

*Based on the classic tale by Carlo Collodi*

# Pinocchio

## 1

Once upon a time there was a poor carpenter named Geppetto. He had never married, and so had no children.

‘How I wish I had a little boy of my own!’

One day, he saw a puppet theatre in the street. The puppets seemed so lifelike.

“I will make a child of my own.”

## 2

He hurried back to his workshop, and set to work immediately. He made the puppet’s head, and the eyes seemed to watch him.

He made the puppet’s arms, and they seemed to move.

He made the puppet’s legs and feet, and he fancied that they were ready to dance.

“I will call you Pinocchio.”

## 3

Suddenly, the puppet leapt off the bench, and ran away, laughing.

“Pinocchio, come back!”

Night came, and snow began to fall.

Geppetto was still looking.

## 4

Finally Pinocchio returned to the old man’s workshop, laughing.

“It is not so funny, my friend.”

“Who are you?”

“I am your conscience. And I want to help you.”

“Don’t be silly.’ ‘How could you possibly help me?”

“By telling you what will happen if you do not learn to behave.”

“Go on.”

## 5

“Boys who disobey their parents come to no good.”

“Nonsense, I want to have fun. No one can tell me what to do!”

“Do as the old man says, for he loves you. Go to school. Be good. And then one day you may become a real boy.”

“Go away!”

## 6

Then he settled down by the fire, and fell fast asleep.

Alas, as he slept, a coal fell out the fire, and burned his legs to ashes.

“Ohhhhh, ohhhh! Someone save me!”

“What is it?”

## 7

“Oh my boy, my boy!”

“Papa, forgive me. Please help me. I will never run away again.”

“Will you go to school?”

“I promise.”

So Geppetto made new legs and feet for the puppet – better than the old ones.

And they both went to bed happy.

## 8

The next week, Pinocchio set off for school.

Alas, on the way, he heard the sound of drums.

He followed the sound and came to a street show.

“How much to go in?”

“A silver coin.”

“I have no money. But I must see the show.”

**9**

“Pinocchio, what about your promise?”

“Go away!”

He went to a bookseller and sold his school books.

And he went to the puppet show.

“Hurray!”

**10**

“What have we here?”

It was the puppet manager.

“Dear boy. Do you want to make a fortune?”

“Yes please.”

“Then come with me.”

**11**

No sooner were they out of sight behind the stage, though, than he grabbed Pinocchio.

“A talking puppet is worth its weight in gold!”

And he locked Pinocchio away.

“Oh, woe is me! I am a slave. Now I will never see my dear Papa again.”

“If I free you, will you go straight home to him?”

“Why yes, dear friend. I promise!”

**12**

“That was a close call.”

“Pinocchio, where are you going?”

Pinocchio turned to see a cat and a fox.

“I am going home, to give my father these gold pieces.”

“Give us the coins. We can make you rich. We will plant them in the Field of Dreams, and a tree will grow with gold leaves.”

“Really?” said Pinocchio.

“Would we lie to you? But first, let us eat and drink...”

### 13

Pinocchio went with his new friends to an inn.

Before he knew it, Pinocchio had fallen asleep.

“Who is paying for all this food and drink?”

“My friends and I...”

“Those rogues?” said the innkeeper. “They left hours ago.”

“The gold ... it’s all gone!”

The innkeeper tossed him out into the street.

“What a fool I am.”

### 14

“Don’t cry.”

He looked up, and saw a beautiful fairy.

“What happened to you, Pinocchio?”

“Oh, good fairy, I grew a gold tree in the Field of Dreams...”

### 15

“Some of the gold I gave to the poor... But then robbers came by and tried to kill me...”

“What is the matter with my nose?”

“Oh, Pinocchio, it’s those lies you’re telling.”

**16**

“Forgive me. I will never lie again.”

“Very well.”

“If only you would stay with me, and be my mother. If only ...”

“What?”

“If only I could be a real live boy...”

**17**

“You can.”

“How?”

“You must give up your bad ways. You must learn to be good and kind.”

“I will, I will.”

“Will you be good to your father ... and go to school?”

“Yes, yes!”

The good fairy disappeared.

**18**

Pinocchio returned to Geppetto.

“Papa, I am home. I promise from now on I will be good.”

Pinocchio went to school, and learned his lessons, and tried very hard to be good.

**19**

But one day, Pinocchio saw a classmate, Candlewick, standing by the road with a little bag in his hand.

“Where are you going?”

“To the Island of Fun. Why don't you come with me?”

“What is the Island of Fun?”

“A wonderful place. There are no schools, no books, no homework. It is summer all year long, the carnivals are free, there is endless ice cream,

and toffee, and..."

"But I promised the fairy, and my papa..."

"No one will know."

## 20

At that moment, a coach pulled up. "Climb aboard!"

"Don't go!"

ALL ABOARD!"

"Who was that?"

"You will regret it. Naughty boys always come to a bad end..."

"CRACK!!!"

"ALL ABOARD!"

## 21

So Pinocchio came to the Island of Fun.

There were children everywhere, playing and shouting. They could do whatever they liked, all day and all night.

Pinocchio completely forgot Geppetto, and the fairy, and all his promises.

Little did he know that his father, heart broken, had gone in search of him again. But Pinocchio just kept playing.

## 22

One day, however, Pinocchio woke up feeling strange. He rushed out and found his friend Candlewick.

"Candlewick, what's the matter ..."

Candlewick too had donkey's ears.

"Candlewick?"

"Pino ... hee haw ... hee haw..."

"Candle ... hee haw ... hee haw..."

**23**

“CRACK!!!”

“Come along, you animals! It’s market day ... ha ha ha ...”

And so Pinocchio was sold to a circus. He was locked in a stable, and fed straw.

And the circus master, a huge man, came to him every day to teach him tricks.

**24**

Soon, Pinocchio found himself in the ring. He had to leap through hoops, and do tricks for the crowd.

“HA, HA, HA...”

Suddenly, he saw a familiar face looking on.

“Hee haw ... hee haw...”

“CRACK!!!”

Pinocchio galloped round the ring, but his eyes were filled with tears.

“CRACK!!!”

**25**

He leapt through a hoop, but he could not see clearly. He crashed to the ground.

“Get rid of that animal! It’s useless to me now...”

Pinocchio was taken away.

“He’ll never work again. Get rid of him!”

**26**

Pinocchio was led to the sea. A great stone was tied round his neck, and he was pushed off a cliff.

Down, down, down he fell, and SPLASH!!! into the sea...

But he did not drown. Instead, the donkey skin slipped off. And Pinocchio was a puppet once more.

Pinocchio swam away. Then he surfaced, and looked back. “Oh, good fairy!”

**27**

“GULP!!!”

Suddenly, all was darkness. Pinocchio had been swallowed by a giant whale.

“If only I had kept my promise. Now I will never see the fairy again. Or my father...”

“Pinocchio? Is that you?”

**28**

“Papa?”

“Oh, Pinocchio! I've found you at last!”

“Papa, what are you doing here?”

“I went looking for you. I searched everywhere. One day, at sea, a whale swallowed me... How did you come to be here?”

“I'll tell you later, Papa. First, let's make our escape.”

**29**

“Swim, Papa, swim!”

But the waves were high, and Geppetto's strength was failing. “Leave me, Pinocchio. Save yourself!”

“Never. I left you before. I broke my promises. I lied. I was cruel and careless. No, I will not leave you. I would sooner die!”

“I am dead at last. And I deserve it. For I have done terrible things to the people who loved me. I am a bad boy...”

“Pinocchio!”

**30**

“You have your wish.”

Pinocchio opened his eyes.

“At last you have shown yourself worthy. And now you have your reward.”

Imagine Pinocchio’s surprise and delight when he saw, not the face of a puppet, but that of a real, live boy.

**THE END**

*(Adapted from the original novel by Richard McRoberts)*