

CONTENTS

Preface	4
Story 1. The King with Donkey's Ears	6
Story 2. The Wishing Pot.....	13
Story 3. Pandora's Box.....	21
Story 4. Santa Claus.....	28
Story 5. The Sword in the Stone	36
Story 6. A Good Friend	45
Story 7. The Mighty Hunter.....	52
Story 8. How People Got Fire	59
Story 9. The Children of Lir	66
Story 10. The Wavel Dragon	74
Story 11. The Otherworld.....	83
Story 12. Who Founded Rome	91
English-Russian Vocabulary	97
Keys	108

ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Дорогие друзья!

Вы держите в руках книгу для чтения на английском языке под названием “Myths and Legends”, предназначенную для учащихся шестых классов общеобразовательной школы. В ней вы найдете древние мифы и легенды разных стран и народов, познакомитесь с героями английских, ирландских, кельтских легенд, а также легендами коренных жителей Северной Америки, узнаете о существовании друидов — жрецов древних кельтов, которые выполняли также функции судей, занимались врачеванием и астрономией. Вы отправитесь путешествовать в самые неожиданные места, включая подземные королевства, где с различными персонажами этих легенд и мифов будут происходить самые невероятные приключения.

В сборнике вы сможете прочитать также о том, где, когда и как появился столичный город современной Италии, почему польский Краков называется именно так и откуда пошло выражение «открыть ящик Пандоры».

За каждым из текстов следуют задания. Выполняя их, можно более глубоко понять и оценить прочитанное, лучше усвоить новую лексику. Все тексты несколько адаптированы и сопровождаются переводом незнакомых для вас английских слов и выражений. Если в каких-то случаях вам будет сложно написать краткое содержание легенды или мифа (задание 7 каждого раздела), просмотрите предлагаемый вариант ответа в ключах к первой легенде “The King with Donkey’s Ears” и используйте его в качестве образца. Аналогичным образом рекомендуем вам поступить, если возникнут сложности с выполнением упражнений под номером 8.

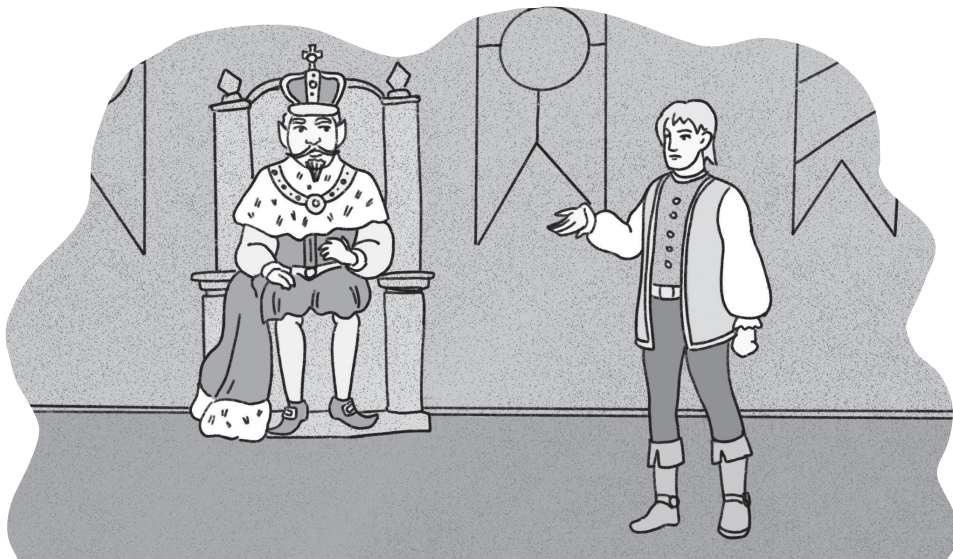
Завершается каждый из двенадцати разделов книги заданием, выполняя которое вам необходимо обратиться к интернет-ресурсам, чтобы найти соответствующую информацию для будущего сообщения. Не забудьте составить план своего выступления. Подобные задания часто включают в проверочные и контрольные работы.

Использовать данное пособие можно как в классе, так и при самостоятельной работе дома. Мы надеемся, что оно окажется для вас интересным и поможет повысить уровень владения английским языком.

Авторы-составители

STORY 1. THE KING WITH DONKEY'S EARS

(an Irish legend)



1. Read the legend and say why cutting the king's hair was a dangerous job.

One day a **messenger** called at the house of a poor **widow**. He said, "Your son must come to the King's **castle** tomorrow. The King has a special job for him." The poor woman was very much afraid. Her son was a **barber**. And strange things happened to barbers in their **kingdom**. Once a year the King told one of his barbers to come and cut his hair. But no barber returned home after his visit to the castle.

посыльный
вдова
замок

брадобрей

королевство

No one in the kingdom knew that the King had a terrible secret. He had very strange ears. In fact, his ears were just like the ears of a **donkey** [ˈdɒŋki]. The King wanted to **hide** his ears. He could do it if he had a special **haircut**. So each year the barber who came to the castle and saw the King's ears **disappeared immediately**.

So the poor woman decided to go to the castle and see the King. "My son is all I have in the world," she cried. "Please do not **kill** my son. If he dies I will have no one to help me. And I'm not young."

The King was sorry for the old woman. He thought for some time and said:

"He will live but on one **condition**. Your son must **promise** never to tell any living person what he will see in my castle."

The next day the widow's son arrived at the castle. He was very much surprised when he saw the King's ears! **However**, he was a clever boy and he said nothing. He understood very well that he had to keep the King's secret.

Some time passed and the boy's mother saw that her son was not quite well. He could not sleep, he could not eat either. So the widow went to see a **wise druid**. "I cannot help your son," the druid told her. "He knows a terrible secret. And he has promised to keep it, he will not get better."

осел
спрятать
стрижка

исчезал сразу же

убивай

условие
обещать

тем не менее

мудрый друид

8 MYTHS AND LEGENDS

“What shall we do?” cried the woman.

The druid thought and said “I think I can help your son. Tell him to go to the forest and find a tall **willow tree** that grows on the bank of the river. If the boy tells the secret to the leaves and the **branches**, he won't break his promise, because a tree is not a living person.”

The young man did it and immediately felt much better.

But that was not the end of the story. Some days later the King's **harper** went to the forest and cut a **branch** off the same willow tree to make a new **harp**. So when he began playing the harp for the King, strange music came from the instrument and then a voice sang “The King ...The King ... has donkey's ears ... has donkey's ears...”

Now everybody knew the King's terrible secret. But nobody laughed at him. The King understood that his secret was not terrible at all and it was not **necessary** for him to hide his donkey's ears.

ива

ветви

арфист

ветка

арфа

необходимо

2. Choose the appropriate words or word combinations and fill in the gaps. Write the letters into the table.

- 1) One day a ... came to the poor widow's house.
a) barber b) messenger c) druid
- 2) The King had a special ... for the widow's son.
a) job b) promise c) plan

- 3) The King thought he had a ... secret.
 - a) strange b) wonderful c) terrible
- 4) The King's ears were just like the ears of a
 - a) giraffe b) horse c) donkey
- 5) The widow asked the King to keep her son
 - a) alive b) free c) busy
- 6) After his visit to the King the widow's son
 - a) became seriously ill c) became wise
 - b) became well
- 7) The druid's idea to help the boy was
 - a) not clever b) silly c) wise
- 8) The boy told the ... the King's secret.
 - a) willow tree b) harper c) druid
- 9) The King's secret was not at all
 - a) terrible b) unusual c) strange

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

3. Read out of the legend:

- a) the paragraph about the King's terrible secret;
- b) what the druid told the barber's mother;
- c) the paragraph that tells us what happened to the harper and his harp.

4. Decide if these facts are true (T), false (F) or not stated (NS). Write the appropriate letters on the lines.

- 1) The messenger brought the King's order to the widow's house. _____
- 2) The woman had only one child — her son. _____
- 3) The boy was an excellent barber. _____
- 4) The King's castle stood on a hill. _____
- 5) The widow knew the King's secret. _____

10 MYTHS AND LEGENDS

- 6) The King decided to save the young barber's life. _____
- 7) The barber did not keep his promise. _____
- 8) The druid asked the boy to tell the secret to the willow leaves and branches three times. _____
- 9) The harp told everybody the King's secret. _____

5. Answer the questions. Write down the answers.

- 1) Why was the widow afraid when the King's messenger came to her house? _____

- 2) Why did no barber of the kingdom return home after his visit to the King? _____

- 3) What was the King's secret? _____

- 4) Where did the King live? _____

- 5) Why did the widow go to the castle? _____

- 6) On what condition did the King agree to save the barber's life? _____

- 7) How did the druid explain the fact that the widow's son couldn't eat or sleep? _____

- 8) What did the druid ask the widow to tell her son?

- 9) How did everybody learn the King's terrible secret?

6. Put the sentences in a logical order and write the appropriate letters into the table. Use the phrases as a plan to tell the story.

- a) The King wanted to see the widow's son, a barber, in the castle.
- b) The King wanted to hide his donkey's ears, so each year one of his barbers came to cut the King's hair and then the King's men killed him.
- c) That happened because the King had a terrible secret.
- d) The King agreed but said the boy mustn't tell anybody what he could see in the castle.
- e) The harp told everybody the King's secret.
- f) One day a messenger came to the poor widow's house.
- g) The poor widow went to the King and asked him to save the boy's life.
- h) The poor widow was afraid because in the kingdom no barber returned home after his visit to the King's castle.
- i) The secret was about the King's ears which were just like the ears of a donkey.
- j) The druid helped the boy to keep his promise.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7. Write a summary* of the legend.

***a summary** — a short text that gives only the most important information and not all the details.