



LONG

long ago...

The Stories of Cinderella



The story of Cinderella has been told for well over a thousand years and is still one of our most popular fairy tales today. The very first version of the story is believed to have come from China more than 1,100 years ago. The man who collected it, Tuan Ch'êng-shih, said he had got the story from Li Shih-yüan, who had for many years been a servant in his family, but originally came from the caves of south China.

Although the bare essentials of this rags to riches story have remained the same, there have been many changes down the centuries, and these changes usually say quite a lot about both the people who wrote them down and the people they expected to read or listen to them.

In an Egyptian version from the 2nd century AD, it is the sandal of the heroine Rhodope which is carried off by an eagle while she is bathing in the river, and dropped at the feet of the Pharaoh himself in the city of Memphis. He is so delighted by it that he immediately vows to marry the woman whom the sandal fits, and he searches through Egypt until he finds her.

The earliest Cinderella-type tale found in Europe is *La Gatta Cenerentola* or *The Hearth*


Cat, collected by an Italian called Giambattista Basile in his book, *Il Pentamerone*, printed in 1634. In 1697, a Frenchman called Charles Perrault first published the story as *Cinderella* in a collection of eight fairy tales meant especially for children. Usually, Perrault resisted the temptation to add his own details to the stories he collected, but *Cinderella* was his favourite and he could not help himself! He changed what was originally a simple country tale into a courtly fable, adding a few extras, such as the pumpkin, the fairy godmother and the little glass slippers. When he first heard the story it is likely that Cinderella's shoes were made of fur – the French words for fur, 'vair' and glass, 'verre' are very similar – but Perrault realised that it would be much more effective to have the slippers made of glass, for then the shoe could not be stretched and could only fit one person, however much the two stepsisters tried to make it fit them!

Charles Perrault's book was translated into English with the title *Stories of Mother Goose*, and *Cinderella* very soon became just as popular in England as it had been in France – so much so that we now think of it as an English story!

The story has not always had a fairy godmother either. There is always an animal or a fish or some magic helper for Cinderella to depend on, and usually this magic has something to do with her real mother, who dies before the story begins.

In the version of the story by the famous collectors of fairy tales, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, called *Aschenputtel*, the help comes from a wishing tree which has grown on her mother's grave. In this story the two





sisters cut off parts of their feet to try and get them into the slipper. At first the Prince is taken in by this trick and it is only when two pigeons fly up from the tree growing on the grave and call out to him:

*"There they go, there they go!
There is blood on her shoe;
The shoe is too small,
Not the right bride at all!"*

that he realises what has happened.

The Grimms published their story in the middle of the 19th century, but Cinderella had already made her debut in pantomime in 1804 — more than 200 years ago! — on stage at the Drury Lane Theatre in London. There were more than 90 stage productions during the 19th century. It was an opera version by the composer Rossini, first produced in 1817 and called *La Cenerentola*, which introduced the character of the Prince's valet, Dandini. He soon became one of the regular characters in the story, along with another newcomer, Cinderella's friend Buttons.

The two stepsisters also became the Ugly Sisters, and pantomime dames have delighted in making them as nasty and as grotesque as possible ever since! In modern versions, as in Perrault's tale, Cinderella is very forgiving to her two stepsisters at the end, but in the Grimms' story, they have their eyes pecked out by those same birds who warned the Prince they had cheated, and were condemned to become blind beggars for the rest of their lives.

A musical version of *Cinderella* from around 1889, which is set in 'Merrie England', gives a description of the heroine as:

*"A maiden meek, and young, and fair;
Her eyes were blue as flowers o'lint,
Her cheeks the roses' bonniest tint,
And streamed in golden waves her hair."*

It is interesting that the colour of her hair hardly ever changes, but the style does; in 1966 a popular picture book showed Cinderella with the long fringe and bouffant hairdo of the famous French actress Brigitte Bardot!

In more recent times, the story has inspired many books, musicals and films, ranging from *The Slipper and the Rose* to Roald Dahl's own version of the story, which he begins with a warning:

*"I guess you think you know this story.
You don't. The real one's much more gory.
The phoney one, the one you know,
Was cooked up years and years ago,
And made to sound all soft and sappy
Just to keep the children happy."*

And in his *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*, James Garner changes quite a few things, including the plot! Cinderella wears a gown "woven of silk stolen from unsuspecting silkworms"; the men at the ball all kill each other fighting over Cinderella; then the women take over the government and pass a law that women should only wear comfortable clothes!

However the details of the story might be changed to suit the fashion of the times, the bare essentials remain the same: a young girl loses her mother, is bullied by her new stepmother and stepsisters, but with the combined help of her own strength of character and support from her mother's memory, she is able to triumph over adversity and achieve her just reward. People have thrilled to this heart-warming story for over a thousand years and we still love to hear it told.



What do you know about Cinderella?



How many versions?

No-one really knows how many versions of the Cinderella story there are, but estimates vary from 340 to over 1,500!

In the Italian story, the heroine is called Zezolla and she has not one, but two stepmothers. She plots with her governess to kill her first stepmother, then the governess marries her father and brings with her not two but six cruel stepsisters! Zezolla's help comes from a magical date tree and, when she eventually comes out on top, she does not forgive her stepsisters, but drives them out of the court.

In a Romanian version, the heroine is an emperor's daughter whose wicked relations force her to live in a pigsty, and in a Swedish story the fairy godmother is a magic ox! In Kashmir, the Indian Cinderella loses her nose ring in the river, where it is swallowed by a fish and served to the king.

Shoes

When the president of the Philippines and his wife, Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, went into exile in 1986, the new government discovered that they had stolen \$860 million from the people.

A large proportion of this must have been spent on footwear, because Mrs Marcos is believed to have owned 3,000 pairs of shoes. Apparently, she used to buy every available colour in the same size!

Stepmothers

Cinderella is not the only familiar fairy tale to feature a wicked stepmother – what about the queen who tries to kill Snow White so that she can be the fairest in the land, and the stepmother who persuades her husband to abandon his children in *Hansel and Gretel*?

Sisters

'There were never such devoted sisters,' so ran a popular song from a few years ago, but is this how you feel about your sisters? Or is it more like 'can't live with them, can't live without them'? The fate of Cinderella's stepsisters varies with the different versions of the story; in some she forgives them and helps them find rich husbands after she marries the prince, in others she banishes them from the royal court, and sometimes they even end up as blind beggars. What would you do in Cinderella's place?

What's in a name?

How many words, of three letters or more, can you make out of the letters in Cinderella's name? We managed to find more than a hundred, including 20 three-letter words, over 40 four-letter words, 20 five-letter words, more than 20 six-letter words, four seven-letter words and one eight-letter word!

Can you do better?

CINDERELLA

Time to go home!

As you probably know, because the Earth is travelling around the Sun all the time, and also rotates once a day, different parts of the Earth face the Sun at different times each day. We have a system for telling the time which is designed to take all this into account, and to do this we divide the world up into time zones. The starting point is in Greenwich in London and we call the time here Greenwich Mean Time – 'mean' is a word which means average or middle.

Time is very important in the story of Cinderella. Her fairy godmother tells her that she must leave the Prince's ball before the clock strikes midnight, because that is when the magic ends and her beautiful clothes will turn back into rags.

Have a look at the map. We've drawn on all the time zones so that you can see what time it is anywhere in the world when it is twelve o'clock in Greenwich. Cinderella is at a ball in London just before midnight. Meanwhile the Italian Cinderella, Zezolla, is at a ball in Rome, the Colombian Cinderella is at a ball in Bogotá and the Chinese Cinderella is at a ball in Beijing – but they have to leave before the clock strikes twelve in London! What time will it be in each of their countries when they have to leave the ball?

Elaine Peake
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Answers

Zezolla must leave by 1am
The Colombian Cinderella must
leave by 7pm
The Chinese Cinderella must
leave by 8am



*A*mongst the *A*shes Cinderella weeps,
Doing household chores while her stepmother sleeps.

B is for *B*uttons, her very best friend,
He keeps up her spirits – on him she'll depend.

C is for *C*inders the star of the show,
Not allowed to the ball, but desperate to go.

D is *D*espair – she's down in the *D*umps –
She'd love to go *D*ancing in her ballet pumps!

E is the *E*nvoy her stepsisters feel –
They just can't compete with Cinders' appeal.

F is her own *F*airy Godmother true,
A wonderful helper and magical too.

A *G*own, a *G*old coach and *G*lass slippers complete
A breathtaking sight from her head to her feet.

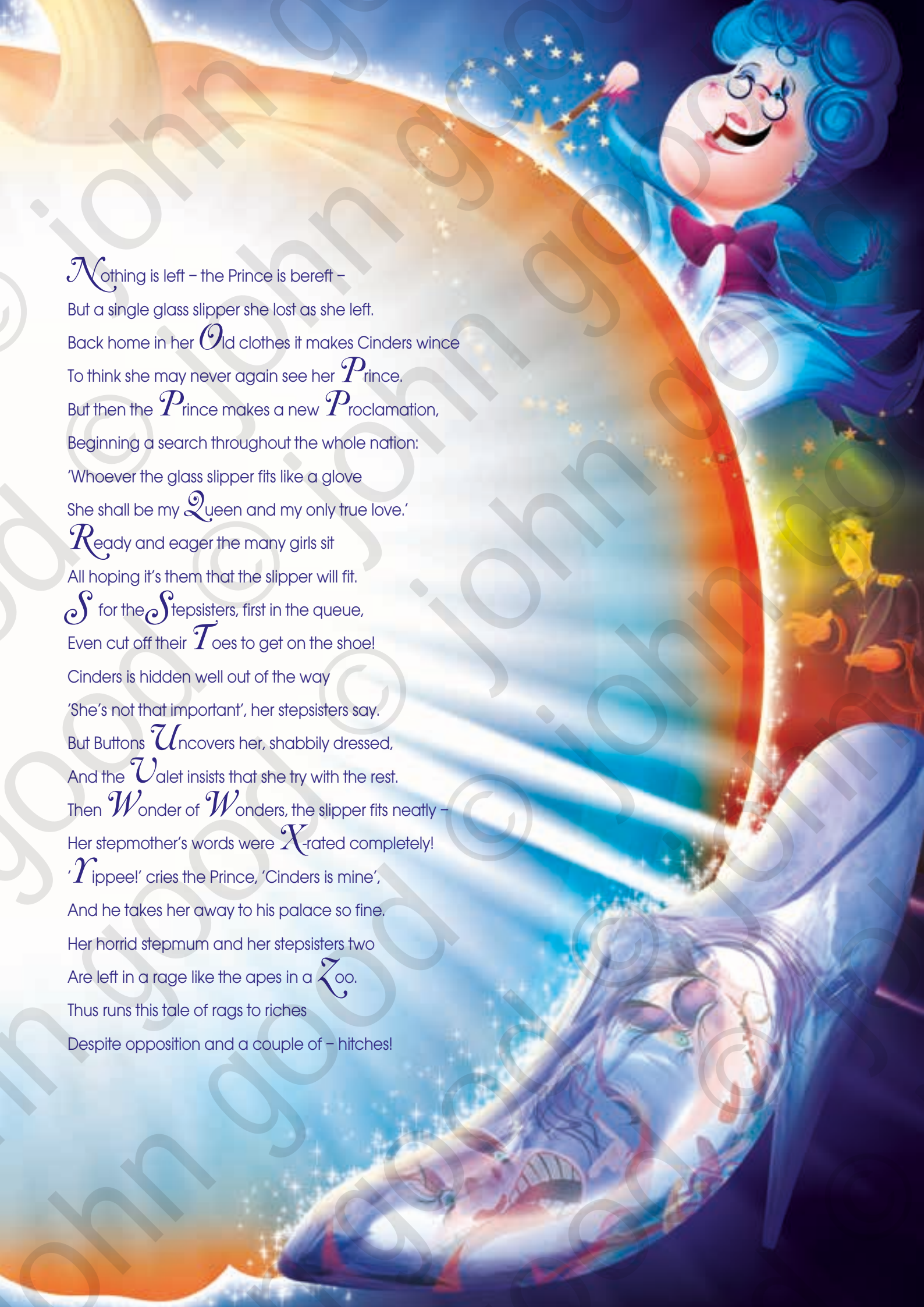
H is for *H*orses all glossy and proud
They make Cinderella stand out from the crowd.

I is the *I*nterest as she appears at the door
And makes her way to the ballroom floor.

J is the *J*oy when the Prince takes her hand,
He feels like a *K*ing when they strike up the band.

And Cinders is thrilled as the Prince and she dance,
It's *L*ove at first sight and they're both in a trance.

But *M* brings in *M*idnight and Cinders must fly,
She runs from the ball without saying goodbye.



Nothing is left – the Prince is bereft –
But a single glass slipper she lost as she left.
Back home in her *O*ld clothes it makes Cinders wince
To think she may never again see her *P*rince.
But then the *P*rince makes a new *P*roclamation,
Beginning a search throughout the whole nation:

'Whoever the glass slipper fits like a glove
She shall be my *Q*ueen and my only true love.'

*R*eady and eager the many girls sit
All hoping it's them that the slipper will fit.

S for the *S*tepsisters, first in the queue,
Even cut off their *T*oes to get on the shoe!

Cinders is hidden well out of the way
'She's not that important', her stepsisters say.

But Buttons *U*ncovers her, shabbily dressed,
And the *V*alet insists that she try with the rest.

Then *W*onder of *W*onders, the slipper fits neatly –
Her stepmother's words were *X*-rated completely!

'*T*ippeel!' cries the Prince, 'Cinders is mine',
And he takes her away to his palace so fine.

Her horrid stepmum and her stepsisters two
Are left in a rage like the apes in a *Z*oo.

Thus runs this tale of rags to riches
Despite opposition and a couple of – hitches!



Bucketload of Words

All the words listed are hidden in the bucket. They go in all directions: forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally. Cross through each word when you find it, and cross it off the list—but be careful, because some of the letters are used more than once. When you have found all the words, write down all the letters that are left in the square, and you will find a Christmas message.

G	A	P	E	R	E	T	S	I	S
N	U	R	R	S	K	C	O	L	C
E	M	I	E	L	L	E	P	S	T
C	I	N	D	E	R	E	L	L	A
I	C	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	
T	E	E	F	S	N	T	G	P	D
P	Y	L	G	U	G	T	O	P	N
I	C	O	A	C	H	A	A	E	A
N	B	A	D	S	T	A	R	R	W
R	E	H	T	O	M	D	O	G	S

APE

PRINCE

RAGS

WAND

MICE

SPELL

TOE

CINDERELLA

SISTER

CLOCKS

FEET

BAD

PUMPKIN

RAT

GODMOTHER

PIN

STAR

UGLY

SLIPPER

COACH

RUN

Gorgeous Garments

The ugliest Ugly Sister is dressing in secret in the hen house. Discover what dainty finery she is putting on by de-coding the numbers shown. Each number represents a letter of the alphabet, for instance 1=A, 2=B... 26=Z. Where there are two words, the words are divided by a slash: /

- (A) 11 14 9 3 11 5 18 2 15 3 11 5 18 19
- (B) 2 9 11 5 / 8 5 12 13 5 20
- (C) 6 12 9 16 16 5 18 19
- (D) 2 9 11 9 14 9
- (E) 19 20 18 9 14 7 / 22 5 19 20
- (F) 6 1 12 19 5 / 20 5 5 20 8
- (G) 3 12 15 23 14 19 / 14 15 19 5
- (H) 15 22 5 14 / 7 12 15 22 5 19
- (I) 7 15 7 7 12 5 19
- (J) 16 5 20 20 9 3 15 1 20

Cinders' Clock Crawl

To play this game, you will need some buttons (or counters) and a die. Highest roll goes first - good luck!



Cinders has just forty-five minutes to get to the ball in time!
Can you be her Fairy Godmother and help her win the heart of the Prince?

1

2

You oversleep!
BACK TO START!

4

5

6

You burn the toast!
MISS A GO!

3



10

9

8

7

11

You find a shilling whilst cleaning
GO ON 5!

12

13

An invite to the ball!
ROLL AGAIN!

14



19

A rat eats your breakfast!
GO BACK 6!

18

17

16

Washing the Ugly Sisters' smalls!
BACK 3!

15

20

The Ugly Sisters demand elevenes - twice!
MISS A GO!

21

22

23

Picking a perfect pumpkin is pretty perplexing!
MISS A GO!

25

A list from the Fairy Godmother?
GO ON 1!

24



Buttons has been reading the map upside down! MISS A GO to take a detour!

43

44

45

PHEW!
You made it just in time!!

42

41

40

How many mice can you catch?
Roll the die.
1-2: Go on 1. 3-4: Go on 2.
5-6: Go on 3!

WHOOOPS!
You lose your glass slipper!
GO BACK 2 to pick it up!

39

38

30

31

OH NO!!
The coachman (who's a bit of a rat) is more interested in food!
MISS A GO!

37

29

32

28

The Fairy Godmother casts her spell...
ROLL-AGAIN!

Your lizards escape...
GO BACK 2!

33



36

35

Off to the ball!
GO ON 1!

27

34

26



The Puzzling Pumpkin



Cinders needs to collect things for the Fairy Godmother's spell!

Can you find the quickest route to the pumpkin, picking up as many mice, rats and lizards as possible on the way?



Colour Me In

Answers

Bucketload of Words



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: GREETINGS

The Pizzling Pumpkin



Gorgeous Garments



- A KNICKERBOCKERS
- B BIKE HELMET
- C FLIPPERS
- D BIKINI
- E STRING VEST
- F FALSE TEETH
- G CLOWNS NOSE
- H OVEN GLOVES
- I GOGGLES
- J PETTICOAT

Answers

The Puzzling Pumpkin

Bucketload of Words



Gorgeous Garments



- A KNICKERBOCKERS
- B BIKE HELMET
- C FLIPPERS
- D BIKINI
- E STRING VEST
- F FALSE TEETH
- G CLOWNS NOSE
- H OVEN GLOVES
- I GOGGLES
- J PETTICOAT