

“A Fishing Party”
by Thornton Burgess

It wasn't long before Longlegs made another catch and this time it was a fat Pollywog. Peter thought of how he had watched Plunger the Osprey fishing in the Big River and the difference in the ways of the two fishermen.

“Plunger hunts for his fish while Longlegs waits for his fish to come to him,” thought Peter. “I wonder if Longlegs never goes hunting.”

As if in answer to Peter's thought Longlegs seemed to conclude that no more fish were coming his way. He stretched himself up to his full height,

looked sharply this way and that way to make sure that all was safe, then began to walk along the edge of the Smiling Pool. He put each foot down slowly and carefully so as to make no noise. He had gone but a few steps when that great bill darted down like a flash, and Peter saw that he had caught a careless young Frog. A few steps farther on he caught another Pollywog. Then coming to a spot that suited him, he once more waded in and began to watch for fish.

Peter was suddenly reminded of Rattles the Kingfisher, whom he had quite forgotten. From the Big Hickory-tree on the bank, Rattles flew out over the Smiling Pool, hovered for an

instant, then plunged down head-first. There was a splash, and a second later Rattles was in the air again, shaking the water from him in a silver spray. In his long, stout, black bill was a little fish. He flew back to a branch of the Big Hickory-tree that hung out over the water and thumped the fish against the branch until it was dead. Then he turned it about so he could swallow it head-first. It was a big fish for the size of the fisherman and he had a dreadful time getting it down. But at last it was down, and Rattles set himself to watch for another. The sun shone full on him, and Peter gave a little gasp of surprise.

“The Lad Who Rode Sidesaddle”
by James Baldwin

There were no railroads at that time, and Exeter was nearly fifty miles away. Daniel and his father would ride there on horseback.

In the morning two horses were brought to the door. One was Mr. Webster’s horse; the other was an old gray nag with a lady’s sidesaddle on it.

“Who is going to ride that nag?” asked Daniel.

“Young Dan Webster,” answered his father.

“But I don’t want a sidesaddle. I’m not a lady.”

“The Golden Goose”

By Andrew Lang

Soon after the second daughter came in, and thought to pluck a golden feather for herself too; but hardly had she touched her sister than she stuck fast as well. At last the third sister came with the same intentions, but the other two cried out, “Keep off! For Heaven’s sake, keep off!”

The younger sister could not imagine why she was to keep off, and thought to herself: “If they are both there, why should not I be there too?”

So she sprang to them. No sooner had she touched one of them than she

stuck fast to her. So they all three had to spend the night with the goose.

Next morning Dullhead tucked the goose under his arm and went off, without in the least troubling himself about the three girls hanging on to it. They just had to run after him as best they could. In the middle of a field they met the parson, and when he saw this procession he cried, “For shame, you bold girls! What do you mean by running after a young fellow through the fields like that? Do you call that proper behavior?” With that he caught the youngest girl by the hand to try and draw her away. Directly he touched her he hung on himself and had to run along with the rest of them.

Not long after the clerk came that way, and was much surprised to see the parson following the footsteps of three girls. “Why, where is your reverence going so fast?” cried he, “don’t forget there is to be a christening today.” He ran after him, caught him by the sleeve, and hung on to it himself. As the five of them trotted along in this fashion one after the other, two peasants were coming from their work with their hoes. On seeing them the parson called out and begged them to come and rescue him and the clerk. But no sooner did they touch the clerk than they stuck on too, and so there were seven of them running after Dullhead and his goose.