

TEXT 5:

The Three Lazy Sons

A king had three sons, and since he loved them equally, he didn't know which to choose to be king after his death. When the time of his death drew near, he summoned them to his bedside and said, "Dear children, I've been contemplating something for a while, and now I want to reveal it to you: I've decided that the laziest among you shall become king after me."

"Well then, father," said the oldest, "the kingdom belongs to me, for I'm so lazy that when I'm lying on my back and want to sleep and a drop of rain falls on my eyes, I won't even shut them so I can fall asleep." The second said, "Father, the kingdom belongs to me, for I'm so lazy that, when I'm sitting by the fire to warm myself, I'd sooner let my heels be burned than draw back my feet."

The third said, "Father, the kingdom is mine, for I'm so lazy that, if I were about to be hanged and the noose were already around my neck and someone handed me a sharp knife to cut the rope, I'd rather let myself be hanged than lift my hand to cut the rope."

When the father heard that, he said, "You've outdone the others and shall be king". Once upon a time there was a pious maiden who swore to God she wouldn't marry. Since she was so remarkably beautiful, her father wouldn't accept this and tried to force her to marry. Confronted with this predicament, the maiden implored God to let her grow a beard, and this happened right away. But the king was so enraged that he had her crucified, and she became a saint.

Now, it so happened that a very poor minstrel went into the church where her statue was kept. He knelt down in front of it, and the saint was glad that the minstrel was the first one to recognize her innocence. Consequently, the statue, which was adorned with golden slippers, let one slipper drop to the ground so the pilgrim could have it. He bowed in gratitude and took the gift.

Soon the people in the church became aware that the golden slipper was missing, and questions were asked all around until finally the slipper was found on the poor fiddler. He was now condemned as a wicked thief and led to the gallows to be hanged. The procession went by the church where the statue was standing, and the fiddler requested permission to go inside, pour out his

heart to his benefactress with his fiddle, and say his last farewell. His request was granted, but no sooner had he moved his bow than-behold!-the statue let the other golden slipper drop to the ground and thus demonstrated that he had not committed the theft. So the irons and rope were taken off the fiddler, who went merrily on his way. From then on the holy saint was called Solicitous.

(Grimms' Fairy Tales, 2014, p.468).

Reading Assignment :Boor-report Sheet

- **Read the short story then do the following:**
 - A. Fill in the book report sheet (Form 1 & Form 2).
 - B. Give your personal opinion about the story.
 - C. Suggest another end to the story.