

Classic Tales



Level 3

# Rapunzel



OXFORD



# Rapunzel

*Retold by Rachel Bladon*  
*Illustrated by Alejandro O'Kif*



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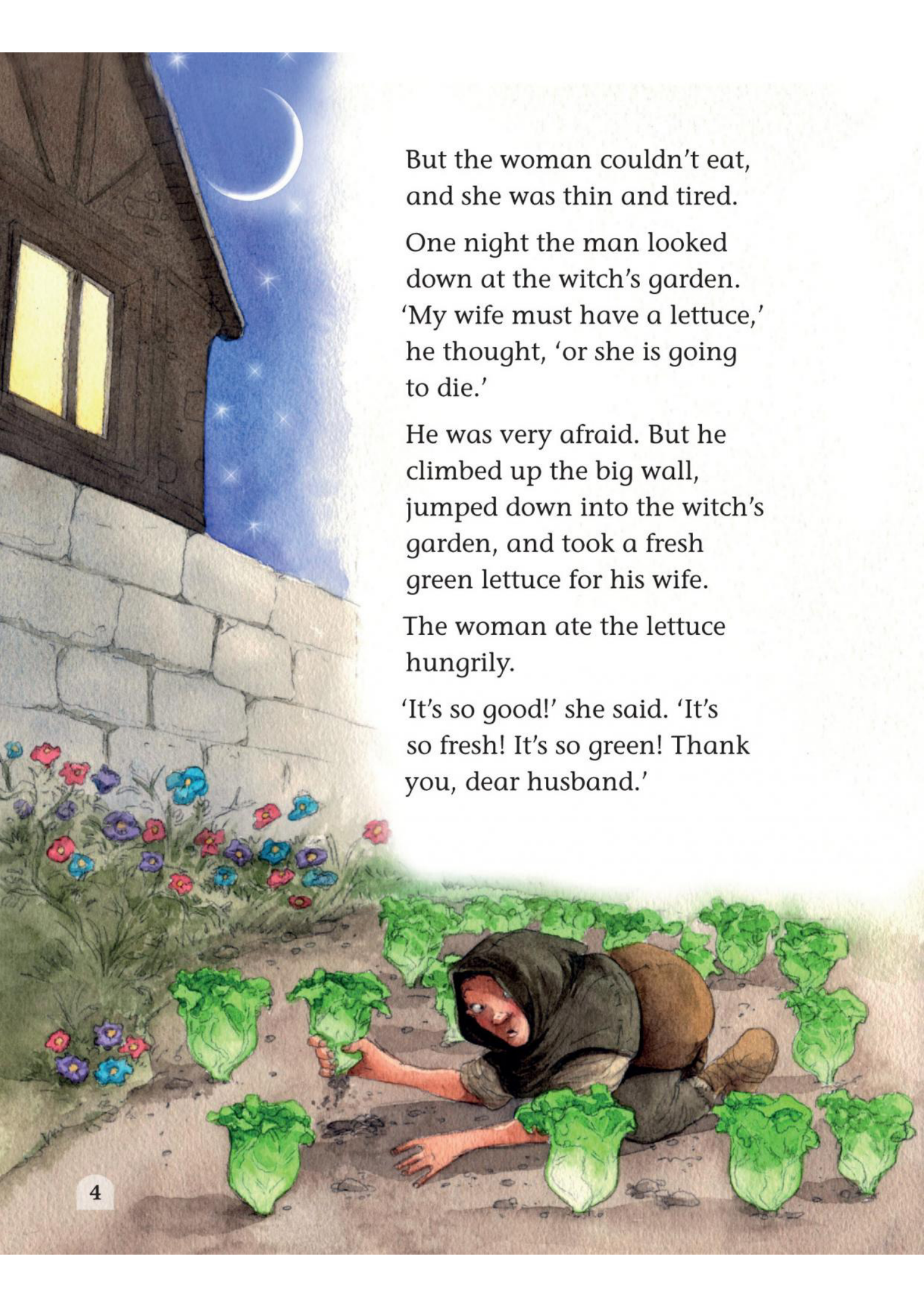
A woman sat at her window and looked at the beautiful garden outside. There were lettuces in the garden, and they were fresh and green. 'I want to eat those lettuces,' said the woman. But the lettuces were in a witch's garden, and the garden had a big wall. The witch was a bad woman, and everyone was afraid of her.

Every day the woman wanted the lettuces more and more. Soon she couldn't eat anything. She only wanted the lettuces.

'I want a lettuce from the witch's garden,' she said to her husband.

'I'm sorry,' the woman's husband said sadly. 'You can't have those lettuces.'



An illustration of a woman in a dark hooded cloak and brown tunic, kneeling in a garden at night. She is holding a head of green lettuce. The garden is filled with several other heads of lettuce. To the left, there are colorful flowers in shades of red, blue, and purple. In the background, a stone wall and a wooden building with a lit window are visible under a dark blue night sky with a crescent moon and stars.

But the woman couldn't eat,  
and she was thin and tired.

One night the man looked  
down at the witch's garden.  
'My wife must have a lettuce,'  
he thought, 'or she is going  
to die.'

He was very afraid. But he  
climbed up the big wall,  
jumped down into the witch's  
garden, and took a fresh  
green lettuce for his wife.

The woman ate the lettuce  
hungrily.

'It's so good!' she said. 'It's  
so fresh! It's so green! Thank  
you, dear husband.'

The next night the man took two more lettuces from the witch's garden. The next night he took two more.

Then one night the man jumped into the witch's garden ... and saw the witch! He felt very afraid.

'Why are you taking my lettuces?' said the witch angrily.

'My wife isn't well,' the man said. 'She can only eat lettuces – your lettuces.'

The witch said, 'You can take lettuces from my garden. But you must give me your first baby. Promise me this.'

And because the man was very afraid, he promised.



Soon the man and his wife had a beautiful baby girl. They loved her, and they were very happy.

But one day the witch came to the door.

‘I have come to take your baby daughter,’ she said to the man.

‘No! No!’ he cried. ‘Take anything, but not my little girl!’

‘Remember your promise,’ said the witch.

‘You took lettuces from my garden, and now you must give me your daughter.’

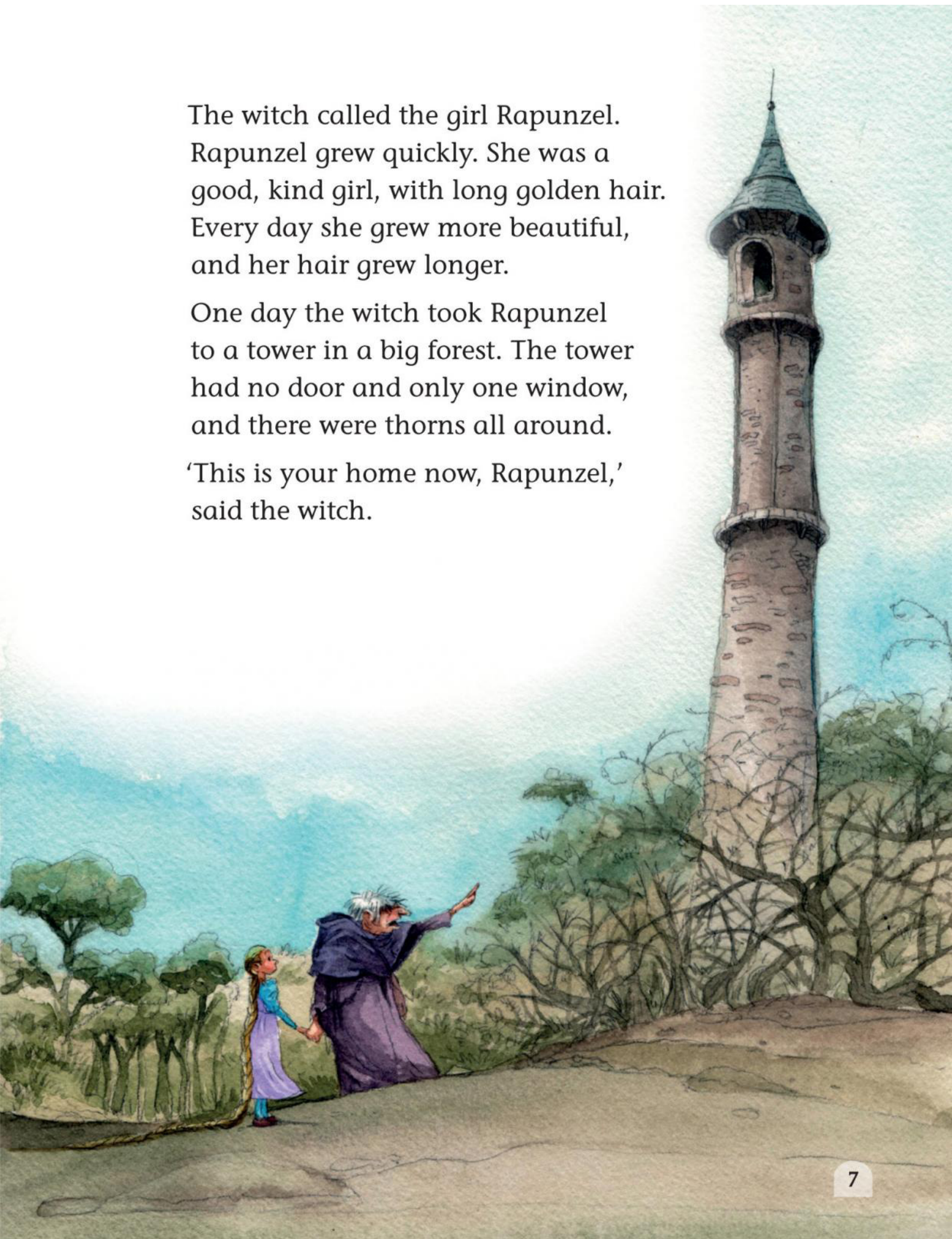
The man felt very afraid, so he gave her the beautiful little girl.



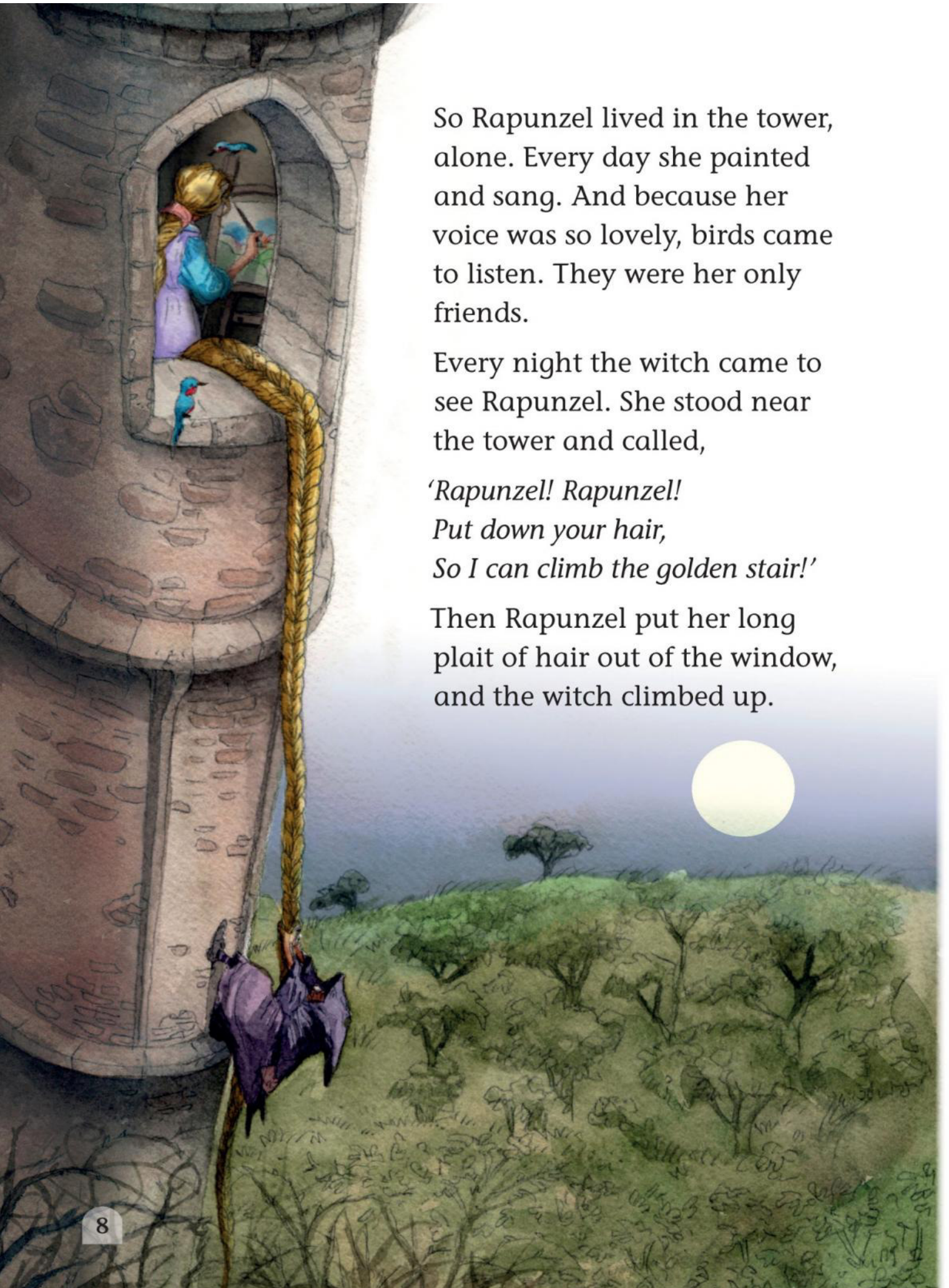
The witch called the girl Rapunzel.  
Rapunzel grew quickly. She was a  
good, kind girl, with long golden hair.  
Every day she grew more beautiful,  
and her hair grew longer.

One day the witch took Rapunzel  
to a tower in a big forest. The tower  
had no door and only one window,  
and there were thorns all around.

'This is your home now, Rapunzel,'  
said the witch.







So Rapunzel lived in the tower, alone. Every day she painted and sang. And because her voice was so lovely, birds came to listen. They were her only friends.

Every night the witch came to see Rapunzel. She stood near the tower and called,

*'Rapunzel! Rapunzel!  
Put down your hair,  
So I can climb the golden stair!'*

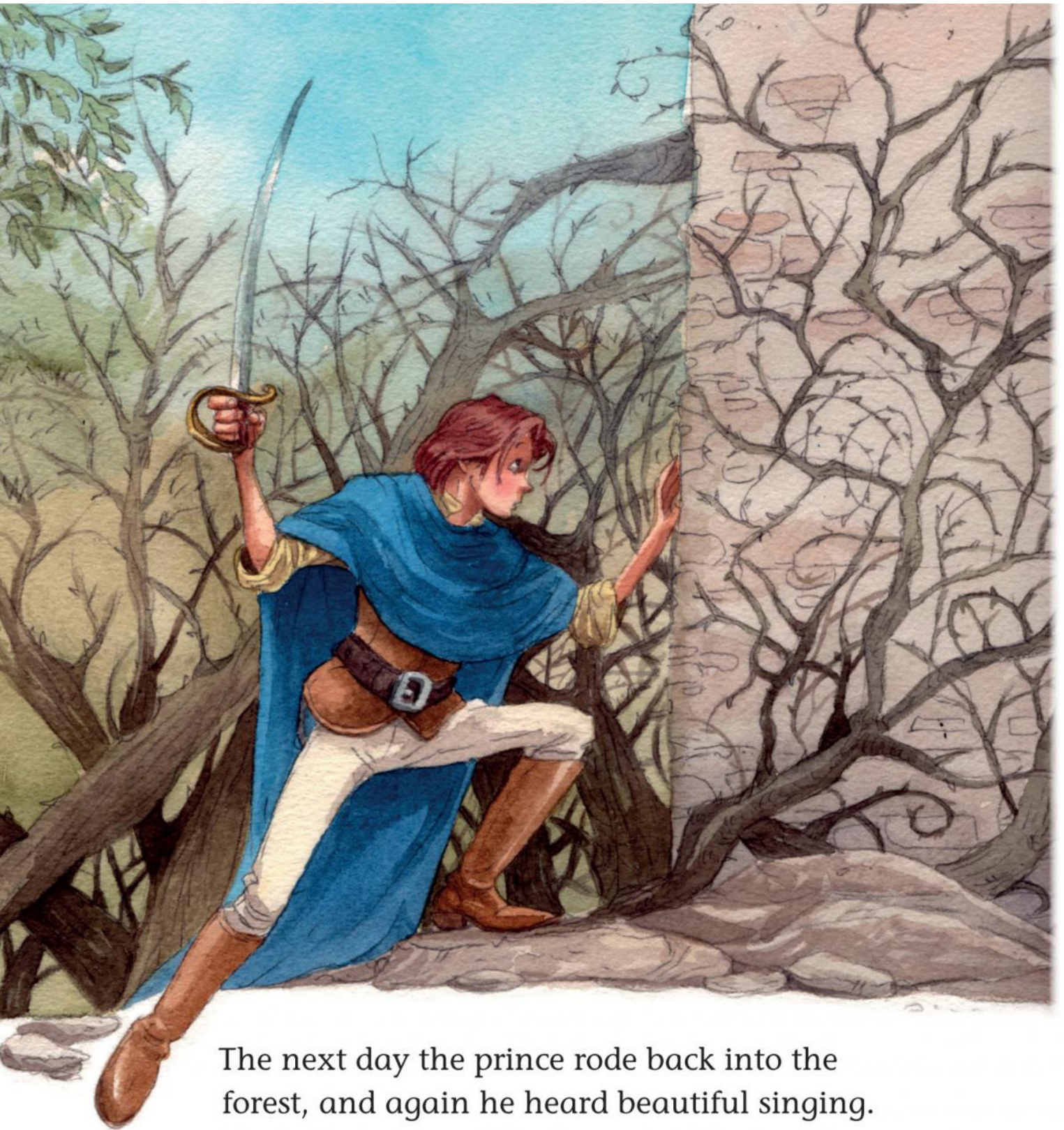
Then Rapunzel put her long plait of hair out of the window, and the witch climbed up.



One day a prince rode near the forest. He heard beautiful singing and saw the tower.

‘What a strange tower!’ he thought. ‘It has a window, but no door. Who is in that tower? She sings like a beautiful bird!’

The prince rode home, but he could only think about the beautiful voice in the tower.



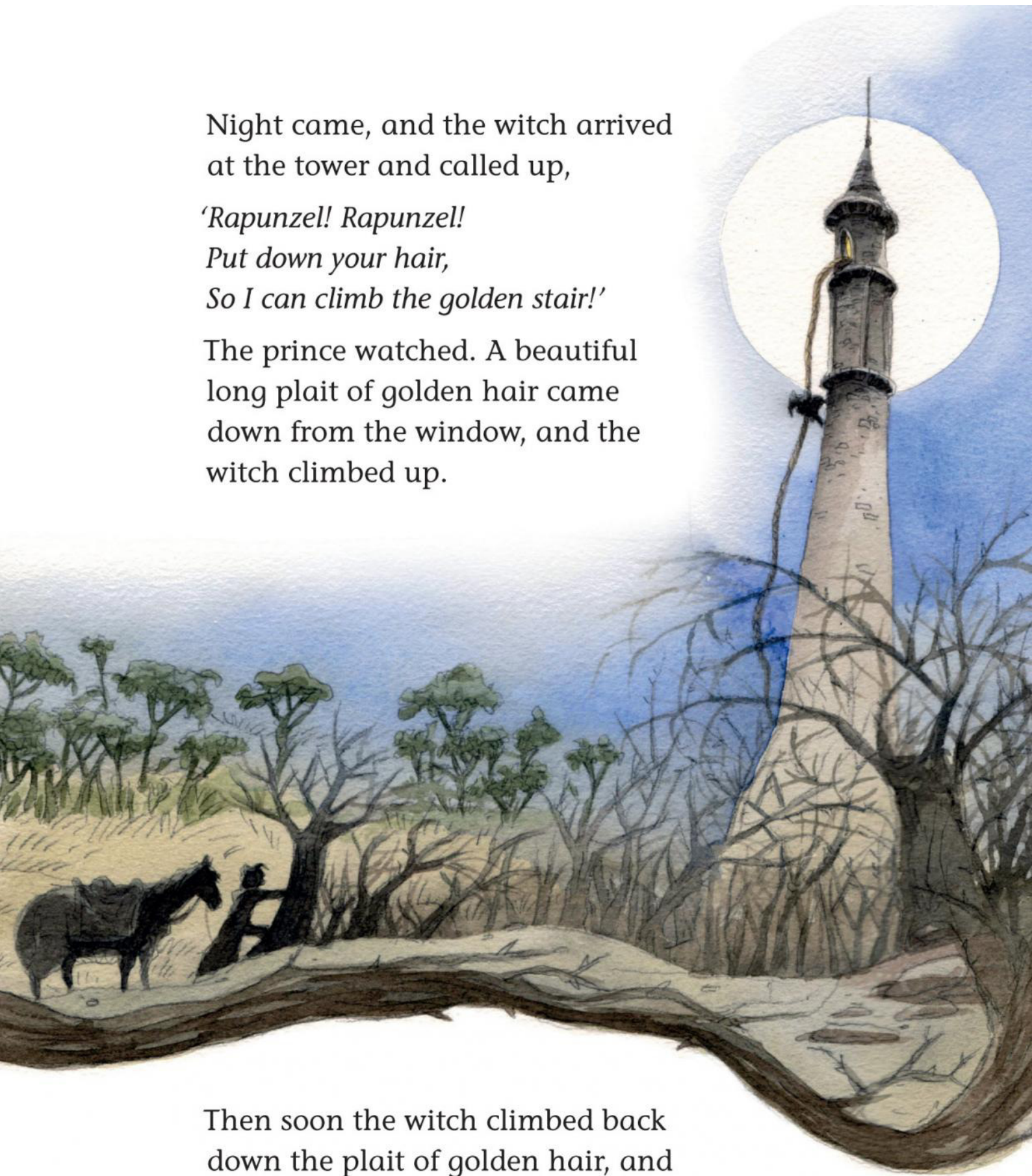
The next day the prince rode back into the forest, and again he heard beautiful singing. He walked around the tower and looked for a door. But there was nothing.

The prince sat and listened to Rapunzel's beautiful singing, and he could not leave.

Night came, and the witch arrived  
at the tower and called up,

*'Rapunzel! Rapunzel!  
Put down your hair,  
So I can climb the golden stair!'*

The prince watched. A beautiful  
long plait of golden hair came  
down from the window, and the  
witch climbed up.



Then soon the witch climbed back  
down the plait of golden hair, and  
walked away into the forest.

The next day the prince came back to the tower.  
He called up,

*'Rapunzel! Rapunzel!  
Put down your hair,  
So I can climb the golden stair!'*

Soon the long plait of golden hair came down  
from the window.

The prince climbed up and came into a little  
room at the top of the tower. And there he  
saw a beautiful girl with golden hair.

'Who are you?' cried Rapunzel, afraid.

The prince smiled and spoke kindly.

'I heard your beautiful voice,' he said.

'And I had to see you.'





The prince came to see Rapunzel every day. She sang for him and they talked and talked. Then the prince left before evening. Because the witch always came at night, she never saw him.

But one day the prince was late. The witch saw the prince climb down Rapunzel's long golden plait. And she saw him smile and say goodbye to her.

The witch called up to Rapunzel, and climbed up to the little room.

‘Who was that man, Rapunzel?’ cried the witch angrily. ‘You’re going to be sorry! I’m taking you away, so he can never find you again!’

And she took a knife from her coat, and cut off Rapunzel’s golden plait.



The next day the prince came to see Rapunzel.

*'Rapunzel! Rapunzel!*

*Put down your hair,*

*So I can climb the golden stair!'*

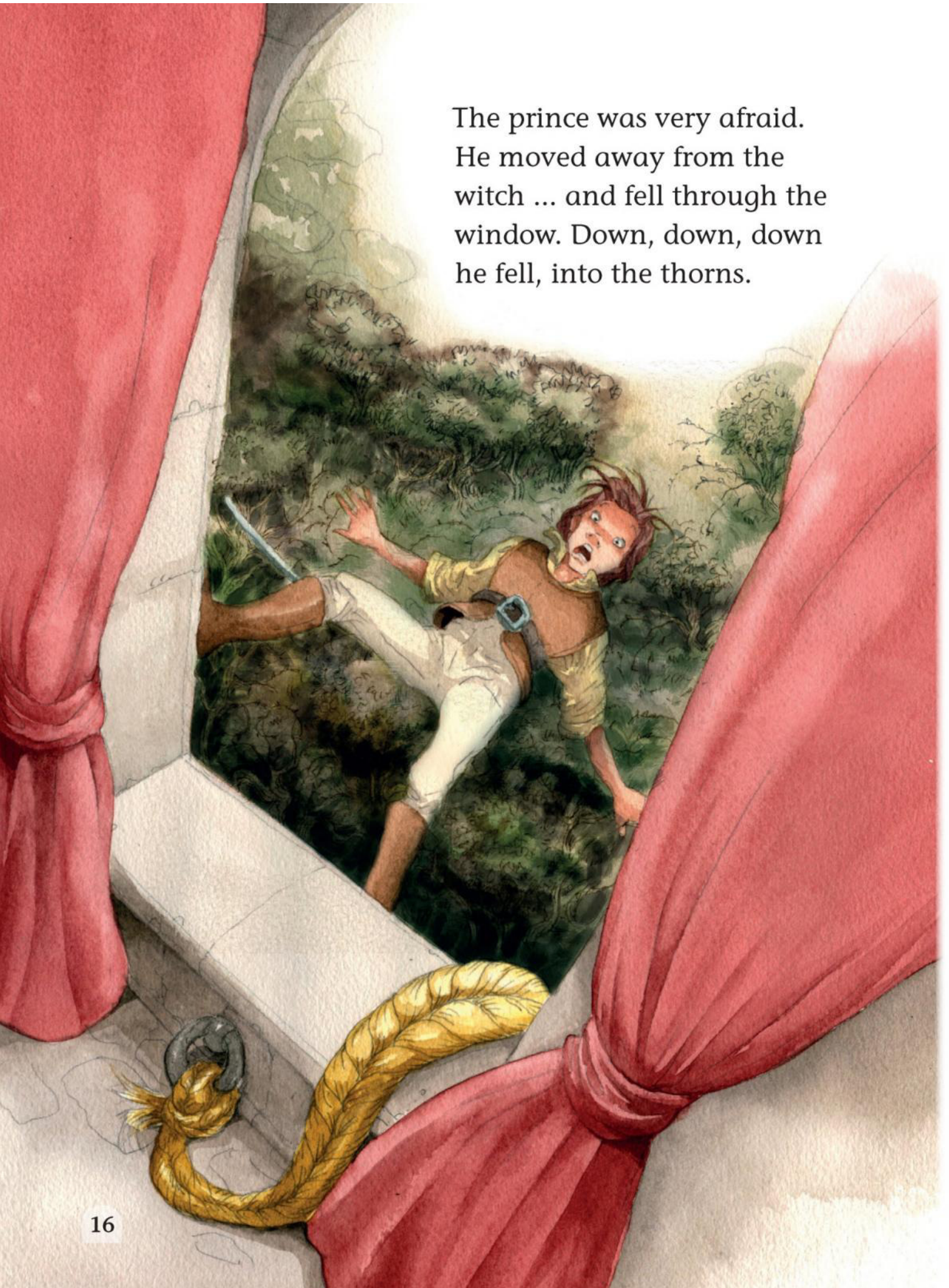
The plait came down and the prince climbed up. But it was not his beautiful Rapunzel in the room. It was the angry witch!

*'Rapunzel is not here!'* she laughed. *'I took her to the desert! And you can never find her there!'*





The prince was very afraid.  
He moved away from the  
witch ... and fell through the  
window. Down, down, down  
he fell, into the thorns.



At first the prince did not move. Then he got up slowly. He could move ... but there were thorns in his eyes, and he was blind. He could not see.



Day after day, the prince walked blindly in the forest. He was tired and hungry, but he wanted only to find Rapunzel. He felt the sun on his eyes, and he walked always towards it, looking for the desert.

At last the prince came to the desert. He was hot and blind and poor, but every day he looked for Rapunzel.

Then one day the prince heard something. Singing! Beautiful singing!

He ran, falling, towards it and suddenly Rapunzel saw him.

'Is it you?' she cried. 'Is it really you?'

Rapunzel saw the prince, so thin and tired, and she cried. But her hot tears fell on his eyes and melted the thorns, and then the prince could see again.





And so Rapunzel and the prince went home to the prince's castle, and there they were married.

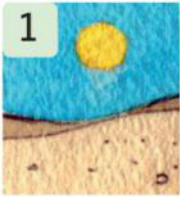
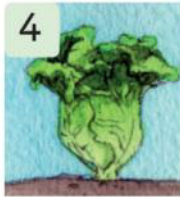
They never saw the witch again, but Rapunzel's mother and father came to live at the castle.



Soon Rapunzel and the prince had two children. Every day there was happy singing, and every day Rapunzel's friends the birds came to listen!






# Exercises

1 Write the words and find the name of somebody in the story.

1  4 

2  5 

3  6  7 

1 d e s e r t

2

3 Z

4

5

6


7

2 Match the rhyming words, then complete the sentences.

find hair give cut	}	live but blind stair
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- 1 • The witch cut off Rapunzel's golden plait.
  - The prince rode home, \_\_\_\_\_ he could only think about the beautiful voice in the tower.
- 2 • 'Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Put down your \_\_\_\_\_,  
 • So I can climb the golden \_\_\_\_\_!'
- 3 • 'You can never \_\_\_\_\_ her in the desert!'
  - There were thorns in the prince's eyes, and he was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 • The witch said, 'You must \_\_\_\_\_ me your first baby.'  
 • Rapunzel's mother and father came to \_\_\_\_\_ at the castle.

**3 Make sentences about the story.**  
**Then write them in the correct order.**

The witch came ...		for the prince every day.
The woman wanted ...		into the thorns.
Rapunzel cried ...		a fresh green lettuce for his wife.
Rapunzel sang ...		to eat a lettuce.
The prince fell ...		to take the man's daughter.
The man took ...		because the prince was so thin and tired.

- 1 The woman wanted to eat a lettuce.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Find the page and answer the questions.**

- 1 What did Rapunzel do in the tower every day?  
page 8 She painted and sang.
- 2 What did the witch do with her knife?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What did the prince hear in the desert?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Where were Rapunzel and the prince married?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 How many children did Rapunzel and the prince have?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Glossary

**afraid**



**alone** not with other people

**castle**



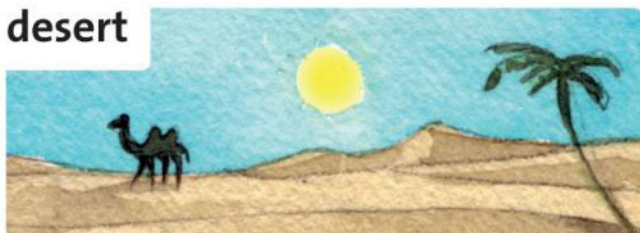
**climbed** past tense of **climb**



**cut off** past tense of **cut off**



**desert**



**die** to stop living

**forest** a place with many trees

**fresh** clean and new; just made or grown

**garden**



**golden** *golden hair*



**grew** past tense of **grow**: to get bigger / longer

**kind** good and nice to other people

**knife**



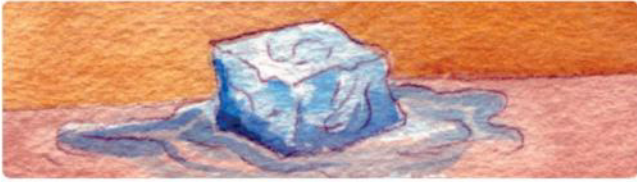
**lettuce**



**married** past tense of **marry**



**melted** past tense of **melt**



**painting** past tense of **paint**



**plait**

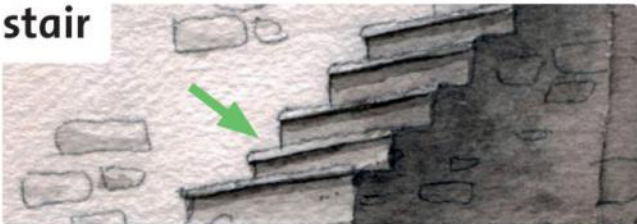


**prince** a king or queen's son

**promise** to tell someone you will do something

**rode** past tense of **ride**: to sit on a horse and make it move

**stair**



**tears** water that comes from your eyes when you cry

**thin** not fat

**thorns**



**towards**



**tower**



**voice** the sound from your mouth when you speak / sing

**wall**



**witch** a bad woman; she can do special things



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- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

## Level 2: 150 headwords

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- The Fisherman and his Wife
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- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

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- The Heron and the Hummingbird
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- Little Red Riding Hood
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Level 3

# Rapunzel

Enjoy the famous tale of Rapunzel, the girl who lived in a tower in the forest.


**A retelling of the classic story for learners of English**

Retold by Rachel Bladon  
Illustrated by Alejandro O’Kif

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 Level 1: 100 headwords

 Level 2: 150 headwords

 **Level 3: 200 headwords**

 Level 4: 300 headwords

 Level 5: 400 headwords

**Word count for this story: 1,172**

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