
Deutsche Märchen

German fairy tales

presented by Tim Straubinger

In this talk

Heinrich Hoffman

- Author of *Der Struwwelpeter* (1845), psychiatrist by trade

The Brothers Grimm

- Academics and collectors of regional tales
- Many of their tales live on in modern culture

Heinrich Hoffmann



Struwwelpeter

Shaggy Peter

Published by Heinrich Hoffmann
in 1845

- A collection of short fables to teach good manners to young children
- Ask any German about *Struwwelpeter*



Struwwelpeter Shaggy Peter

1st story in *Struwwelpeter* (1845)



Struwwelpeter

Look now, here he stands
Yuck, it's Struwwelpeter
On both his hands
he will not let cut
his nails for nearly a year
His hair he will not let comb
Yuck, will you look at him,
Hideous Struwwelpeter!

The End



Die gar traurige Geschichte mit dem Feuerzeug
The very sad story with the matches

3rd story in *Struwwelpeter* (1845)



Die gar traurige Geschichte mit dem Feuerzeug
The very sad story with the matches

Paulinchen (little Pauline) is told not to play with matches, then is left at home.

The cats, Minz and Maunz, dutifully remind her of the danger of matches and the rules she has been told.



Die gar traurige Geschichte mit dem Feuerzeug
The very sad story with the matches

But Paulinchen just doesn't
care.



Die gar traurige Geschichte mit dem Feuerzeug
The very sad story with the matches

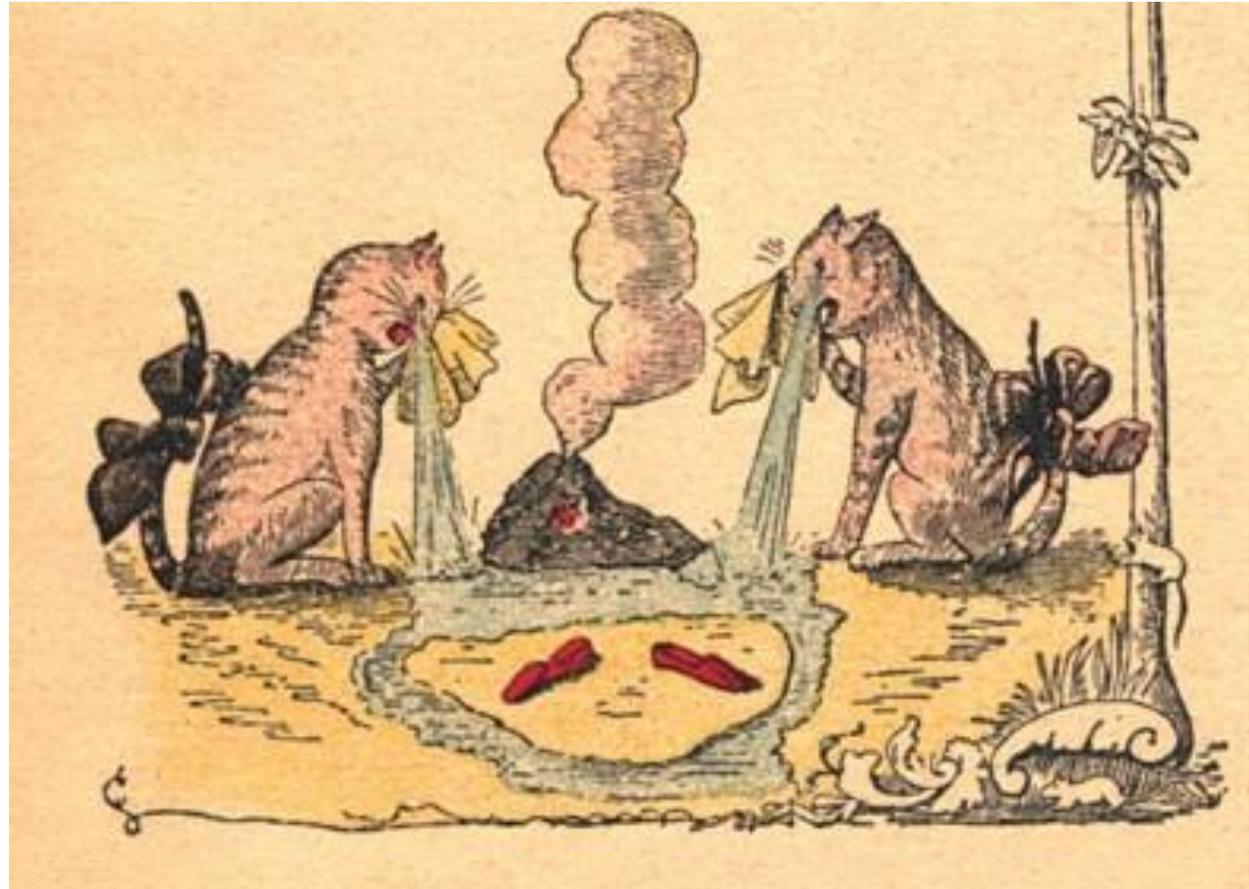
But then...



Die gar traurige Geschichte mit dem Feuerzeug
The very sad story with the matches

Oh dear...

Dang.



Die gar traurige Geschichte mit dem Feuerzeug
The very sad story with the matches

Discussion

Did Paulinchen deserve to be burned to the ground?

What more could Minz and Maunz have done to prevent this disaster?

Why was Paulinchen so flammable?

Die Geschichte vom Daumenlutscher
The story of the thumbsucker

5th story in *Struwwelpeter* (1845)



Die Geschichte vom Daumenlutscher

The story of the thumbsucker

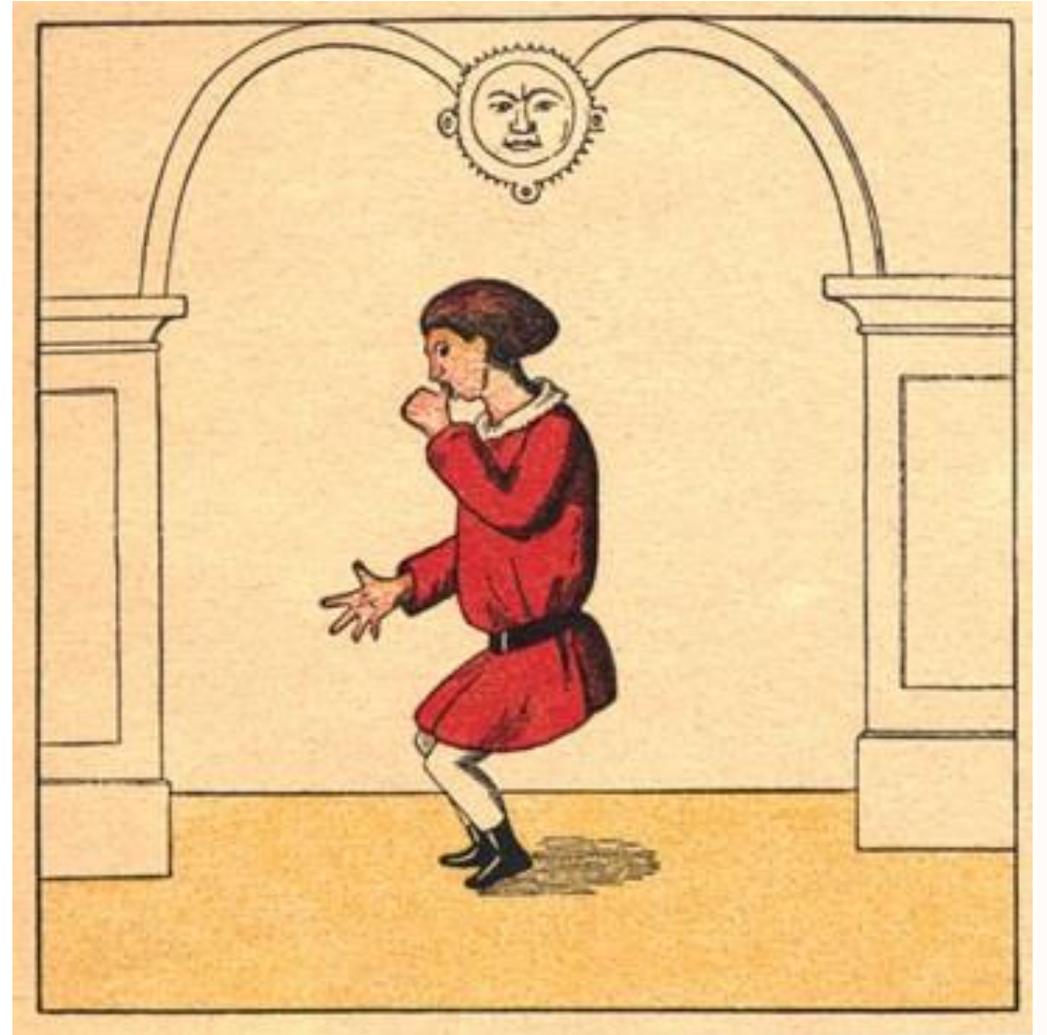
“Konrad!” says mother. “I’m going out and you’re staying at home. Be pretty and neat until I return. And above all, Konrad, listen! Do not suck on your thumb anymore!”

“Or else the tailor with the scissors will come in haste, and he’ll cut off your thumbs as if they’re made of paper!”



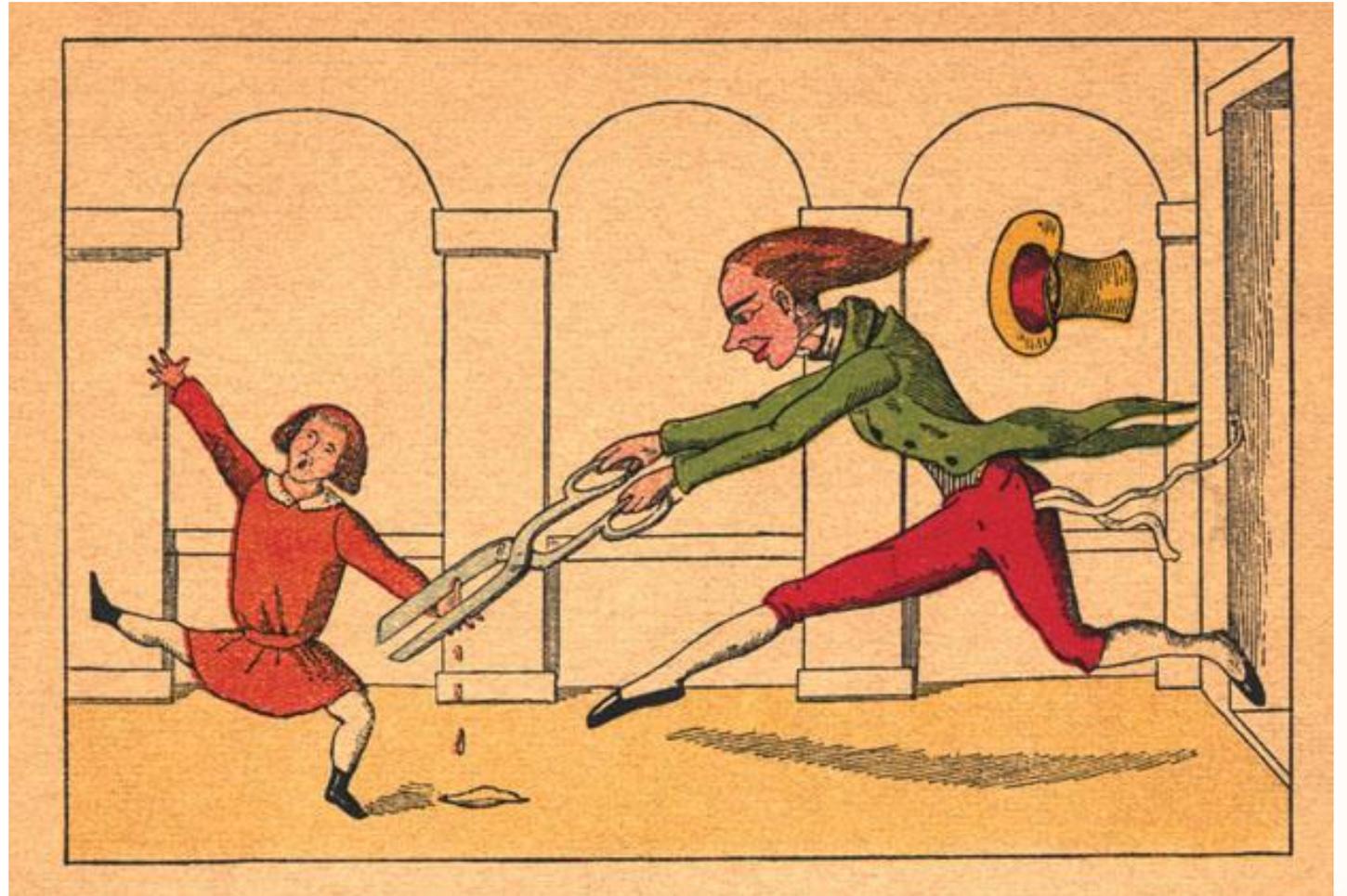
Die Geschichte vom Daumenlutscher
The story of the thumbsucker

But Konrad just doesn't care.



Die Geschichte vom Daumenlutscher
The story of the thumbsucker

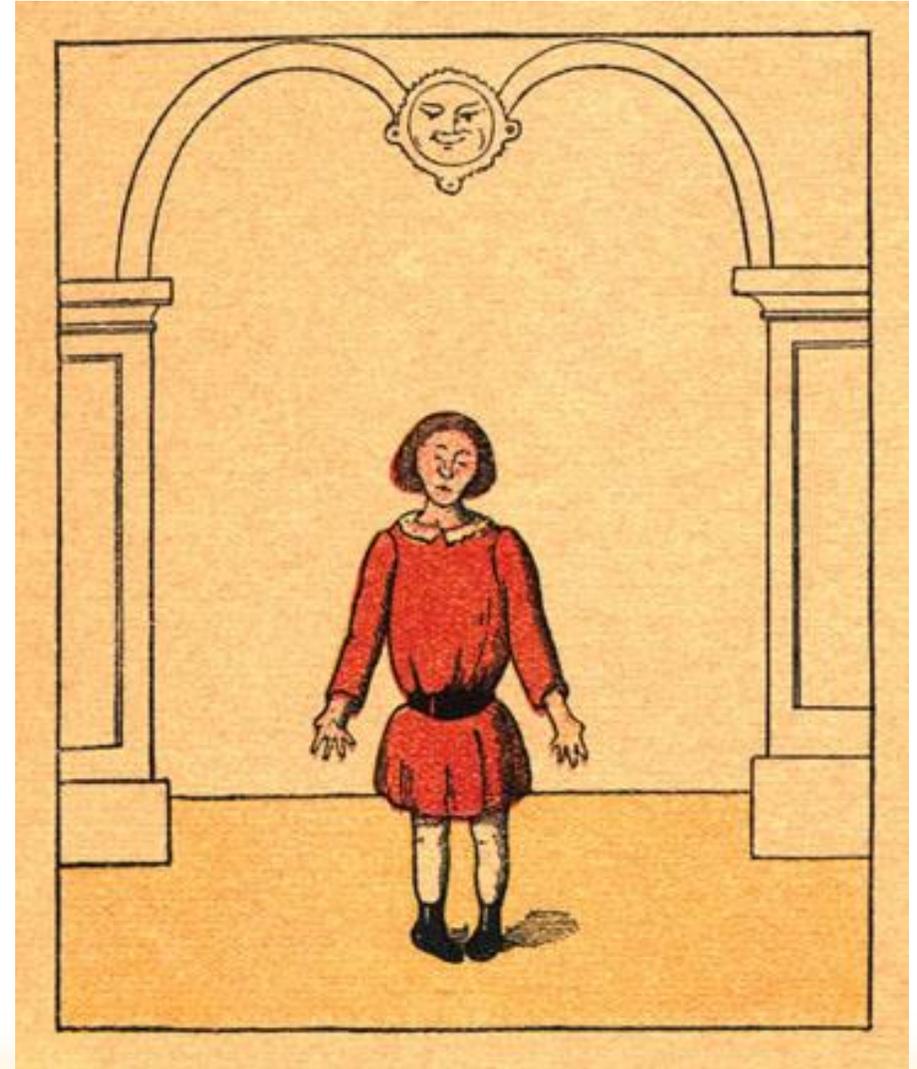
Aaaaa!



Die Geschichte vom Daumenlutscher
The story of the thumbsucker

Dang.

Konrad has no thumbs.



Die Geschichte vom Daumenlutscher
The story of the thumbsucker

Discussion

Should Konrad have sucked his thumbs?

Are we safe from tailors?

Where can I get scissors like that?

Die Geschichte vom Suppen-Kaspar
The story of soup-Kaspar

7th story in *Struwwelpeter* (1845)



Die Geschichte vom Suppen-Kaspar

The story of soup-Kaspar

Kaspar was round and healthy as could be. He had red, fresh cheeks and he always ate his soup.

But one day, he screamed, “I don’t eat soup! I won’t eat my soup! No, I will not eat my soup!”



Die Geschichte vom Suppen-Kaspar

The story of soup-Kaspar

This act of protest does not do well for Kaspar.

Still, he shouts, “I don’t eat soup! I won’t eat my soup! No, I will not eat my soup!”

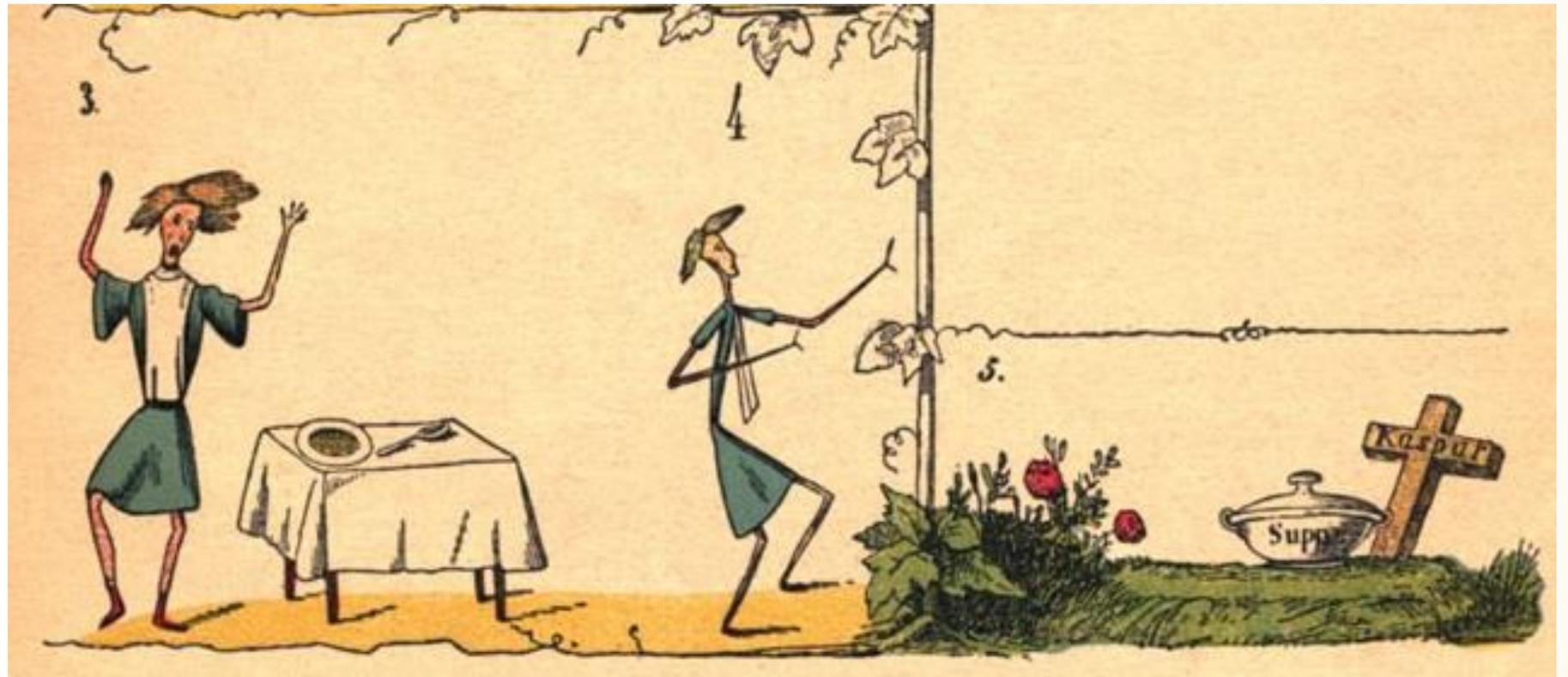


Die Geschichte vom Suppen-Kaspar

The story of soup-Kaspar

Kaspar withers away and dies.

The End



Die Geschichte vom Suppen-Kaspar
The story of soup-Kaspar

Discussion

Should Kaspar have eaten his soup?

Die Geschichte vom Fliegenden Robert
The story of flying Robert

10th and final story in
Struwwelpeter (1845)



Die Geschichte vom Fliegenden Robert

The story of flying Robert

Robert decides to go out in a storm with his umbrella



Die Geschichte vom Fliegenden Robert
The story of flying Robert

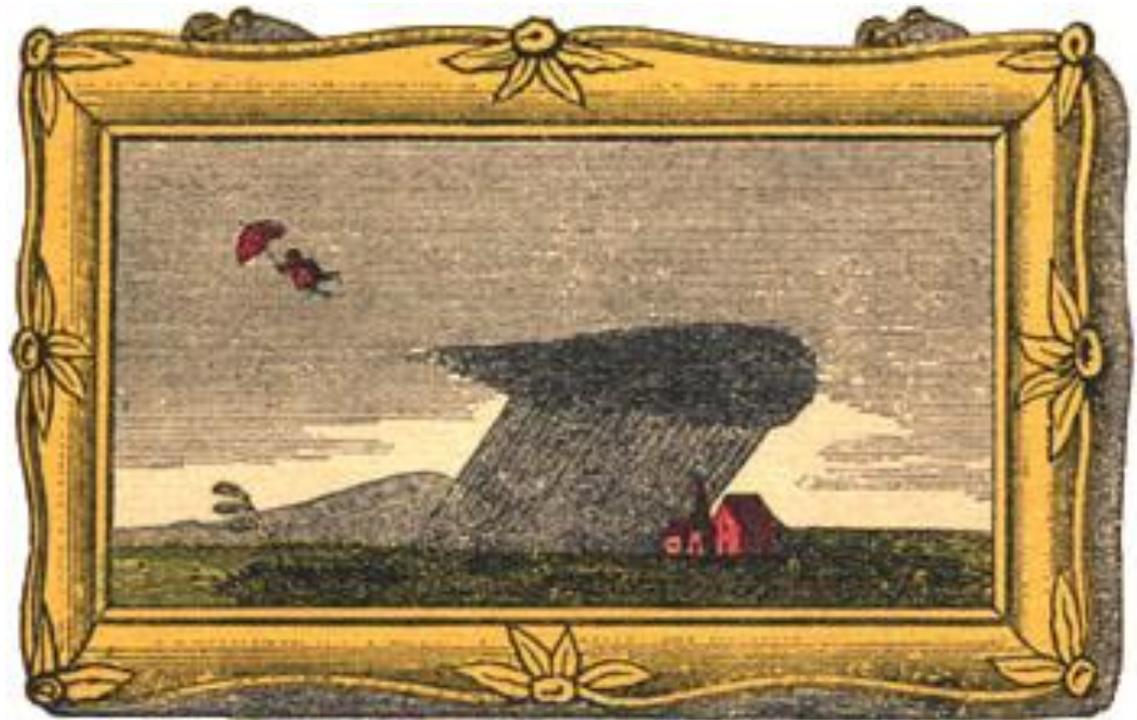
His umbrella catches the wind.



Die Geschichte vom Fliegenden Robert
The story of flying Robert

Robert is never seen again.

The End



Die Geschichte vom Fliegenden Robert
The story of flying Robert

Discussion

What?

Was Heinrich Hoffmann actually a psychiatrist?

Die Gebrüder Grimm
The Brothers Grimm



Die Gebrüder Grimm

The Brothers Grimm

Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm (1785 – 1863) and Wilhelm Carl Grimm (1786 – 1859) were academics who collected and published fairy tales in a number of volumes in the 1800's.

Many of their works remain in our culture, and a number have been rendered into famous movies.



Notable stories collected by The Brothers Grimm

- *Der Froschkönig (The Frog Prince)*
- *Rapunzel (Rapunzel)*
- *Hänsel und Gretel (Hansel and Gretel)*
- ***Aschenputtel (Cinderella)***
- *Rotkäppchen (Little Red Riding-Hood)*
- *Schneewittchen (Snow White)*
- *Dornröschen (Sleeping Beauty)*

*Notable stories **not** collected by The Brothers Grimm*

- Stories by Hans Christian Andersen:
 - The Little Mermaid
 - The Emperor's New Clothes
 - The Ugly Duckling
- Beauty and the Beast (French)
- Puss in Boots (Italian)

What typically happens in Grimm fairy tales?

A prince magically appears

Bestial men whose animal skin is burned, revealing a beautiful man

Hans

Magical sources of gold

Competitions to marry the princess

The protagonist breaks a promise to a magical being

Soldiers out of money

Death appears

The devil appears

Evil stepmothers

Everything is fixed by marrying a prince or princess

Evil old women in the woods who trap people

Couples with fertility issues

Nuts are found to contain beautiful dresses

Mothers rejecting their own children

Kings making arbitrary death threats

Notable Differences in Translation



Der Froschkönig

The Frog Prince

A princess loses her golden ball in a pond. A frog retrieves the ball for her, after making a deal to be her companion. The princess breaks this promise. *Something happens*, and the frog turns into a prince

English

The princess kisses the frog, and he magically transforms into a prince.

German

The princess, pissed off by the frog, tries to kill it by hurling it against a wall. A prince falls to the ground where the frog collided with the wall.

Schneewittchen

Snow White

Snow White eats a poisoned apple given to her by her evil stepmother, and falls into a coma. She is placed in a glass coffin, until she is revived by...

English

True love's first kiss

German

While carrying off the princess in her coffin, the prince's servant grows angry at how infatuated the prince has become and strikes the unconscious Snow White. The apple in her throat is dislodged by the impact.

Schneewittchen

Snow White

Snow White's evil stepmother learns that Snow White has survived, and is about to marry the prince. The evil stepmother crashes the wedding and...

English

...chokes with rage, and falls down dead. Snow White and the prince lived and reigned happily ever after, and sometimes they went up into the mountains, and paid a visit to the little dwarfs, who had been so kind to Snow White in her time of need.

German

...is forced into a pair of red-hot iron shoes and is made to dance until she drops dead.

The End

Aschenputtel

Cinderella

Cinderella, attempting to flee from the prince to hide her identity as a dirty peasant, loses her magic slipper on the royal stairs because...

English

It just fell off.

German

The prince, that cunning prankster, had the stairs covered with pitch, in which her slipper became stuck.

Aschenputtel

Cinderella

The prince, now left with the slipper of the woman he desires but not knowing who she is, sets out to find the woman whose foot fits the slipper. He will marry this woman. Cinderella's step sisters hear this and want to deceive the prince into marrying them. So they...

English

...try to put on the slipper, but it simply won't fit.

German

...slice off parts of their feet with a knife at their mother's orders. The prince rides off with one after the other, until a talking bird alerts him to the blood pouring from the shoe.

Die Gänsemaid

The Goose Maid

Before leaving her home to meet the prince to whom she is betrothed, the princess is given a token of guidance and good fortune when...

English

...a fairy cuts a lock of her hair and gives it to the princess

German

...her mother cuts into her fingers with a knife, bleeds three drops of blood into a handkerchief, and gives this handkerchief to the princess. The handkerchief later speaks to the princess.

Magical friends who can make
lots of gold, but who won't save
you from a toxic relationship

•=====•

Aschenputtel

Cinderella

Cinderella's evil stepmother has just thrown the lentils into the ashes and ordered Cinderella to pick them back out. Cinderella has befriended the birds into helping her with chores and giving her magical clothes when in need.

Desperate, Cinderella sings to the birds, who come flocking into the house to pick the lentils clean and sort them for her.

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Her stepmother throws the lentils back into the ashes and tells her to do it again.

The poor hundreds of birds just pick them clean again.

Rumelstiltchen

Rumpelstiltskin

An innocent peasant woman has been sold to the king by her heartless father, who falsely advertises that she knows how to spin straw into gold. The king, intrigued, locks the woman into a dungeon full of hay and orders her to spin it all into gold by the next day, or be killed.

In the night, as she weeps, magical Rumpelstiltskin comes to her to help.

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The woman ends up promising her first-born son to Rumpelstiltskin.

Notable Methods of Execution



Die Gänsemagd

The Goose Maid

The evil maid has manipulated the princess and has secretly taken her place and traded clothes with her. The true princess is remaining silent under an unfortunate oath. The king asks the false princess a riddle, “what is a fit punishment for lying?”

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The false princess answers: “*A liar should be thrown into a barrel hammered full of nails, and dragged through the town behind two white horses.*”

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The false princess, of course, suffers this weirdly specific fate.

Sechse kommen durch die ganze Welt
How six made their way in the world

The six travelling companions are invited to dinner by an evil king.

Sechse kommen durch die ganze Welt
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They are ushered into an iron-floored dining hall and a fire is lit under the room to fry them all.

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How six made their way in the world

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One of the travellers saves the day by straightening his hat, which causes a frost to come.

Rumpelstiltschen

Rumpelstiltskin

Angry that the queen has learned his name and thus will *not* be giving up her first-born child as she had promised, Rumpelstiltskin kicks his right foot down so hard that he is buried up to the waist, and...

Rumpelstiltschen

Rumpelstiltskin

Angry that the queen has learned his name and thus will *not* be giving up her first-born child as she had promised, Rumpelstiltskin kicks his right foot down so hard that he is buried up to the waist, and...

...takes his left leg in his hand and tears himself in two

Story Time



Your choices this evening

- Von dem Mäuschen, Vögelchen, und der Bratwurst

The mouse, the bird, and the sausage

- Eisenhans

Iron Hans

- Märchen von einem, der auszog um das Fürchten zu lernen

The story of one who went forth to learn fear





