

Good Queen Sue Fairy Tale

Once upon a time, there was a very good and beautiful queen who ruled over the magical Kingdom of Books, and she was called the Good Queen Sue. Now the good queen loved two things very much. She loved books, but more than books she loved children! Children exactly like you! And the kingdom was exactly like () with places like () and () and () and () and, yes, (). [Insert names of communities or schools.]

Now the good queen taught her people many lessons. She taught them to be gentle with each other; she taught them to be kind to one another; she taught them to share with each other; she taught them to scrub behind their ears even if no one checked there; and she taught all the first graders a magic spell to be used only in the biggest of emergencies.

Now one day an evil grinch was roaming through the countryside, and he came upon the good queen's castle. The good queen always left the drawbridge down so the children could come to the castle to read whenever they wanted. When he saw this, the evil grinch snuck into the castle and began to rummage through it. He went into the royal kitchen and found a whole roasted chicken in the royal refrigerator and gulped it down in three bites! And then he saw the good queen sitting in a sunny nook reading, as she loved to do, and he cast a spell on her that made her fall into a deep sleep. As he went from room to room, he saw all the walls were lined with shelves and shelves of books. Like happens too often in the grownup world, since the grinch couldn't read and didn't know what books were, he decided to destroy them!! He began dragging them off the shelves and making a big pile in the middle of the courtyard so he could burn them up!

Well, one of the first graders had seen the grinch sneaking into the castle, and she knew that meant trouble. She went and got all the other first graders in the kingdom, and they crept quietly into the castle to see what was going on. When they saw the grinch piling the books in the courtyard, they knew exactly what had to be done. Very quickly they made a big circle around the grinch, and one child quietly began to say the magic spell the queen had taught them for emergencies. "Sniggledy sneed, we want to read!" And then all the children joined in the second time, a little louder,

“Sniggledy sneed, we want to read!” And the third time they all said it as loud as they could, “SNIGGLEDY SNEED, WE WANT TO READ!!”

And sure enough it worked! The grinch blinked his eyes twice and shook his head once and looked at the pile of books on the ground and said, “Now who would ever throw books on the ground?!” and he began to gather them up. But then he opened one and sat down to look at it, because the magic spell had taught him to read, too!! And then he remembered the queen and lifted the spell he had put on her, and instead of being angry with him the good queen asked him to choose a book of his very own. She put his name inside the cover and sent him on his way to teach all the other grinches to read!!

We are here today to remember the good and magical Queen Sue, and to tell you how much the community of () cares about her children, and to give you your very own book to help you find the magic of reading! Being able to read really is magic, because when you can read, you become a princess or a prince in the magical kingdom, and you can do ANYTHING! And just like in our fairy tale, we know that it will be the children who will save the day.

Thank you so much for sharing your day with us. Please treat your new book gently but read it and read it and read it until it wears out. Please share it with your friends and family, and tonight when you’re reading it in bed and your mom or dad comes to tell you it’s time for lights out, I bet if you whisper in their ear “sniggledy sneed, I want to read,” they just might let you stay up five minutes extra!

And if we ALL read EVERY DAY, the magical Queen will look down on us and say, “This is a good and wonderful thing!” Thank you so much!