

USBORNE FIRST READING



King Donkey Ears



Retold by Lesley Sims
Illustrated by Mike and Carl Gordon

King Donkey Ears

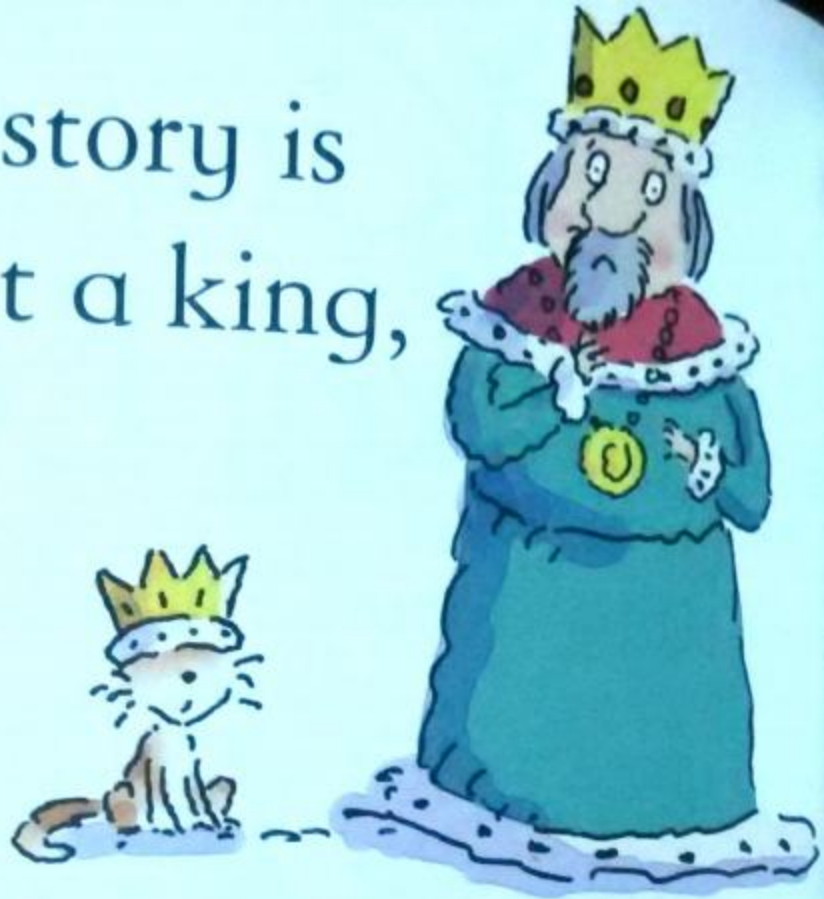
Retold by Lesley Sims



Illustrated by
Mike and Carl Gordon

Reading Consultant: Alison Kelly
Roehampton University

This story is
about a king,



Meg,
a servant,



the king's
best friend,

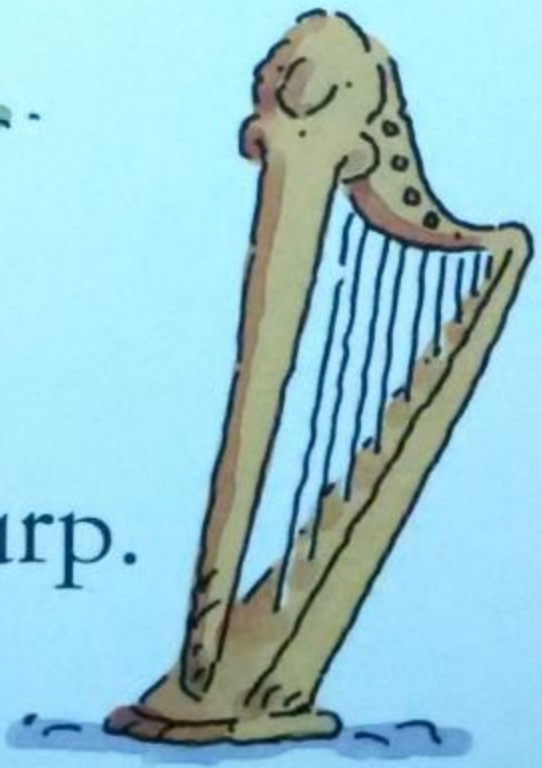




a tree,

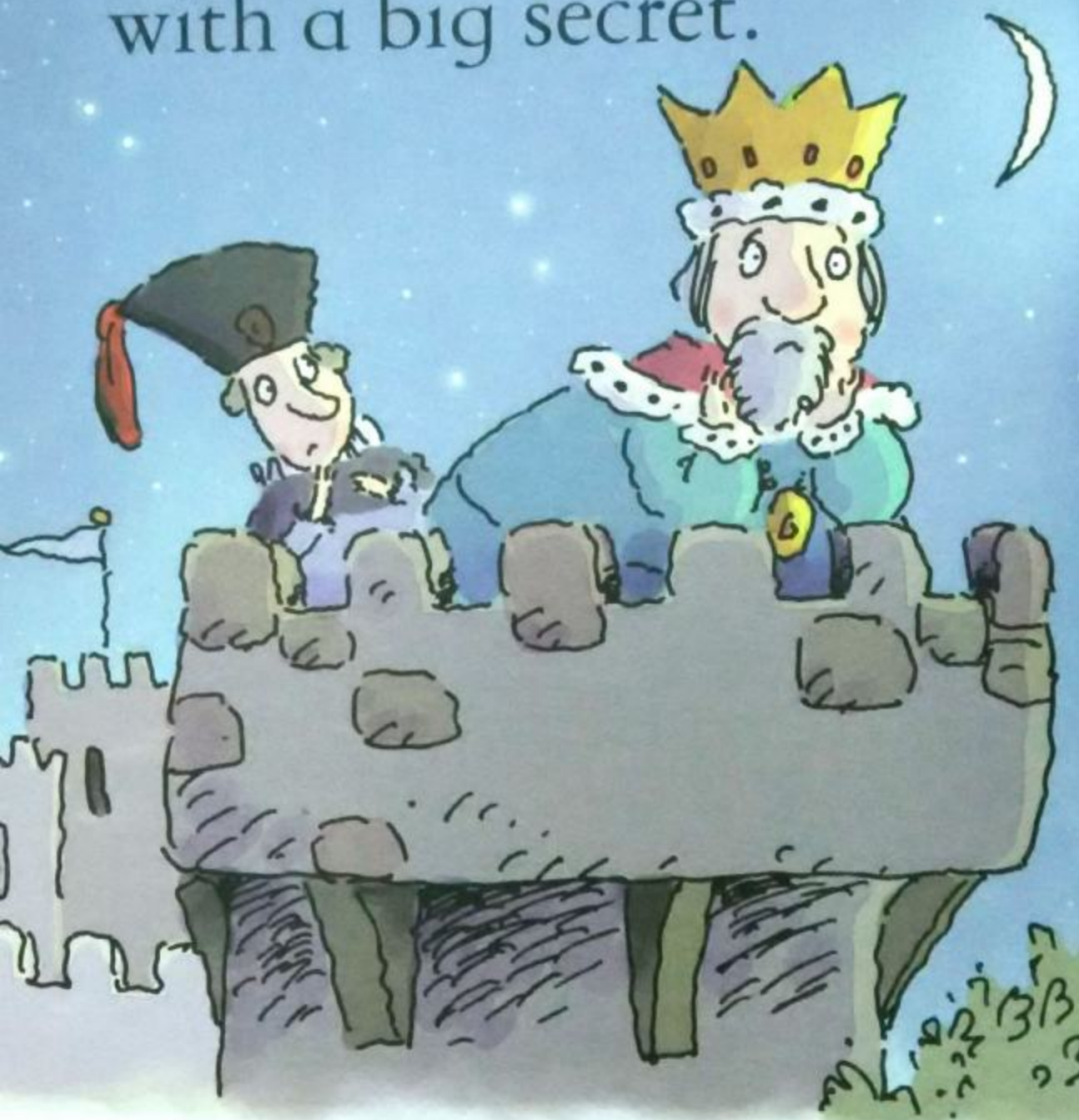


a woodcutter



and a harp.

There was once a king
with a big secret.



He didn't even tell his
best friend.



No one knew...
except the servant
who cut his hair.

Every month, the king
had a hair cut.

Snip!



Then he sent the
servant to prison.

Shh!



In July, it was Meg's
turn.



Meg saw the king's ears.

Er...what
lovely hair...



She was shocked, but
she didn't say.

As soon as Meg had finished, the king cried,



“But my mother is sick,” said Meg. “She needs me.”



The king thought of his own mother.



He didn't like putting people in jail.

“Okay,” said the king.
“Promise you’ll never
tell anyone.”



That night, it was all
Meg could think about.



She had to tell.



At last, she had an idea.
She wouldn't tell anyone.

She'd tell a tree!

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a long purple dress, stands in a forest with her arms outstretched. She is surrounded by several small, brown, donkey-like creatures with large eyes. A speech bubble above her contains the text "The king's got donkey ears!". The background features large trees with green foliage and a path.

The king's got donkey ears!

So she did. Now Meg felt much better.

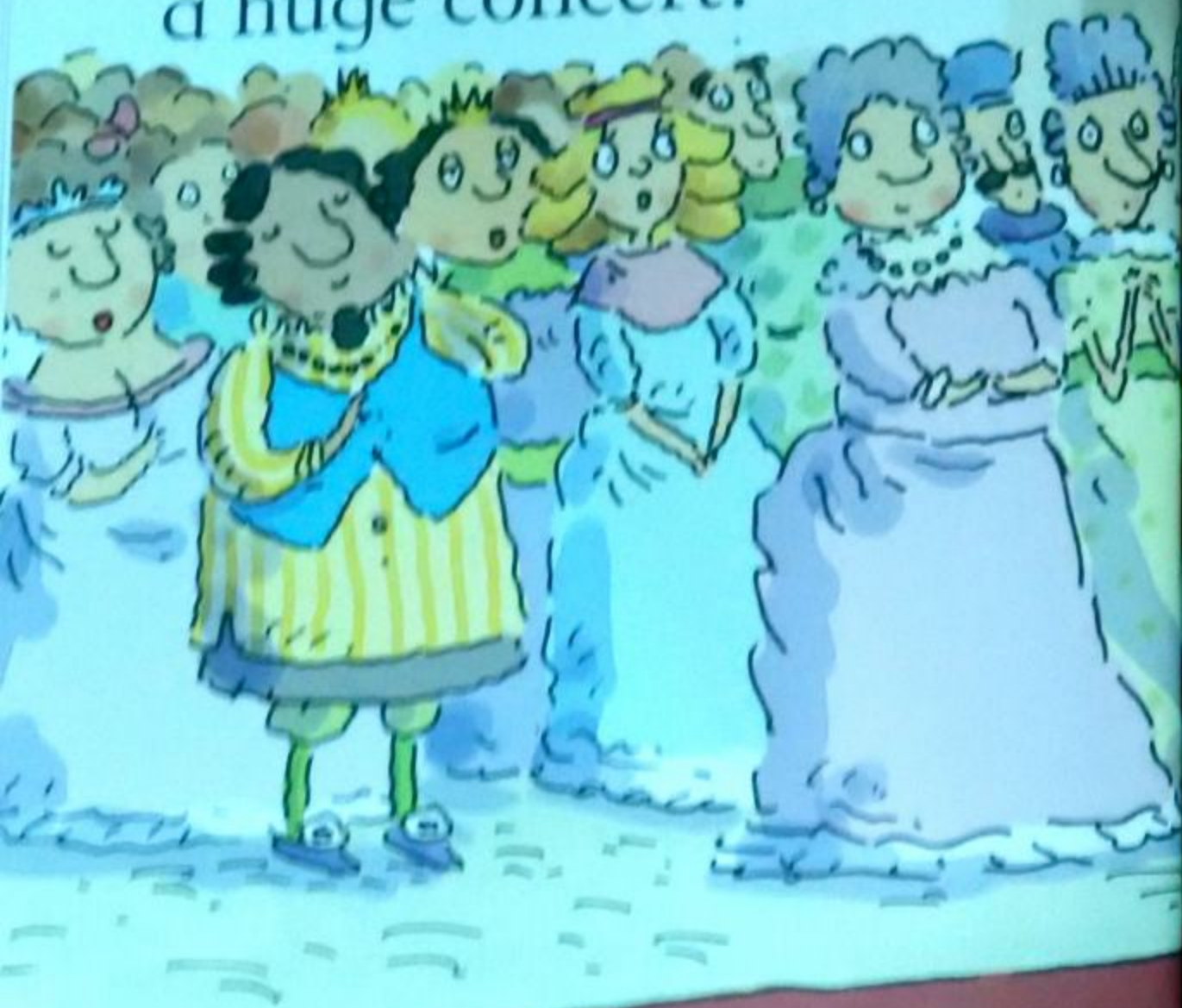
Later, a woodcutter
chopped down the tree.



The tree became a harp.



One day, the king gave
a huge concert.





But the new harp played
a very strange tune.

The king's got donkey ears...

The king's got donkey ears...





“You told my secret!”
the king roared at Meg.

The king's best friend
came forward.



“It’s not a secret,” he
said. “We all know.”

“And you don't mind?”
asked the king.



“Of course not!”



So the king freed all
the servants.





And he learned to love
his ears.

PUZZLES

Puzzle 1

Put the pictures in order.

A



B



C



D



E



Puzzle 2

Can you spot the differences between these two pictures?
There are six to find.



Puzzle 3

Find these things in the picture:



cat

chair

crown

flower

king

Meg



Answers to puzzles

Puzzle 1

C



D



B



E



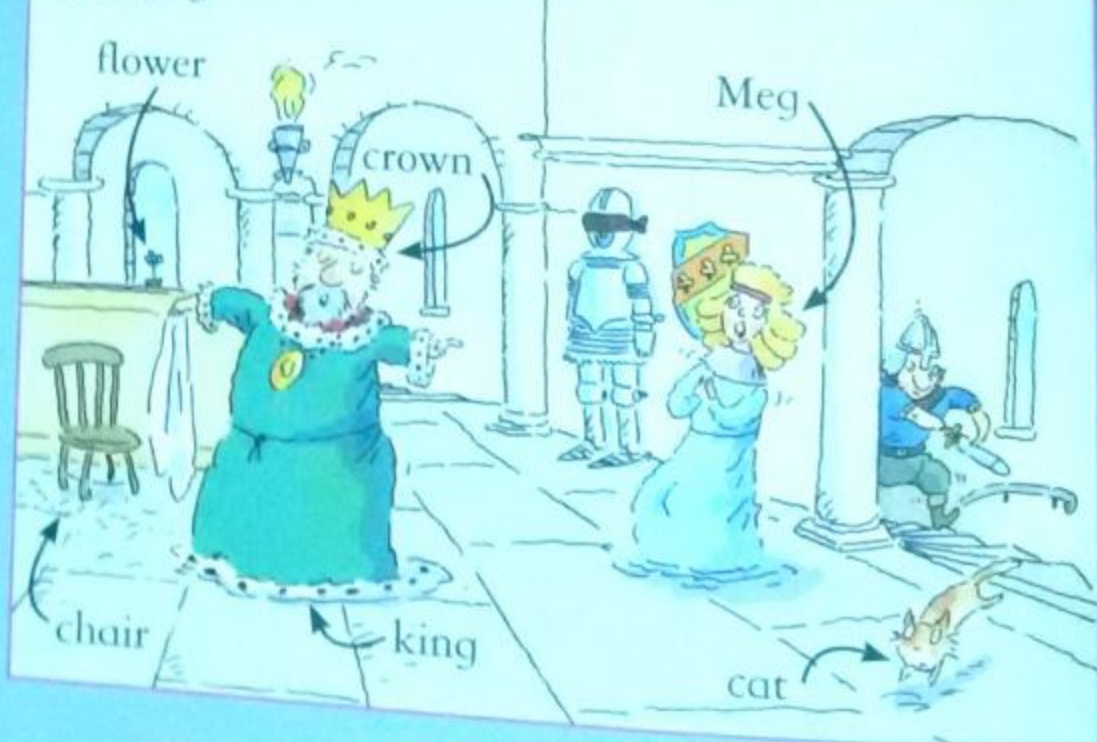
A



Puzzle 2



Puzzle 3



About King Donkey Ears

King Donkey Ears is based on an Irish folk tale, but that came from a much older legend about a king named Midas.

King Midas was asked to judge a competition between a musician and the god Apollo. King Midas declared the musician the winner – and even said he was the better player.


Apollo was so angry, he gave King Midas donkey ears.



Designed by Caroline Spatz
Series designer: Russell Punter



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USBORNE FIRST READING: LEVEL TWO



King Donkey Ears

Shhh! The king has a secret. I'll whisper it to you.

"He has donkey's ears."

This is a funny traditional tale with
puzzles after the story.



King Donkey Ears is in the **Usborne First Reading** series, written especially for children who are learning to read, and developed in consultation with Alison Kelly, Principal Lecturer in Education and reading specialist at Roehampton University. With delightful illustrations, these books combine great stories with simple text to excite and inspire any beginner reader.

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