



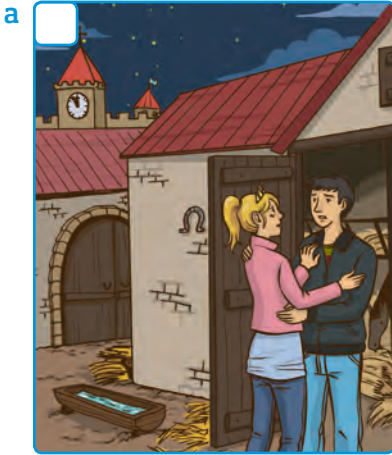
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Before Reading


1 Read the titles of the chapters on page 5, and look at the pictures below. Which two chapters do you think they come from?

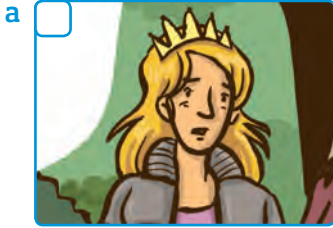


2 Look at the pictures in the book. Read the sentences below and tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a The story starts with a big party in the palace. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b The hero of the story is a prince. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c Priscilla and Toby run away on horses. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d Priscilla gives her crown to a farmer. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e Priscilla and Toby go to Ireland. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f Priscilla and Toby meet two witches. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g When Priscilla and Toby return the King gives them a drink that makes them fall asleep. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h In the end Priscilla, Toby and the King live happily ever after. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Before Reading

- 1  Look at the pictures of some of the characters in the story. Listen to the descriptions of them. Then number the pictures.



Princess Priscilla



King Alexander



Lord Huntington



Toby Chapman

- 2 Write a description of yourself.

- 3 Draw a picture of yourself in the frame.



THE KING'S SECRET

3 King Alexander has got a secret. He plans to announce the engagement of his daughter, Princess Priscilla, to Lord Huntington, his best friend, at the annual Royal Ball tonight. He's very nervous. It's a very big secret. Not even Princess Priscilla knows about it.

At nine o'clock the doors of the royal ballroom open. The invited guests hurry inside, sit down and wait. They are waiting for the announcement that the royal family is ready to enter the ballroom.

Then one of the royal servants appears. The ballroom grows quiet. 'Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand up and welcome the royal family!'

Everyone stands up and claps enthusiastically as King Alexander, arm in arm with Queen Gillian and the beautiful Princess Priscilla, comes through the doors. The King and Queen are smiling.

The King raises his hand and immediately the crowd grows quiet. The King is a perfect showman. He waits before he speaks. 'Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen! Welcome to the Royal Ball! We want all of you to enjoy it. There is good food and music.'

The crowd claps again. The King looks at the happy faces and smiles. 'And now,' he says. 'In the name of your dear Queen, Queen Gillian, and our beautiful daughter, Princess Priscilla, I say: let the ball begin! Have fun, everyone!'

GLOSSARY

- **announce:** tell the public about a plan or decision
- **ball:** big party with dancing, eating and drinking
- **claps:** hits their hands together many times
- **engagement:** agreement to marry someone
- **enthusiastically:** with great interest
- **grows:** becomes
- **showman:** person who likes to speak in public

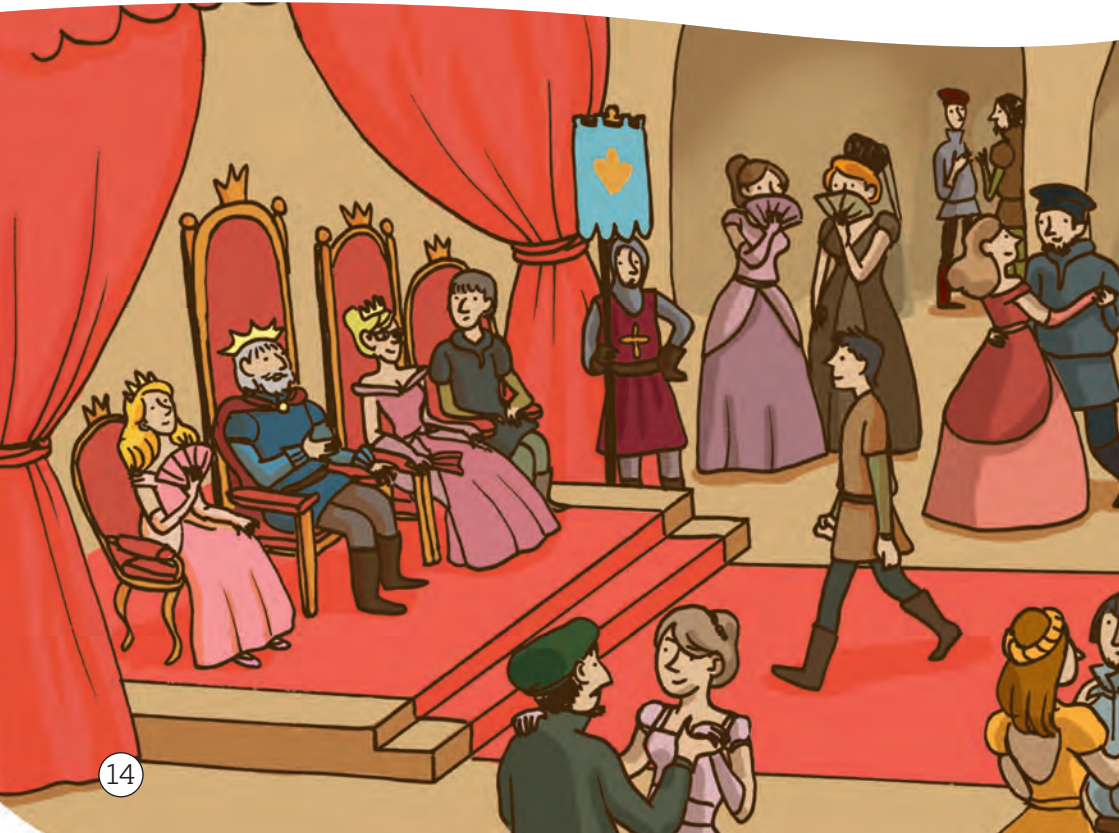
Suddenly one of the royal servants runs up to the King and says something in his ear.

‘Oh, I almost forgot,’ the King says with a little laugh. ‘You’re waiting for me and the Queen to go first! Yes, of course. Queen Gillian and I, together with Princess Priscilla and my good friend Lord Huntington, must dance the first dance.’

The King and Queen and the Princess and Lord Huntington begin to dance. Then the guests start dancing, too. Soon the dance floor is full.

When the dance is over, the King and the Queen, with the Princess and Lord Huntington, return to the royal box. The King looks around. ‘Where are all the servants? It’s time for some champagne,’ he says. ‘Ah! There’s one. Young man!’ he calls. ‘Come here!’

The servant hurries over. He’s very nervous. He opens his



At that moment, Lord Huntington turns to her and says, 'Would you like to dance again, my dear?'

'Oh – I don't know. I –'

'Of course she wants to dance with you,' the King says. 'Dance with Lord Huntington, Priscilla!'

'Yes, Father.' The Princess gives Lord Huntington her arm. Together they go to the dance floor.

The Queen watches them for a few moments. Then she turns to the King. 'Look at Priscilla and Gareth, Alex,' she says. 'My poor little girl. She's so bored. • Do you really think he's the right man for her?'

The King looks at the Queen in great surprise. 'But Gillian, Gareth is the perfect man for Priscilla. He's very good at darts •, you know. Almost as good as me. And he loves hunting •, too. He's perfect for Priscilla, Gillian, perfect!'

'Perfect for you, you mean!' the Queen says.

The perfect man

Do you think that Gareth Huntington is the perfect man for Priscilla?

Why/why not?

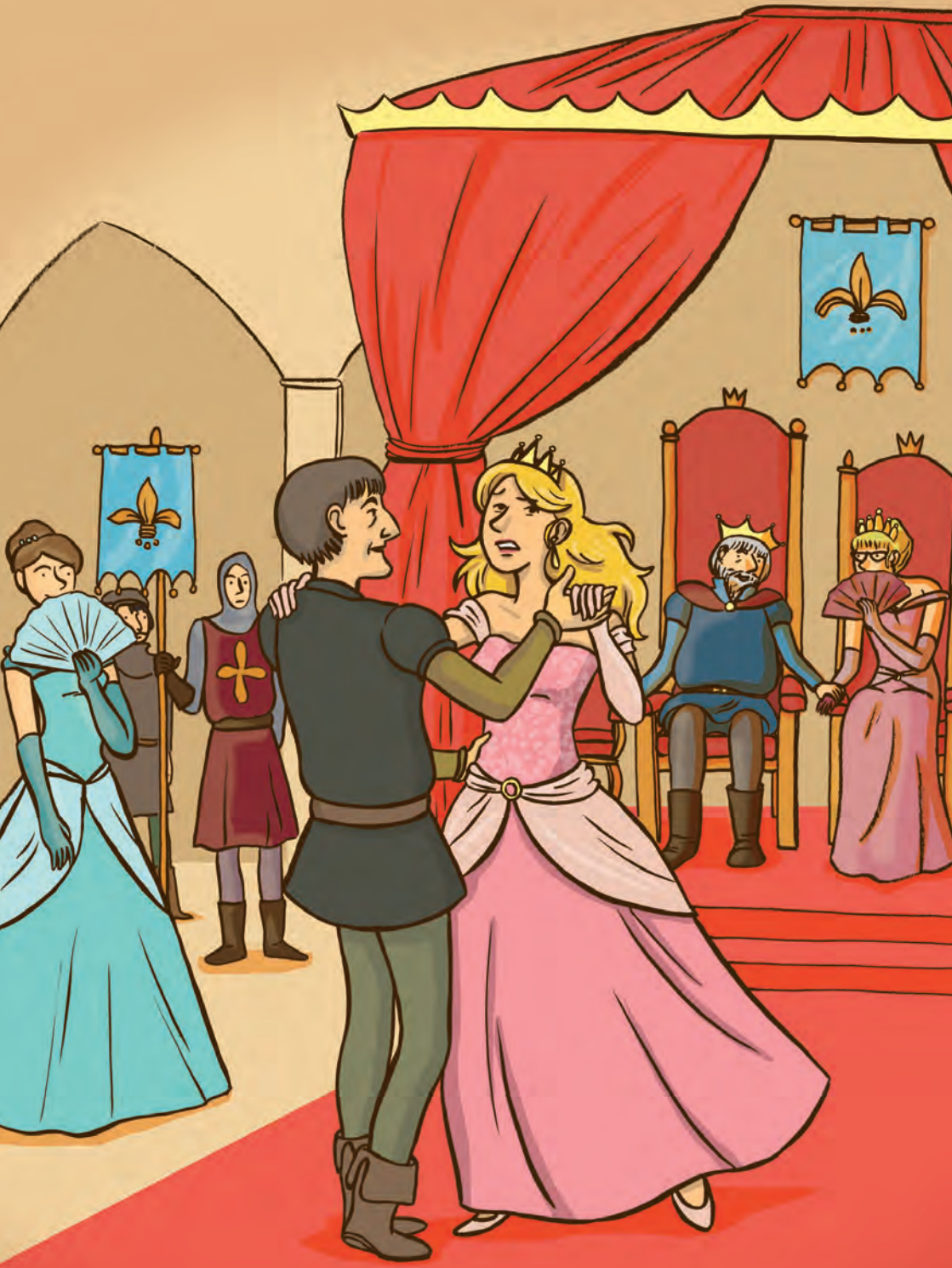
Who do you think she likes?

GLOSSARY

- **bored:** not interested
- **darts:**



- **hunting:** chasing and killing animals for sport



‘But my dear, don’t you understand? What’s perfect for me is perfect for Priscilla, too.’ The King laughs. Then suddenly he becomes serious. ‘I think it’s time to tell the world our good news. I’m going to announce Priscilla’s engagement to Lord Huntington this evening.’

‘What! Without asking Priscilla first? Alex, you can’t do that!’

‘I can! I’m the King here, remember?’ Then he smiles. ‘Just look at the two of them. Isn’t it obvious that they love each other?’

‘Not to me! I don’t think it’s right to make this announcement now, Alex. Priscilla isn’t ready for this.’



The King doesn’t say anything.

