

Name: _____

Stockings Hung With Care

by Kelly Hashway

One of the most popular Christmas traditions is hanging stockings. It's a tradition that has been around for some time. But where did the idea come from?



According to legend, this tradition began with a wealthy nobleman. He had a loving wife and three beautiful daughters. The nobleman's life seemed perfect - he had a family, money, and a

beautiful home.

One day his three daughters were doing their laundry and they hung their stockings by the fireplace to dry. Saint Nicholas was a kind man who was known to give money to the poor.



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forced to move into a small peasant's cottage. Their new home was worn-down, drafty, and the roof leaked. The daughters had to work very hard sewing clothing to sell for money.

When they grew up, the nobleman realized his daughters were old enough to get married. Back in those days, women couldn't marry unless the bride's father paid the groom a large sum of money or property. This was called a dowry. The man knew he didn't have enough money to pay for his daughters' marriages. He feared they would be lonely their whole lives.

One night, while the three sisters were doing their laundry, they hung their stockings by the fireplace to dry. Saint Nicholas was a kind man who was known to give money to the poor.

and bring gifts to people at night. After the nobleman and his daughters had gone to sleep, Saint Nicholas stopped by the cottage. He knew the sad story of the nobleman and his daughters, and wanted to help. Through the window, he saw the stockings hung by the fireplace. He took three small bags of gold coins and dropped them down the chimney, and they landed inside the stockings.

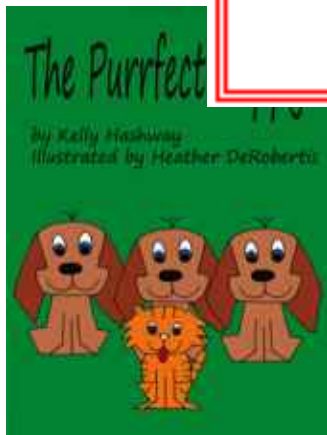
When they found the gold coins the next morning, the three daughters were overjoyed. They gave the money to their father who began to cry tears of happiness because he now had enough money to see his daughters get married.

News about Saint Nicholas and the gifts spread. And soon all the people in the village were hanging their stockings by the fireplace in hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there.



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When a stray kitten is raised by a family of dogs, she grows up thinking she is a dog. She fetches, growls, gives paw, and even does her best to bark. She loves her dog family, but when a little girl wants to adopt her and gives her the perfect name, the kitten will have to decide where her home really is.

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1. Who died in this story?
- a. the nobleman's daughter
 - b. the mother of the nobleman's daughters
 - c. the nobleman's mother
 - d. the grandfather of the nobleman's daughters



2. How did the nobleman become poor?



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3. How did the nobleman's daughters find money in their stockings?
- a. They found gold coins.
 - b. They found silver coins.
 - c. They begged Saint Nicholas for money.
 - d. They tried to help by working hard to earn money.

4. Place these events in sequential order. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th on the lines.

_____ Saint Nicholas visits the nobleman's house.

_____ The nobleman's wife became ill.

_____ The three daughters find money in their stockings.

_____ The nobleman lost all of his money and moved into a small cottage.

_____ Other people in the village begin to hang their stockings by the fireplace.

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Match each of the the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.



_____ 1. stockings

a. small home

_____ 2. legend

b. sadness

_____ 3. drafty

c. money paid to a groom in order for a

_____ 4. re



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_____ 5. dowry

e. breezy

_____ 6. grief

f. understood; became aware

_____ 7. peasant

g. person with little or no money

_____ 8. cottage

h. socks

Now try this: Reread the story and highlight each of the vocabulary words.

ANSWER KEY

Stockings Hung With Care

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1. Who died in this story? **b**
- a. the nobleman's daughter
 - b. **the mother of the nobleman's daughters**
 - c. the nobleman's mother
 - d. the grandfather of the nobleman's daughters



2. How did the nobleman become poor?

He wasted his money of foolish things.

3. How did

a
b
c
d



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4. Place these events in sequential order. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th on the lines.

3rd Saint Nicholas visits the nobleman's house.

1st The nobleman's wife became ill.

4th The three daughters find money in their stockings.

2nd The nobleman lost all of his money and moved into a small cottage.

5th Other people in the village begin to hang their stockings by the fireplace.

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Match each of the the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.



h 1. stockings

a. small home

d 2. legend

b. sadness

e 3. nobleman

c. money paid to a groom in order for a

f 4. re



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c 5. Cowry

e. wealthy person

b 6. grief

f. understood; became aware

g 7. peasant

g. person with little or no money

a 8. cottage

h. socks

Now try this: Reread the story and highlight each of the vocabulary words.