

## 6 The Queen's Garden

by Ellen C. Babbitt

### Before You Read

Before you read "The Queen's Garden," go over the words below. Make sure you know what each word means. This will help you when you read the story.

**pearls:** small, round stones. She was wearing *pearls* around her neck.

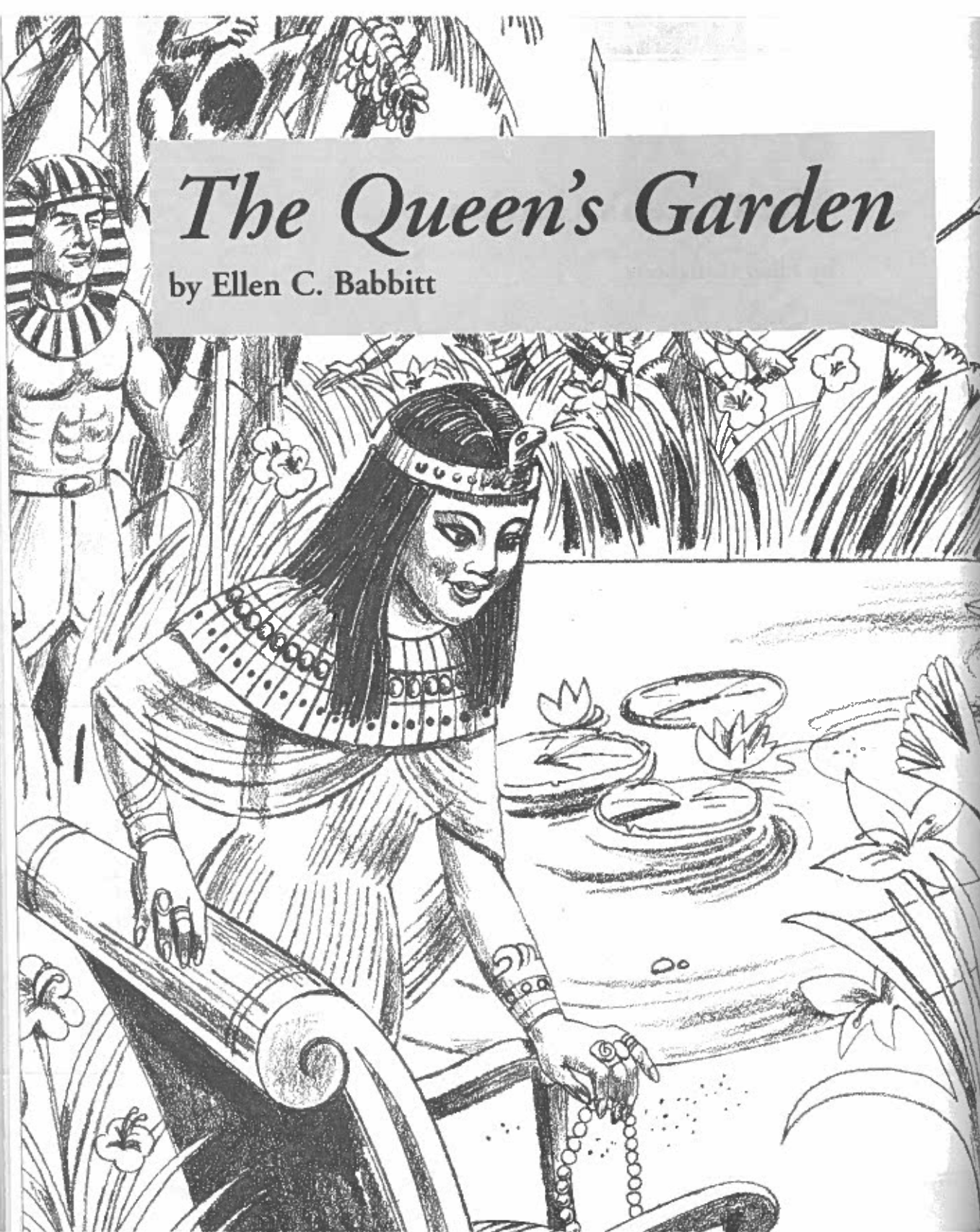
**guard:** someone who watches over, or takes care of, someone. There was always a *guard* near the queen.

**woke:** stopped sleeping. He *woke* up when he heard a loud noise.

**warned:** told to be careful. The queen *warned* the monkey and then let it go.

# *The Queen's Garden*

by Ellen C. Babbitt



A queen had a beautiful garden. The garden was filled with flowers. There were many tall trees in the garden. Birds sang in the garden all day. And monkeys jumped and played in the trees.

The queen loved her beautiful garden. She loved to look at the flowers. She loved to hear the birds singing. She loved to walk by the trees.

There was a lake near the garden. The queen often sat by the lake. She looked out at the water.



One day the queen took a walk. The day was warm. The road was long. The queen got tired. She went back to the palace to rest.

The queen rested for a while. Then she said to herself, "I will go to my garden. I will sit under a tree. Then I will swim in the lake. That will be very nice."

She prepared to swim in the lake. Then she went to the garden.

The queen sat in a chair. It was under a tree. She looked out at the lake. She sat for some time. Then she got up to swim.

The queen was wearing some pearls. She reached up to her neck. She took off the pearls. She put them down on the chair.



"Guard!" called the queen.

A guard ran up. "Yes, queen," he said.

"Watch this string of pearls," said the queen. "I am going to swim."

"Very good," said the guard.

The queen went to the lake.

The guard looked at the pearls. They were bright in the sun.

A monkey sat in the tree by the chair. It watched all of this. It heard what they said.



The monkey thought, "She is the queen. He is a guard. That thing on the chair is a string of pearls."

The monkey looked at the pearls. Oh, my, they were bright!

The monkey thought, "I like those pearls very much! I want those pearls very much. I must have those pearls!"

The monkey looked at the guard. The guard watched the pearls.

The day was hot. The guard was tired. The monkey thought, "I will keep watching the guard. He may fall asleep. If he falls asleep, I will get the pearls."

The guard closed his eyes. He soon fell asleep.

The monkey jumped down from the tree. It picked up the pearls. It ran back up the tree.

The monkey put the pearls around its neck. The pearls looked very good. The monkey was happy.

There was a hole in the tree. The monkey put the pearls into the hole. "They will be safe in the tree," the monkey said.

Soon the guard woke up. He looked at the chair. The pearls were gone!

The guard called out, "A man has run off with the queen's string of pearls! A man has run off with the queen's string of pearls!"

Guards hurried there from every side. Just then the queen came back. She had finished her swim.

"Where are my pearls?" she asked the guard.

"My queen," said the guard. "I was sitting right there. I was watching your pearls. But I closed my eyes. I fell asleep. When I woke up, the pearls were gone."

"Gone?" said the queen.

She turned to the guards. "Look everywhere," she said. "Find the man who took the pearls. Then bring that man to me."





Two days went by. The guards looked everywhere. They told the queen, "Your pearls are gone. We cannot find them anywhere. We cannot find the man who took them."

"What?" said the queen. "You cannot find the man? How can that be? There is a fence around the garden. Guards stand by the fence all day. He could not get away."

"Yes," said the guards. "But still we cannot find the man."

The queen thought and thought. Then she said, "There are many monkeys in my garden. Perhaps a monkey took the pearls."

She turned to the guards. "Go," she said. "Make many strings of pearls. But make them out of glass. Wait until the sun goes down. Put the pearls around the garden. We will see what happens then."

The guards made many pearls of glass. That night they put them in the garden.

The pearls were bright. The monkeys saw the strings of pearls. The monkeys hopped down from the trees. Each monkey took a string of pearls.

One monkey did not hop down from the tree. That monkey had the queen's real pearls. It sat near the hole where it had put them.

The other monkeys danced around. They were very happy.

They told the monkey in the tree, "It is too bad you did not get a string of pearls. Look at *our* pearls. How beautiful they are! Look at our pearls! Look at our pearls!"



They kept saying this. "Look at our pearls! Look at our pearls!"

The monkey could not stand it any longer. The monkey reached into the hole. It pulled out the string of pearls.

"See *my* string of pearls!" it said. "*Your* pearls are made of glass. *My* pearls are real! I took them from the queen!"

Guards were hiding in the garden. They quickly caught the monkey. They took the monkey to the queen.

"Here are your pearls," they told the queen. "This monkey took your string of pearls."



The queen smiled. She said, "I knew that no one could get into my garden. And no one could get out. I wondered if a monkey took them."

The queen warned the monkey. Then she let the monkey go.

The queen thanked the guards. She said, "I am glad you found my pearls. You did your job. You did it very well."

The next night the queen had a party for the guards. She had the party in the garden.

The monkeys looked down from the trees. They watched the people eat and drink. The people all were very happy.

The monkeys were **delighted** too. For each one had a string of pearls. So what if their pearls were made of glass? They did not care.

Just one monkey was not happy. That monkey had no pearls at all. And you know who *that* monkey was.



**TELL ABOUT THE STORY.**

Put an X in the box next to the right answer. Each answer tells something (a *fact*) about the story.

1. The queen told a guard to
  - a. bring her some food.
  - b. take her to the lake.
  - c. watch her pearls.
2. The monkey took the pearls when the guard
  - a. fell asleep.
  - b. turned around.
  - c. went for a walk.
3. The monkey put the pearls
  - a. near some flowers.
  - b. under the chair.
  - c. in a hole in the tree.
4. The guards made pearls out of
  - a. stones.
  - b. glass.
  - c. wood.

x 5 =   
 NUMBER CORRECT                      YOUR SCORE

**END EACH LINE.**

Finish the lines below. Fill in each empty space with one of the words in the box. Each word can be found in the story. There are five words and four empty spaces. This means that one word in the box will not be used.

Wild flowers can grow just about \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub>. You can find them in fields, in woods, and near \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub>. Have you ever seen flowers growing by the side of a \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub>? Almost always, they will be wild \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub>.

road	lakes
eyes	flowers
everywhere	

x 5 =   
 NUMBER CORRECT                      YOUR SCORE



## SHOW WHAT WORDS MEAN.

The words below are printed in **dark letters** in the story. You may look back at these vocabulary words before you answer the questions. Put an X in the box next to the right answer.

- The queen prepared to swim. The word *prepared* means  
 a. got ready.  
 b. stayed home.  
 c. forgot about.
- It put the pearls in a safe place. When something is *safe*,  
 a. it is big.  
 b. it can break.  
 c. nothing bad can happen to it.
- She thought, "Perhaps a monkey took the pearls." The word *perhaps* means  
 a. it may be.  
 b. it cannot be.  
 c. it will be.
- They were delighted with the pearls. The word *delighted* means  
 a. very angry.  
 b. very happy.  
 c. very worried.

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NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

## THINK ABOUT THE STORY.

Here is how to answer these questions. First think about what happened in the story. Then work out the right answers. This is called *critical thinking*.

- Which one is true?  
 a. A man got away with the pearls.  
 b. The guards did not look for the pearls.  
 c. The queen tricked the monkey.
- The monkey took out the queen's pearls because the other monkeys  
 a. wanted to see them.  
 b. had no pearls.  
 c. kept showing off their pearls.
- The story shows that the queen was  
 a. clever or bright.  
 b. not too clever.  
 c. very old.
- The queen had a party because  
 a. it was her birthday.  
 b. she was happy with the guards.  
 c. the king was coming home.

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NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

## SPOT PARTS OF A STORY.

Stories have **characters**, a **plot**, and a **setting**. (See page 3.) Put an X in the box next to the right answer.

- What happened first? (**Plot**)  
 a. The guard fell asleep.  
 b. The queen took off her pearls.  
 c. The monkey took the pearls.
- What happened last? (**Plot**)  
 a. The queen had a party.  
 b. The queen went for a swim.  
 c. Guards caught the monkey.
- Which best tells about the queen? (**Character**)  
 a. She did not like to take walks.  
 b. She never sat by the lake.  
 c. She thought a monkey might have taken the pearls.
- Where does the story take place? (**Setting**)  
 a. in a house  
 b. in a garden  
 c. in some woods

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NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

## THINK SOME MORE ABOUT THE STORY.

Your teacher might want you to write your answers.

- Why did the queen think a monkey took the pearls?
- Why did the queen tell the guards to put glass pearls in the garden?
- At the end of the story, why was one monkey unhappy?

Write your scores in the box below. Then write your scores on pages 122 and 123.

<input type="text"/>	TELL ABOUT THE STORY
+	
<input type="text"/>	END EACH LINE
+	
<input type="text"/>	SHOW WHAT WORDS MEAN
+	
<input type="text"/>	THINK ABOUT THE STORY
+	
<input type="text"/>	SPOT PARTS OF A STORY
=	
<input type="text"/>	TOTAL SCORE: Story 6