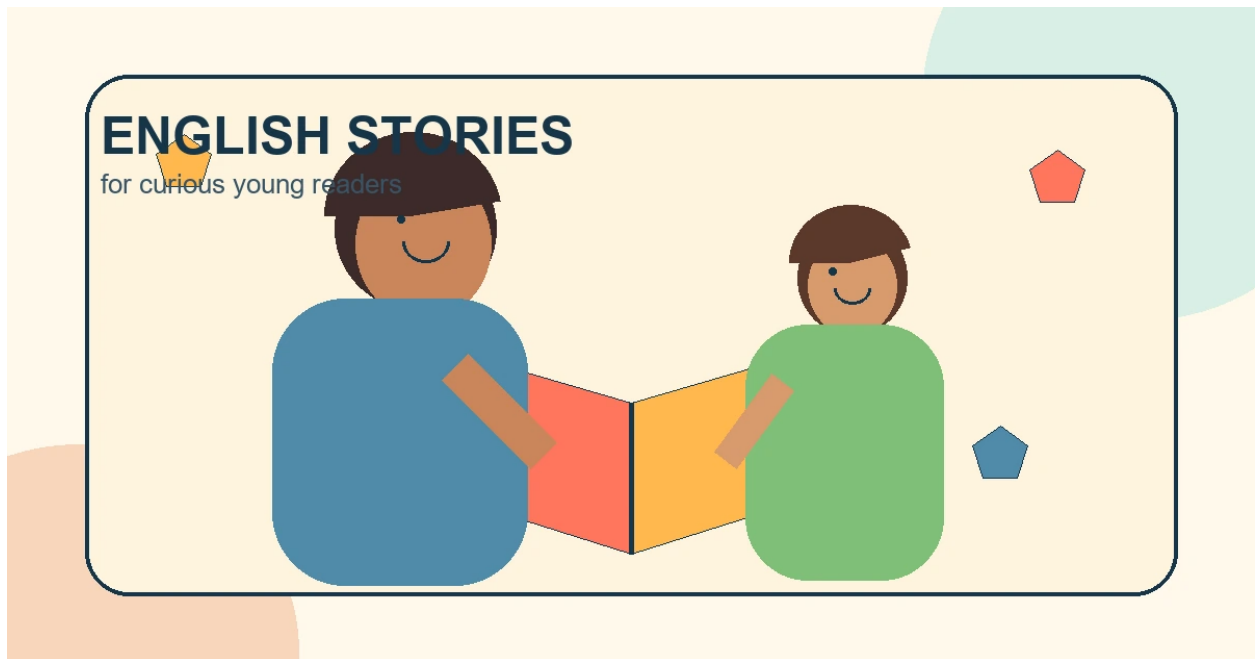


# 15 Short English Stories for Kids Learning English

A printable read-aloud collection with focus words and conversation prompts



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Online Story Hub

## How to use this book

Use these stories for shared reading at home or in class. Read for enjoyment first. On a later reading, point out two or three focus words, invite your child to join in with a sound or repeated line, and use the question at the end to start a conversation.

**A gentle reminder: Children learn at different speeds. Accept words, gestures, and answers in any language, then model a short English phrase.**

# 1. Timmy and the Tickly Grass

*Focus words: tail, swish, grass, butterfly, laugh*

Timmy the elephant walked through tall grass every morning.

The grass tickled his legs. It tickled his belly. Then it tickled the little hairs on his tail.

Timmy swished his tail to the left. A yellow butterfly flew up.

He swished his tail to the right. Two blue butterflies flew up.

“Is my tail a butterfly fan?” Timmy wondered.

He gave one big swish. Butterflies rose from the grass all around him. Yellow, blue, orange, and white wings filled the air.

Timmy stood very still. One butterfly landed on his nose.

His nose began to itch.

“Ah... ah... achoo!”

The butterfly flew away, and Timmy laughed all the way to the river.

**Talk about it: What made Timmy laugh? Ask your child to swish an imaginary tail.**

## 2. Mina Caterpillar Counts Lunch

*Focus words: hungry, leaf, count, full, rest*

Mina Caterpillar woke up hungry.

She found one soft leaf and ate it. "One," she said.

She crawled under a flowerpot and found two small leaves. "Two more."

Near the gate, she found three crisp leaves.

"One, two, three," Mina counted before she ate.

A ladybird landed beside her. "Are you still hungry?"

Mina touched her round tummy. "No. I am very full."

She curled up beneath the biggest leaf and rested in the shade.

The ladybird counted the nibbled leaves. "One, two, three, four, five, six!"

Mina opened one sleepy eye. "Tomorrow," she said, "I will count flowers instead."

**Talk about it: Count six fingers together. Which leaf did Mina find first?**

### 3. Monkey and the Moon in the Pond

*Focus words: moon, pond, jump, reflection, wet*

Monkey loved the moon. Every night, he watched it shine above the trees.

One evening, he looked into a pond. A bright moon trembled in the water.

“Oh no! The moon has fallen!” Monkey cried.

He jumped into the pond. Splash!

The bright circle broke into wobbly pieces. Fish darted beneath his feet.

“Why are you splashing in our home?” asked a silver fish.

“I am trying to save the moon.”

The fish pointed upward with her nose. “Look above you.”

Monkey looked up. The moon was still in the sky, round and safe.

He looked down. Its reflection had returned to the quiet water.

Monkey climbed out, cold and wet. After that, he admired the moon from a dry rock.

**Talk about it: Look for a reflection in a mirror, spoon, or bowl of water.**

## 4. Ami's Red Balloon

*Focus words: balloon, float, wind, branch, string*

Ami carried a red balloon home from the market. She wrapped the string twice around her hand.

A warm wind pushed the balloon above the road. It floated over a bicycle and bobbed beside a bus.

Then a stronger wind rushed past.

Whoosh!

The balloon flew into a low banyan branch. Its string curled around a twig.

"My balloon is stuck," Ami said.

She did not pull. The branch had small thorns.

A fruit seller brought a long bamboo pole. He gently lifted the string over the twig.

Down came the balloon, still round and bright.

Ami thanked him and tied the string to her wrist.

The balloon did not reach the clouds that day, but it reached home safely.

**Talk about it: Why did Ami ask an adult for help instead of climbing the tree?**

## 5. Pappu Parrot Says Hello

*Focus words: parrot, green, listen, hello, proud*

Pappu was a green parrot who lived with Ravi's family.

Every morning, Ravi opened the window shutters and said, "Hello, Pappu."

Pappu listened. He tilted his head, but he did not answer.

A week passed. Then another week.

One afternoon, Ravi returned from school feeling tired. He put down his bag without saying a word.

"Hello, Ravi!" called a small voice.

Ravi looked at his mother. She shook her head.

"Hello, Ravi!" the voice said again.

It was Pappu.

Ravi smiled. "Hello, Pappu!"

Pappu lifted his green wings and said the words once more, loud and clear. He looked very proud of himself.

**Talk about it: Say "hello" in English and in the languages your family speaks.**

## 6. Ellie's Wonderful Ears

*Focus words: ears, flap, shade, cool, special*

Ellie the elephant had enormous ears.

When she ran, they flapped. When she drank, they dipped near the water. Ellie wished they were smaller.

One hot afternoon, the animals gathered beside a dry field. There was no tree nearby.

Ellie lifted her ears and held them wide.

A little rabbit sat in the shadow beside her. Then a tortoise joined him. Even Monkey squeezed in.

"Your ears make wonderful shade," said Rabbit.

Ellie flapped them slowly. A cool breeze moved over her friends.

"They are fans too!" Monkey said.

Ellie looked at the happy animals around her. For the first time, her big ears did not feel awkward. They felt special.

**Talk about it: What is something special about you?**



## 7. Rohan's Lost Kite

*Focus words: kite, wind, field, stuck, reach*

Rohan's blue kite danced above the field.

He let out more string. The kite rose higher.

A sudden gust tugged the reel from his hand. Across the field it rolled, bumping over stones and dry grass.

Rohan ran after it.

The reel stopped beside a mango tree, but the kite was stuck on a branch far above him.

Rohan wanted to climb. Then he saw how thin the branch was.

He called his aunt. She brought a long pole and stood firmly on the ground. One careful push freed the kite.

It floated down into Rohan's arms.

"Next time, I will hold the reel with both hands," he said.

**Talk about it: Act out the verbs: dance, roll, run, reach, and hold.**

## 8. Deepak and the Patient Owl

*Focus words: farmer, seeds, water, wait, grow*

Farmer Deepak planted wheat seeds in a straight row.

The next morning, he hurried to the field. He saw only soil.

“Why has nothing grown?” he asked.

An owl sat on the fence. “Seeds do not follow a clock,” she said.

Deepak watered the soil and went home.

He returned the next day. Still no green shoots.

“Water them, then wait,” the owl advised.

Deepak did this each morning. One week later, tiny green tips appeared.

As the weeks passed, the shoots became tall wheat. The field changed from green to gold.

Deepak smiled at the owl. “You were right. Some work cannot be hurried.”

The owl blinked. “Most growing cannot.”

**Talk about it: Name something that takes time to grow.**

## 9. The Tiny Seed Under the Soil

*Focus words: seed, soil, rain, sunlight, flower*

A tiny seed lay beneath dark soil.

“It is quiet down here,” the seed thought. “Will I always be small?”

Rain soaked the ground. The seed drank.

Sunlight warmed the soil above it.

A pale root slipped downward. A green shoot pushed upward.

The journey was slow. Bits of soil pressed against the shoot, but it kept growing toward the warmth.

One morning, the shoot reached open air.

Days passed. Two leaves appeared, then four. At last, a red flower opened in the sun.

A bee landed on its petals.

The little seed was gone, but the flower it had become nodded above the garden.

**Talk about it: Put a bean on damp cotton and watch what changes over several days.**

## 10. Friends at the Bus Stop

*Focus words: bus, wait, book, share, friend*

Meena waited at the bus stop. The school bus was late.

A boy nearby held a book with a tiger on the cover.

“Is that a story?” Meena asked.

“Yes. The tiger is learning to read,” said Arjun.

Meena laughed. “Can a tiger turn the pages?”

“Only with help.”

Arjun moved closer so they could both see. He read the first page aloud. Meena read the tiger's one-word reply: “Roar!”

They took turns until the bus arrived.

“Same book tomorrow?” Arjun asked.

“Same bus stop tomorrow,” Meena replied.

By Friday, they had finished the book and started a friendship.

**Talk about it: What did Meena and Arjun share?**

## 11. Pooja's Rainy-Day Box

*Focus words: rain, box, inside, fort, dry*

Rain tapped on Pooja's window all morning.

She wanted to play outside, but the courtyard was full of puddles.

In a cupboard, she found a large cardboard box.

"This can be a fort," she decided.

Pooja drew a door and asked her father to cut it out. She spread a blanket inside the box and brought in her teddy, two books, and a torch.

Thunder rumbled. Pooja switched on the torch.

Inside the fort, she was warm and dry. The rain on the roof sounded like hundreds of tiny drums.

When the sky cleared, Pooja crawled out.

"Can we keep the fort for tomorrow?" she asked.

Her father smiled. "Only if Teddy agrees."

**Talk about it: What would you put inside a box fort?**

## 12. Anu and the Village Well

*Focus words: well, bucket, rope, heavy, water*

Anu visited her grandmother's village during the school holiday.

Near the house stood an old well with a strong wall around it. Grandmother used a rope and bucket to draw water.

"May I help?" Anu asked.

"You may hold the rope with me," Grandmother said.

Together, they lowered the empty bucket. Splash!

When they pulled it up, the bucket felt much heavier.

"Why is it heavy now?" asked Anu.

"Because it is full of water."

They poured the water into a clay pot. Anu took a cool sip from a cup.

She had turned a rope, a bucket, and careful teamwork into drinking water.

**Talk about it: Where does the water in your home come from?**

## 13. Lila at the Night Market

*Focus words: market, lantern, crowded, smell, sweet*

Every Friday, Lila's town held a night market.

Lanterns glowed above the stalls. Vendors called out the names of fruit, toys, bangles, and cloth.

Lila held her mother's hand. The lane was crowded.

"What can you smell?" her mother asked.

Lila sniffed. "Samosas, smoke, and something sweet."

They followed the sweet smell to a jalebi stall. The vendor lifted a golden spiral from the pan and placed it in a small bowl.

Lila waited for it to cool. Then she took a bite. It was crisp, sticky, and warm.

On the walk home, she could still see the lanterns behind her like a row of little moons.

**Talk about it: Name one thing Lila saw, one thing she heard, and one thing she tasted.**

## 14. The Old Banyan Tree

*Focus words: tree, shade, nest, storm, protect*

An old banyan tree stood in the middle of the village.

Children played in its shade. Birds built nests between its branches. Neighbors met beneath it in the evening.

One night, a storm shook the tree. A large branch cracked and fell, but no one was hurt.

In the morning, the villagers checked the nests. One had fallen into the grass.

A wildlife rescuer placed the nest in a safe basket near the tree so the parent birds could return. An arborist inspected the damaged branches.

The children planted two native saplings nearby and promised to water them.

The old banyan still gave shade, and two young trees began their own slow climb toward the sky.

**Talk about it: How did the villagers protect the birds and trees?**



## 15. Riya's Little Festival Light

*Focus words: diya, light, festival, glow, safe*

On the evening of Diwali, Riya looked for the box of clay diyas. It was empty.

“We used the last one yesterday,” her father said.

Riya found a small glass candle holder in a cupboard. “Could this be our light?”

“It can,” her mother said.

Her mother placed a tea light inside and lit it. Riya watched from a safe distance.

They set the holder on a clear table, away from curtains and paper decorations.

The flame glowed through the glass.

“It does not look like our other diyas,” Riya said.

“No,” said her father, “but we can still welcome the light together.”

Riya watched the warm glow while her parents stayed nearby. One small light was enough to make the window shine.

**Talk about it: What rules help your family use candles and diyas safely?**

# Five ways to support an English learner

## *1. Read for enjoyment first*

Use expression, gestures, and pictures. Do not interrupt every sentence to translate or test.

## *2. Choose a few words*

Pick two or three focus words and reuse them during the day.

## *3. Welcome every answer*

A word, gesture, or answer in a home language shows understanding. Model a short English version.

## *4. Repeat favorite stories*

Familiarity helps children anticipate phrases and notice words they missed before.

## *5. Retell with toys or drawings*

Put three pictures in order and ask what happened first, next, and last.

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