

# Module 3

## The Wish



FICTION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Speed sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
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## Vocabulary check

carved crib	baby's wooden cot
quarrelling	arguing
peculiar	strange
sparing my life	not killing me
pleaded	begged
better temper	in a good mood
violet	purple
pantry	food store cupboard
crop of wheat	plants grown for food

# Text 1: The Wish

1 Mary opened the pantry door. It was just as she'd thought. Only half a loaf of bread – nothing else at all. With a sigh, she began to slice it for supper.

The three of them sat round the rough wooden table – Mary, her husband Ben, and Grandmother. Grandmother reached out a papery hand to feel the food on her plate.

2 “Dry bread again, Mary?” she croaked. “I do wish we could have a juicy beef and onion pie or a fat roast chicken. I may not be able to see – what a curse it is to be blind! – but at least I can enjoy my food.”

“I’m sorry,” said Mary. “But you know that our crop of wheat has failed, and we have no money for food. Don’t make things worse by complaining.”

## Questions to write about

1 What does Mary get for supper?

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2 Why does Grandmother complain?

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## Quick check

- 1 Mary sighed because
- a) she was tired.
  - b) she didn't like Grandmother.
  - c) the table was rough.
  - d) there wasn't much to eat.

*Underline the evidence.*

- 2 Grandmother complained because
- a) she was old.
  - b) she was bored of only having dry bread to eat.
  - c) she could enjoy her food.
  - d) she could see.

*Underline the evidence.*



3 She put the rest of her bread on Grandmother's plate and hurried out of the room so that Ben would not see her crying. She went into the tiny bedroom and lay down on the bed, looking through her tears at the little carved crib in the corner. If only she had a baby! Nothing else would matter then.

4 The next morning, Ben picked up his hunting gun and strode out into the forest. He'd had enough of this – an empty stomach and the two women quarrelling all the time. He'd shoot a rabbit for tonight's supper, and maybe the good food would cheer them all up.

5 All day, he searched. But he found nothing, not even a tiny pigeon, and by nightfall he was cold, hungry – and cross.

He put his hunting gun on his shoulder and began to make his way home. But as he stepped out of the forest, something very peculiar happened.



### Questions to write about

3 Why does Mary cry?

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4 Why does Ben go hunting?

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### Quick check

- 3 Mary was upset because
- a) Ben was rude to her.
  - b) her bedroom was too small.
  - c) she wanted a baby.
  - d) she had to give her bread to Ben.

*Underline the evidence.*

- 4 Ben wanted to
- a) quarrel with his wife.
  - b) go for a walk.
  - c) get some food for supper.
  - d) cook supper.

*Underline the evidence.*

- 5 Ben
- a) shot a pigeon.
  - b) couldn't find anything to hunt.
  - c) was peculiar.

*Underline the evidence.*

6 The first thing he saw was a patch of soft white light, glowing against the deep blue of the sky. And from it, a strange creature danced up to him on delicate hooves, tossing its head to show off the long pointed horn which grew from its forehead.

7 Ben had read about unicorns in books, of course. And this one was beautiful! But his family was hungry, and he was in a desperate situation. He raised his gun. He stared into the unicorn's large violet eyes...

... No. It was impossible to shoot.

And then the unicorn spoke.

8 "Thank you for sparing my life. I am grateful. I will reward you with a gift – the gift of one wish!"

With that, it turned and galloped away with a whisk of its silky white tail.

A wish! He could wish for a fortune in gold!

But he'd better talk to Mary and Grandmother before he made a decision.

### Quick check

- 6 Ben saw
- a) the sun.
  - b) Grandmother.
  - c) a deep blue patch.
  - d) a strange creature.

*Underline the evidence.*

7 Ben doesn't shoot the unicorn because

- a) he is hungry and desperate.
- b) it is beautiful.
- c) his gun doesn't work.
- d) the unicorn was in a book.

*Underline the evidence.*

8 The unicorn gives Ben a

- a) silky white tail.
- b) fortune in gold.
- c) wish.
- d) hundred wishes.

*Underline the evidence.*

### Questions to write about

7 Why do you think Ben doesn't shoot the unicorn?

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8 How does the unicorn reward Ben?

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9 “I haven’t seen your face for a long time! Surely, you will use your one wish to give me back my sight?” Grandmother pleaded.

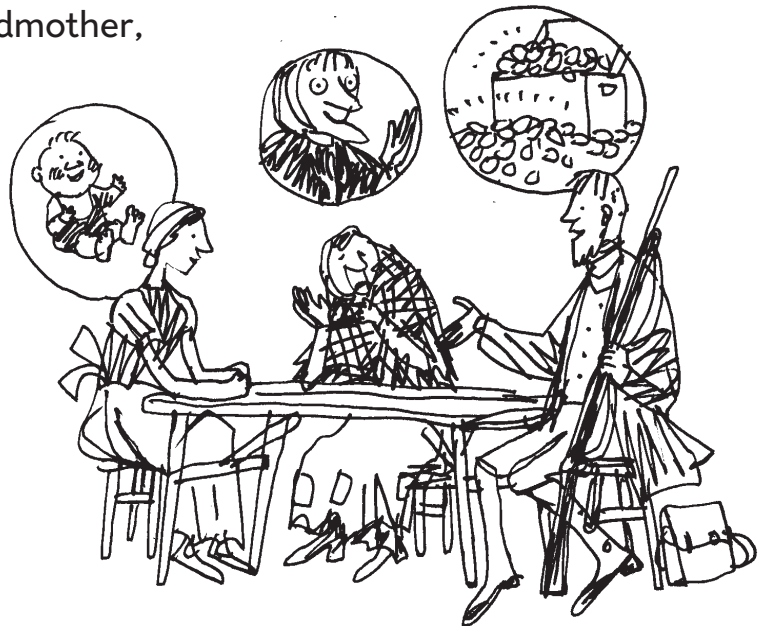
“No, Grandmother,” said Ben. “If we don’t eat a good meal soon, we will all die – blind or not! I must wish for gold – and then at least we will be able to buy food. Don’t you agree, Mary? Wouldn’t you like to be able to fill the pantry?”

“I would,” replied Mary sadly. “But there is something that is even more important to me – please, husband, won’t you wish for a dear little baby?”

10 Ben stood under the stars thinking. What should he wish for? The sun was rising when he finally made up his mind and went back into the house.

Mary was still in bed. Ben called Grandmother, asking her to join them.

“I have decided,” he told them. “Now I want you both to hear me make my wish.”



### Quick check

- 9 Grandmother wishes for
- a) some good food to eat.
  - b) a new baby.
  - c) gold.
  - d) her eyesight.

*Underline the evidence.*

- 10 Ben goes outside to
- a) look at the sun.
  - b) think carefully about his wish.
  - c) get away from Grandmother and Mary.
  - d) go fishing.

*Underline the evidence.*

### Questions to write about

9 What are the three different things that Ben, Mary and Grandmother want?

Grandmother wants \_\_\_\_\_

Mary wants \_\_\_\_\_

Ben wants \_\_\_\_\_

11 “I wish... for Grandmother to be looking at our new baby, asleep in a crib made of pure gold!”

A soft white light began to fill the dark corner of the bedroom where Mary kept the wooden crib. And as the light faded away, Ben and Mary saw a gleaming gold one – with a smiling pink-cheeked baby inside it!

“It’s a baby, Grandmother! A beautiful baby in a crib of pure gold!”

“I can see it too!” cried Grandmother.

12 From that day, everything changed. Ben and Mary sold the gold crib so that they would always have enough to eat, and they loved their new baby. Now that she could see, Grandmother was in a better temper. All because of a wish wisely used.

If you could have one wish – what would **you** wish for?



### Questions to write about

11 Do you think Ben is clever in the way he uses his wish? Why?

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Do you think this is a true story? Give your reasons.

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### Quick check

- 11 Ben wishes for
- a) a wooden crib.
  - b) just a new baby.
  - c) a baby in a golden crib and for his Grandmother’s sight.
  - d) a light in the bedroom.

*Underline the evidence.*

12 Ben used his wish wisely because

- a) he just wished for gold.
- b) he wished for three things in one wish.
- c) Grandmother was in a better temper.

*Underline the evidence.*

# Text 2: King Melancholia

## Think about vocabulary

### Activity 1

the palace:

splendid

run down

shabby

his wife's feelings:

desperate

devoted

excited

Melancholia:

brave

hopeful

miserable

the season:

winter

spring

summer

Melancholia's feelings:

scared

surprised

furious

1 Long, long ago in a land far away, past the distant mountains, lived a king called Melancholia. He lived in a palace made of gold and silver. The rooms were filled with precious gifts that his people had brought from far and wide – rubies, pearls, velvets and silks.

The gardens of his palace were famous for their special plants, dancing fountains and peaceful woods.

2 Melancholia had an adoring wife and three beautiful daughters who cared for him deeply.

3 But despite all of these riches, beauty and love, Melancholia was not happy. He could not lift the sadness that filled his soul. 'Something, something is missing,' he sighed to himself as he wandered in the palace gardens. 'If only I knew what it was...'

4 Now, one day, Melancholia was walking in the deep woods of his palace. The sunlight was streaming through the knobby branches of the tree. A thick frost illuminated everything with white sparkly ice.

5 Melancholia heaved a heavy sigh as he glanced at all the beauty around him. Suddenly, his eye caught sight of a beautiful, glistening red and gold creature blocking the path ahead. He blinked and looked again. There in front of him was an amazing...

### Activity 2

amazing

sparkly

valuable

loving

joyful

unhappy

chuckled

shouted

whispered

lit up

shone

darkened

looked

felt

smelled



## Vocabulary catch

Word	Synonym or meaning

## Build a picture

The palace was beautiful.

The forest was lovely.

## Composition prompts

Questions to King Melancholia:

*Why are you so miserable?*

*Are you poor?*

*Is your family ill?*

*Do you have any interests?*

*Do you have friends?*

## Think about grammar

1. Write A over the adjectives. Write N over the nouns. Underline the noun phrases.

The rooms were filled with precious gifts.

He saw a glistening red and gold creature.

2. *Change the verbs into the past tense.*

Melancholia heaves a heavy sigh as he glances at all the beauty around him.

A thick frost covers everything in white sparkly ice.

3. *Underline the adverbs in each sentence.*

Melancholia's wife and daughters cared for him deeply.

Melancholia walked unhappily through the forest.

4. *Add the missing punctuation to each sentence.*

even though he had riches beauty and love melancholia was not happy [Add 5]

the rooms were filled with rubies pearls velvets and silks [Add 4]

5. *Add the missing conjunction to each sentence. [and but or]*

Sunlight streamed through the trees \_\_\_\_\_ warmed the forest.

Melancholia lived in a gold and silver palace \_\_\_\_\_ he felt miserable.

Will Melancholia be friendly \_\_\_\_\_ angry towards the creature?

6. *Circle the correct sentence type. Add the right punctuation to the end of each sentence.*

Do not feel so sad [question statement command]

Why do I feel such sadness [question statement command]

He lived in a palace [question statement command]

## Spell Green Words

Dot, dash and arc the Green Words.

five ride lie time pie high light  
drive smile arrive kind decide

## Spell suffixes

Add the word with the right suffix to each sentence. Remember: DROP the E with an ING.

Helen really \_\_\_\_\_ Gemma until she went off with her best friend.  
[like: liking dislike liked]

We are going to be famous \_\_\_\_\_ when we are older.  
[write: written writer writers]

Her \_\_\_\_\_ face always made people laugh.  
[smile: smiled smiler smiling]

We finally \_\_\_\_\_ to go for a walk on the beach.  
[decide: deciding decided decision]

## Spell Red Words

Tick the Red Words you can spell. Circle 5 words you're going to practise.

today all call tall small no so go  
saw many any one watch there  
here who where why were what  
work word love come some could  
would should walk talk brother laugh  
mother father above two once school

## Module 3 The Wish

*Read Write Inc. Comprehension* is a series of 14 weekly Modules each containing a fiction or non-fiction text and a range of comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and writing activities. The programme has been developed to increase children's reading fluency, their comprehension of and response to fiction and non-fiction texts, and to improve children's writing by developing their vocabulary, grammar and spelling knowledge.

Detailed lesson plans for these Modules are provided in the *Read Write Inc. Comprehension Handbook*.

This pack contains Modules 1 to 5:

- Module 1 Chicken-Licken
- Module 2 Anansi and the Four Bananas
- Module 3 The Wish
- Module 4 The Three of Us
- Module 5 Drusilla's Diary

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