror. He thought it was the best thing in the world because when you looked into this mirror, you did not see the **truth**. Instead, you saw bad things. When you looked at a beautiful flower in the mirror, you saw an **ugly** flower instead. When a good person looked into the mirror, they only saw a bad person. It made everything seem as bad as it could be.

The trolls all thought the mirror was a lot of fun. They all wanted to use it. They fought over the mirror. Someone dropped it and it broke! It broke into a million **tiny** pieces, so tiny that you could not see them. These pieces went all over the world. Some of the pieces went into people's eyes and now those people could only see **ugliness**. Some pieces went into people's hearts and now those people could only feel bad things.

magic (adjective) having the power to do special things

troll (noun) a very large and ugly creature

truth (noun) the real facts

ugly (adjective) not beautiful, not attractive

tiny (adjective) very small

ugliness (noun) the quality of being ugly



Once upon a time, there was a mirror. It was not a normal mirror.

It was a magic mirror.

Around this time, there lived a boy and a girl. The boy was called Kay, and the girl was called Gerda.

They lived in a city in Denmark. It was very crowded in the city so all the houses were very tall and thin. And they were built very close to each other.

Kay and Gerda lived opposite each other. They both had the top room in the house, called the **attic**. When they opened their windows and held out their hands, they could touch each other.

They became good friends. They were like brother and sister. Or better than brother and sister really, because not all brothers and sisters **get on** well together. But Kay and Gerda did. They were the best of friends.

Because the city was so crowded, the houses had no room for gardens. People had window boxes instead. A window box is a small box of soil that hangs outside your window. You can grow plants in it.

Both Kay and Gerda's families needed more food, so they grew vegetables in their window boxes. It was Kay and Gerda's job to look after the vegetables in the window boxes outside their window.

attic (noun) a room at the top of a building and that's just below the roof
get on (phrasal verb) to be friendly with someone; to get along



It was Kay and Gerda's job to look after the vegetables in the window boxes outside their window.

They **were** very **good at** looking after the window boxes. They even joined their window boxes together so that they had one big window box between them. They would sit out there for hours together. They even grew the most wonderful rose bush that went all the way over their heads and around both the windows.

In the summer, the weather was lovely. The children could spend many hours outside together in their window box garden. In the winter, the weather was not as lovely. It was cold and wet. It was not **pleasant** to sit outside.

Today, it was snowing. Great, big, white **snowflakes** fell onto their garden. Kay and Gerda could only see each other for a short time before it got too cold.

“Oh, I wish it was summer again,” said Gerda. “I miss our time together and our roses.”

“It will be summer again soon,” said Kay. “The seasons always come and go. From summer to autumn, to winter, to spring, to summer again. It will be warm again some day.”

be good at (phrase) to be able to do something well

pleasant (adjective) good, nice, friendly

snowflake (noun) a small piece of snow

They watched the snowflakes fall from the sky. The soft flakes of snow blew around in the wind.

“Grandma says the snowflakes are like busy bees,” said Gerda.

“Do they have a queen?” said Kay. “Like bees have a queen bee.”

“Oh yes,” said Gerda. “There is a queen, and she is called the Snow Queen. She is beautiful, but she has a cold heart. She comes to your window and looks inside!”

“Is that why the window freezes up?” said Kay.

“Yes,” said Gerda. “But be careful! If she sees you looking at her, she will take you away with her!”

The children laughed at their scary story. They said goodnight to each other and closed their windows.

Kay got ready for bed. Before he got into bed, he looked out of the window. He was surprised. There was a face. It was the most beautiful face of a lady. It was the Snow Queen!

Kay felt **frightened**. He hid in his bed, but nothing happened. The next day, the snow melted. The days got longer and warmer. Spring came and then summer. Gerda and Kay could sit in their garden again under their roses. They were very happy.

“Roses will always **remind** me of you,” said Gerda.

frightened (adjective) afraid, scared

remind (verb) to make someone think about something again



There was a face. It was the Snow Queen!

CHAPTER 2

One sunny day, Kay and Gerda were reading a book together in their garden when something happened.

“Ow!” said Kay and he put a hand to his eye.

“What happened?” said Gerda.

“Something went in my eye,” he said.

Gerda had a look in Kay’s eye, but she could not see anything. But there was something there. It was just too small to see. It was a tiny piece of the magic mirror. Kay had a piece in his eye, but he also had a piece in his heart.

The **pain** and the **suffering** made Kay angry. He threw the book down and kicked the roses. Gerda began to cry.

“Why are you crying?” said Kay. “Stop it! It makes you look ugly!”

Then he went back inside his house.

All summer, Kay was different. He was rude and angry. He didn’t want to look after the garden or play with Gerda any more. He wanted to be bad to people and make fun of them.

After summer, autumn came and then winter again. Snow began to fall.

pain (noun) the feeling you have when something hurts you

suffering (noun) pain that a person or animal is feeling

Quiz-2

Complete the sentences with these words.

brave **confused** **impressive** **magic** **tiny**
defeated **pleasant** **special** **numb** **frozen**

1. She was so cold that her fingers and toes felt
2. The knight killed the dragon. He was very
3. They the enemy and won the battle.
4. The palace was an building with high towers and golden flags.
5. I picked up the pieces of glass on the kitchen floor.
6. She wore a dress for the party.
7. The students were all about the maths homework, so they asked the teacher again.
8. The magician used his wand to do his tricks.
9. He never buys foods. He always buys fresh foods.
10. The new neighbour was very, and she gave me flowers from her garden.