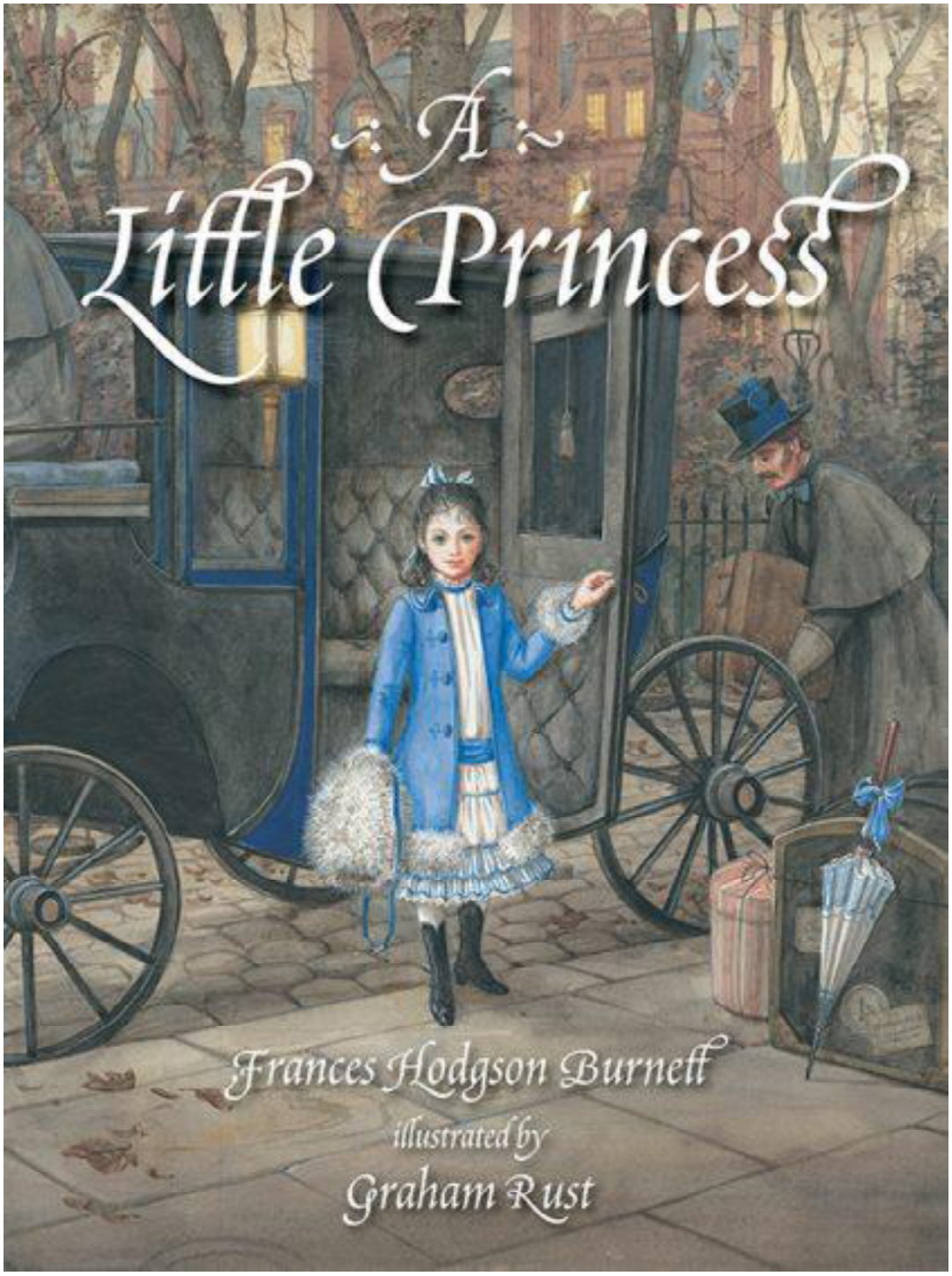
A
Little Princess
Frances Hodgson Burnett
illustrated by
Graham Rust

Learn English Through Story

A Little Princess

By Frances Hodgson Burnett

Retold by Jennifer Bassett

Illustrated by Gwen Tourret

Level 1

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Introduction

Sara Crewe is a very rich little girl. She first comes to England when she is seven, and her father takes her to Miss Minchin's school in London. Then he goes back to his work in India. Sara is very sad at first, but she soon makes friends at school.

But on her eleventh birthday, something terrible happens, and now Sara has no family, no home, and not a penny in the world… (word count 5.840)

Chapter one

School in England

One cold winter day a little girl and her father arrived in London. Sara Crewe was seven years old, and she had long black hair and green eyes. She sat in the cab next to her father and looked out of the window at the tall houses and the dark sky.

'What are you thinking about, Sara?' Mr. Crewe asked. 'You are very quiet.' He put his arm round his daughter.



"What are you thinking about, Sara? "Mr. Crewe asked.

'I'm thinking about our house in India,' said Sara. 'And the hot sun and the blue sky. I don't think I like England very much, Father.'

'Yes, it's very different from India,' her father said. 'But you must go to school in London, and I must go back to India and work.'

‘Yes, Father, I know,’ said Sara. ‘But I want to be with you. Please come to school with me! I can help you with your lessons.’

Mr. Crewe smiled, but he was not happy. He loved his little Sara very much, and he did not want to be without her. Sara’s mother was dead, and Sara was his only child. Father and daughter were very good friends.

Soon they arrived at Miss Minchin’s School for Girls and went into the big house. Miss Minchin was a tall woman in a black dress. She looked at Sara, and then gave a very big smile.

‘What a beautiful child!’ she said to Mr. Crewe.

Sara stood quietly and watched Miss Minchin. ‘Why does she say that?’ she thought. ‘I am not beautiful, so why does she say it?’

Sara was not beautiful, but her father was rich. And Miss Minchin liked girls with rich fathers, because it was good for the school (and good for Miss Minchin, too).

‘Sara is a good girl,’ Mr. Crewe said to Miss Minchin. ‘Her mother was French, so she speaks French well, she loves books, and she reads all the time. But she must play with the other girls and make new friends, too.’



Miss Minchin was a tall woman in a black dress.

‘Of course,’ said Miss Minchin. She smiled again. ‘Sara is going to be very happy here, Mr. Crewe.’

Mr. Crewe stayed in London for a week. He and Sara went to the shops, and he bought many beautiful, expensive dresses for his daughter. He bought books, and flowers for her room, and a big doll with beautiful dresses, too.

Miss Minchin smiled, but she said to her sister Amelia: ‘All that money on dresses for a child of seven! She looks like a little princess, not a schoolgirl!’



Mr. Crewe bought many expensive dresses for his daughter.

When Mr. Crewe left London, he was very sad. Sara was very sad too, but she did not cry. She sat in her room and thought about her father on the ship back to India,

'Father wants me to be happy,' she said to her new doll. 'I love him very much and I want to be a good daughter, so I must be happy.'

It was a very big, and very beautiful doll, but of course it could not answer.

Sara soon made new friends in the school. Some little rich girls are not very nice children – they think they are important because they have money and lots of expensive things. But Sara was different. She liked beautiful dresses and dolls, but she was more interested in people, and books, and telling stories.



The stories were all about kings and queens and princesses.

She was very good at telling stories. She was a c1ever child, and the other girls loved to listen to her. The stories were all about kings and queens and princesses and wonderful countries across the sea.

'How do you think of all those things?' asked her best friend, Ermengarde.

'I have all these pictures in my head,' said Sara. 'So it's easy to tell stories about them.'

Poor Ermengarde was not eleven. She could never remember any of her school lessons, and Miss Minchin was always angry with her.

Sara often helped Ermengarde with her lessons. 'Listen, Ermie,' she said. 'You remember that French king, Louis the Sixteenth? Well, this is a story about him. One day in 1792 …

'And so Ermengarde learnt her lessons through Sara's stories, and she loved her friend very much. But not everybody was Sara's friend. Lavinia was an older girl. Before Sara came, Lavinia was the richest and the most important girl in the school.

But Sara's father was richer than Lavinia's father. So now Sara was more important than Lavinia, and Lavinia did not like that.

'Oh Sara is so clever!' Lavinia often said. 'Sara is so, good at French! Her dresses are so beautiful, and she can sing so well! And she is so rich! Of course, Miss Minchin likes her best!'

Sara did not answer when Lavinia said these things. Sometimes, it was not easy, but Sara was a kind, friendly girl, and she did not like to be angry with anyone.



Now Sara was important, and Lavinia did not like that.

Product Overview

Nam quis porta ex. Donec porttitor at sem nec sollicitudin. Ut vel commodo tortor, sagittis egestas nisl. Donec quam mauris, tristique non tempus vitae, ornare sed mauris. Etiam blandit tempor metus, at vehicula nisi. Maecenas suscipit vulputate varius.



Key Features

- Integer et justo velus.
- Ut in ipsum ac risus.
- Maecenas iaculis.
- Ut nec mauris vel.
- Tellus accumsan.

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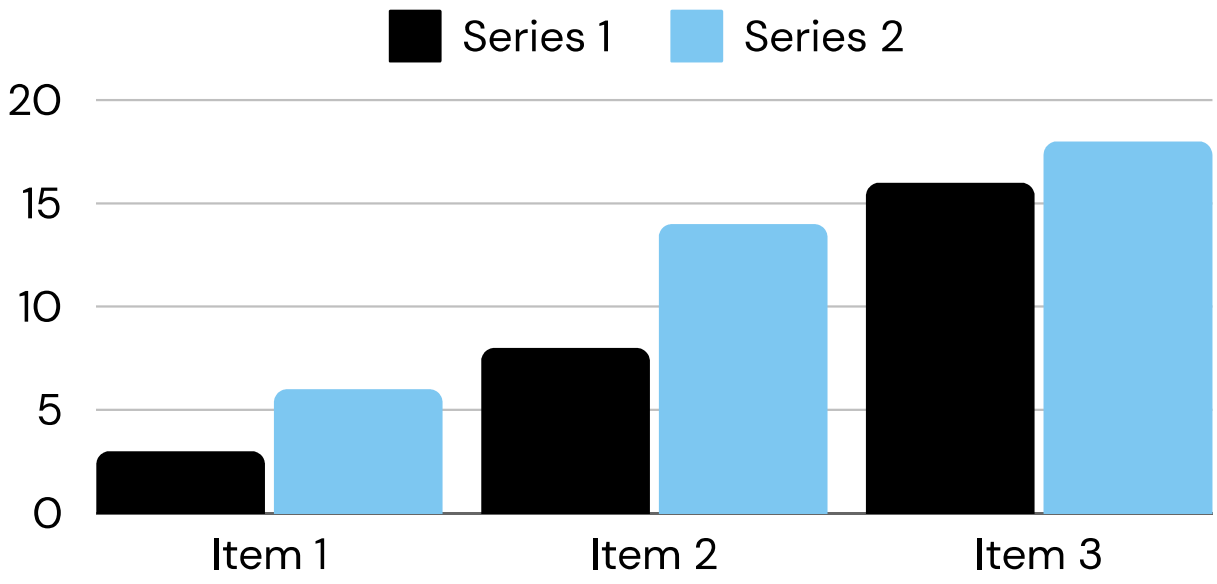
Sales Projections

Tristique non tempus vitae, ornare sed mauris. Etiam blandit tempor metus, at vehicula nisi. Maecenas suscipit vulputate varius.



Metric	Sales
Market Size	$50 Billion
User Satisfaction	85%
Growth Rate	10%