



# 1. Pippi Longstocking

LS

 **W**hen Pippi entered Villa Villekulla for the first time, it was a lovely summer evening. The children next door, Tommy and Annika, were not at home.  They had gone to visit their grandmother for a week and so they had no idea that anybody had moved into the house next door.

On the first day after they came home again they stood by the gate, looking out onto the street. They had no idea that there actually was a playmate so near. They were standing there considering what they should do and wondering whether anything exciting was likely to happen or whether it was going to be one of those dull days when they couldn't think of anything to play. And just then, the gate of Villa Villekulla opened and a little girl stepped out. She was the most remarkable girl Tommy and Annika had ever seen. She was Miss Pippi Longstocking out for her morning walk. This is the way she looked:

Her hair, the colour of a carrot, was braided in two tight braids that stuck straight out. Her nose was the shape of a very small potato and was dotted all over with freckles. It must be admitted that the mouth under this nose was a very wide one, with strong white teeth. Her dress was rather unusual. Pippi had made it herself. She had meant it to be blue, but there wasn't quite enough blue cloth, so Pippi had sewed little red pieces on it here and there. On her long thin legs she wore a pair of long stockings, one brown and the other black. She had on a pair of black shoes that were exactly twice as long as her feet. Her father had bought these shoes for her in South

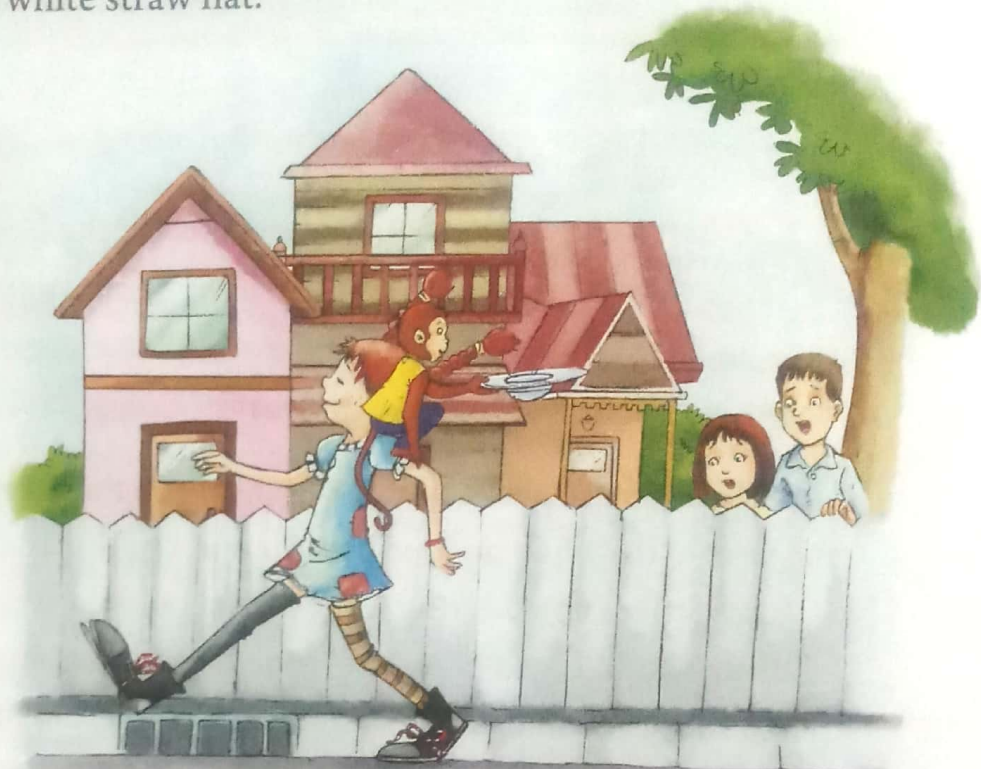




America so that Pippi would have something to grow into. She loved them and she never wanted to wear any others.

But the thing that made Tommy and Annika open their eyes widest of all was the monkey sitting on the strange girl's shoulder. It was a little monkey, dressed in blue pants, a yellow jacket and a white straw hat.

Pippi walked along the street with one foot on the sidewalk and the other in the gutter. Tommy and Annika watched as long as they could see her. In a little while she came back, and now she was walking backward. That was because she didn't want to turn around to get home. When she reached Tommy's and Annika's gate she stopped.



The children looked at each other in silence. At last Tommy spoke, 'Why did you walk backward?'

'Why did I walk backwards?' said Pippi. 'Isn't this a free country? Can't a person walk any way she wants to? Let me tell you that in Egypt everybody walks that way, and nobody thinks it's the least bit strange.'

'How do you know?' asked Tommy. 'You've never been to Egypt, have you?'

'I've never been to Egypt? Indeed I have. That's one thing you can be sure of. I have been all over the world and seen many things stranger than people walking backward. I wonder what you would have said if I had come along walking on my hands the way they do in Farthest India.'

'Now you must be lying,' said Tommy.

Pippi thought a moment. 'You're right,' she said sadly, 'I am lying.'



'It's wicked to lie,' said Annika, who had at last gathered up enough courage to speak. 'Yes, it's very wicked to lie,' said Pippi even more sadly. 'But I forget it now and then. And how can you expect a little child like me to always tell the truth when my mother is an angel and my father is king of a cannibal island and I have sailed on the ocean all my life?' Then Pippi smiled and continued, 'And let me tell you that in the Congo there is not a single person who tells the truth. They lie all day long. Begin at seven in the morning and keep on until sundown. So if I should happen to lie now and then, you must try to excuse me and to remember that it is only because I stayed in the Congo a little too long. We can be friends anyway, can't we?'

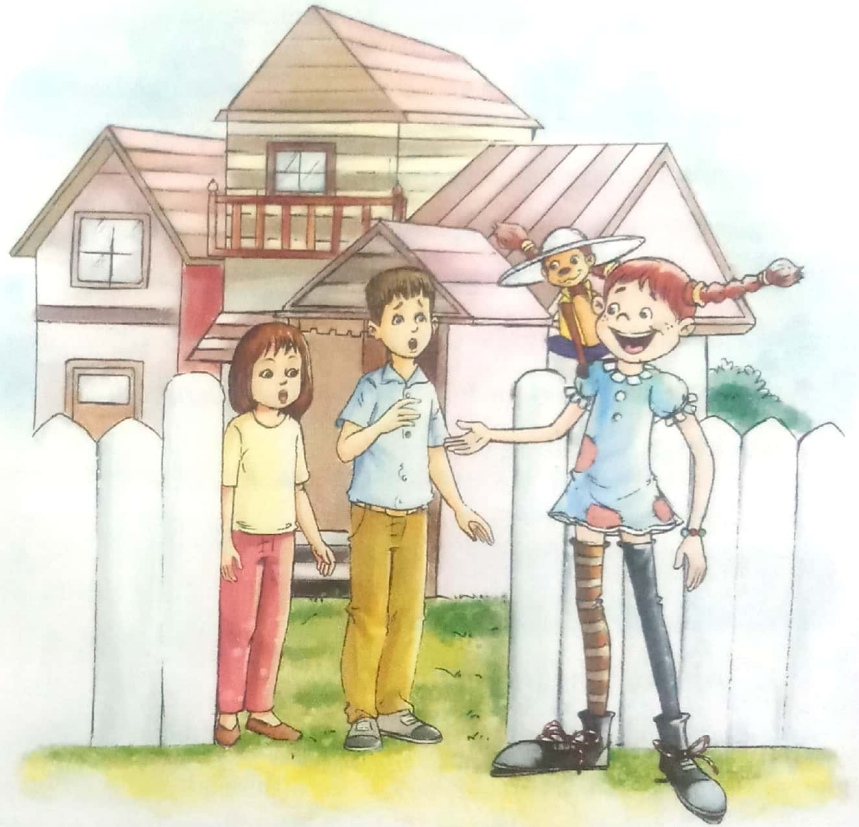
'Oh, sure,' said Tommy and realized suddenly that this was not going to be one of those dull days.

'By the way, would you come and have breakfast with me?' asked Pippi.

'Why not?' said Tommy. 'Come on, let's go.'

'Oh, yes, let's,' said Annika.

'But first I must introduce you to Mr Nilsson,' said Pippi, and the little monkey took off his cap and bowed politely.



Astrid Lindgren

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Astrid Lindgren (1907–2002) was a Swedish writer. She is best known for her children's book series. The *Pippi Longstocking* stories are about an unusual girl. Pippi is brave, funny and so incredibly strong that she can lift a horse up with one hand!

## WORDS TO KNOW

**angel** a spiritual being that is believed to act as an attendant to god (Pippi's mother died when she was young)

**braided** plaited

**cannibal** someone who eats other people!

**courage** bravery, the ability to do something that frightens you

**freckles** small patches of darker colour on skin (often made darker by the sun)

**remarkable** someone or something worth noticing

**sidewalk** a paved pathway at the side of a road

**stockings** very long socks

## COMPREHENSION

### 1. Answer the following questions.

- What was the name of Pippi's house?
- What were Tommy and Annika thinking while standing by their gate?
- What was unusual about how Pippi went on her morning walk?
- Which three countries did Pippi say she has been to?
- Where were Pippi's parents?
- What did Annika say to Pippi about lying?
- What did Tommy realize while he was speaking to Pippi?
- What was the name of Pippi's pet monkey?
- How do we know that the pet monkey was polite?



### These questions are more difficult. Discuss them first.

- What details from the story show us that Pippi is a remarkable child?
- How many lies do you think Pippi tells in this extract?



2. Say whether the following statements about the story are true or false.

- a. Tommy and Annika lived next door to Pippi.
- b. The monkey was wearing an orange tie.
- c. Pippi's shoes were too small.
- d. Tommy was very shy.
- e. Pippi walked home backwards.
- f. Pippi invited Tommy and Annika to breakfast.


3. Answer the questions about this line from the story.

*We can be friends anyway, can't we?*

- a. Who said this?
- b. Who replies and what do they say?
- c. Why was the speaker worried that they might not be friends?

## WORKING WITH WORDS

Use the following words and phrases from the passage in sentences of your own.

- |                |                    |                        |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| a. stepped out | b. had no idea     | c. wondering whether   |
| d. grow into   | e. gathered        | f. it must be admitted |
| g. remarkable  | h. you can be sure | i. politely            |

## LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE

### PARTICIPLES

1. Fill in the blanks in the following. The first one has been done for you.

- |           |                   |                    |           |       |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| a. break  | ..... broke ..... | ..... broken ..... | b. show   | ..... |
| c. go     | .....             |                    | d. cheat  | ..... |
| e. stream | .....             |                    | f. hear   | ..... |
| g. say    | .....             |                    | h. spread | ..... |

2. Use all the words in the end columns in sentences of your own.

## ARTICLES

3. Add articles to the following where necessary. Note that not all the blanks require an article.

Once upon ..... time there lived ..... king who was ..... fine man.  
..... kingdom he ruled was ..... very large and all ..... people who  
lived in it ..... were happy and prosperous. One day ..... great flood of  
..... water came pouring down from ..... mountains and swept away  
..... palace and most of ..... city. Many of ..... people were drowned  
but ..... king sent his army and carried everyone to some high ..... ground.  
In this way he saved ..... many people from ..... death.

## USING 'WHO' OR 'WHICH'

4. Join the following sentences with *who* or *which*. Remember that we usually use *who* for people and *which* for things.

- This is the dog. It has a strange name.
- This is the bin. The dog tipped it over.
- This is the teacher. She told the boys to be quiet.
- These are the children. They are throwing water at us.
- This is the fence. They looked over it.
- This is Mohan. He lives next door.
- This is the cat. It comes into our house every night.

## NOUNS

5. Underline the nouns in the following sentences.

- Once upon a time there was an old man called Ramji.
- One day he took his dog and went to the forest.
- Suddenly out of the bushes came a fierce tiger.
- Ramji was afraid, but his dog feared no man or creature.
- It took one step towards the tiger and barked.
- Ramji stood with his back against a tree.
- Soon the tiger ran into the forest.
- Ramji went home and told his wife about their brave pet.
- 'Well done!' she said in a loud voice, and the dog wagged its tail.



## LISTENING AND SPEAKING

1. Listen to the way these words are pronounced.

The last part of the word 'attend' is said with more force or stress.

atTEND

The first syllable in 'jacket' is stressed:

JACket

2. Listen carefully, and repeat the following words aloud. They are all from the story you have read. Mark the stressed syllables. Then say the words aloud again.

a. always	b. other	c. never	d. lovely
e. playmate	f. summer	g. morning	h. realized
i. looking	j. admitted	k. monkey	l. backward
m. lying	n. little	o. widest	p. considering
q. enough	r. shoulder	s. indeed	t. wicked
u. angel	v. moment	w. courage	x. remember
y. continued	z. breakfast		

## COMPOSITION

Imagine that you are Tommy or Annika and write a letter to a friend to tell them all about your new neighbour, Pippi Longstocking. You can use the details from story, such as the description of Pippi in paragraph three, to help you. Use the layout for a letter given below.

.....  
.....  
.....

Your address  
goes here.

Dear .....,

I hope you are well. .... and I have just met a remarkable girl who has moved into the house next door. Her name is Pippi Longstocking. Let me tell you about her.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Write about  
Pippi and her  
pets here.

Please write and tell me your news.

From,

.....

Your name  
goes here.