CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Princess and the Goblin

George MacDonald · *1872 · original English text*

There was once a little princess whose father was king over a great country full of mountains and valleys. His palace was built upon one of the mountains, and was very grand and beautiful. The Princess and the Goblin is MacDonald's complete fairy novel, not the later sequel about Curdie.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of courage and faith lives in a mountain palace when goblins mine underneath, and how should a princess and a miner-boy learn to trust a grandmother's thread?

"There was once a little princess whose father was king over a great country full of mountains and valleys."
Chapter 1, Why the Princess Has a Story About Her, the opening

The hosted text is The Princess and the Goblin (1872, PG #708), complete as MacDonald's fairy novel. The opening is exact. The princess is Irene, and Curdie the miner-boy is her companion in this book; The Princess and Curdie is a later, separate sequel on this site, not a chapter of this one. Excellent for a wide younger and middle band. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

Princess Irene
The little princess of the mountain palace, for whom the first chapter says there is a story.

Curdie
The miner-boy who becomes her companion against the goblins.

the great-great-grandmother
The lady of the high room, whose thread is a help to be trusted.

the goblins
The people under the mountain, whose plot is the book's danger.

A LITTLE PRINCESS

> *"There was once a little princess whose father was king over a great country full of mountains and valleys."*
> Chapter 1

Grades 3–5
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Little Princess

CHAPTER 1, THE OPENING

There was once a little princess whose father was king over a great country full of mountains and valleys. His palace was built upon one of the mountains. The book begins as a fairy tale, already in a high place.

- The first sentence is exact in both witnesses.
- The princess's name, Irene, follows at once in this chapter.
- Excellent for a wide younger and middle band.

> *"There was once a little princess whose father was king over a great country full of mountains and valleys."*
> Chapter 1

02

A Grandmother, and a Thread

THE MIDDLE OF THE BOOK

A great-great-grandmother in a high room, a spinning thread, and a miner-boy named Curdie become the book's help. The goblins work underneath. Teach the thread as MacDonald writes it, not as a mere trick.

- The grandmother and the thread are central, not decoration.
- Curdie belongs to this book already; the later sequel is another volume.
- A wide younger and middle band can hear this with help.

03

Goblins under the Mountain

THE LATER CHAPTERS

The goblins' plot against the palace, and the courage of Irene and Curdie, close the tale. The book is complete here. The Princess and Curdie is a sequel, not this ending.

- Map this novel as complete in itself.
- Do not import the sequel into this map.
- Cite this typography.

04

A Complete 1872 Fairy Novel

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #708 and the site EPUB are this complete book. Quote stretches that appear in both.

- Complete The Princess and the Goblin.
- The sequel is a different book on this site.
- For a wide younger and middle band.

A Mountain Palace | A Thread of Trust | Courage | A Miner-Boy's Help | Goblins Underneath

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 3–5

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2. The Princess and Curdie is a later, separate sequel on this site, not a chapter of this one. Excellent for a wide younger and middle band.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #708, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-princess-and-the-goblin/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.