

# Fairy Tales: *Adventures of Pinocchio*

## THEME

Pinocchio by Carlos Collodi was written in 1883. The story is about a wooden marionette named Pinocchio. He spends his whole childhood wanting to become a real boy, but is misguided by troublesome schoolboys and two con artists. Through Pinocchio's adventures, he understands how he was defiant and naïve. At the end of the story his compassion and gratefulness overcame his misguided decisions.

Even though Pinocchio could distinguish right from wrong, he decided to disobey. Pinocchio chooses not to listen to Gepetto, and is faced with consequences that affected him later in the story including the times that he skips school. Pinocchio visits the marionette play, risking his life of becoming firewood and missed months of school during his trip to Playland with Lampwick. Pinocchio was to go back home to his fairy, the night that he ran away to Playland, but did not return. A couple months of slothful behavior ended with Pinocchio and Lampwick turned into donkeys and sold.

Pinocchio does not have a very open mind and because of that he becomes trapped by con-artists. His weakness is his naïve attitude toward others. When Pinocchio is lost in the woods, he is approached by a supposedly lame fox and blind cat. They are told of Pinocchio having coins in his pocket. The fox and cat, knowing of Pinocchio's coins pretend to be blind and lame. They ask Pinocchio to come with them to an inn, and buy them dinner. When Pinocchio wakes up, he is told by the manager that the fox and cat have gone. Pinocchio goes back into the woods and is attacked by assassins, whom are actually the fox and cat. His naivety nearly costs him his life, as he hangs on the branch of a tree. Later in the story, Pinocchio finds himself with Lampwick waiting for the coach to take Lampwick to Playland. Pinocchio is convinced by Lampwick that going to Playland would be fun. Pinocchio believes that since he is late, one hour or more makes very little difference. At the end of the story, Pinocchio gives his savings of coins to his fairy, who is sick in the hospital. Pinocchio is given the gist of becoming a real boy because of his act of generosity toward his fairy. into the sea, just as the witch of the Deep Sea had told her earlier. She sat on the shore and wept silently. Suddenly, from the sky came a pink cloud. It lifted her from the land into the sky. "Where am I?" asked Sirenetta, for now she could talk. The beautiful fairies replied, "We are the air fairies. You are now one of us because you did a good deed for the person you love. Come with us.



## Clip to watch

## MEANING

While Pinocchio is trying to show that he is brave, unselfish and truthful, he gets tempted. On the way to school, Pinocchio gives into Foulfellow's and Gideon's offer to take the "easy road to success." Pinocchio learns his lesson quickly at this point. Stramboli won't let him return home to see his father, but he didn't think about this before he decided to take the easy way out. When he is locked up, he can't get out himself, or even with the help of Jiminy. The only thing that can release him from the captivity is the Blue Fairy-the divine. Once Pinocchio is out of that bad situation, he is again tempted by Foulfellow. He goes to Pleasure Island which is "a place with no school (knowledge) and laws (morals)" and kids are free to "eat, drink, smoke, fight and destroy at will." Some critics say that Pleasure Island is a metaphor for a life of "ignorance, the search for instant gratification and the satisfaction of the one's lowest impulses." The boys don't receive the lives they thought they would on Pleasure Island. Instead, they are turned into donkeys and used as slaves. Once Pinocchio regains his conscience, he is able to escape the so called "easy road" and go back home.

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*Lord, we place these people and situations before you and ask you to help. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

## BIBLICAL LINK

The influence of the Bible is everywhere in Pinocchio. A profligate boy who disobeys his father is surely a version of the Prodigal Son? The famous parable ( Luke 15:11-32) tells the story of a son who leaves his father and throws away money on an easy life, before eventually returning home with his tail between his legs. It's an allegory for the relationship between the merciful God and sinning mankind. Is this not the story of Pinocchio too?

A character who spends time inside the belly of a giant sea-creature reminds us of the Old Testament story of Jonah and the Whale (The Book of Jonah). It's a sort of rebirth. The sinful character suffers an experience that would normally be fatal, but after three days and nights he lives again. (See Matthew 12: 39-41 for the explicit parallel between Jesus and Jonah ). Pinocchio even meets his father inside the Shark, just as Jonah came close to God during his ordeal inside the Whale.

### Key Questions....

What do you think is your conscience is?

What does it mean to be human?

How does Pinocchio realise the importance of being human?

How does this relate to the world around us?



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

## DAILY BIBLE READING



Sacred time this week can link to the British Value of **rule of law**. This is because in the fairy tale, Pinocchio is told to always let his conscience be his guide when making decisions. Sometimes people make the wrong decisions and break the law, and then have to be punished.

## PRAYER

**Almighty God, who on this day  
didst open the way of eternal life  
to every race and nation  
by the promised gift of thy Holy Spirit:  
Shed abroad this gift throughout the world  
by the preaching of the Gospel,  
that it may reach to the ends of the earth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth  
with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**