Wizard and Cat 1: Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time there was a young wizard.
His name was Tom.
Tom studied hard at wizard school.
But he was not good at magic.
"Tom, turn me into a tree," said Master Wizard.
Tom waved his wand.
Poof!
Master Wizard turned into a bee!
The other wizards laughed.

Master Wizard sighed.
"Tell me again, Tom.
Why do you want to be a wizard?"

"I want to use magic to help people," said Tom.
"That's a fine wish, Tom," said Master.
"But you must practice—a lot!"

One day a trumpet blared.
It was a messenger from the palace!

"Hear this!" cried the messenger.
"The king needs a new royal wizard.
This school may send one student to try out."

"Maybe I can try out," thought Tom.
"I could use magic to help the whole kingdom!"
Later Tom found Master Wizard.

"Master, may I try out?" Tom asked.
The other wizards laughed.
"You can't be the royal wizard," said Walter.
"You're no good at magic!"

"We'll see, Tom," Master said kindly.
"Hooray!" Tom cheered.
He waved his wand by mistake.
Poof!
"You fool!" Walter cried.
Tom looked up.
The ceiling had a big hole.
"Oops!" said Tom.

Wizard and Cat 2: Tom's Gift

Tom wanted to be the new royal wizard.
So did everyone else.
But only one wizard could try out.
"I will pick the best wizard soon," said Master Wizard.

Tom practiced lots of magic spells.
The other wizards practiced too.

One day Master called all the wizards.
"Each wizard must make a gift appear," he said.
"I will pick the best gift—and the best wizard."

Walter laughed. "Tom can't make a gift appear!"
Other wizards laughed too.
Tom frowned.

Wizards made fancy cakes and candy appear.
Golden coins and pens appeared too.

Then Tom lifted his wand.
"I'll give everyone red socks with dots!"
Poof!

"You fool!" cried Walter.
"You gave us red spots!"
"We all have chicken pox!" said another wizard.

"Everyone is sick but you, Tom," said Master.
"You must go to the palace."
"I will do my best, Master!" said Tom.

Tom got his sack and hurried away.
A minute later he was back.
"Master?" asked Tom. "Where is the palace?"
Master sighed and gave Tom a map.

"You must go through the Dark Forest," warned Master.
"It is very dangerous.
Make sure you stay on the path!"
Tom took the map and headed for the Dark Forest.

Wizard and Cat 3: Into the Dark Forest

Tom walked along the path in the Dark Forest.
The forest was spooky.
"Where is the palace?" thought Tom.

Tom saw a peddler.
"Do you know where the palace is?" asked Tom.

"Yes," said the peddler.
"It's where it always is, you fool!"
"What a rude man," thought Tom.

Tom walked some more.
But he still did not see the palace.
He pulled out the map.
Suddenly a cold wind blew.

"Brr!" Tom shivered.
He reached into his sack.
He found his mittens.
But where was his fur hat?

"I will make a new hat appear!" said Tom.
He pointed his wand at his head.
"Fur hat!" he said.
Poof! Poof! Poof!
Now something warm and furry sat on his head!
"I did it!" Tom said proudly.
Just then the cold wind blew again.
The map flew out of Tom's hands!

The map flew off the path and through the trees.
Tom gulped.
"Master said to stay on the path," thought Tom.
"But I need that map!"

Nervously Tom stepped off the path.
He went deeper and deeper into the forest.
Suddenly Tom stopped.
"Huh?" he said.
He felt his head.
His fur hat was moving!

Wizard and Cat 4: Two New Friends

A cat jumped down from Tom's head.
"Oops!" said Tom in surprise.
"You're not a fur hat.
You're a cat!"

"Sorry about that," Tom said to the cat.
"But I must go now.
I need to find that map!"
Tom went deeper and deeper into the forest.
He looked behind branches and under roots.
Everything looked dark and spooky.
"Where is the map?" Tom thought.

Snap! Snap! Crunch! Tom froze. Something was coming!
He backed up slowly.
Tom tripped and fell. "Oof!"
Sticks snapped and leaves crunched.
Tom closed his eyes.
Suddenly— *crash!*

A creature burst through the trees!
It was the cat!
Tom climbed to his feet.
"Hello," said Cat.

Tom's jaw dropped.
"You can talk!" Tom said.
"Cats have nine lives," Cat said.
"In each life we can talk to one person."

"And you picked me," Tom said.
He bowed. "Thank you, Cat."
Then Tom looked around the Dark Forest.
He sighed. "I'm lost."

"I can lead you out of the forest," said Cat.
Tom grinned. "You can?" Cat nodded. "Sure."

"Do you know where the palace is?" Tom asked.
"I do," Cat said.
She climbed into Tom's pocket.
Together the new friends started walking.

Wizard and Cat 5: The Palace

Tom and Cat came out of the Dark Forest.
They were on their way to the palace.
"Why are you going to the palace?" Cat asked.

"I want to be the royal wizard," Tom said.
"But I'm not very good at magic."
"You have a kind heart," Cat said.

Soon Tom saw the palace.
"Wow!" he said.
The palace had tall white towers.
There was a wide moat and a drawbridge.

Two guards stood near the gates.
"Hurry up!" said one guard.
"The tryouts start soon!"

Tom ran into the Grand Hall.
Some wizards were gathered around a tall man.
"My name is Dirk!" the man snapped.
"I'm the head servant here!"

"Dirk looks mean," Tom thought.
"All wizards in the Throne Room!" Dirk ordered.
"Right now!"

"Yes, Dirk!" said all the wizards.
Dirk stomped away.
Tom ran after him. "Excuse me?"

Dirk spun around. "What do you want?"
"What's going on in the Throne Room?" Tom asked.

"The tryouts, you fool!" Dirk said.
He grinned and leaned in closer to Tom.
"You'll never get the job.
My daughter will be the next royal wizard!"

Dirk hurried off.
Tom sighed. "It's hopeless, Cat."
Cat licked her paws.
"Perhaps not," she said.

Wizard and Cat 6: The King and Queen

In the Throne Room, a servant blew a trumpet.
"The king and queen are now entering!"
Everyone bowed.
"Wow," Tom whispered.

The king and queen sat on their thrones.
The queen was holding a book.
Suddenly she frowned. "Oh no!"
"I lost my royal bookmark."

"Line up, wizards!" Dirk snapped.
He bowed before the king and queen again.
"The wizards will now do their best spells."

"Yikes." Tom gulped.
"I hope I'm ready, Cat," he whispered.

Dirk led a girl to the king and queen.
"This is my daughter, Ann," Dirk said proudly.
Ann bowed and then waved her wand.
Poof!

Dozens of beautiful white birds appeared.
The king and queen clapped.
Then all the other wizards did their spells.

At last it was Tom's turn.
"Your Majesties." Tom bowed.
"I'm pleased to meet—"
"Ah-choo!" The queen suddenly sneezed loudly.

"AH-CHOO!" The queen sneezed again.
The king frowned.
"My dear," he said. "Are you okay?"

"Please," Tom said. "Take my handkerchief."
He reached into his pocket.
But Tom did not pull out his handkerchief.
He pulled out . . .
"A cat!" The queen shrieked. "Ah-choo!"
"A cat?" The king leaped to his feet.
"No cats in the palace!"

Wizard and Cat 7: The Grim Dungeon

Cat ran across the Throne Room.
"A cat!" shrieked the queen.
She was still sneezing. "Ah-choo!"
"Oops," Tom whispered.

Dirk stepped closer to Tom.
He laughed in Tom's ear.
"No cats in the palace, you fool!" he said.
"They make the queen sneeze."
"Ah-ah-ah-CHOO!"
The queen sneezed again.
Honk!
She blew her nose loudly.
"Guards!" shouted the king.
He pointed to Tom.
"Seize this wizard at once!"

The guards rushed toward Tom and grabbed him.
"I'm sorry," Tom tried to explain.
"I didn't know the rule. I just—"
"Silence!" Dirk cut Tom off.

Then Dirk turned to the guards.
"Throw that wizard in the Grim Dungeon!"

"The Grim Dungeon!" Tom thought.
"Oh no! That sounds horrible!"
He looked around in a panic.

"Where's Cat?" Tom thought.
"I'll be locked up forever in the Grim Dungeon.
"I'll never see her again!"

"Come with us, Wizard!" a guard growled.
They dragged Tom toward the doors.
Dirk bowed low before the king and queen.
"Your Majesties, the tryouts are over now."

Dirk hid his smile as he looked at Ann.
"It's time to name the new royal—"
Just then a voice rang out.
"Wait!" someone shouted.

"Please, Your Majesty," said Ann.
She bowed. "You're a wise and fair king."
"Indeed!" said the king.
"That wizard didn't take his turn yet," Ann went on.

"Hmm." The king looked at the queen.
She shook her head. "You must decide, King.
I'm too upset about my lost bookmark."

At last the king shrugged.
"Guards, release the wizard," he said.
"B-b-but . . ." Dirk's face turned bright red.
"Your Majesty!"

The guards released Tom.
Suddenly he spotted something.
Cat was hiding behind a curtain!

"Um . . ." Tom thought fast.
"May I take a moment to prepare my spell?"
"No!" snapped Dirk. "Yes," said the king.

Tom dashed behind the curtain.
"What should I do, Cat?" he whispered.
Cat held up something. "I found this," she said.

"It's the queen's royal bookmark!" Tom said.
"Wow! She'll be so happy to see it!"
"Time's up, Wizard!" Dirk snapped.
Cat whispered in Tom's ear.

Then Cat jumped into Tom's pocket.
Tom ran back to the thrones.
"I'm ready now!" he said.

Tom raised his wand. "Lost thing of the queen," he said.
"Be seen!" *Poof!*

"It's my royal bookmark!" the queen cried.
"What a clever spell!"
The king jumped up. "He is the new royal wizard!"
Tom grinned happily.

Wizard and Cat 9: At the Palace

Tom and Cat moved into the palace.
Tom was the royal wizard now.
But there was not much to do.

"Let's go to the Royal Kitchen," Cat said.
Cook gave Tom and Cat snacks.
Cat chased some mice.
But soon Tom and Cat were bored.

"Let's go to the Royal Lab," Tom said.
Tom mixed some potions.
He practiced some magic spells.
"Bring Cat a fish!" *Poof!*

"That's a fishing rod!" Tom moaned.
"What am I going to do, Cat?
My spells never work.
One day the king and queen will need my magic."

Cat licked her paws.
"You have a kind heart, Tom," she said.

Days and weeks passed.
Still no one at the palace needed magic.

Bam! Bam!
One night someone pounded hard on Tom's door.
"Get up, Wizard!" a voice growled.
It was Dirk. "Go to the moat at once!"

"The moat?" Tom leaped out of bed. "I'm coming!"
He put on his royal robe.
"Where is my royal wand?" he asked.

"It's in your hand," Cat said.
"Oops," Tom said.
At last Tom was ready.
"See you later, Cat!" Tom said.

"Good luck," Cat said.
She went back to sleep.
And Tom left for the moat.

Wizard and Cat 10: The Crown in the Moat

Tom hurried to the moat.
Dirk stood with some servants.
"What took you so long?" Dirk scowled.
"Princess Mary is waiting for you!"

"Princess Mary?" Tom looked over.
A beautiful young woman stood near the water.
She held a handkerchief as she sobbed.

Tom hurried over to the beautiful princess.
"What's wrong?" Tom asked.
"My royal crown!" said Princess Mary.
"It fell in the moat!"

"Now, now, Princess," Dirk said.
He flashed an evil smile at Tom.
"The royal wizard will get it out at once.
Isn't that right, Tom?"

"That's right," Tom mumbled.
He stepped closer to the moat.
The water looked dark and murky.

Then Tom spotted something.
"I see the royal crown!" he called.
The others peered into the water.

"All I need is a net," Tom said. He waved his wand.
Poof! "Ack!" cried Dirk. "Oops," said Tom.
Everyone was wearing hairnets now!
Princess Mary giggled a little.
But Dirk was angry.
He ripped off his hairnet. "You idiot, Tom!"

"I'm sorry, Princess," Tom said.
"Just get the crown!" Dirk yelled. "Now!"
Suddenly— *splash!*
A sound came from the moat.

Tom looked in the water and gasped.
"Are those—?" "Yes!" Dirk grinned. "They're crocodiles.
Hungry, hungry crocodiles!"

Wizard and Cat 11: Crocodiles!

"Yikes!" thought Tom.
Crocodiles filled the moat.
Some of the crocodiles were sleeping.
Others were swimming in the water.

Dirk clapped Tom hard on the shoulder.
"Ack!" Tom cried.
He started to fall toward the water.

Dirk grabbed Tom's robe just in time.
"Your silly net spell didn't work," Dirk said.
"You better think of something else fast!"

Tom gulped. "No problem!" he said.
"I'll think of another spell!"
Princess Mary started to cry again.
"My royal crown! It's lost forever!"

Tom wrung his hands.
"What am I going to do?" he thought.
Finally Tom just lifted his wand again.

"Crown that is down!" he yelled. "Land in my hand!"
Tom held out one hand.
He stared hopefully into the dark water.

"Whoa!" he cried.
Everyone clapped as the crown started to rise.
"Wow! Tom did it!" whispered a servant.
"Hmpf!" Dirk said with a scowl.

Princess Mary wiped away her tears.
"Just one more second, everybody!" Tom called.
He kept his hand over the moat.
"Then I'll have the crown!"

Suddenly Tom saw something else.
"You idiot!" Dirk yelled.

"Oops," Tom whispered.
"Here comes the crown . . .
On top of a hungry crocodile!"

Wizard and Cat 12: The Best Royal Wizard Ever

Cat woke up.
Tom was still at the moat.
"Hmm . . . ," Cat thought.

Splash!
The crocodile dropped into the water.
Tom watched it swim away with the crown.
"Ha-ha!" Dirk laughed softly.
"You're going to get thrown in the Grim Dungeon!"

"Oh no!" Tom thought. "Not the Grim Dungeon!"
The princess was still wailing. "My crown!"
"Psst! Tom!" whispered a voice. "Over here!"

Tom looked around.
Cat was hiding near the palace!
She waved to Tom. "Come here."

"Now, now." Dirk patted the princess' shoulder.
"We can get you a new royal crown."
The princess sobbed. "But that one is very special."

Tom hurried toward Cat.
Then he blinked in surprise.
Cat had the fishing rod and . . . the crown!

"Wow!" said Tom. "How did you get the crown?"
Cat shrugged. "I woke up and decided to go fishing.
But I caught this instead."

Tom hid the crown in his robe.
He ran back to the moat.
"Wait! Princess Mary!" Tom called.
He waved his wand. *Poof!*

"My royal crown!" the princess cried.
"Oh, Tom," she said happily.
"You're the best royal wizard ever!"

Tom bowed. "Thank you, Princess."
He put the crown back on her head.
Everyone clapped—but Dirk.

Wizard and Cat 13: Prince Eric's Birthday

Tom looked in the Royal Ballroom.
Streamers hung from the ceiling.
Servants were putting flowers on the tables.
"What's going on?" Tom asked.

Cat peeked out of Tom's pocket.
"There's a birthday party tomorrow," she said.
"I heard Cook talking about it."

"Whose birthday is it?" Tom asked. "Prince Eric's," Cat said.

Just then Dirk appeared.
"There you are, fool!" he snapped at Tom.
"The queen wants to see you at once.
Come with me!"

Tom hurried after Dirk to the Throne Room.
Cat was still in his pocket.
"Uh-oh," Tom thought.
"Cat might make the queen sneeze."

The queen sat on her throne.
Tom bowed. "Good morning, Your Majesty."
The queen's nose wriggled.
She pulled out her handkerchief.

"Ah-choo!" The queen sneezed.
"Tom, I need your help again," she said.
"Anything, Your Majesty," Tom said.

The queen blew her nose.
"Prince Eric's birthday is tomorrow," she said.
"And I need a special gift for him."
"What does Prince Eric want?" Tom asked.

"Prince Eric loves animals," the queen said.
"He wants a pet.
I want to get him a dog."

"A dog?" Tom repeated. *Hiss!*
A loud sound came from Tom's pocket.
Then he felt something sharp—Cat's claws!

Cat hissed again.
Tom tapped his pocket to make her stop.
Dirk frowned at Tom.

The queen blew her nose with a
honk!
"I want a special dog for Prince Eric," she said.
"See what you can do, Tom."
Tom gulped. "I'll try, Your—"

Dirk stepped forward with an evil smile.
"Tom will start working at once, Your Majesty!
Right, Tom?"
"Right!" Tom said nervously.

Outside the Throne Room, Dirk glared at Tom.
"I know that cat is in your pocket," he said.
Tom froze as Dirk leaned in close.

"Keep that cat away from the queen," Dirk growled.
"And if you fail at this birthday task . . .
You'll be thrown in the Grim Dungeon!"

Tom shivered and rushed off to his lab.
"What am I going to do, Cat?" he asked.

Cat licked her paws.
"You need to find a dog spell.
But I don't like dogs.
They chase cats."

"Maybe I can make a nice dog appear," Tom said.
He lifted his wand.
Poof! "Oops," Tom said.

It wasn't a dog.
It was a hog!
The hog squealed and ran off.
Tom tried another spell.
Poof! "Oops," said Tom.
"Ribbit!" said a big green frog.

Wizard and Cat 15: Potions and Spells

The frog was hopping around the lab.
Tom tried some more magic spells.
But nothing worked.
"What about a potion?" Cat asked.

"Good idea, Cat," Tom said.
"I'll try to turn that frog into a dog."
Tom mixed some potions.
But none of them worked either.

The next morning there was still no dog.
Tom sighed. "I better think of something fast.
The birthday party starts soon."

Tom watched the frog hop around the lab.
It hopped near a stack of books.
"Hey!" Tom said. "Those are old spell books."

Tom flipped through the spell books.
"Here's a dog spell!" he said.
"The queen wants a special dog," Cat reminded him.
Tom lifted his wand.
Poof!

A dog with wings appeared!
"I did it!" Tom said happily. "It's a *flying* dog!"
Cat hid in Tom's pocket.
The dog flew all around the room.

"Wizard!" Dirk banged hard on the door.
"The party is starting."
Tom whistled.
"Come on, Dog. It's time to go."

The dog didn't listen to him.
"Come on, Dog!" Tom said again.

But the dog stayed in the air.
Cat peeked out of Tom's pocket.

"Woof! Woof!"
The dog flew right down at Cat!

Wizard and Cat 16: A Surprise for the Prince

Cat ducked into Tom's pocket.
The dog shot back in the air.

"Oh no." Tom read the dog spell again.
"This dog will disappear in a few minutes!"
Cat looked around the lab.
"I have an idea."

Soon Tom hurried into the Royal Ballroom.
It was full of guests and gifts.
The queen clapped her hands.
"It's time for the prince's gift!"

Tom opened a door.
Everyone gasped as the dog flew inside.
"Wow!" Prince Eric cried. "I got a flying dog!"
"I want one too!" yelled a princess.

The dog flew around the room.
But soon Prince Eric was bored.
"Mommy, I want to pet that doggie!"
Everyone looked at Tom.

Cat was ready. She jumped out of Tom's pocket.
The dog saw Cat and flew down. *Poof!*
The dog disappeared!

Tom reached into his pocket.
"What's going on, Wizard?" Dirk snapped.

The queen was frowning.
"Tom," she said. "Where is—"
"Here!" Tom held out his hand.

Prince Eric blinked in surprise.
"You turned the dog into a frog!" he said.
Tom nodded.
"I like frogs better than dogs!" the prince cried.

Dirk scowled.
Tom gave the gift to the prince.
"Happy Birthday, Prince Eric!" he said.

Wizard and Cat 17: A Fire-Breathing Dragon!

One day Dirk rang the bell.
"Servants and knights to the Royal Ballroom!" he yelled.

"Something is wrong," Tom thought.
He followed everyone to the ballroom.

The king paced up and down.
"A dragon is approaching the palace," he said.
"And it breathes fire!"
Everyone gasped. "Fire?"

"Knights, climb to the highest towers," the king ordered.
"Get ready to throw your swords at the dragon."
"Yes, Your Majesty!" The knights hurried off.

"Servants, gather some boulders," the king said.
"Get ready to throw them at the dragon."
"Yes, Your Majesty!" The servants hurried off.
Then the king rushed away too.

Tom looked at Dirk. "Should I do a spell?"
"No!" Dirk scowled. "This is a serious problem, Wizard.
Just stay here—out of everyone's way!"
Dirk left the ballroom.

Tom was mad.
He kicked the wall hard.
"Ouch! My foot!" Tom cried.

A tapestry fell off the wall and hit Tom.
Cat jumped out of his pocket.
"Are you okay?" she asked.

"Yes." Tom nodded.
"But I'm the royal wizard.
I want to help with the dragon."
"Then go help," Cat said.

Tom shook his head. "Dirk said to stay—"
A door flew open.
Then Dirk stormed back inside.

Wizard and Cat 18: A Spell for Ann

Cat hid in Tom's pocket.
Dirk sank into a chair.
"He looks sick," Tom thought.

Then Dirk's daughter came in.
She was carrying a tray.
"Here's your milk and toast, Father," Ann said.

Dirk clutched his stomach and moaned.
"It's not easy being the head servant around here.
Especially when a dragon attacks the palace!"

Ann patted him on the shoulder.
"Try some milk and toast.
It's good for an upset stomach."
Tom stepped forward. "Can I help?"

"No!" Dirk glared at Tom.
"My daughter should be the royal wizard.
Not you!"

"Father," Ann said softly.
"I don't want to be the—"
"You *will* be the royal wizard one day," Dirk snapped.

"I have to get back to the roof," Dirk said.
He put down his milk and left.

Tom sighed. "Your father hates me."
"He wants me to be the royal wizard," Ann said.
"But you're a fine wizard, Tom."

Tom shook his head. "No, I'm not."
"Yes, you are," Ann said. "Show me a spell."
"Okay." Tom waved his wand.
Poof!
Roses appeared.

Tom grinned and gave them to Ann.
"See?" she said. "Thank you."
"You're welcome," Tom said.
"Now I'm going to fight that dragon!"

Wizard and Cat 19: The Angry Dragon!

Tom ran up to the palace roof. *Roar! Swoosh!*
He could hear the dragon coming closer.

Tom stared up at the dragon.
"Whoa," he cried.
The dragon was huge and green.
Flames shot from its mouth.

A peddler was throwing pots at the dragon.
A farmer dropped his milk cart and ran away.
Sizzle! Flags and bushes burned.

The dragon roared loudly and came closer.
It stopped and held its belly and roared again.
"Now!" Dirk yelled to the knights and servants.
"Attack that dragon!"

The knights threw their swords.
The servants threw their boulders.
Other men shot arrows.

Boom! Bam!
The dragon swatted everything away.
Hot flames shot from its mouth.

Soon all the weapons were gone.
All the servants and knights were running away.

Dirk glared at Tom.
"I told you to stay downstairs!
Your magic will never work!"
Dirk ran away too.

Cat slipped out of Tom's pocket.
The dragon breathed again—and Cat's tail caught fire!
"There!" Tom pointed to a bucket of water.
Cat quickly dunked her tail.

"That's a huge dragon!" said Cat.
She jumped back into Tom's pocket.
"Dirk's right!" Tom moaned.
"My magic will never work!"

Wizard and Cat 20: Tom and the Dragon

Tom shook as he looked at the dragon.
"You can do this," Tom told himself.
"You can stop the dragon!"

Tom waved his wand.
"Dragon—begone!" he cried.
But the dragon didn't go.
The dragon danced.

Tom waved his wand again and again.
The dragon did jumping jacks.
The dragon spun around.
Suddenly Cat got an idea.

She pointed to the farmer's milk cart.
"Tom, can you make the cart roll?"
Tom waved his wand. "Milk cart—start!"
The cart sat there.

Tom tried again. This time the cart did move.
It rolled fast down the hill! *Boom!*
The cart crashed into a tree and flipped over.
Milk spilled everywhere. *Roar!*
The dragon roared. Then it froze!

Milk was flowing toward the dragon.
It sniffed the milk . . . and licked it up!

The dragon roared again.
But this time no flames came out.
"Look!" Tom cried.
"The dragon is leaving!"

Tom looked at Cat.
She shrugged.
"The dragon was holding its belly," she said.
"Ann said milk is good for an upset stomach."

Everyone ran up to the roof.
Dirk glared as the king shook Tom's hand.
"Well done, Tom!" the king cried.
Ann held up her roses. "Yes, Tom."

Wizard and Cat 21: The Royal Fair

Tom was at the Royal Fair.
"Look," said Cook. "It's a grab bag game!"
"Grab bags are fun," the royal weaver said.
"Let's play!"

Everyone put a gift card in the bag.
Cook put in a card for a free feast.
The royal barber gave a free haircut.
Tom's card said, One Free Magic Spell.

Everyone picked a card from the bag.
Tom took his turn.
He pulled out a card.
"I won a rug from the royal weaver!"

Next it was Dirk's turn.
Tom held his breath.
Dirk was mean.
Tom did not want to do a spell for him.

Dirk pulled out a card.
He looked at it and frowned.
"What did you get?" Cook asked.
Dirk didn't say anything.

Tom was worried.
"What if Dirk has my card?" he thought.
More people picked cards.

Finally there was one card left.
A knight reached into the bag.
"Oh goody!" the knight said.
"I won the magic spell!"

"Whew!" Tom thought.
He was glad that Dirk did not get his card.

Later the knight walked over to Tom.
"I'll come to the lab tomorrow," the knight said.

The knight smiled.
Tom shivered.

The knight had a nasty look on his face.

Wizard and Cat 22: The Bad Knight

The next day Tom practiced some spells.
He tried to make stone bricks appear.
Poof!
Cheese bricks appeared!

The knight arrived.
Cat hid as the knight looked around.

"Can you turn these bricks into gold?" the knight asked.
"This knight is greedy," Tom thought.

"You have one free spell," Tom said.
"Do you want some gold bricks?"

"Hmm," the knight said.
He walked around the lab.
Tom saw him steal some cheese.
"I do not like this knight," Tom thought.

"I want to win the joust," the knight said finally.
"I want to win the prize money.
But my horse doesn't obey me.
Do a spell that will make her obey me."

The joust was a contest at the Royal Fair.
Knights held lances and rode horses.
They tried to knock down other knights.
The last knight on a horse won.

Tom frowned. "That's cheating."
"I won the magic spell," the knight snapped.
"You must do it, Wizard!"
Tom frowned again.

The knight wore a nasty grin.
"I could sell my card to Dirk," he said.
"He is bald, but he won the free haircut card!"

Tom sighed. "Fine.
Meet me at the jousting field at midnight.
Bring your horse."

Wizard and Cat 23: A Midnight Meeting

"Good-bye, Wizard," the knight said.
Tom slammed the door shut after him.
He did not want to help that bad knight.

Cat was licking her paws.
"What should I do, Cat?" Tom asked.
"I'll talk to the horse," she said.

That night Tom went to the jousting field.
The knight rode in on his horse.

"Whoa!" cried the knight.
The horse threw him off her back!

"This is a terrible horse!" the knight said.
He looked furious.
"She never obeys me."
"Are you ready for the spell?" Tom asked.

"Ha-ha!" The knight laughed.
"Of course I'm ready, you fool.
I want to win all the prize money!"

Tom waved his wand.
Poof!
The field filled with smoke.
Cat sneaked over to talk to the horse.

A few minutes later the smoke cleared.
"I did the spell," Tom said.
"Good," the bad knight said.
He got back on his horse.

The knight rode up and down the field.
This time the horse did not throw off the knight.
This time the horse obeyed.

"Your spell worked, Wizard!" the knight said.
His grin was greedy.
"The prize money is all mine!"

Wizard and Cat 24: A Fair Joust

Tom was at the Royal Fair.
"It's almost time for the joust, Cat," he whispered.

The bad knight rode over to Tom.
"I'm glad I won that free magic spell," he said.
"The prize money will be mine!"

The joust began.
Horses charged and lances clashed.
Soon it was the bad knight's turn.
He rode toward another knight.

Tom watched from his seat.
Suddenly the bad knight's horse swayed back and forth.
"Uh-oh," cried Princess Mary.
The bad knight dropped his lance!

The other knight's lance struck the bad knight.
Oof!
The bad knight crashed to the ground.
The other knight won the joust!

"Our plan worked, Cat!" Tom whispered.
The bad knight stomped toward Tom.
"What happened, Wizard?" said the knight.
"I was supposed to win!"

"I still owe you one spell," said Tom.
"Someday I'll do it, but I won't help you cheat!"

Dirk was sitting nearby.
"Cheat?" he cried. "Who's cheating?
Cheaters go in the Grim Dungeon!"

The knight gulped. "Um . . . Nobody's cheating!"

He glanced at Tom. "I'll be back, Wizard!"
Then the knight ran off.

"Whew!" said Tom. "I'm glad he's gone, Cat."
"Do you think he'll really come back?"
Cat licked her paw. "Perhaps. Perhaps not."

Wizard and Cat 25 The Princess Is Sick!

Tom was worried.
The princess was very sick.
Everyone was waiting for news from the royal doctor.
At last the doctor came into the Throne Room.
"How is she?" cried the queen.
"Will the princess be okay?" the king asked.
The doctor nodded. "The princess can be cured."
The queen touched her heart. "Oh, thank heavens!"
"But . . . ," the doctor went on.
"The princess must have something."
"What?" Dirk snapped. "Anything!"
"I'm afraid . . ." The doctor bowed his head.
"The princess needs the juice of sweet pinkberries."
The queen burst into tears.
"But pinkberries only grow in the spring!"
The king frowned.
"We must be able to do something now!"
"This is awful," Tom thought.
Just then someone grabbed his arm.
It was Dirk.
He dragged Tom in front of the king and queen.
"Our royal wizard can fix this!" said Dirk.
"He can make a pinkberry bush appear!"
"Er . . ." Tom gulped. "Sure, I can."
Everyone cheered.
The queen stopped crying.
Everyone looked at Tom.
But Tom just stood there.
Dirk glared at Tom. "What are you waiting for?"
"The princess needs pinkberries at once!"
Tom's face was bright red.
"I forgot my wand," he said.
Everyone groaned.

Wizard & Cat 26: Back to the Dark Forest

Tom went to get his wand .
"Poor Princess Mary," he thought.
"She is so kind and beautiful.
I must make some pinkberries appear!"
"Cat?" Tom called.
There was no answer.
Tom got his wand.
"Pinkberries, appear!" he cried.
Poof!
A pink elephant appeared.
Poof! Poof! Poof!
Tom waved his wand again and again and again.
Dirk burst into the lab.
"Where are those pinkberries?"
"I, um, need more time," Tom said.
"You fool!" Dirk cried. "The princess is very sick!
We need those berries now!"
Dirk stared hard at Tom. "I have one idea.
There's a tale about a pinkberry bush.
It's in the Dark Forest."
Tom gulped. "The Dark Forest?"
Dirk nodded. "They say the bush grows all year long.
Perhaps you can find it.
Tom opened his mouth. "But—"
Dirk pushed him outside. "Go now!"
Tom stepped into the Dark Forest.
He walked past tall trees and twisting vines.
His boots sank into the mud.
Hiss! Croak! Hoot!
Spooky sounds filled the air.
Then a bat flew over Tom's head.
"Agh!" He waved the bat away.
"Oops!" Tom cried as his wand flew through the air.
The wand landed in the mud.
Then it began to sink!

Wizard & Cat 27: The Tale of the Pinkberry Bush

Tom stared at his wand.
It was still sinking into the mud.
He reached in to pull it out . . . and tumbled backwards!
Tom sat down on a log.
"This is terrible," he thought.
"Princess Mary needs me!
What am I going to do?"
Cat dashed around the Royal Kitchen.
She was chasing a mouse.
Suddenly Cat stopped.
She heard Cook talking to a servant.
"Dirk sent Tom into the Dark Forest," Cook said.
"He told Tom the tale of the pinkberry bush.
He said it was the princess' only hope."
"Oh no!" the servant said.
"Tom will get lost in the Dark Forest.
He'll never come back!"
Cook nodded. "And the poor princess . . ."
Cat didn't wait to hear anymore.
She raced out of the palace.
Tom looked around the forest.
"Where is that pinkberry bush?"
Crunch! Snap! Crunch! Snap!
He heard more strange noises.
Then Cat appeared!
"I'm so glad to see you, Cat!" Tom cried.
"I'm looking for the pinkberry bush!"
Cat shook her head. "It's just a tale, Tom.
Pinkberries only grow in the spring."
"But . . ." Tom blinked. "Princess Mary is very sick.
If I don't find some pinkberries, she might die!"

Wizard & Cat 28: A Pinkberry Bush Appears

"We need a spell," Cat said.
"Where's your wand?"
Tom's wand was still stuck in the mud.
Cat pulled and tugged.
But the wand stayed stuck.

Then Tom and Cat pulled together.
Pop!
Out came the wand!
"Time for a spell!" Tom said.
He waved his wand.
Poof!
A pink bunny appeared.
Poof!
A blueberry bush appeared.
Tom waved his wand again and again . . .
And again.
Tom looked at Cat.
"I'm a terrible wizard," he said.
"You have a kind heart," Cat said.
Tom closed his eyes.
One more time he thought of Princess Mary.
One more time he lifted his wand.
"Pinkberry bush so rare . . . Appear right there!"
Poof!
Smoke filled the clearing.
Tom coughed—and then he saw it.
"A pinkberry bush!" Cat cried.
Tom filled his sack with juicy pinkberries.
"Take some branches too," Cat said.
"I'll explain later!"
Cat led the way out of the Dark Forest.
Soon Tom was back at the palace .
"Pinkberries!" the royal doctor cried.
"I'll make the juice!" Cook cried.
The royal gardener took the branches from Tom.
"I'll plant them in the Royal Garden," he said.
Dirk was furious.
But everyone else was very, very happy.

Wizard & Cat 29: The Royal Family Goes on a Trip

One day Tom walked around the palace.
Cat was hiding in his pocket.
"I love being the royal wizard," Tom said.
"I love the palace too," Cat said.
"There are lots of mice.
And Cook gives me treats."

"Too bad you make the queen sneeze," Tom said.
Just then Tom spotted the royal carriage.
The royal family was going on a trip.
Tom went to say good-bye.
The king and queen waved to everyone.
"Good-bye!" called the queen.
"See you in two days," said the king.
Dirk was carrying a trunk.
He bumped into Tom hard.
"I'm going with them," Dirk whispered.
"But when I come back . . ."
Tom gulped.
"I'm going to tell everyone about that cat!"
Dirk put his trunk on a big pile.
Then he climbed into the carriage.
"Dirk wants to get rid of me," Tom thought.
"This time his plan is going to work.
What am I going to do?"
Soon the carriage was gone.
The servants were happy.
"We still have our work," said Cook.
"But we can have fun too!"
"Let's have a picnic," Gardener said.
"Let's take a nap," the stable boy said.
Tom walked away.
"Cat," he whispered. "We have to stop Dirk!"

Wizard & Cat 30: Looking for Ann

Cat licked a paw.
"Let's look for Ann," she said.
"Dirk is Ann's father.
She might know what to do."
"Good idea, Cat," Tom said.
He rushed into the castle.
A servant was polishing a suit of armor.
Tom leaned on another suit of armor.
"I'm looking for Ann," he said.
"Watch out!" the servant yelled.
The armor crashed to the floor.
"Oops," Tom said. "Sorry!"
The servant did not know where Ann was.

Tom saw another servant.
She was on a ladder and holding candles.
"Excuse me!" Tom called.
He bumped into the ladder.
The servant fell off!
"Oops," said Tom. "Sorry!"
None of the servants knew where Ann was.
Finally Cat had another idea.
"I know some secret spots in the palace," she said.
"I'll look around inside.
You can try outside."
Cat crept all around the palace.
But Cat did not see Ann anywhere.
Tom looked around outside.
He did not see Ann either.
Finally he went to the Royal Stables.
He woke up the stable boy.
"Do you know where Ann is?" Tom asked.
"No." The stable boy yawned.
"But I heard some news about her father.
Dirk has something big to tell everyone!"

Wizard & Cat 31: Picnic at the Palace

The next day Tom went to the picnic.
He didn't bring Cat.
Tom tried to play games.
But he was still worried about Dirk.
He got some food and sat down.
Suddenly someone sat next to him.
It was Ann!
Tom dropped his plate in surprise.
"I heard you were looking for me," Ann said.
"I was at wizard school yesterday."
Tom picked up his spilled food.
"Why does Dirk hate me?" he asked.
Ann looked sad.
"My father is the head servant," she said.
"But the royal wizard is much more powerful.
This makes Father upset."
"I've got a big problem," Tom said.
He told Ann about Cat.

"Dirk plans to tell everyone about Cat!"
"Father did not like the last royal wizard either," Ann said.
"That wizard put a bad spell on Father.
He made him smell like a cat!
So Father made the queen sneeze too!"
Tom laughed.
"Then the king learned of the spell," Ann said.
"And he fired the royal wizard."
"I'm going to get fired too," Tom said.
"If Dirk tells the king and—"
Ann suddenly jumped up and grabbed Tom's hand.
"I just remembered something!" she said.
"Come with me!"

Wizard & Cat 32: A Royal Potion

Ann led Tom to his lab.
She showed him a tiny door.
"The last wizard kept things in this secret room."
Ann looked around the secret room.
"We need a potion to—"
Just then there was a soft meow.
"Cat?" Tom said in surprise.
"I found the secret door too," Cat said to Tom.
"And look—I already found a potion!"
Tom told Ann what Cat said.
"Let's mix the potion," Ann said.
"Huh?" Tom looked at her.
"I love my father," Ann said.
"But you have a kind heart, Tom.
Father treats you and Cat unfairly."
The next day the royal family returned.
Tom bowed before the queen.
"I missed Your Highness greatly," he said.
Then Tom held out a cup.
"I made a royal potion for you."
"Why, Tom!" The queen blushed.
"Thank you!"
The queen gulped down the potion.
Tom held his breath as Cat appeared.
Dirk scowled. "You'll be gone soon, Wizard!"
"What's going on?" the king shouted.

Everyone watched the queen.
"Ah—" She gasped but she didn't sneeze.
"You cured me, Tom!" she said happily.
She petted Cat.
"Let there be cats in the palace!" shouted the king.
Dirk stomped away as everyone cheered.

Wizard & Cat 33: The New Jester

The king was bored.
"Read a book," the queen said.
"It's raining," the king said.
"Rain makes me grumpy."
"Dirk," said the queen.
"Fetch the new jester.
He'll make the king laugh."
Dirk gulped.
Then he hurried out.
"Uh-oh," thought Tom.
"I think Dirk forgot to hire a new jester."
Dirk came back.
He was dragging a strange boy.
"Here's the new jester!" Dirk said.
The boy looked surprised.
"Make me laugh," said the king.
"Um . . ." The boy looked nervous.
"I can fix things," he said.
"Do you have a hole in your bucket?"
"Ha-ha!" Dirk laughed loudly.
"That's funny!"
But the king frowned.
"Juggle something," the king said.
Dirk got some plates.
The jester threw the plates into the air.
He tried to catch them.
The plates crashed to the floor.
The king and Dirk laughed.
But the queen was angry.
"You broke my best dishes!" she said.
Everybody stopped laughing.
"Tomorrow is the Grand Banquet," the king said.
"Jester, you must make everyone laugh!"

"But no broken dishes!" the queen said.
"I will lock the jester in his room," Dirk said.
"He can practice all night."
The boy spoke. "But I'm not a—"
"Come with me!" Dirk snapped.

Wizard and Cat 34: The Jester's Secret

Tom and Cat were walking in the rain.
The new jester was at the blacksmith shop.
"Why isn't the jester practicing?" asked Tom.
"The Grand Banquet is tomorrow!"
"Maybe he needs tin plates to juggle," Cat said.
"True," Tom said.
"He can't break more of the queen's dishes!"
But the jester did not buy tin plates.
The jester was just taking a walk.
Suddenly he stopped near the castle wall.
He looked closely at a crack.
"That's strange," Cat said.
"The jester looks worried," Tom said.
"Maybe I can help."
"You have a kind heart," Cat said.
"Jester!" Tom called.
The jester jumped.
He looked ready to run away.
"Stop! I want to help," Tom said.
The jester looked sad.
"I'm Tink the Tinker," he said.
"I fix things.
I don't know how to be a jester."
"It's easy," Tom said.
"Jump into the air and flip around."
Tink jumped and flipped.
Then he flopped.
"Oops," Tom said.
"Try dancing a jig instead."
Tink danced.
He knocked over a pile of tomatoes.
"Dirk is going to be very mad!" Tink said.
He hurried away.
Cat licked her paws.

"The Grand Banquet will be interesting," she said.

Wizard and Cat 35: The Grand Banquet

"What a wonderful banquet!" said the queen.
The king looked very proud.
"Wait till the guests see the new jester!" he said.
Dirk pushed Tink into the room.
Tink put a ball on his hat and bowed.
The ball fell off.
No one laughed.
The king frowned.
"Pull a rabbit from that hat!" said the king.
"Or go to the Grim Dungeon!" snapped Dirk.
Tink looked scared.
"Poor Tink," thought Tom.
"Umm," said Tink. "I don't know . . ."
He took off his hat.
Tom quickly waved his wand.
Poof!
A rabbit appeared.
The guests cheered.
"Bravo!" cried the king.
"Next I'll spin a pie on a stick," Tink said.
Tink looked at Tom.
Nervously Tink spun the pie on the stick.
The pie wobbled.
"Uh-oh!" Tom said.
He waved his wand.
"Pie, stay! Don't fly away!"
The pie flew through the air!
Splat!
It hit the king.
The queen laughed.
The guests laughed too.
"That jester is funny!" some guests cried.
But the king was angry.
Everybody was laughing at him!
"Off to the Grim Dungeon!" yelled the king.
Dirk dragged Tink away.
"It's my fault!" Tom said to Cat.
"I have to help Tink!"

Wizard and Cat 36: The Crack in the Wall

Tom walked around his lab.
"I must help Tink," he said.
Just then Ann rushed in.
"The king said to come quickly!" Ann said.
Tom and Cat ran outside.
A crowd was gathered at the wall.
Water poured from a crack.
"Tink was looking at that crack!" Tom thought.
"Do something, Tom!" Dirk cried.
"I have an idea," Ann said.
She handed gum to each person. "Chew!"
Everyone chewed.
Cat ran to the Grim Dungeon.
"Now throw your gum at the crack!" Ann said.
Everybody threw.
The gum plugged the crack.
"It's working!" Tom said.
Then all the gum fell off.
The leak got bigger!
"Wizard!" said the king. "Fix it now!"
Tom pointed his wand at the crack.
"I wish—"
Poof!
Fish appeared.
"Oops," Tom said.
"Do something, Wizard," Dirk yelled.
"Or join your friend in the Grim Dungeon!"
Tom closed his eyes.
He waved his wand, and . . .
Tink and Cat appeared!
"I can fix that leak!" Tink said.
Soon water stopped pouring from the crack.
"Tink is a bad jester," said the king.
"But he's a great tinker!"
"Good work, Tom," said Ann.
"You saved the day!"
Tom felt proud.
And so did Cat.

Wizard and Cat 37: A Spell for Princess Mary

Tom was in the Royal Lab.
He was mixing a potion.
"I need a potion to undo spells," he said.
"I make so many mistakes!"
Cat licked a paw and watched.
Tom mixed water with some herbs.
He added dragon scales and flower petals.
The potion turned bright green.
Princess Mary hurried into the lab.
"Wizard!" she said. "I need help!"
Tom bowed quickly.
He bumped his head on the table.
"Ouch!" he cried.
"What's wrong, Princess?"
Princess Mary sighed.
"Father wants me to get married.
So five princes are coming to the palace tomorrow.
I must choose one for my husband."
"Do you want to get married?" Tom asked.
"Maybe. . ." The princess blushed.
"If one of the princes is nice.
But how can I tell if one is truly nice?"
Tom scratched his head. "That is a problem."
"Can you use magic?" Princess Mary asked.
"You could find the nicest prince for me!"
"Okay," Tom said. "I will try!"
He bowed again.
This time he knocked over the potion.
It spilled on the table.
Poof!
The table disappeared.
"Oops!" Tom's face turned bright red.
Princess Mary smiled at Tom.
"Thank you, Tom," she said.
"You are a very kind wizard!"

Wizard and Cat 38: The Five Princes

The five princes arrived at the palace.
One was tall and handsome.
One was short and round.
Two princes looked strong and fierce.
One prince was quiet and shy.
They were all polite.
They bowed to Princess Mary.
They talked about the weather.
Tom peered into the Throne Room.
"The princess looks bored," Cat whispered.
"Those princes are being too polite."
"I must do a good spell," Tom said.
He pointed his wand at the princes.
"Let the princess find," he said.
"A prince who is kind!"
Poof!
The five princes turned into frogs!
"Oops!" Tom said.
The king stared at the frogs.
"What happened?" he cried.
He spotted Tom.
"Wizard! Did you do this?"
Dirk had an evil smile.
"Throw that wizard in the Grim Dungeon!"
Tom hung his head.
"This is my worst mistake ever!" he thought.
The king looked very worried.
"Tom, turn these frogs back into princes at once!
Their kingdoms will be angry with me.
This could start a Royal War!"
The queen gasped. "A Royal War?"
Princess Mary was giggling softly.
"I guess you must do it, Tom," she said.
"Turn them back into princes."
Tom bowed. "Of course." he said.
"But I don't know how!" he thought.

Wizard and Cat 39: A Kiss and a Potion

The handsome frog glared at Tom.
The fat frog ate lots of flies.
The fierce frogs started to fight.

The shy frog hid under the table.
"Try a kiss," Cat whispered to Tom.
"Good idea, Cat!" Tom said.
He turned to Princess Mary.
"A kiss might undo the spell," he said.
"A kiss?" The princess made a face.
The king frowned at her.
"Kiss the princes, Mary!" he yelled.
Tom caught one of the frogs.
Mary kissed it. "Ugh!"
Tom watched the frog.
But the frog stayed a frog!
Dirk laughed loudly.
"Tom will never undo this spell!" he said.
"I will make a potion," Tom said.
He hurried to the Royal Lab.
Tom mixed some things together.
The potion turned black.
Then . . .
Boom!
The potion exploded!
"Oh no," Tom moaned.
"Those princes will be frogs forever.
I will be put in the Grim Dungeon.
There will be a Royal War!"
"Cat, this is all my fault," Tom said.
Cat rubbed against Tom's hand.
"You have a good heart," she said.
"We can find a way to undo your spell."
Cat licked her paws slowly.
"Hmm . . . ," she said at last.
"I have an idea."

Wizard and Cat 40: A Wonderful Spell

Tom and Cat ran back to the Throne Room.
Tom pointed his wand at the frogs.
He mumbled some strange words.
"Huh?" the king shouted.
Poof!
The frogs turned back into princes!
"You were right, Cat!" Tom said.

"I said the spell backwards.
And it worked!"
"Ahem." Princess Mary cleared her throat.
Everyone looked at her.
"I watched the princes while they were frogs.
And I learned a lot."
She pointed to the two fierce princes.
"You fight too much!"
She pointed to the prince who ate lots of flies.
"You are too greedy!"
She looked at the prince who was hiding.
"You are too shy!"
Then she pointed to the prince who was glaring.
"You are too angry!"
"Father," Princess Mary said.
"I cannot marry any of these princes."
The king sighed.
"I want you to be happy.
You must wait until you meet the right prince."
"Thank you, Wizard!" Princess Mary said.
She gave Tom a quick kiss.
Dirk scowled.
"Isn't Tom going to the Grim Dungeon?" he asked.
"Of course not," the king said.
"Tom cast a wonderful spell!"
Tom smiled and petted Cat.
Someday Princess Mary would find a prince.
"But not yet," he thought happily.

Wizard and Cat 41: A Wizard Appears

Bang! Bang!
One stormy night a wizard knocked on the door.
The wizard was wet.
"Please give me shelter from this rain!"
Tom was in the Throne Room.
Guards brought in the wizard.
"I'm Daimon the wizard.
May I stay here until the rain stops?" he asked.
"Of course!" the king said.
"Warm yourself by the fire, Daimon."
"I will get you a drink," Tom said.

He waved his wand. "Water!"
Poof!
A tub of water appeared.
"Oops!" Tom said.
Daimon laughed.
"I don't like water anyway," he said.
"I'd like a hot drink."
Daimon dried off by the fire.
"What a beautiful castle!" he said.
The king smiled. "I will show you around."
He led Daimon out of the Throne Room.
Tom sighed.
"I bet Daimon never messes up his spells."
Cat frowned. "I don't trust that wizard."
"I'm going to follow them."
The king was showing Daimon the Grim Dungeon.
The dungeon was dark and damp.
The ceiling dripped.
"No one ever escapes from here!" the king boasted.
Suddenly Daimon flicked his wand.
Poof!
The king was trapped inside the dungeon!
Daimon laughed. "Now you can't escape either.
And I am taking over this castle!"

Wizard and Cat 42: A Good Plan

Cat raced back to the Throne Room.
"Tom!" she cried.
"Daimon locked the king in the Grim Dungeon.
He wants to take over the castle!"
Tom gasped. "We must save the king!"
Dirk could not hear Cat.
He scowled at Tom.
"What are you talking about?"
Tom told Dirk about Daimon.
"Don't make up stories!" Dirk snapped.
He waved an arm at the tub.
"Daimon is a good wizard—unlike you!"
Cat growled softly.
"Tom has a good heart," she hissed.
But only Tom could hear her.

Ann hurried in.
"What's going on, Father?" she asked.
"Tom is making up stories," Dirk said.
"He says Daimon is taking over the castle."
Ann gasped. "Oh no!"
Dirk shook his head. "It's a lie.
I'm going to the dungeon to see for myself."
Dirk stomped off.
Cat ran after him.
Ann looked at Tom.
Tom crossed his heart. "It's true, Ann."
"I believe you, Tom," Ann said.
"We can fight Daimon!"
Ann explained her plan.
"I will get the servants.
You go get the guards.
We can all stop that wizard!"
"That's a good plan," Tom said.
"We'll all gather here in a few minutes!"

Wizard and Cat 43: Daimon's Spell

Cat followed Dirk to the Grim Dungeon.
Water dripped from the ceiling.
Dirk found the king locked up.
"Your Majesty!" he cried. "I will free you!"
Suddenly Daimon stepped out of the darkness.
"I don't think so!"
He pointed his wand at Dirk.
Poof!
Now Dirk was locked up too!
Water dripped onto Daimon's hand.
"Ack! I don't like water!" he cried.
He quickly wiped it off.
Cat licked her paw and watched.
"Now I will take over the castle!" Daimon said.
He rushed toward the Throne Room.
Cat followed quietly.
Everyone was gathered in the Throne Room.
They were making plans to fight Daimon.
Boom!
The door flew open.

It was Daimon!
Ann pointed her wand at him.
"We're going to stop you!" said Ann.
"You'll never take over the castle."
Daimon just laughed.
"You think you're going to fight me.
But you're all going to sleep!"
Daimon flicked his wand.
Cat leaped at Tom.
Tom stumbled just as Daimon cast his spell.
Ann fell asleep.
So did the guards and the servants.
But Tom lay on the floor, still awake.
Daimon laughed with glee.
"My sleeping spell worked.
Now the castle is mine—all mine!"

Wizard and Cat 44: A Huge Splash

Tom jumped to his feet.
"So you're awake, Wizard!" Daimon said.
Cat leaped onto Tom's shoulder.
She whispered in his ear.
Daimon had a wicked grin.
"Maybe I'll change you into a mouse," he said.
"Then your pet cat can have fun with you!"
Tom waved his wand.
"Rain!" he whispered nervously.
Poof!
Marbles fell from the ceiling.
"Oops," Tom said.
"Ouch!" Daimon cried as marbles hit him.
Daimon jumped out of the way.
He bumped into the tub.
Cat ran between Daimon's feet.
Daimon tripped!
Splash!
Daimon fell into the tub.
"Help!" he cried. "I hate water!"
Daimon waved his wand but nothing happened.
Tom looked at Cat. "You were right.
Water makes Daimon's magic stop working!"

Everyone woke up.
"Good job, Tom!" Ann said.
She waved her wand and tied up Daimon.
Guards brought Daimon to the Grim Dungeon.
They let out the king and Dirk.
"You saved us, Daughter!" Dirk cried.
Ann shook her head. "It was Tom, Father."
Dirk scowled. "Thank you, Tom. I guess."
The king was beaming.
"How can I ever thank you, Tom?" said the king.
Tom bowed. "It's my job, Your Majesty.
I use magic to help people."
Cat purred.

Wizard and Cat 45: Where Is Princess Mary?

The king called Tom to the Throne Room.
"Princess Mary has disappeared!" the king cried.
"I'll find the princess!" Tom said.
He waved his wand.
Poof!
There was a puff of smoke.
But nothing else happened.
"Oops," Tom said.
"Wait . . ." Cat sniffed the smoke.
"It smells like trees and moss," she said.
"It smells like the Dark Forest!"
Tom gasped and looked at the king.
"Princess Mary is in the Dark Forest!" Tom said.
"What?" The king turned pale.
"The Dark Forest is dangerous!" he cried.
"We must find the princess at once!"
The king called his knights and guards.
"Search the Dark Forest now!" he said.
"Find Princess Mary!"
The knights and guards crashed through the Dark Forest.
They called loudly for the princess.
But they couldn't find her anywhere.
Finally they returned to the castle.
"Wizard!" the king yelled.
"You must find the princess!"
Tom gulped. "Yes, Your Majesty."

"I used to live in the Dark Forest," Cat said.
"Follow me."
Tom followed Cat into the Dark Forest.
They looked all around.
"There!" Cat said suddenly.
Tom saw footprints on the ground.
He saw some hoofprints too.
"Princess Mary is with the unicorn!" Cat said.

Wizard and Cat 46: The Unicorn

Tom and Cat followed the footprints and hoofprints.
The prints went deep into the Dark Forest.
"It's spooky here," Tom said.
"Where is the unicorn?"
"Shh," Cat said. "I hear voices."
Tom listened.
"I'm having fun," Princess Mary said.
"Me too," another voice said.
"It's nice to have a friend."
"That's the unicorn!" Cat whispered.
Tom and Cat hurried into a clearing.
Princess Mary was talking to a white unicorn.
"What are you doing here, Tom?" Princess Mary asked.
"No one invited you!" the unicorn said.
"Everyone is worried about you, Princess," Tom said.
"You must come back to the castle."
"I went for a walk," Princess Mary said.
"And I met this unicorn."
"You can't go back to the castle!" the unicorn said.
"I am very lonely.
An ugly ogre lives nearby.
But he only wants to fight."
Tom gulped. "Ogre?" he thought.
Princess Mary looked at the unicorn.
"I'll tell everyone I'm safe," she said.
"Then I'll come back to visit you."
The unicorn stamped her hoof.
"You will forget about me," she said.
"I won't let you go!"
"You can't keep the princess here!" Tom cried.
The unicorn snorted. "Try to stop me!"

Wizard and Cat 47: Abracadabra!

Cat whispered to Tom.
"Tell the unicorn you are a great wizard.
Tell her that you can make monsters appear."
Cat slipped into the trees.
"I am a great wizard!" Tom cried.
"I will get a monster to fight you, Unicorn!"
The unicorn laughed. "You? A great wizard?"
"Alakazam!" Tom pretended to say a spell.
"Abracadabra!"
The unicorn laughed and laughed.
Then a fierce growl came from the trees.
The unicorn looked around.
"What's that?" she asked nervously.
Cat was hiding behind the trees.
She moaned and howled.
"That is my monster!" Tom said loudly.
"Your monster?" the unicorn said.
"See?" Princess Mary said to the unicorn.
"Tom
is
a great wizard!"
Cat ran to find the ogre.
He was sleeping near a cave.
Cat snarled in his ear.
The ogre woke up.
Cat ran back to the unicorn's woods.
Cat growled and howled like a monster.
The unicorn looked scared.
"Princess Mary can return to the castle!" the unicorn said.
"Just tell your monster to go away!"
Tom and Princess Mary ran out of the clearing.
Cat dashed after them.
"Hey!" The unicorn spotted Cat.
"That's not a monster!"
The unicorn stamped her hoof.
"Wizard, you tricked me!"

Wizard and Cat 48: The Angry Ogre

The unicorn charged after Tom.
"Help!" Princess Mary yelled.
Cat jumped in front of the unicorn.
The unicorn tossed Cat up with her horn.
Tom waved his wand. "Help Cat!"
Poof!
Bright red sparks flew out of his wand.
"That's no help!" Tom moaned.
The ogre in the next clearing was angry.
"Who woke me up?" he cried.
He saw bright red sparks through the trees.
The ogre ran toward them.
The unicorn pointed her sharp horn at Tom.
"No one gets away with tricking me!" she said.
Just then the ogre crashed into the clearing.
He roared at the unicorn.
The unicorn groaned. "Not you again!"
The ogre ran at the unicorn.
They started to fight.
Cat jumped into Tom's pocket.
Tom grabbed Princess Mary's hand.
"Run!" he said.
They ran through the Dark Forest.
They did not stop until they reached the castle.
"I'm so glad to be home!" Princess Mary said.
"Thank you for rescuing me, Tom."
"You're welcome," Tom said, blushing.
The king ran up.
"Where did you go?" he asked the princess.
"For a walk," she said.
"Tom saved me from a mean unicorn!"
"Tom is a wonderful wizard!" the king said.
Tom bowed.
Cat licked her paws.

Wizard and Cat 49: A Royal Problem

It was a gloomy day at the palace.
The king yawned and rubbed his eyes.

"I didn't sleep at all last night," he moaned.
The king put his head in his hands.
"I don't know what to do."
The queen shook her head.
"This must stop," she said.
"I need my beauty sleep!"
That night the king went to bed.
A servant brought him a soft pillow.
Cook brought him some warm milk.
But the king tossed and turned again.
The queen tried singing.
"Go to sleep, my king!" she shrieked.
He covered his ears with the soft pillow.
Now he had a royal headache!
The next morning the king stomped his foot.
"Ouch!" cried the queen.
"You stomped on my toes!"
"Sorry," said the king.
He rubbed his eyes.
"I'm not getting any sleep!" he moaned.
The queen rubbed her sore toes.
"This must stop," she said.
Then the queen snapped her fingers.
"I know what to do!"
"Please! Don't sing again!" the king begged.
The queen glared at him.
"Here's what we'll do," she said.
She whispered in his ear.
The king nodded.
"All will be well now!" the queen said.
But all was not well.
Someone was listening.

Wizard and Cat 50: Dusting Doors

The queen heard a noise.
"What's that sound?" she asked.
She ran to open the door.
Dirk tumbled into the Royal Bedroom.
He was holding a feather duster.
"Dirk!" cried the queen. "What are you doing?"
Dirk gulped. "I was dusting doors."

The queen frowned. "This isn't dusting day."
Dirk's face turned red. "I was just—"
"Never mind," the king snapped.
"I have a terrible problem.
You must fetch the royal wizard at once!"
"Drat!" Dirk mumbled.
He hurried off.
Tom was in the Royal Kitchen.
He was practicing magic spells.
Dirk ran into the room. "Wizard!" he cried.
He waved his feather duster.
Dust flew everywhere.
"Ah-choo!" Tom sneezed.
"Oh no!" Cook cried.
"Dust is getting in the Royal Soup!"
Tom rushed to help.
"Don't worry, Cook," he said.
"I'll get rid of all the dust!"
Tom waved his wand.
Poof!
Splash!
Dirk landed in a tub!
"Oops," Tom whispered.
Cat calmly licked her paws.
Cook pulled Dirk out.
"No dust in the Royal Kitchen!" Cook yelled.
Dirk scowled at Tom. "I'll get you one day, Wizard!
But now you must come with me.
The king and queen need you!"

Wizard and Cat 51: A Sleep Spell

Tom followed Dirk into the Royal Bedroom.
The queen glared at Dirk.
He was still wet.
"This isn't bath day," the queen said.
"I . . . ," Dirk tried to explain. "Well—"
"Never mind." The king looked at Tom.
"Wizard, I can't sleep at night."
The queen sighed.
"The king keeps me awake too.
He needs a magic spell."

Tom stepped forward.
Dirk stuck out his foot.
And Tom tripped!
"Oops!" Tom said.
Dirk grinned.
"I have an idea, Your Majesties!"
Everyone looked at him.
Dirk had an evil smile.
"Tom is a wonderful wizard," he said.
"He can make a magic drink.
A drink to help the king sleep!"
Everyone looked at Tom.
"Do it!" the king ordered.
Tom bowed.
"Um . . . Yes, Your Majesty."
Tom bit his lip.
Everyone was watching him!
Inside his pocket Cat purred softly.
"Just try a spell," she said.
Tom lifted his wand.
He cleared his throat. "King, do not weep.
You'll soon have your sleep!"
Poof!
"Oh no!" The queen gasped.
"I'm not asleep!" the king yelled.
Tom blinked in surprise.
There were dozens of sheep!

Wizard and Cat 52: Sheep!

Baa! Baa!
The Royal Bedroom was full of sheep!
"Sheep!" the queen yelled.
She jumped into the king's arms.
Tom stared at the sheep.
"Oops!" he said.
Dirk grinned.
"Now Tom will go to the Grim Dungeon!" he thought.
"What's going on?" the king roared.
He walked among the sheep.
Dirk followed the king.
Then the king turned—and stepped on Dirk's foot.

"Ouch!" Dirk hopped behind the king.
"Your Majesty, I told Tom to make a drink!
I didn't say sheep!"
"Hrmpf!" the king said.
"There are so many sheep!" the queen cried.
The king began counting them. "One, two . . ."
His eyelids felt heavy and he yawned.
Suddenly the king fell—into Tom's arms!
The king slept until the next morning.
Tom and Cat brought the sheep outside.
The sheep stayed under the king's window.
Every night the king fell asleep—counting sheep!
"I fall asleep before I count to ten," the king said.
"Thank you, Tom!"
Dirk was stuck taking care of the sheep.
"I'll get that wizard!" he grumbled.
The king was happy.
But the queen was not.
She still couldn't get any beauty sleep.
The king's snoring kept her awake!

Wizard and Cat 53: The Great Itch

The king scratched his belly.
"Something's making me itch!" he said.
The queen looked up from her book.
"Take a bath," she said.
The queen scratched her arm.
"I'm itchy too," Prince Eric said.
He scratched and then peeked down his shirt.
"Ack! I see bugs!"
"Bugs?" Princess Mary cried.
She tried to scratch her back.
"Tom!" the princess cried.
"Make the bugs go away!"
Tom lifted his wand.
He looked worried.
"What kind of bugs?" he asked.
"I can't see them."
The queen looked at the princess.
"You have fleas!" she cried.
Everybody but Tom was scratching.

Cat hissed at Tom.
"I don't want fleas!" she said.
"Let's get out of here!"
Tom looked at Princess Mary.
She was still scratching flea bites.
"Cat, you can go to our room," he said.
"I'll stay and help."
Cat sighed.
"You have a kind heart, Tom."
She hid deep in his pocket.
"Where did the fleas come from?" Tom asked.
He waved his wand.
"I'll send them back."
"It's your fault!" Dirk yelled.
Dirk pointed at Tom's pocket.
"Fleas come from animals.
Your cat brought fleas to the castle!
She must go!"

Wizard and Cat 54: Stop the Itch!

"Cat must go!" the king cried.
"We can't have fleas in the castle!"
Dirk had a wicked smile.
"I'll get rid of Cat," he said.
Cat hissed loudly.
The queen looked at Tom.
"Tom is not scratching," she said.
"So the fleas are not coming from Cat."
Prince Eric scratched. "I'm so itchy!"
"Maybe I can help," Tom said.
He waved his wand.
"Stop scratching!" he cried.
Everybody's hands froze.
The scratching stopped.
But the itching didn't stop.
"This is worse than before!" the king cried.
"Oops," Tom said.
"We must get rid of the fleas," the queen said.
"Let's clean the castle!"
Servants brought buckets of soap and water.
They scrubbed all the floors and walls.

They scrubbed the thrones.
"Now everybody takes a bath!" the queen said.
"It's Monday," the king said.
"We take baths on Saturday," Dirk said.
The queen frowned.
Everybody went to take a bath.
The next morning the castle was spotless.
"The fleas have fled!" the king said.
But soon the king's feet itched.
Dirk's neck itched.
Dirk glared at Tom.
Only Tom was not scratching.
"I know that Cat has fleas," Dirk thought.
"But somehow she's protecting Tom."

Wizard and Cat 55: Scat, Rats!

The queen scratched her arms.
"We cleaned the whole castle!" she moaned.
"The fleas are still here."
"I'm itchy!" the king cried.
A rat ran into the Throne Room.
"Eek! Now we have rats!" Princess Mary cried.
"Do something, Wizard!" the king yelled.
More rats ran in.
Cat jumped out of Tom's pocket.
Tom waved his wand.
"Scat, rats!" Tom cried.
The rats saw the cat.
They ran out.
"Good job, Wizard!" the king said.
"Where did the rats come from?" Tom asked.
"Rats like dirty dungeons," Cat whispered.
"And fleas like rats!"
Tom looked at Dirk.
"Fleas like rats," he said.
"Did you clean the Grim Dungeon?"
"No one cleans dungeons!" Dirk snapped.
The queen frowned.
"This is your fault, Dirk!" she said.
"Clean that dirty dungeon at once!"
"Servants!" Dirk yelled. "Clean the dungeon!"

"I told
you
to clean it," said the queen.
Dirk stomped out of the Throne Room.
He went to clean the Grim Dungeon.
The king turned to Tom.
"Now make these fleas go away!" he said.
Tom waved his wand.
"Fleas, flee!" he cried. "Be gone!"
The fleas turned to bees!
They flew around the room.
"Run!" the king cried.
"Oops," Tom said.

Wizard and Cat 56: Flee, Bees!

Bees flew all around the Throne Room.
They landed on the queen's book.
They tried to fly up the king's nose.
Princess Mary looked scared.
"Help!" she cried.
"The bees will sting me!"
The queen gasped.
"A bee sting will kill Mary!" she said.
"Shoo those bees away!"
Everybody shooed bees away from the princess.
"Bees don't like water," the prince said.
He threw a bucket of water at the princess.
The bees buzzed loudly.
They flew around the princess.
"Wizard! Make the bees flee!" the king cried.
Tom lifted his wand.
"Bees don't like to be inside," Cat whispered.
"They like flowers."
Cat opened a window.
Tom waved his wand.
"Bees, go where you please!" he cried.
The bees flew out the window.
The princess smiled at Tom.
"You saved me!" she said.
Tom turned red.
Dirk came back to the Throne Room.

Dirk was very dirty from cleaning the dungeon.
"Er," Dirk mumbled. "That cat can stay.
The rats brought the fleas.
And Cat scared all the rats away."
The queen took a deep sniff.
She waved a hand in the air.
"You stink, Dirk!" she said.
"Go take another bath!"

Wizard and Cat 57: The King's Feast

"Oh no!" Cook said.
"I lost my cookbook!
The king's feast is tonight.
I cannot make food without my cookbook!"
"I will find your cookbook!" Tom said.
He waved his wand.
"Have a look! Find the book!"
Poof!
Tom heard a loud bang.
But no cookbook appeared.
Then Dirk rushed into the Royal Kitchen.
"The queen was reading in the library," Dirk snapped.
"And a bookshelf exploded.
Did you do that, Tom?"
"Oops," Tom said.
"We are looking for my cookbook," Cook said.
"Find it!" Dirk said.
"The lords and knights will arrive soon.
The king's feast must be perfect!"
Dirk left the kitchen.
"Help me look, Tom!" Cook said.
They looked all over the castle.
They looked on shelves and under tables.
They looked in the pantry and the Royal Garden.
They did not find the cookbook.
Finally they returned to the kitchen.
Cook clutched her apron. "This is terrible!"
"I have an idea!" Tom said.
"I will make a magic powder.
It will make your food taste good!"
"Please do that, Tom," Cook said.

"I can't cook without my cookbook!"
Dirk poked his head into the kitchen.
"Your spell must work, Wizard!
Or you will both go to the Grim Dungeon!"

Wizard and Cat 58: A Magic Powder

Tom hurried to the Royal Lab.
"Cat, I must make a powder for Cook," he said.
"It must work.
Or Dirk will lock us in the Grim Dungeon!"
"Tom, you have a good heart," Cat said.
"I will help you."
She helped Tom make a magic powder.
"This should work," she said.
The guests began to arrive at the castle.
In the Royal Kitchen, Cook was tasting a sauce.
"My sauce!" she cried. "It tastes terrible!"
"Try this!" Tom said.
He sprinkled magic powder into the sauce.
A delicious smell filled the kitchen.
"Wonderful!" Cook cried.
"Put some on the vegetables.
And the bread. And the meat. And the cake!"
Tom sprinkled magic powder on everything.
Even Dirk smiled when he smelled the food.
The servants took the food to the Dining Hall.
Tom and Cook peeked through the door.
The king took the first bite. "Delicious!"
The guests started to eat too.
"Delicious!" they said.
"The powder works!" Tom said.
He was shocked.
"Thank you, Tom," Cook said.
The guests ate and ate.
They finished all the food.
The servants brought in cake for dessert.
The guests ate that too.
"Everything tastes so good!" the king cried.
"Bring more food!"

Wizard and Cat 59: More Food!

"The king is really hungry," Cook said.
She quickly cooked more food.
Tom sprinkled more powder on it.
The king and his guests ate the food.
"More!" they cried. "More food!"
"I am almost out of food," Cook said.
"I am almost out of powder," Tom said.
Dirk said, "Bring more food!
Or you will go to the Grim Dungeon!"
Cook and Tom looked in every cupboard.
They found stale bread and moldy cheese.
Tom sprinkled powder on it.
The guests ate it.
"The guests must be full now," Cook said.
"I hope they don't get sick," Tom said.
Dirk ran into the kitchen.
"The king wants more food now!" he said.
Cook started to cry.
She clutched her apron.
"The food is all gone!" she said.
"I will help," Tom said.
Tom waved his wand wildly.
"Food!" he cried.
Poof!
A dead mouse appeared on the table.
"Ick!" Cook said. "That's not food!"
Cat saw the mouse.
"That's my food," she said.
"I was hunting in the pantry."
"Sorry, Cat," Tom said.
"My magic powder made the food taste too good.
Everyone wants to keep eating!"
"Hmm . . ." Cat licked her paws.
"I might be able to help," she said.

Wizard and Cat 60: Mouse Pie

Tom listened to Cat's idea.

Then he went into the Dining Hall.
"Where's our food?" the king cried.
"You have eaten it all," Tom said.
"What?" the king shouted.
Tom gulped.
"More food!" the guests yelled.
"I have an idea," Tom began.
"Cat is the best mouse hunter in the kingdom.
So Cook can bake a mouse pie."
"A mouse pie?" the king said.
The Dining Hall got very quiet.
"I'm not hungry," the king said in a small voice.
"Me neither," some lords mumbled.
The queen hurried into the Dining Hall.
"Did I miss the feast?" she asked.
"I have been reading a wonderful book about food!"
She waved a book in the air.
Cook gasped. "My cookbook!"
"Is it yours?" the queen asked.
"I found it in the hallway."
Cook did a curtsy.
"Thank you, Your Majesty!
I can make a new feast tomorrow.
It will be delicious!"
"A new feast?" The king groaned.
"I don't want another feast.
I want a nap!"
The next day Cook made a feast just for Tom.
"Mmm. Delicious!" Tom said.
"Thank you, Cook!"
"And here's something for Cat," Cook said.
She set down a bowl.
"Milk is almost as good as mouse pie!"

Wizard and Cat 61: The Prince Runs Away

The king and queen sat on their thrones.
Prince Eric stared at his lessons.
He was grumpy.
"Tom," he whispered. "Help me finish my lessons."
Tom looked at the prince's paper.
It was filled with math problems.

"Use magic!" whispered the prince.
Tom lifted his wand.
"No, Tom!" The queen glared at him.
"The prince must do his own work.
Someday he will be the king."
Prince Eric grinned.
"Then I won't have to work!" he said.
The king frowned. "What?"
"Kings work very hard!" Tom said quickly.
The king puffed out his chest.
"Indeed!" he said proudly.
The prince shrugged.
"Then I won't be the king," he said.
The queen scowled.
"Finish your lessons," she said.
"I won't!" the prince cried.
He ran from the room.
The queen sighed.
"Wizard, bring him back," she said.
Tom went to the prince's room.
The window was open.
"I see a note!" Cat said.
Tom brought the note to the queen.
"What does it say?" the king asked.
The queen read the note:
I want an easy job.
So Frog and I are running away.
The queen pulled out her handkerchief.
"Find the prince, Tom!" she sobbed loudly.
"Or don't come back!"

Wizard and Cat 62: The Apple Cart

Tom looked for Prince Eric at the market.
He saw the prince near an apple cart.
Prince Eric waved. "I found an easy job.
Selling apples!"
A man gave the prince a coin.
Then the man held out his hand.
"Huh?" the prince said.
"The prince doesn't know how money works," Cat said.
"Servants always buy things for him."

Tom whispered to the prince.
"That man needs some coins back."
"Oh!" said the prince.
He gave the man a bag of coins.
The man laughed.
Another man came to the apple cart.
He held out his hand.
Prince Eric gave him a bag of coins too.
More people ran over.
They pushed each other.
They pushed the prince.
"I must do something!" Tom cried.
Tom waved his wand. "Apple cart, roll back!"
But the apple cart fell over.
Apples rolled everywhere!
"Oops," Tom said.
"My apples!" the apple seller cried.
Tom and the prince hurried away.
"Let's return to the castle," Tom said.
The prince frowned.
"I don't want to do my lessons."
Then he saw some boys fishing.
"I'll be a fisherman!"
The prince ran onto a boat.
Tom sighed and followed him.
"Uh-oh," Cat whispered.
"This boat is leaking!"

Wizard and Cat 63: Out to Sea

Prince Eric untied the boat.
"We can fix the leak with straw," Tom said.
They fixed the leak.
Then they sailed out to sea.
Tom threw a net into the water.
"Now we wait for fish," he said.
The prince got bored. "Let's play pirate!"
The prince made an eye patch.
He put Frog on his shoulder.
"Arr!" cried the prince.
Soon the prince was bored again.
"Now what can we do?" he asked.

"Play hide-and-seek with Frog?" Tom said.
"Okay!" said the prince.
Frog hid.
The prince looked all over the boat.
"I can't find Frog," the prince said.
"This is a boring game."
Then the prince saw Cat.
"I want to play with Cat!" he said.
Cat hissed.
"That is
not
a good idea," she said to Tom.
"I have a plan," Tom said.
He waved his wand.
"I wish for fish!"
The boat rocked.
The prince ran to the net.
"I see hundreds of fish!" he cried.
Tom and the prince pulled in the net.
The boat tipped.
"The net is too heavy!" Tom cried.
Water poured into the boat.
"The boat is sinking!" cried Tom.
The prince looked scared.
"Oh no! I can't swim!"

Wizard and Cat 64: A Sinking Boat!

Water was filling the boat.
It reached Tom's knees.
The prince climbed onto a barrel.
"Help!" he yelled. "I'll drown!"
Tom waved his wand. "Water, flow away!"
The water flowed away from Tom.
But it flowed toward the barrel.
Now the water reached the prince's knees!
"Oops!" Tom said.
"Help!" the prince called. "Save me!"
Cat looked at the net.
"The fish are too heavy," she said.
"You must let them out of the net."
Tom tried to open the net.

"There is a big knot!" he said.
The boat was sinking fast.
Cat leaped onto the net.
Tom lifted his wand. "Rise, boat!"
Cat bit a big hole.
Then she ripped the net open.
The fish quickly swam out.
The boat began to rise!
"You saved me, Tom!" the prince cried.
"I want to go home and finish my lessons."
The king and queen sat on their thrones.
Prince Eric was working hard.
The queen smiled happily.
"Thank you, Wizard," she said.
"I don't know what you did.
But now Prince Eric is doing all his lessons!"
"Yes, Tom," the king said.
"Eric is working hard—like me!"
Tom bowed.
"The prince will be a fine king someday," he said.

Wizard and Cat 65: The Royal Grandmother Comes

The king's mother came for a visit.
"Dirk!" said the king.
"Make sure the royal grandmother is happy."
"Of course," said Dirk.
But the royal grandmother was never happy.
"My throne is too small!" she said.
"I need a guard for my room.
Where is my feast?"
"Dirk!" yelled the king. "Do something!"
Dirk ran to Tom's room.
He pounded on the door. "Wizard!"
"Uh-oh," thought Tom.
"Help the royal grandmother," Dirk ordered.
"Make sure she is happy!"
Tom ran to find the royal grandmother.
Dirk grinned.
"No one can make the royal grandmother happy.
Soon the king will throw Tom in the Grim Dungeon!"
The royal grandmother frowned at Tom.

"I need a bigger throne, Wizard!"
Tom waved his wand.
Poof!
The throne grew bigger.
Boom!
The ceiling crashed down.
"Oops!" Tom said, waving his hand.
The throne got small again.
"You are a terrible wizard," the royal grandmother snapped.
"Now my bed is covered with dust.
Look at my nightcap!
It's a mess."
"I will get you a new nightcap," Tom said.
He ran to the market.
He bought a nightcap from a man.
"Hmm . . ." Cat sniffed the nightcap.
"It smells like magic."
Tom laughed. "Don't be silly, Cat.
It's just a nightcap!"

Wizard and Cat 66: The Wishing Cap

Tom gave the new nightcap to the royal grandmother.
"What took you so long?" she snapped.
She put the nightcap on her head.
"Now I wish for a guard!" she said.
Poof!
A guard dog appeared.
It had three heads.
They all growled at Tom.
The royal grandmother looked at Tom.
"Your magic is getting better, Wizard!"
Tom shook his head. "I didn't do anything."
"Tom," Cat whispered.
"I think the nightcap is a wishing cap."
Tom gasped. "A wishing cap?"
"A wishing cap?" said the royal grandmother.
"Hmm. I wish this dog was a tiger."
Poof!
The dog turned into a tiger.
The royal grandmother smiled.
"I've always wanted a wishing cap!" she said.

Tom bowed. "I'm glad you're happy."
Tom found the king.
"The royal grandmother is happy now," he said.
"All her wishes came true."
The king clapped. "Wonderful, Tom!"
"Be careful, Tom," Cat whispered.
"Wishing caps are—"
Poof!
Suddenly the king's throne disappeared.
"Ack!" cried the king. "Oof!"
He landed hard on the floor.
The royal grandmother sat on her new throne.
"What a nice throne!" she said.
"I like that tiger too.
Maybe I'll stay at this castle forever!"

Wizard and Cat 67: The Royal Grandmother's Wishes

"Wizard!" The king's face was red.
"Do something!"
"I'll look for a spell!" Tom said.
Tom ran past the Royal Kitchen.
"Tom! Help!" Cook cried.
"All our food has disappeared.
There is nothing to eat!"
Then Tom heard screams from outside.
He hurried to the Royal Stables.
All the horses were running around the yard.
The tiger was chasing them!
"Help, Tom!" the stable boy cried.
"Do something, Wizard!" Dirk shouted.
"I'll try!" Tom called.
He raced to the royal grandmother's room.
He knocked hard on her door.
"Your Majesty? May I come in?"
A servant opened the door.
Tom blinked in surprise.
The royal grandmother sat on the king's throne.
On a table was a huge feast.
The royal grandmother waved happily at Tom.
"Wizard!" she cried.
"The wishing cap is wonderful!

All my wishes came true!"
Tom gulped. "Yes, Your Majesty, but . . .
Your wishes have made everyone else unhappy."
"What?" said the royal grandmother.
"The king has no throne," Tom went on.
"There's nothing to eat.
And your tiger is scaring the horses.
Please undo your wishes!"
The royal grandmother frowned.
She folded her arms.
"Too bad!" she said.
"I will not undo my wishes!"

Wizard and Cat 68: One Last Wish

The king paced up and down the Throne Room.
"I wish my mother would leave," he said.
"She's making everyone unhappy."
"Wizard!" Dirk snapped.
"Did you find a magic spell?"
Tom shook his head. "No, but—"
"Fix this mess, Wizard!" Dirk said.
Tom gulped and took out his wand.
Just then Cat ran into the room.
"Tom!" she said. "Try this instead!"
Tom blinked.
Cat had the wishing cap!
"How did you get that?" Tom asked.
"I took it," Cat said.
"But hurry! The royal grandmother is chasing me!"
Tom put on the wishing cap.
"I wish to undo all of the royal grandmother's wishes!"
Poof!
The king sat on his throne.
Food appeared in the kitchen.
The tiger was gone.
"Tom!" The royal grandmother burst into the Throne Room.
Tom quickly made one more wish.
"I wish this wasn't a wishing cap!"
"That's my cap!" cried the royal grandmother.
She snatched the cap.
"I wish to send Tom to the Grim Dungeon!" she said.

Nothing happened.
The royal grandmother stomped her foot.
"I am very unhappy! I'm leaving at once!"
She marched away.
"Hooray!" the king shouted. "I got my wish!"
"Hmpf!" Dirk snorted.
Tom smiled.
And Cat purred.

Wizard and Cat 69: The Royal Race

"There's going to be a carriage race!" Tom said.
"Kings will come from other kingdoms.
They will see whose royal carriage is fastest.
It will be so exciting!"
Cat licked a paw.
"It sounds like a royal mess," she said.
"One king will win. The others will lose.
And kings do not like losing!"
"The royal wizards will put spells on the carriages," said Tom.
"The best spell will win the race.
I need a good spell for the king's carriage."
Tom thought and thought.
He checked his spell books.
Finally Tom went to the royal stables.
He lifted his wand.
"Horses, run fast!
Carriage, do not be last!"
Poof!
Wings appeared on the carriage wheels.
The horses sparkled with magic.
Tom smiled. "I hope this works!"
Soon the other kings and wizards arrived.
One wizard waved at Tom.
It was May.
Tom knew her from wizard school.
Another wizard was laughing.
It was Walter.
"I know which king will lose this race!" Walter said.
"Tom can't even put a spell on an apple cart.
His carriage will be as slow as a snail!"
Tom frowned.

"Just wait, Walter!" he said.
"My king will win!"
"Ha-ha!" said Walter. "We'll see about that!"

Wizard and Cat 70: Race Day

It was the day of the royal race.
All the carriages were ready at the starting line.
One carriage was made of feathers.
It was very light.
It floated above the ground.
Another carriage was pulled by unicorns.
The unicorns looked very fast.
Walter stood near a carriage that sparkled with magic.
It was pulled by seven white swans.
Tom gulped.
"What if my king doesn't win?" he said.
"I will go to the Grim Dungeon.
Walter will laugh and laugh."
"You have a good heart," said Cat.
"Everything will work out fine. You'll see."
Walter looked at the wings on the king's carriage.
"Ha-ha!" he said.
"Your spell won't work, Tom.
Your king will lose for sure."
Walter's swans hissed at Tom.
When they saw Cat, they flapped their wings.
They tried to chase her.
Cat hid in Tom's pocket.
"Those swans are mean!" Tom said.
"Just like Walter!"
Finally the kings climbed onto their carriages.
The wizards got on too.
Cat jumped out of Tom's pocket.
"Good luck. I'll wait at the finish line to see who wins!"
A trumpet blared.
And the royal race began!

Wizard and Cat 71: Losing the Race

Tom watched the horses gallop fast.
His carriage flew over the ground.
"My spell is working!" cried Tom.
But Walter's swans were as fast as the horses.
They bumped into Tom's carriage.
Thump!
Tom's carriage slowed down.
"Oh no!" Tom cried.
"Those swans knocked a wing off our carriage!"
Walter and his king laughed as they flew by.
"Cheaters!" Tom's king called.
Tom's king was very upset. "Hurry, Tom!
Fix our carriage!"
Tom waved his wand again and again.
At last a huge wing appeared on the wheel.
The other wing grew huge too.
The carriage flew high in the air.
The horses went up very high too.
They could not gallop anymore.
"Oops!" Tom said.
Tom waved his wand again.
The wings grew very small.
Now they could not lift the carriage off the road.
"Oops!" Tom said.
All the other royal carriages raced past.
Tom's king moaned.
"We'll never win now!" he said.
Tom sighed.
He could see Walter's swans far ahead.
They were almost at the finish line.
"Walter's king will win," he said.
Then Tom saw something else in the road.
It was Cat!

Wizard and Cat 72: A Royal Mess

Cat meowed and hissed.
She jumped at the swans.
"What's she doing?" Tom said.
"Those swans are mean!"
The swans flew at Cat.
They tried to bite her.

Cat ran back toward the other carriages.
The swans chased her.
Walter waved his wand again and again.
His king shouted loudly.
The swans chased Cat.
She jumped in front of the next carriage.
Crash!
Boom!
All the carriages crashed into Walter's carriage.
It was a royal mess.
The kings yelled at each other.
The wizards cast spells.
Tom looked at his king. "Let's go, Your Majesty!"
The king picked up the reins.
He drove carefully around all the other carriages.
Soon his carriage crossed the finish line.
"I won!" the king shouted.
"No fair!" grumbled the other kings.
"My carriage is faster!"
"No, mine is faster!"
Cat jumped into Tom's pocket.
"Are you hurt?" Tom asked.
"Those swans are very mean!"
Cat licked a paw.
"The swans are very mean," she said.
"But they are not very smart.
It was easy to get away."
"Good job, Tom," said May.
Walter glared at Tom. "You were lucky this year.
Next year
my
king will win!"
Tom smiled. "We'll see about that!"