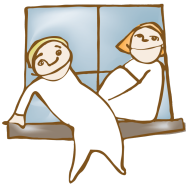


Saturday Sparkle

All Story Descriptions by Season

Remember Saturday morning cartoons? We would wake early to catch our favorite shows and start the weekend with fun and fancy. Many parents are looking for a similar time “off” on Saturday morning, but are careful about media content. They want to offer only high quality material to their children. Here's the perfect Sparkle Series for Saturdays, with engaging games, songs, verses and classic stories from around the world.



Autumn Season:

This is a collection of 13 autumn stories, for the 13 weeks of autumn.

As Summer Closes

This week's stories include a classic folktale from Russia called "Vasilisa the Wise," where the third daughter — considered the silly one — is the one to answer the riddle and win the prize. Also included is a joyful harvest story about a dragon's new friendship with a poor family and a story called, "The Goose Who Tried to Keep the Summer."

Unexpected Gifts

This week's fun includes a story from Burma called, "The Frog Maiden." The story is a variation on a beauty and the beast story where a frog maiden wins the love and respect of the prince, not with her looks, but her will. Also included are two stories from Germany: "The Magic Swan," where the youngest son finds fortune with the help of an elderly woman, and, "The Clinking Clanking Lowesleaf," where the youngest daughter of a king claims her prince by seeing the truth and resisting temptation.

Jewel in the Rough

This week's fun includes two "Cinderella" stories: one from Vietnam called, "Tam and Cam," where the dirty, hard-working sister is helped by a magical being to win the heart of the prince. The other story, "Catskin," is from England. The story tells of a young girl, dressed in a catskin coat, who uses her wits and magical gifts to transform into a beautiful and powerful maiden. Also included is a short story about the "Dreamcatcher" and several delightful verses.

Abundance

This week's fun includes stories about the benefits and challenges that can come from abundance. Clair Dillingham Pierson's "Gentle Harvestmen" story tells of the spider-like insect that is abundant in good cheer and kindness. A Grimm's Fairy Tale, "The Golden Fish," however, shows how abundance is never

enough when greed is present, and the well known tale "Magic Pot" tells of a pot that gives as much porridge as you could ever desire — you simply need to know when to stop! Also included are harvest verses from times gone by.

In the Quiet Moments

This week's stories include quiet and wondrous nature tales about confident earthworms from Clair Dillingham Pierson's collection, "Among the Meadow People." Also included is a magical tale from Donegal, Ireland called, "Jamie Freel," about a youth who rescues a maiden from the mischievous fairies in his town, and how his loyalty and hard work bring back her voice and guidance — as well as a story from Denmark called, "The Grateful Dead," about a kind traveler who lays the unsettled soul of a beggar to rest by giving the body a proper burial, and receives a reward for his kindness.

PARENTS NOTE: Although the title "The Grateful Dead" and the premise may sound scary, it is actually a very common folktale of gratitude and doing-the-right-thing. "Death" and "burial" are presented in a matter-of-fact manner; the bulk of the story follows what happens after the burial, and the great reward that the traveler experiences.

Thinning of the Veils

This week's fun includes several fairy stories. Two are from Wales: "The Old Man and the Fairies," about a trick the fairies play on an old man, and, "The Fairies of Caragonin," about how the queen of the fairies defeats an ogress who has plagued a town for years. Also included is a Slav tale called, "Kinkach Martinko," in which a maiden outwits a magical fellow with a red cap and wins the treasure.

Whither I Wander

This week's fun includes two tales from Romania. "Stan Bolavan" is about a father's search to find food to feed his one hundred children. His adventure leads him to a wealthy dragon from whom he wins a great reward. The second tale is called, "Mogarzea and His Son," about a giant and his adopted son who wins back his father's stolen soul from the elves. Also included are several wandering verses.

Light and Darkness

This week's fun includes three North American stories: the Ojibwe tale, "The Star Maiden," about a young fairy's search for the perfect vantage spot to view both the stars and the people she loves; the Inuit tale, "Chunks of Daylight," about a young boy's search for sunlight, and the Canadian folktale, "The Rabbit and the Moonman," about how the moon came to have spots on its face. Also included is an Indian story called, "Light Makes Prosperity," about how a humble yet clever girl brings prosperity to her poor family by harnessing the power of light.

Help is Near

This week's fun features a single folktale from Russia called, "The Three Men of Power," about three brothers who work together to bring back the king's three daughters from the grips of three nasty serpents. Also included are several beautiful autumn verses.

Feasting

This week's fun centers around a single Russian folktale called "The Stolen Turnips, the Magic Tablecloth, the Sneezing Goat, and the Wooden Whistle." Also included are some tasty verses and songs.

The Woods

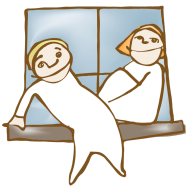
This week's fun features two stories about quests into the woods: "The Wood Maiden," a tale about a shepherdess who dances with a mysterious wood maiden and is rewarded with riches and, "The Three Little Men in the Wood," is a Cinderella-style story from Germany about a girl whose generosity and hard work wins the king's hand.

Special Gifts

This week's episode features a story from France called, "Fairy Gifts," that delights in the different gifts as given to different fairies and the effects that those gifts have. Also featured is a story from Czechoslovakia called, "The Betrothal Gifts," about a young man who marries a frog only to find that she is a wealthy and beautiful princess (the frog prince but in reverse). Also included is the magical Grimms tale, "Star Money," as well as some lovely Advent verses.

The Longest Night

This week's fun has two transformational stories about heroes of the earth becoming brilliant lights in the sky. The first story comes from America and the Ojibwe people, about how the old husband of a powerful woman becomes the son of the evening star. The second story comes from Romania. It is about two brothers and how their enduring love for each other transforms them into the morning and evening star.



Winter Season:

This is a collection of 13 winter stories, for the 13 weeks of winter.

Beginnings

This week's fun includes the original story, "Zach's New Friend," and the Russian folk tale, "Prince Ivan and Princess Martha," as well as wintry verses and a delightfully fun inside game.

Whether the Weather

This week's stories all include dramatic and impacting weather. The old Norse tale, "Boots and the Troll," is about a boy who is tricked into successfully stealing treasure from a troll and, "The Little Shepherd," from Italy, is about a shepherd who finds his true love in the middle of a magical apple. Also included is a fun snow game called, "Fox and Geese."

Wandering

This week's fun includes two tales from Germany, "Jack and the Beanstalk," and, "How Six Men Got On In The World," as well as some wandering verses and a fun car game.

A New Home

This week's fun includes stories and verses about finding a new home, including two tales from Denmark called, "Greylegs," and "Beauty and the Horse." "Greylegs" is about how a haughty princess finds humility through the clever tactics of a prince who truly loves her. "Beauty and the Horse," a dynamic version of the "Beauty and the Beast." Also included are two games in anticipation of the Chinese New Year.

Surprises

This week's fun includes stories and verses about surprises, including a tale from Norway called "Tatterhood," and a tale from Germany called, "King Thrushbeard."

Love

This week's fun includes stories and verses about love. Included is a tale from Italy called, "Fair Angiola," about how true love can sometimes be found through trial and accident and a Japanese tale called, "Three Strong Women," about a famous wrestler who meets his match in a quiet maiden, her mother, and her grandmother — each of whom possess superhuman strength and humility.

Play and Nonsense

This week's fun includes stories and verses about play and nonsense, including a Slavic tale called, "The Laughing Prince," about a goofy fellow charged with making the princess laugh, and a silly car game called, "Dumper Camper Flatbed Bus."

Sparkle

This week's fun includes a folktale from Denmark called, "Alexander and the Golden Bird," about a boy's adventure to far away places looking, at first, for a golden bird and then finding his future as well. Also included are some sparkly songs and verses.

The Sweet Life

This week's fun includes folktales from India and Japan. "Sir Buzz" is about a little fellow who joyfully helps a young man defeat a giant. "Momotaro" is about a little boy who comes from a peach pit and helps an island rid itself of ugliness.

Gold

This week's fun includes a story from Germany called, "The Gift of the Little People," a story from Serbia called, "Cinders," and a story from Russia called, "Snow Girl," as well as verses about gold and other treasures.

Overcoming Hard Times

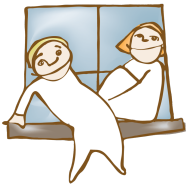
This week's fun includes a story from Germany called, "The Young Giant," about a boy who has to make his own life in the world, and a story from Serbia called, "Baldy," about the hidden powers of an old gardener who wins the love of a princess, as well as verses in honor of challenges and the courage to meet them.

We Gather Together

This week's fun includes a Ukrainian folktale called, "The Tsar and the Angel," that in many ways resembles Dickens's, "A Christmas Carol," and tale from China called, "The Two Jugglers," about a father-son juggling team that are able to perform the most magical (and impossible) feats.

Far Away and Back Again

This week's fun includes an Arab folktale called, "The Story of Ali Cogia," about a merchant who travels to Mecca and returns home to find that he has been betrayed. Also included is an original story called, "The Mountain Home," about the magical journey of a young woman who travels around the world to find that her true home is in the same hut where she was born.



Spring Season:

This is a collection of 13 spring stories, for the 13 weeks of spring.

Messy and Muddy

This week's fun includes a messy story from Romania called, "The Enchanted Pig," a "beauty and the beast" type of folktale where the pig is not what he seems to be — as well as some messy verses and a car game called, "Soggy Trip."

Fools

This week's "wise fool" stories come from Italy and Germany, including, "Simpleton," and, "The Brave Little Tailor," as well as some "foolish" poems and verses.

Transformations

This week's fun includes transformational stories from Norway and England called, "Charcoal Burner," and, "The Swan Maiden." Also included are some springtime poems and an Easter recipe called "Goldenrod Eggs."

Freshness

This week's stories come from West Africa and Spain. "The King of Birds" is about how a very small bird uses cleverness to become king, and "The Bird of Truth" is about a talking bird that convinces a king that the tailors children are actually his own. Also included are some fresh spring verses.

Inspiration

This week's stories of inspiration come from Denmark, Italy, and England: "The Flying Trunk," "Tarendando," and, "The Small-Toothed Dog." Also included are some fresh spring verses and songs.

Old and New

This week's stories are very old and come from Hungary: "Tritill and Litill" is a story about the how kindness and generosity is returned to a gentle third son of a king, and "Lovely Ilonka" is about the enduring love between a prince and a maiden hiding in the bullrushes, as well as a springtime tale called, "The Water Drop." Also included is a car game called, "Spot it Story."

Big Dreams

This week's story is a long and exciting tale from France called, "The White Cat," a variant of the "Frog Princess" story about valuing the gifts and service of something you think is one thing but is actually something very different. Included are some dreamy springtime verses.

There for You

This week's stories all feature mothers who make great sacrifices for their children. "Felicia and Her Pot of Pinks," comes from France and, "The Wonderful Birch," comes from Russia. Included are several motherly verses.

Tiny Things

This week's story is from France and is called, "Dindonette and the Fairies Blunder." You will recognize themes of "sleeping beauty" in this long and dynamic fairy tale. Included are several verses featuring "little things," as well as a fun forest game called, "Eagle Eye."

Friends

This week's story is from France called, "The White Doe." Themes of friendship, carelessness, and loyalty weave through this long and dynamic fairy tale. Included are several verses about friendship as well as the classic game, "Kick the Can."

The Thread that Connects

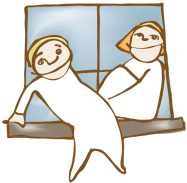
This week's stories include a tale from Russia called, "The Norka," about a simple boy who travels to magical lands and battles a beast to save his future wife and a story from Japan called, "The Cat's Elopement," about two cats destined to be together. Included are several magical verses as well as a classic backyard game.

Working Together

This week's stories include an Italian version of the three pigs called, "The Three Goslings," and a "grass is always greener" style story from Japan called, "The Stone Cutter," as well as a tale from Africa called, "The Jackal and the Spring," which is about how all the animals work together to maintain a spring — except the Jackal. Included are several late spring verses as well as a classic backyard game called, "SPUD."

Adventures Near and Far

This week includes three stories: a "Jack tale" from Southern Appalachia called, "Jack and the King's Daughter," about the wily attempts to make the princess laugh, a story from Switzerland called, "The Hairy Boy," about a boy looking for his father, and a silly tale from France called, "Drakestail," about a duck looking for repayment from the king. Also included are several lovely Father's Day verses.



Summer Season:

This is a collection of 13 summer stories, for the 13 weeks of summer.

Sunrises

This week's stories include a story from Norway called, "The Princess on the Glass Mountain," about the incredible trials a princess puts to a prospective suitor and a story from Spain called, "The Water Lily and the Gold Spinners," about a lost prince who is helped by three gold spinners to rescue a water lily — who is their enchanted sister. Also included are several seasonal morning verses.

Innocence

This week's fun includes one long story from Lapland called, "The Sister of the Sun," about an innocent gardener's son who is sent on an incredible journey that brings him to his true love. The voyage is filled with hardship but his innocence and truth delivers him in the end. Included are several playful verses and a description of how to create your own penny carnival!

Summer Nights

This week's fun includes one long story from Turkey called, "The Silent Princess," about a king's son who is destined to find a princess who has been cursed never to speak. With the assistance of a talking nightingale he is able to visit several nights in a row and eventually break the curse with cleverness. Included are a nighttime verse and a second installment in how to create a backyard penny carnival!

Secrets

This week's fun includes one story from Iceland called, "The Cottager and the Cat," about a man's hidden wealth and how his son's generosity brings riches beyond compare. Also included is the Korean tale "Heungbu and Nolbu," about two brothers and the secret that makes one rich and the other poor. There is also a fun skipping verse called, "Mrs. Crabtree."

Up and Away

This week's fun includes a jaunty tale from Italy called, "Paperello," about a simple lad who wins a kingdom, as well as a classic tale from Germany called, "Little Red Cap." Also included are poems by Robert Frost and Lewis Carroll.

Right Here, Right Now

This week includes a story from Spain called, "The Water of Life," about the quest to create the perfect castle and garden by seeking treasures without distraction. Also included is a tale from North America called, "The Mountain Lion and the Wildcat," about how patience and faith wins the day and a story adapted by Carol S. Baily called, "The Fairy That Came to Our House," about how a fairy helps a child pay attention to important household details.

Community

This week features a long story from Brazil called, "The Tortoise and the Mischievous Monkey," about the difficult community work of getting along even when someone is a bit of a practical joker.

Patience

This week features two stories about patience and waiting. One is from France called, "The Sleeping Beauty," and the other is from Germany called, "Briar Rose." Included are several verses that celebrate patience, plus a fun game that can be played while waiting for something.

Manifestation

This week features several stories about creating something that one wants. The first is from the United States and it is a famous story called, "Stone Soup." The second is from Bulgaria called, "Cudgil Bestir Thyself," about how a man manifests some powerful gifts and then loses them. There is also another version of the stone soup story from Switzerland called, "The Old Woman and the Tramp," as well as a fun summertime game called, "Spritzer Tag."

The World is Big

This week's story comes from India, called "Jackal or Tiger?" The story starts with an argument between a king and queen about a sound heard in the woods. The result is the banishment of the queen, and a long hero's journey back home for her son. Also included is a fun blindfolded circle game.

Magical Helpers

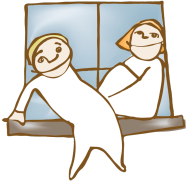
This week's fun includes a story from China called, "Hok Lee and the Dwarfs," where a greedy fellow learns a valuable lesson in authenticity, a story from Denmark called, "Tinderbox," where the magical light from a seemingly ordinary tinderbox grants wishes (a version of the genie-in-the-bottle themed stories), and a fun group game called "Doggie Bone."

Brave and True

This week's collection features a single story from old Slovakia called, "The Three Citrons," a classic hero's journey where kindness and authenticity win the day. Also included are several brave and true verses.

Magic

This week's stories both have fairy magic at their center with, "The Ogre," a story from Italy about a simple youth who wins great fortune by serving an ogre in the wood, and, "The Fairy Dyers," from Scotland about a man whose greed gets the better of him while he is spying on a troupe of fairies working by a lake. Also included are fairy verses from Evaleen Stein.



Sample Pack:

Saturday Sparkle #1

This Saturday Sparkle collection includes a story from Scotland called, "Kind Katharine Crackernuts," a story from Iceland called, "The Cottager and his Cat," and fun games for a backyard penny carnival.

Saturday Sparkle #2

This Saturday Sparkle collection includes a story from Norway called "The Pancake," a traditional Zulu tale called "King of the Birds," and instructions for making your own treasure hunt.

Saturday Sparkle #3

This Saturday Sparkle collection includes a story from the country of Georgia called, "The Little Rag Girl," a Korean folktale called, "The Magic Moneybag," a short story called, "The Water Drop," and a version of the popular game "Blind Man's Bluff."