

Vocabulary Words

1. faraway (adjective) /ˈfɑːr.əˈweɪ/ a long way away
Example: They traveled to faraway lands/places.
2. blossom (verb) /ˈblɒs.əm/ of a tree or plant) to produce flowers that develop into fruit:
Example: The cherry tree is beginning to blossom.
3. love-struck (adjective) so in love with someone that it is difficult to behave as usual or even think of anything else except the person you love
Example: Look at me, I'm behaving like a love-struck teenager!
4. escape (verb) /ɪˈskeɪp/ to get free from something, or to avoid something
Example: Two prisoners have escaped.
5. float (verb) /flaʊt/ to stay on the surface of a liquid and not sink:
Example: An empty bottle will float.
6. captor (noun) /ˈkæp.tə/ a person who has captured a person or animal and refuses to release them
Example: He was filled with hatred and anger for his captors.
7. stumble (verb) /ˈstʌm.bəl/ to step awkwardly while walking or running and fall or begin to fall
Example: Running along the beach, she stumbled on a log and fell on the sand.
8. knock (verb) /nɒ:k/ to repeatedly hit something, producing a noise:
Example: She knocked on the window to attract his attention.
9. newfound (adjective) /ˈnuːˈfaʊnd/ only recently happening, discovered, or beginning to exist
Example: Scientists believe the newfound planets are mostly solid.
10. injured (adjective) /ˈɪn.dʒəd/ hurt or physically harmed
Example: She was told to stay in bed to rest her injured back.
11. shocked (adjective) /ʃɔːkt/ surprised or upset because something unexpected and usually unpleasant has happened
Example: After his announcement, there was a shocked silence.
12. cruel (adjective) /ˈkruː.əl/ extremely unkind and unpleasant and causing pain to people or animals intentionally
Example: Don't tease him about his weight - it's cruel.
13. beloved (adjective) /bɪˈlʌv.ɪd/ loved very much
Example: Her beloved husband died last year.
14. confined (adjective) used to describe someone or something kept within limits
Example: You can't keep kids in a confined space for long.
15. petal (noun) /ˈpet.əl/ any of the usually brightly colored parts that together form most of a flower
Example: At the home, police found pink rose petals on the floor.

Audio clip: [Thumbelina.mp3](#)

Thumbelina

Once upon a time, a woman lived by herself in a **faraway** village.

She was very lonely after her husband had died.

She always wanted to have a child but alas, she didn't have any.

One day, she went to her friend who was a good witch.

She gave her a grain of barley and told her to go back home and plant it.

The woman did as she was told.

The next morning, a beautiful plant had grown from the seed.

It had a lovely flower that looked like a tulip.

She gently kissed one of its petals.

As she did that, the flower **blossomed** open.

Inside it was a beautiful, little girl, no bigger than the size of the woman's thumb.

The woman instantly fell in love with her and called her Thumbelina.

The woman took care of her like a real daughter.

They were both very happy.



One night, as she was sleeping, a frog came to her window and saw her. He thought to himself, "What a beautiful girl! She'll make a lovely bride for my son!"

The son upon seeing Thumbelina was **love-struck**.

"She's beautiful, father. I'll marry her!"



But before that, I want to build her a beautiful house," said his son. The father agreed and put Thumbelina on the water lily in the middle of a pond for her not to **escape**.

Thumbelina tried to escape from her new home. But she couldn't. Two small fishes helped her escape and Thumbelina soon **float**ed away.

Just when Thumbelina thought she was free,
a beetle came down and took her away to his home.

He called over his friends to introduce them to his pretty prisoner. But the beetle's friends told him that she was too different from them and so, he dropped her in the long grass and flower.



Thumbelina was very happy that she was free from her **captors**.

However, she did not know where her home was.

She spent many days in the grass and between the flowers.

One day, as she was walking, she **stumbled** upon a small house made of mud.

She **knocked** on the door.

A mouse opened the door and welcomed her inside.

The mouse was kind and allowed Thumbelina to live in his house.



So, Thumbelina started staying in her **newfound** home.
Thumbelina appreciated the mouse's kindness and in return
she cooked for the mouse and told him stories.
After a few days, the mouse said he had invited a guest over.
"He's the richest mouse in all the land. He's a very good friend of mine."
That night, the mouse's friend came over for dinner.
They all talked and had a good time.
The rich mouse proposed to Thumbelina.
Thinking that she had nowhere else to go and can't return home, she said yes.



One day, they were walking along and entered a tunnel.
They saw an **injured** swallow.
The soon-to-be-husband of Thumbelina kicked the swallow.
Thumbelina was **shocked** to see that her soon-to-be-husband was **cruel**.
Something that she didn't know before.
So she ran away but came back to take care of the swallow.
When the swallow was ready to fly again, she told Thumbelina to come with her.
But Thumbelina had had enough adventure and didn't want to go anywhere else.
And so, the swallow flew away.



A few months had passed when
the love-struck friend of the mouse found Thumbelina again.
"Oh, my **beloved**! I've been looking for you everywhere.
Now I've found you and must marry you."
Thumbelina knew there was no way out of it for her.
So she asked him if she could spend one last day out in the open air
before she was **confined** to living the rest of her life underground with him.
As Thumbelina roamed in the open fields for one last time, she heard a familiar voice.
"Come, come away with me where your spirit will always be free!" said the swallow.
Thumbelina saw her old friend, the swallow, who had returned to her.
This time around, she agreed and hopped on the back of the swallow and they took off.
They flew over land and water and fields of green.

When they reached the land of the flowers,
the swallow landed Thumbelina on a beautiful flower petal.
"This is the Kingdom of the flowers. And that is their King," told the swallow.
Thumbelina saw a handsome, young King with beautiful wings.
He was surrounded by lovely flowers.
As soon as she saw him, she knew she wanted to call this place home.
Her presence attracted the King's attention. He too fell in love with her immediately.
"Will you marry me?" asked the King. "Yes!" replied Thumbelina with a big smile.



Discussion

1. Which of the characters did you like best? Why?
2. What feelings did you experience while reading the story?
3. What do you think the mother of Thumbelina could have done when Thumbelina went missing?
4. Why is it important to help others?
5. Why is it wrong to be cruel?
6. How can a person show kindness to others?
7. Why do you think some people love going on adventures?