

Vocabulary Words

1. barefooted (adjective) /'beə.fʊt-ed/ wearing nothing on the feet
Example: The man in front of me had his barefoot toddler standing on the counter.
2. match (noun) /mætʃ/ a short, thin stick made of wood or cardboard and covered with a special chemical at one end that burns when rubbed firmly against a rough surface
Example: You should always strike a match away from you.
3. passerby (noun) /'pæs-ər'baɪ/ someone who is going past a particular place
Example: A passer-by saw smoke and called the fire department.
4. orphan (noun) /'ɔː.fən/ a child whose parents are dead
Example: She's an orphan adopted by a wealthy New York family..
5. appear (verb) /ə'piər/ to start to be seen or to be present
Example: He suddenly appeared in the doorway.
6. heaven (noun) /'hev.ən/ in some religions, the place, sometimes imagined to be in the sky, where God or the gods live and where good people are believed to go after they die, so that they can enjoy perfect happiness
Example: There is a match made in heaven.
7. empty (adjective) /'emp.ti/ not containing any things or people
Example: The train was empty.
8. brilliant (adjective) /'brɪl.jənt/ full of light, shining, or bright in color
Example: The sky was a brilliant, cloudless blue.
9. amazing (adjective) /ə'meɪ.zɪŋ/ extremely surprising
Example: This stain remover really works - it's amazing!
10. reunite (verb) /,riː.juː'naɪt/ to bring people together again
Example: Sarah was finally reunited with her children at the airport.

Audio clip: [The Little Match Girl.mp3](#)



The Little Match Girl

It was a cold and snowy New Year's Eve.
There was a poor little girl who was **barefooted**, walking along the dark street.
As she left home, she had worn slippers, which were the last thing
her mother gave her before she died.
The girl was selling **matches** to **passersby** but
she hadn't sold anything yet.
She doesn't even have a single **penny** on hand.
The poor girl was feeling so cold and hungry.
She walked along the street with the snow falling on her head and down her back.



All the windows were lit up and she can see through the windows
bountiful food on the tables.
When her kind grandmother was alive,
her family celebrated New Year's Eve at home happily together.
But that was then and now she's an **orphan**.
She is all alone by herself.
Feeling very cold, she tried to light a match.
What a wonderful light it was! she thought.
Then she saw a fireplace, she tried to keep herself warm.



But the flame went out and all she saw was a burnt match.

And she felt very sad.

She tried to light her second match.

This time, she was in a room.

There was a table in the middle, which was full of delicious food.



When she was about to smell the aroma of the food, suddenly it became dark again.

The light from the match already went out.

And all she could see was snow falling on the street.

She lit up again a third match.

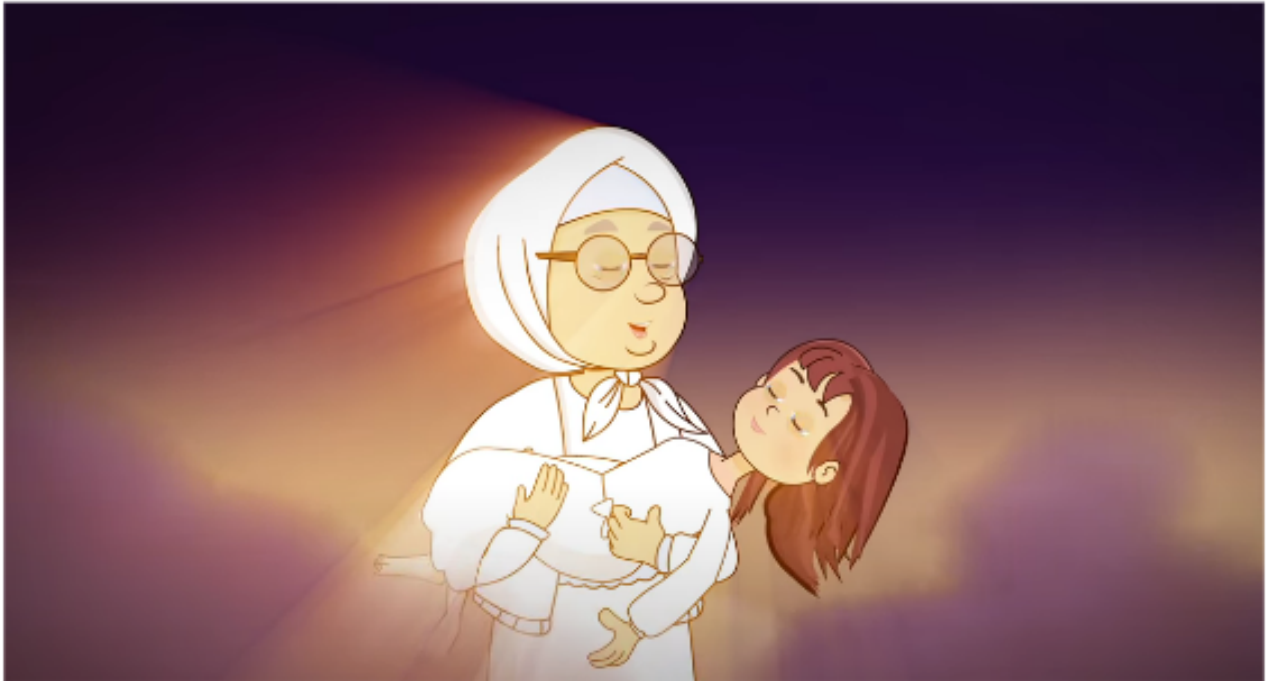
Suddenly, a large Christmas tree **appeared** with lots of presents underneath it.



She tried to reach for the tree but once again it became cold and dark.
All she saw were the stars in the cold snowy night.
She then remembered what her grandmother used to tell her.
That when a star falls, a good soul goes up to **heaven**.
She lit again another match.
The yellow light shone around and she could clearly see her grandmother smiling at her.
“Grandma, take me with you!
I know you will go away when the match burns out like
the delicious food and the large Christmas tree.
But, please, don’t leave me.
We used to be happy and you told me that if I was a good girl,
I could meet you in heaven one day.”



When the match burnt out, all she saw again was the **empty** cold dark street.
And so, one by one, she struck the whole bundle of matches.
She wanted to keep her grandmother near her.
The matches gave such a **brilliant** light.
She had never seen how beautiful and tall her grandmother was.
It was an **amazing** moment as her grandmother took hold of her hands and
took her flying higher and higher.



The next morning, snow still covered the street.
But as the sun rose, it became warmer.
Children were excited when their parents let them go out to play.
In the corner sat the little girl with red cheeks and a smiling mouth.
Next to her, there was a bundle of matches, which had all been burnt.
She had frozen to death on New Year's Eve.
She died happily and was **reunited** with her loving grandmother.

Discussion

1. What feelings did you experience while reading the story?
2. How did the ending make you feel? Would you consider it a happy ending? Why or why not?
3. What do you think the little girl's visions represent? What would your dream visions be?
4. The story is set on New Year's Eve, do you think this was important? Why or why not?
5. If you are to rewrite the story, how would you have wanted it to end?