



Santa Claus is Kidnapped!

An adaptation of L. Frank Baum *A Kidnapped Santa Claus*
Often called "one of Baum's most beautiful stories"

LEVEL A2



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A Place of Both Good and Bad

Preview Questions

1. Do you think it's possible to be happy most of the time?
2. What things make you feel sad?

Santa Claus lives in the Laughing Country, where you can find the big castle where his toys are made. His workers, who are pixies and fairies, live with him, and everyone is very busy all the year.

It is called the Laughing Country because everything and everyone there is happy. The river laughs to itself as it moves between its green sides; the wind whistles happily in the trees; the sunlight dances over the soft grass and the wild flowers look smilingly up towards the sky. To laugh one needs to be happy and in the Laughing Country of Santa Claus everyone is happy.

On one side is the large Forest of Burzee. At the other side stands the very tall mountain that contains the Caves of the Daemons. And between them is the Laughing Country smiling and peaceful.

You might think that our good old Santa Claus, who spends all his days making children happy, would have no enemies on all the earth; and for a long time he found nothing but love wherever he went. But the Daemons, who live in the mountain caves, hated Santa Claus very much just because he made children happy.

There are 5 Caves of the Daemons. A wide path goes up to the first cave which is at the bottom of the mountain. The entrance is beautifully decorated. In it lives the Daemon of Selfishness. He is called this because he only thinks about himself and doesn't care what happens to other people.

Behind this is another cave where the Daemon of Envy lives. He is called this because he wants all the things that the other people near him have. The cave of the Daemon of Hatred is next to that and after this one is the home of the Daemon of Unfriendliness; in a dark and frightening cave in the middle of the mountain.

I don't know what is after this. Some say there are terrible things leading to death and destruction, and this may be true. However, from each one of the four caves there is a small tunnel leading to the fifth cave - a warm little room where the Daemon of Repentance lives. If you repent, you feel sorry for the bad things you have done. Many people in the Caves of the Daemons have escaped through the tunnels to the home of the Daemon of Repentance, who is said to be very nice to them and happily opens a little door that takes you into fresh air and sunshine again.



Review Questions

1. How would you describe the Laughing Country?
2. What is true about four of the daemons?

Workbook

- ❖ *Glossary*
- ❖ *Vocabulary Building Exercises*
- ❖ *Reading Comprehension Questions*

Chapter 1**pixie** n a fairy or elf (usually a bad one)**fairy** n a living thing like a very small person that can fly and can do magic**whistle** v to make a noise by pushing air through the mouth**contain** v to have or hold inside**cave** n a hollow place in the earth**decorate** v to make sth look nicer by putting lights or colourful things on it, especially a room, tree or cake**selfishness** n thinking only about yourself and what you want or need**envy** n a feeling that you want what someone else has**hatred** n an extremely strong feeling of dislike**destruction** n the action of completely breaking sth**tunnel** n a path under the ground or through a mountain etc**repentance** n regret**repent** v feeling very sad for something bad that you have done and wishing you had not done it**Chapter 2****lonely** adj on your own and feeling sad**envious** adj feeling or showing envy**malice** n wanting to hurt someone**surround** v be all round sth**wonderfully** adv extremely well**twinkle** v look like it has little pieces of light coming from sth**selfish** adj only thinking about what you want**Chapter 3****playthings** n toys**fellow** n a man or boy**escape** v to get free from something**tempt** v try to make someone want to do or have sth**reindeer** n a large deer that lives in the arctic**sleigh** n sth you sit on in the snow and which might be pulled by animals**chance** n luck**Chapter 4****shine** v (simple past: shone) to have light in or on sth**treasure** n things that are very special and worth a lot of money**workshop** n a room or building in which work is done especially with machines**snowy** adj full of or covered with snow**rope** n a strong, thick line or cord**load** n lots of things that need to be taken or carried to a place**tie** v to hold things together using rope or string**kidnap** v to take a person and keep them somewhere especially if you want money for them to be returned**punishment** n doing something not nice to someone for doing something wrong**Chapter 5****master** n a person who employs someone**underneath** prep below or under sth**miss** v feel sad because you want to see or be with someone**slow down** make sth happen more slowly**emergency** n sth bad or dangerous that suddenly happens**upset** adj unhappy, sad**wicked** adj very bad**Chapter 6****drum** n sth that you hit to make a loud noise to make music**sewing box** n a box used to store things for making or mending clothes, such as needles and thread**intelligently** adv cleverly**stable** n a building where horses are kept and fed**rescue** v to free from danger**naughty** adj someone who behaves badly**Chapter 7****prisoner** n a person who is kept in prison as a punishment**brave** adj unafraid of dangerous things**cavern** n a cave**likely** adv for sth that you think will happen**Chapter 8****step out** pv to go outside or leave a room**Chapter 9****be made up of** pv have as part of sth, be made of**lead** v (simple past: led) show someone where to go**punish** v to do sth that isn't nice to someone because they have been bad or naughty**sparkle** v to look like it has little pieces of light on it**capture** v to take someone when they don't want to go with you and keep them somewhere

Chapters 1-4

Exercise A

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct answer A, B or C.

- I couldn't see when he the bright light in my eyes.
A. whistled B. shone C. tied
- We sat on the and went down the snowy hill.
A. sleigh B. workshop C. playthings
- We the Christmas tree with pretty coloured lights.
A. twinkled B. tempted C. decorated

Exercise B

Complete the sentences below by using the correct form of the words in the box. There are two extra words that you do not need to use.

contain surround kidnap cave tunnel fellow

- The police the robbers so that they couldn't escape.
- The train went through the to get to the other side of the mountain.
- The son of the rich man was and a large amount of money was asked for his safe return.
- Andy is such a friendly that everyone likes him.

Exercise C

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word given in CAPITALS at the end of each sentence.

- Everyone was shocked by the of so many houses in the storm. (DESTROY)
- His means that he hates to share anything with other people. (SELFISH)
- George is of his neighbour's new car. (ENVY)

Chapters 5 - 9

Exercise A

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct answer A, B or C.

- I my friends when I moved to another city.
A. rescued B. captured C. missed
- The farmer the animals to a safe place before the storm.
A. sparkled B. led C. punished

Exercise B

Complete the sentences below by using the correct form of the words in the box. There are two extra words that you do not need to use.

upset wicked brave slow down step out make up

- It was really of Tina to save the boy from the burning house.
- Our team is of friends and family.
- The boy kicked the cat for no reason.
- If you don't, you will have an accident on this busy road.

Exercise C

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word given in CAPITALS at the end of each sentence.

- The man answered the questions during the interview. (INTELLIGENCE)
- It's that we will buy a new car soon as ours is very old. (LIKE)

Chapters 7 -9

Exercise A

Choose the correct answer.

- What is different about the Daemon of Repentance?
 - He is not as unkind as the other daemons.
 - He used to be friends with Santa.
 - He is friends with all the children.
- What was strange about the army sent to save Santa?
 - They didn't know where they were going.
 - They didn't look frightening
 - They were all very ugly.

Exercise B

Say if the sentences are True (T) or False (F).

- Santa Claus was scared at first when he saw the big army.
- The army wouldn't listen to Santa's advice.

Exercise C

Who said the things below? S= Santa P= Peter

- Not everyone got the correct present.
- We can all live in this area without fighting.

A Kidnapped Santa Claus

"A Kidnapped Santa Claus", is a Christmas-themed short story by American writer L. Frank Baum; it has been called "one of Baum's most beautiful stories" and constitutes an influential contribution to the mythology of Christmas.

"A Kidnapped Santa Claus" was published two years after Baum's *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* (1902), and shares its mythological world: in the story as in the novel, Santa lives in the Laughing Valley on the border of the Forest of Burzee, and is assisted by knooks, ryls, fairies, and pixies. In modern editions the two works, novel and story, are sometimes published together.

Plot

The story opens with a quick overview of Santa's castle in the Laughing Valley. There are five Daemons who live in five Caves in the nearby mountains. After failing to tempt him to their own vices, Santa is kidnapped from the Laughing Valley by the five Daemons of the Caves (Daemons of Selfishness, Envy, Hatred, Malice, and Repentance) on Christmas Eve. The Daemons are sure that the children will receive no toys for Christmas.

Characters

Santa Claus helpers: **Wisk** the fairy, **Kilter** the pixie, **Peter** the knook, and **Nutter** the ryl. When the four realise that Santa is gone, they try to complete his mission and deliver the gifts to all the children.

The **Queen of the fairies** in the Forest of Burzee tries to help Santa. An army of magical creatures is gathered to rescue Santa from the Daemons.

Five Daemons: the Daemon of Selfishness, the Daemon of Envy, the Daemon of Hatred, and the Daemon of Malice are bad, but the fifth, the Daemon of Repentance, is a more ambiguous figure.