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The Lad Who Went to the North Wind

A young lad was showing his mother a meat pie he had made. They were 15 very poor. This was their last bit of food. Suddenly, the pie was blown up 30 into the air and away! 35 "I shall go to the North Wind and demand that he return our pie!" said 50 the lad. "I may be small, but I walk tall." 60 The journey was long and hard. At last, the lad heard a loud and blustery 75 voice calling from the top of a mountain. "Who dares approach the home of 89 the North Wind?" 92 "It is I, the lad whose meat pie you stole this very morning." The North 107 Wind said he would give the lad a magic red tablecloth that would serve him 122 meals fit for a king. 127 The lad went to an inn to spend the night. There he spread out the cloth 143 and produced a fine feast that he shared with the other guests. 155 The innkeeper's wife wanted the tablecloth for herself. When the lad 166 was asleep, she took it and exchanged it with her own red tablecloth. The lad 181 took the cloth home to his mother and spread it out on their kitchen table. 196 When no feast appeared, the lad said, "I shall go back, for clearly I have 211 been tricked." 213 Again, the lad set off on the long journey to the mountain. This time, the 228 North Wind gave him a stick. "It will spray water until you tell it to stop," 244 said the North Wind. "You will find a good use for it." 256 When the lad stopped at the inn again, he used the stick to spray water all 272 over the innkeeper's wife. "Bid the stick be still!" she cried. "You shall have 286 your cloth back!" 289 The lad took the magic cloth and the stick home to his mother. They 303 shared a delicious meal. 307

She hugged the lad. "You may be small, but you walk tall!" she said.

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