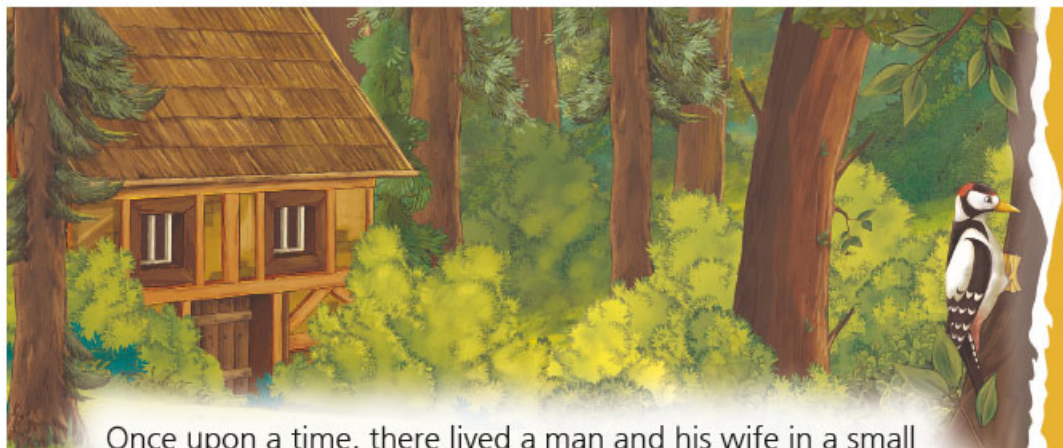


# RAPUNZEL





Once upon a time, there lived a man and his wife in a small house on a **hill**. The only wish of this lonely couple was to have a child. So, when the woman was **pregnant**, they felt very happy.

From the little window at the back of their house, the young couple could see a wonderful garden. There were beautiful flowers, plants and **herbs** in it. But nobody could get into the garden because it belonged to a bad **witch**, and there were high walls around it.





One day, the young woman saw some fresh **lettuce** in the garden. She wanted to have some to make a salad. She called her husband and said, 'We don't have any plants in our garden because the soil is hard and stony here, but look at that garden! Can you see that fresh lettuce? I want to eat that delicious vegetable!' The man was surprised. 'Oh, but that belongs to the wicked witch. I can't go there!' he said. The young woman was very sad. She didn't want to eat anything else.



After a few days, her husband started getting **worried** about her. 'What's the matter with you?' he asked. 'If I can't eat some lettuce from that garden, I will die!' answered the woman sadly. 'OK, then,' said the man. 'I will try to get some for you.' In the afternoon, the man climbed up the high wall and got into the garden of the witch. He picked a bunch of lettuce and brought it to his wife.



The pregnant woman ate the lettuce and said, 'It tastes delicious! I want more! Please bring me some more!' The man was **afraid** of the witch. That's why he didn't want to go to the garden again, but it was important for his wife. 'The witch can't see me in the dark, and I can take some more lettuce,' he thought. The next day, when it was dark, he climbed over the walls into the witch's garden again.



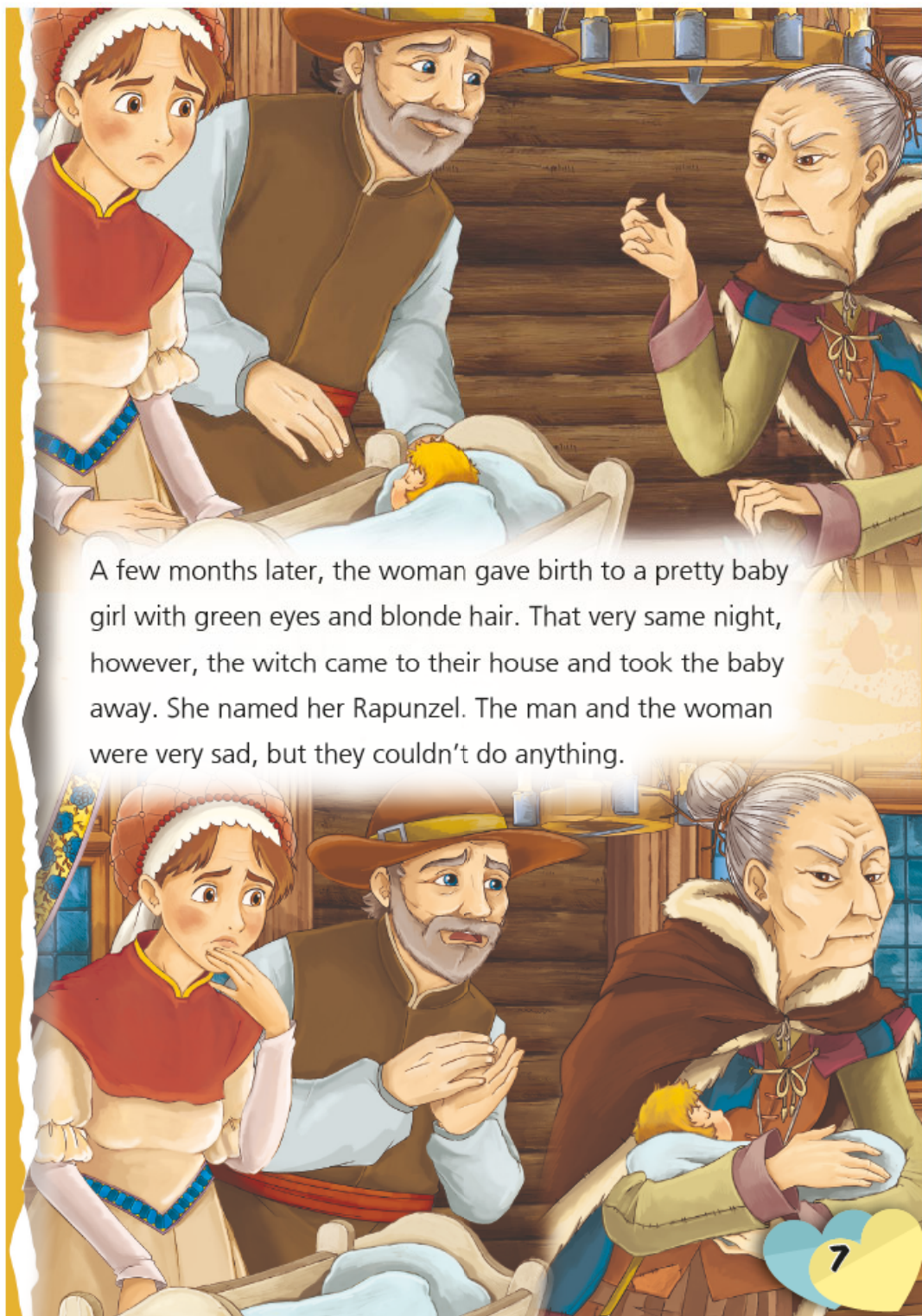


When the man took some lettuce in his hands, he saw the bad witch standing in front of him. '**Thief!**' shouted the witch.

'How dare you come and steal from my garden!' The man was very scared. He knew that he was in big trouble. He **begged** the witch to forgive him. 'My wife is pregnant. She saw your lettuce from our window and wanted to eat some.'

The witch smiled. 'If that's the truth, you can take as much as you like,' she said. 'But only on one condition! You must give me your child when it is born. I will be its mother!'

'No, I can't do that!' said the man. 'Then, your wife and your baby will die tonight!' said the witch. The man's eyes were full of **tears**. 'No, don't harm them. I will give you my child,' he said.



A few months later, the woman gave birth to a pretty baby girl with green eyes and blonde hair. That very same night, however, the witch came to their house and took the baby away. She named her Rapunzel. The man and the woman were very sad, but they couldn't do anything.



As time passed by, Rapunzel grew into a beautiful girl with golden hair. The witch never cut her hair, so it grew very very long. Rapunzel loved **combing** her hair. Her favourite activity was singing songs, so she played and sang songs in the forest every day.

