

Chapter I ♦ Happy and In Love

In a country far away, a young **prince** lives happily in the wonderful **palace** of **Sans-Souci**. Nothing **sad** comes through the door of that palace. Every day he plays with his friends in the palace garden. Every night he laughs and sings with his friends in the biggest room in the palace. Everything there is beautiful. But what about the **other** people in his country? The prince doesn't know about them. He never leaves the palace or its garden. So he never thinks about other people, and he never asks any questions to learn about them. Everyone at the palace calls him, 'The Happy Prince.' And when he dies, they make a **statue** of him.

prince the most important man in a little country

palace a big house where a prince lives

Sans-Souci /son 'susi/

sad not happy

other different

statue a picture of a person made of metal or stone



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stue or building
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ty (plural
ties) a big and
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pensive blue
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by a very
pensive stone
it is usually red

The statue of the Happy Prince stands on a tall **column** over the **city**. He has **gold** all over him from head to foot. His eyes are two **sapphires**, and there is a big red **ruby** in his **sword**. All the people in the town love him.

'He's very beautiful,' says one of the Town **Councillors**, 'but he can't *do* very much.'

When a little boy begins crying for something new to play with, his mother says to him:

'Why can't you be happy? The Happy Prince never thinks of crying for new things.'

A sad, tired man looks up at the wonderful gold statue. He says quietly, 'Well, there's one truly happy man in the city. That's something!'

Some poor young students walk past in their red coats. They see the sun on the prince's sapphire eyes and they say, 'Look! He's an **angel**!'

Their teacher hears this, and quickly says to them, 'What are you talking about? What do you know about angels?'

'We see them in our **dreams**,' say the children.

'Well stop dreaming then,' says their teacher angrily.





bird an animal that can fly through the sky

swallow a bird that lives in the north in the hot months and goes south in the cold months of the year

reed a tall thin plant that lives near or in water

river water that moves through the country in a long line

fly to move through the air

round on all sides of, in a circle

Earlier that year, in the country far from the city, a little **bird**, a **swallow**, meets a **reed** by the **river**. The reed is tall and beautiful and the swallow likes her at once.

'Shall I love you?' he asks her openly. She says nothing, but moves her head slowly up and down. The swallow **flies round** and round her happily.

The other swallows laugh at him and his love, the reed.

'She has no money, and she comes from a very big family,' they say. It's true. Lots of other reeds live with her near the river. But the swallow doesn't listen to his friends. He likes his summer love story.

When the **summer** finishes, the other swallows fly away to Egypt. They leave the swallow with his love. After six weeks with only the reed to talk to, he isn't very excited by her any more.

'She says nothing to me. Does she love me?'

The reed moves beautifully in front of him.

'She loves her home, but I like visiting different countries. So she must come with me.'

In the end, he asks her, 'Come away with me!'

But the reed moves her beautiful head left and right. She doesn't want to leave her nice home by the river.

So the swallow says sadly, 'All right. Then I'm going to Egypt without you. Goodbye!' and he flies away.

summer the hot time of the year

ACTIVITIES

READING CHECK

Match the characters from Chapter 1 with the sentences.

- The **prince** never thinks about other people when he lives in his palace.
- is now a beautiful gold statue.
- All the people in the city love
- loves someone tall and beautiful.
- lives near the river.
- doesn't want to leave home.
- wants to go to Egypt.



WORD WORK

1 Find words from Chapter 1 to match the pictures.



2 Use the words in the ruby to complete the sentences.

- Many swallows go to England in the **summer**.
- In my, I'm sometimes a bird and I can
- The young prince is never when he plays with his friends.
- The swallow stays behind when the swallows go to Egypt.
- Every day for six weeks the swallow flies the reed.



GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter?

Tick two boxes to finish each sentence.

- The Happy Prince ...
 - ☐ begins to cry.
 - ☐ leaves his column.
 - ☐ talks to the swallow.
- The swallow ...
 - ☐ flies to Egypt.
 - ☐ talks to the Happy Prince.
 - ☐ feels sorry for the Happy Prince.

