

## WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

- 1 Read the story *The Boy Who Liked Stories*. Say what the boy liked to do when he was ill.

### The Boy Who Liked Stories

What a long, long night it was to Louis. He turned and turned, and

coughed<sup>1</sup> all the time. He was in bed but didn't sleep. He was ill each winter. If only he could go to sleep. If only the morning came<sup>2</sup>.

Louis, Lou ['lu:ɪ, lu:], Cummie ['kʌmi],  
Robert Stevenson ['rɒbət 'stɪ:vənsən]

"Lou," said Cummie, his nurse, softly, "would you like to sit up for a while?"

"Yes, please," he answered.

She took him in her arms. He was such a small boy, so very thin and pale. She carried him to the window, so that he could see out into the darkness. The grey houses stood silent. Everything was quiet. Most other children were asleep, but Louis was not.

"Look," said Cummie. "There is a window with a light in it."

"Where?" asked Louis. "Where do you see it?"

"You see," she said kindly, "perhaps somebody is reading a very interesting book."

"Yes," said Louis, and he felt happier. "Read to me, please, Cummie," he said. "Read to me."

So Cummie opened a book. She showed him the pictures, and he smiled. "Have I read these stories to you?" Cummie asked.

<sup>1</sup> to cough [kɒf] — кашлять

<sup>2</sup> If only he could go to sleep. If only the morning came. — Если бы только он мог уснуть. Хоть бы поскорее наступило утро.



“No, you haven’t,” the boy said.

She read a story to him, then another, and another, for many hours. But he did not go to sleep. The night was so long, so very, very long.

“Listen,” said Cummie.

“Have you heard anything?” he asked.

“Listen again,” she said.

“The carts!<sup>1</sup> The country carts are coming to town. That means it’s morning, Cummie, isn’t it?”

“Yes,” she said. “It will soon be light now.”

Louis was always lively<sup>2</sup> in the day-time, and there were lots of things that he could do. He sat up in bed and played with bricks and toy soldiers. He drew pictures, played games, imagined all kinds of things. He imagined his pillow was a great mountain. He put his soldiers behind the mountain, and they did all kinds of wonderful things.

<sup>1</sup> cart — тележка

<sup>2</sup> lively [ˈlaɪvli] — живой, подвижный



When he was tired and didn't want to play any more, there was always Cummie or his mother. One of them always came and sat near him and talked to him.

"Read to me," he always said. "Please, read to me."

So they read stories to him, and the cold winter day passed happily.

He liked to make up his own stories too. Once when he was only three years old, he whispered to Cummie, "I can tell a story. You write it."

Cummie took a pencil and paper. The boy began to tell his story and as he told it he often asked, "Have you written it?"

Soon the story was ready. It was very interesting.

One day when Louis was six, his uncle offered a prize<sup>1</sup> to his children and all their cousins.

"The prize," he said, "will be for the child who can write the best story."

"You know a story, don't you, Lou?" said his mother.

"Oh yes," he said. "But I cannot write."

"You tell it to me and I will write it down."

So Louis told his story, and his mother wrote it. Then he drew pictures for it.

How glad he was when his uncle gave him a book of stories as a prize! Happily he turned over the pages, and looked at the pictures. Then he gave the book to his mother, and said, "Read to me. Please, read to me."

His mother read to him, and as she read, Louis thought, "When I grow up I shall write stories and make books."

And that is just what he did.

*People all over the world  
read the stories Louis wrote.  
When you find a book or a poem  
by Robert Louis Stevenson you  
will know that the dark-eyed  
Louis who was often ill wrote it.  
Then you will think of the little  
boy who lay so long in bed, made  
up stories, and said, "Read to me.  
Please, read to me."*

<sup>1</sup> to offer ['ɔfə] a prize — зд. пообещать приз

## Do You Understand The Story?

- 2 *Choose and read the correct ending to each sentence.*
- 1 The boy could not sleep for long, long night hours because:
    - his nurse read to him.
    - he was ill and coughed all the time.
    - he liked to see out into the darkness.
  - 2 Louis enjoyed books because:
    - there were bright wonderful pictures in them.
    - all the stories were interesting.
    - the time passed quicker if somebody read stories to him.
  - 3 The boy wanted to write his own stories because:
    - he wanted to get a prize.
    - there was nothing else to do.
    - he had a very good imagination.
- 3 *Find in the text and read the sentences which prove that:*
- the nurse was very kind to Louis;
  - Louis was fond of books;
  - the boy liked to imagine things;
  - the boy liked to make up stories.
- 4 *Answer the questions.*
- 1 Why did the boy lie with his eyes wide open all night?
  - 2 What did little Louis look like?
  - 3 What did Cummie say that made Louis feel happier?
  - 4 What games did the boy play in the day-time?
  - 5 Who wrote down the boy's stories? Why?
  - 6 How did the boy's dream come true?

**How Good Is Your English? (see pp 62 —63) ● ● ●**

## What Do You Think?

- 5 *Say what you think of the boy and his world of imagination. What could he do wonderfully?*





## How Good Is Your English?



6 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 When the night comes, the sky becomes .....
- 2 The sea is ..... when there are no waves.
- 3 We are all ..... to get an interesting book to read.
- 4 When children play, they ..... a lot of wonderful things.
- 5 Every writer of adventure stories needs a great .....
- 6 Put the plants near the window because they need a lot of .....

quiet
dark
imagine
glad
light
imagination

7 *Adjective? Adverb? Choose the proper word (✓).*

- 1 The nurse asked the boy (soft, softly).  
Her voice was always (soft, softly).
- 2 Everything was (quiet, quietly) in the room.  
The boy's mother often sat near him and talked to him (quiet, quietly).
- 3 The days passed (happy, happily).  
The boy was (happy, happily) when he had an interesting story to read.

8 *Match the words which are opposite in meaning.*

soft	sad
sit	short
dark	make-believe
merry	light
long	hard
real	stand

9 Use the correct preposition.

- 1 People all ..... the world know the books that Stevenson wrote.
- 2 Children like to listen ..... the stories that their parents read ..... them .
- 3 Boys enjoy playing ..... toy soldiers and machines.
- 4 We can't imagine our life ..... books.
- 5 The child could listen ..... tales ..... hours.
- 6 It was fun to look ..... the bright pictures in the book.

to
for
with
without
at
over

10 a) Fill in Past Indefinite and Present Perfect for each of the verbs.

	Past Indefinite	Present Perfect
see	saw	have/has seen
to read		
to write		
to hear		
to draw		
to bring		
to make		

b) Past Indefinite? Present Perfect? Use the correct form of the verb.

- 1 "Look! I ..... (draw) a picture for my story," the boy said .
- 2 "I ..... (bring) you an interesting book of tales to read," the boy's uncle said.
- 3 He ..... (write) his first story long ago.
- 4 "Mum, I ..... (read) these poems. They are really wonderful," said the child to his mother.
- 5 "I want to show you this story. I ..... (make up) it myself," the boy said.

- 5 a) *Read one more poem about the swing and say what the author thinks about the swing.*

### **The Swing**

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!  
Up in the air and over the wall,  
Till I can see so wide,  
Rivers and trees and cattle<sup>1</sup> and all  
Over the countryside —  
Till I look down on the garden green,  
Down on the roof<sup>2</sup> so brown —  
Up in the air I go flying again,  
Up in the air and down!

*R. L. Stevenson*

- b) *Say what the children can enjoy going up in a swing.*

<sup>1</sup> cattle ['kætl] — крупный рогатый скот

<sup>2</sup> roof — крыша



- 8 a) Read the poem *The Land Of Counterpane*<sup>1</sup> and answer the question: What did the boy like to play with?

### The Land of Counterpane

When I was sick and lay in bed,  
I had two pillows at my head,  
And all my toys beside me lay  
To keep me happy all the day<sup>2</sup>.  
And sometimes for an hour or so  
I watched my leaden<sup>3</sup> soldiers go,  
With different uniforms and drills,  
Among the bed-clothes, through the hills;  
And sometimes sent my ships in fleets<sup>4</sup>  
Or brought my trees and houses out,  
And planted cities all about.  
I was the giant, great and still,  
That sits upon the pillow-hill,  
And sees before him dale and plain<sup>5</sup>  
The pleasant land of counterpane.

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

- b) How can you see that the boy had a rich imagination?  
c) The toys were the boy's good friends, weren't they? Why?

<sup>1</sup> counterpane ['kauntəreɪn] — (стеганое или вязанное) покрывало

<sup>2</sup> to keep me happy all the day — чтобы я был счастлив весь день

<sup>3</sup> leaden ['ledən] — оловянный

<sup>4</sup> fleet — флот

<sup>5</sup> dale [deɪl] and plain [pleɪn] — долина и равнина