

“A Fishing Party”  
by Thornton Burgess

He stood quite four feet high. The top of his head and throat were white. From the base of his great bill and over his eye was a black stripe which ended in two long, slender, black feathers hanging from the back of his head. His bill was longer than his head, stout and sharp like a spear and yellow in color. His long neck was a light brownish-gray. His back and wings were of a bluish color. The bend of each wing and the feathered parts of his legs were a rusty-red. The remainder of his legs and his feet were black. Hanging down over his breast were beautiful long pearly-gray

feathers quite unlike any Peter had seen on any of his other feathered friends. In spite of the length of his legs and the length of his neck he was both graceful and handsome.

“I wonder what has brought him to the Smiling Pool,” thought Peter.

He didn't have to wait long to find out. After standing perfectly still with his neck stretched to its full height until he was sure that no danger was near, Longlegs waded into the water a few steps, folded his neck back on his shoulders until his long bill seemed to rest on his chest, and then remained as motionless as if there were no life in him. Peter also sat perfectly still. He began to wonder if Longlegs had gone

to sleep. His own patience was reaching an end and he was just about to go on in search of Rattles the Kingfisher when like a flash the dagger-like bill of Longlegs shot out and down into the water. When he withdrew it Peter saw that Longlegs had caught a little fish which he at once proceeded to swallow head-first. Peter almost laughed right out as he watched the funny efforts of Longlegs to gulp that fish down his long throat. Then Longlegs resumed his old position as motionless as before.

It was no trouble now for Peter to sit still, for he was too interested in watching this lone fisherman to think of leaving.

“The Lad Who Rode Sidesaddle”  
by James Baldwin

“But,” said his father, “no man can rightly succeed without an education.”

So it was decided that the boy should go to some school where he might be prepared for college.

One evening his father said to him, “You must be up early in the morning. You are going to Exeter with me.”

“To Exeter, father!” said Daniel.  
“Yes, to Exeter. I am going to put you in the academy there.”

The academy was a school for preparing boys for college. His father did not say anything about college.

# “The Golden Goose”

By Andrew Lang

There was once a man who had three sons. The youngest of them was called Dullhead, and was sneered and jeered at and snubbed on every possible opportunity.

One day it happened that the eldest son wished to go into the forest to cut wood. Before he started his mother gave him a fine rich cake and a bottle of water, so that he might be sure not to suffer from hunger or thirst.

When he reached the forest he met a little old grey man who wished him “Good-morning. Do give me a piece of that cake you have got in your

pocket, and let me have a draught of water—I am so hungry and thirsty.”

But this clever son replied, “If I give you my cake and water I shall have none left for myself; you just go your own way.” He left the little man standing there and went further on into the forest. There he began to cut down a tree, but before long he made a false stroke with his axe, and cut his own arm so badly that he was obliged to go home and have it bound up.

Then the second son went to the forest, and his mother gave him a good cake and a bottle of water as she had to his elder brother. He too met the little old man, who begged him for a morsel of cake and a draught of water.

But the second son spoke most sensibly too, and said, “Whatever I give to you I deprive myself of. Just go your own way, will you?” Not long after his punishment overtook him, for no sooner had he struck a couple of blows on a tree with his axe, than he cut his leg so badly that he had to be carried home.

So then Dullhead said, “Father, let me go out and cut wood.”

But his father answered, “Both your brothers have injured themselves. You had better leave it alone; you know nothing about it.”