

“I don’t think I like boys,” answers the Swallow. “There are two rude boys living by the river. They always throw stones at me. They don’t hit me, of course. I can fly far too well.”

But the Happy Prince looks very sad and the little Swallow feels sorry for him. “It is very cold here,” he says. “I can stay with you for one night, and be your messenger.”

“Thank you, little Swallow,” says the Prince.

The Swallow takes the big red ruby from the Prince’s sword and flies away with it in his beak over the roofs of the town.



#### Glossary

- **far:** (here) much
- **rude:** not nice
- **roofs:** tops of houses

He passes by the palace and hears the sound of dancing. A beautiful girl comes outside with her lover. "The stars are wonderful," he says to her. "And love is wonderful, too!"

"I hope my dress is ready for the Ball," says the girl. "I want a dress with lots of flowers on it. But the seamstress is very lazy."

He passes over the river, and sees the ships. He passes over the Ghetto, and sees the old Jews weighing out gold in copper scales. Then he comes to the poor house and looks in. The boy is tossing and turning on his bed. The mother is very tired. He goes in and leaves the ruby on the table beside the woman's thimble.

Then he flies gently around the bed, fanning the boy's forehead with his wings. "How cool I feel," says the boy, "I'm getting better." And he falls asleep at last.



- **fanning:** making cool by moving the air
- **Ghetto:** place where Jews live
- **Jews:** people of the Jewish religion, usually from Israel
- **lazy:** don't want to work hard
- **weighing out:** seeing how heavy a thing is
- **wonderful:** great; beautiful



5 Then the Swallow flies back to the Happy Prince, and tells him everything. "It is strange," he says, "but I feel warm now, although it is very cold."

"That is because of your good action," says the prince. And the little Swallow begins to think, and at last he falls asleep. Thinking always makes him sleepy.



### Good actions

What good actions do you do?  
How do you feel after you do them?

### Glossary

- **although:** even if



In the morning he flies down to the river and takes a bath. “What a remarkable sight,” says the Professor of Ornithology as he is walking over the bridge. “A swallow in winter!” And he writes a long letter about it to the local newspaper.

“Tonight I go to Egypt,” says the Swallow, and he is happy at the thought.

He visits all the public monuments and sits for a long time on top of the church steeple. When the other birds see him they chirrup, and say to each other, “What a distinguished stranger!”

- 
- **chirrup:** sound a bird makes
  - **distinguished:** important

- **ornithology:** study of birds
- **remarkable:** amazing; strange



When the moon rises he flies back to the Happy Prince. "Have you any requests from Egypt?" he asks. "I am going away now."

"Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow," says the Prince. "Stay with me one night longer!"

"My friends are waiting for me in Egypt," answered the Swallow. "They are flying up to the Second Cataract. The God Memnon sits there on a great stone throne. All night long he watches the stars, and when the morning star shines he gives one cry of joy, and then he is silent. At noon the yellow lions come down to the water's edge to drink. They have eyes like green emeralds, and their roar is louder than the roar of the river."



#### Glossary

- **emeralds:** green stones
- **noon:** 12 o'clock midday
- **requests:** things you want
- **roar:** sound of a lion or wild animal
- **Second Cataract:** there are seven cataracts on the Nile river, they are places where people meet, etc.
- **throne:** a king's chair
- **water's edge:** bank; side of the river



“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince. “Far away across the city I see a young man in an attic. He is leaning over a desk covered with papers. There is a bunch of dead violets in a vase. His hair is brown and his ears are red and he has large dreamy eyes. He is trying to write a play for the Director of the Theatre, but he is too cold to write. There is no wood for the fire and he is hungry.”

- **attic:** room at the top of a house
- **bunch:** group of flowers
- **desk:** table where you write

- **leaning:** bending
- **violets:** purple flowers

## After Reading Comprehension

### 1 Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) The statue of the prince is very beautiful for the people.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) The swallow is surprised because the statue is so big.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) The prince tells the swallow to bring the prince some oranges. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) The swallow decides to fly to Egypt and leaves the statue.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) The swallow brings the statue sapphires and rubies from Egypt. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) The statue becomes grey and ugly.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) The Mayor understands the motives of the statue.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) An angel takes the prince's heart and the swallow.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### 2 Find passages in the story that illustrate the following:

- a) Friendship .....
- .....
- b) Sadness .....
- .....
- c) Happiness .....
- .....
- d) Surprise .....
- .....
- e) Love .....
- .....

# After Reading

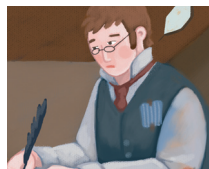
## Characters

**1** Who are these people and what do they do in the story?

a)



b)



c)



d)



**2** Imagine you are the Swallow. Describe the Prince in your own words. Say how you meet, where you are going, and how he convinces you to stay.

**3** Choose adjectives from the box below to describe the characters.

- a) The Happy Prince .....
- b) The Swallow .....
- c) The seamstress .....
- d) The sick boy .....
- e) The student .....
- f) The match girl .....
- g) The Mayor .....
- h) The Town Council .....

amused	beautiful	cold
frightened	helpful	hungry
ill	kind	sad
stupid	thirsty	warm



“The Prince’s Ball is tomorrow night,” whispers the young Student. “I can dance with my love until dawn if I bring her a red rose. If I bring her a red rose, I can hold her in my arms. She can rest her head upon my shoulder, and put her hand in mine. But there is no red rose in my garden.”

“Here is a true lover,” says the Nightingale. “I sing about his suffering. I sing about his pain. Love is a wonderful thing. Love is more precious than emeralds, and dearer than the opals. You cannot find it in the market or measure its weight in gold.”

“I can see the musicians sitting in their gallery,” says the young Student. “They are playing their instruments, and my love is dancing to the sound of the harp and the violin. She is dancing so lightly that her feet do not touch the floor.”



#### Glossary

- **dawn:** sunrise; when the sun comes up in the morning
- **dearer:** more expensive
- **except:** but not
- **gallery:** where musicians sit in a theatre, etc.
- **measure:** find out how big or heavy something is
- **mine:** my one

All the young men dance with her. All the young men except me. She does not dance with me because I have no red rose to give her.” And he falls onto the grass and buries his face in his hands, and cries.

“Why is he crying?” asks a little Green Lizard as he runs past him with his tail in the air.

“Why is he crying?” asks a Butterfly, who is flying around after a sunbeam.

“Why is he crying?” asks a Daisy to his neighbor, in a soft, low voice.

“He is crying for a red rose,” says the Nightingale.

“For a red rose?” they answer. “That is ridiculous!”



- **pain:** when something hurts you
- **ridiculous:** stupid; absurd
- **suffering:** things that make him feel bad

- **sunbeam:** ray of sun
- **weight:** how heavy something is

But the Nightingale understands the secret of the Student's sorrow. She sits silently• in the Oak tree and thinks about the mystery of Love.

Suddenly she opens her brown wings and flies off into the air. There is a beautiful Rose tree in the centre of the grass. When she sees it she flies over to it and rests on a branch.

"Give me a red rose," she says. "And I can sing you my sweetest song."

But the Rose tree shakes• its head.

"My roses are white," it answers. "They are white like the snow on the mountain. Go to my brother by the old sundial. Maybe he has got a rose for you."



What makes you think of love? Tick.

- |                                    |                                 |                                 |                                      |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolate | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearts | <input type="checkbox"/> Teddy bears |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moon      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music  | <input type="checkbox"/> Stars  |                                      |

#### Glossary

- **branch:** part of a tree that grows out from the trunk
- **shakes:** moves from left to right to say 'no'
- **silently:** quietly; not making noise

## The Nightingale and the Rose

So the Nightingale flies over to the Rose tree that is growing beside the old sundial.

“Give me a red rose,” she says. “And I can sing you my sweetest song.”

But the Rose tree shakes its head.

“My roses are yellow,” it answers. “They are yellow like the flowers that grow in the meadow•. But go to my brother’s death• the Student’s window. Maybe he has got a rose red like mine.”



• **beneath:** under

• **meadow:** open field with grass and flowers



## After Reading

### Comprehension

#### 1 Complete the following sentences.

- a) The Student needs a red rose because .....
- b) The Student is sad because .....
- c) The Nightingale wants to help the Student because .....
- d) The Rose tree in the centre of the grass sends the Nightingale away because .....
- e) The Rose tree beside the sundial sends the Nightingale away because .....
- f) The Nightingale's song becomes softer because .....
- g) The Moon forgets to leave the sky because .....
- h) The girl refuses the rose because .....
- i) The Student forgets about love because .....

#### 2 Match the sentences.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) The Professor's daughter says         | 1) that the rose is not nice with her dress. |
| b) The Nightingale thinks                | 2) that it needs blood to make a red rose.   |
| c) The Student thinks                    | 3) that love is silly.                       |
| d) The Rose tree beneath the window says | 4) that love is a wonderful thing.           |

#### 3 What is the message of the story?

Work in groups and decide what the main message is.



## After Reading

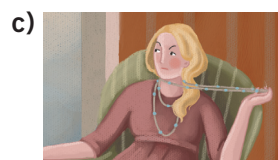
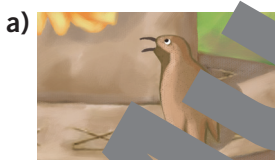
### Characters

 **1 Circle the correct verbs to describe what the characters do.**

- a) The Student *understands/doesn't understand* the secret of love.
- b) The Nightingale *wants/doesn't want* to help him.
- c) The other creatures in the garden *know/don't know* why he is crying.
- d) The Rose tree beside the sundial *gives/doesn't give* the Nightingale a rose.
- e) The girl *accepts/doesn't accept* the reason for the Student.
- f) The Student *goes/doesn't go* to the Prince's ball.

 **2 Imagine you meet the Student in the park. What questions do you ask him? Do you think he understands what happens in the story?**

**3 Find adjectives in the box below to describe the characters. Make sentences giving reasons.**



brave      selfish  
romantic

generous  
selfish

greedy  
spoiled

kind  
ungrateful

**4 Do you think the Nightingale does the right thing?**

Give the Nightingale some advice. Use the imperative.

Do!  
Don't