

A boy called Adam

1	There once was a boy called Adam. He was an orphan. His parents died when he was two
2	years old, and since then he had been living with his grandmother. His nanny was very, very
3	old but she was a smart and cheerful person. They were poor but happy because they had
4	each other. They lived in a small, old wooden cottage with lovely curtains at the windows.
5	One day, Adam was very sad and unhappy when he returned home from school. His
6	observant nanny noticed that he had been crying, but when she asked Adam why he was so
7	unhappy, he didn't answer.
8	The next day after school, Adam looked more miserable than the day before. Nanny gave
9	him a long, careful look, but she didn't say anything. After a modest supper, she sat in the
10	old rocking chair near the fireplace and started spinning a yarn about her childhood. She told
11	Adam that when she was a little girl she was a very lonely child. She had no friends at
12	school and nobody liked her. The other children laughed and persecuted her. Interested,
13	Adam asked Nanny what she had done to stop them. Nanny started to laugh and said, 'I told
14	them that my nanny was a terrible witch and that she could turn them into ugly frogs! If
15	others laugh at you, Adam, you can tell them that I'm a terrible witch, too!'
16	The next day, Adam returned from school in a good mood. No one laughed at him ever
17	again.

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