



'Father wants me to be happy,' she said to her new doll. 'I love him very much and I want to be a good daughter, so I must be happy.'

It was a very big and very beautiful doll, but of course it could not answer.

Sara soon made new friends in the school. Some little rich girls are not very nice – they think they are important because they have money and lots of expensive things. But Sara was different. She liked beautiful dresses and dolls, but she was more interested in people and books, and telling stories.

She was very good at telling stories. She was a clever child, and the other girls loved to listen to her. The stories were all about kings and queens and princesses and wonderful countries across the sea.

'How do you think of all those things?' asked her best friend, Ermengarde.

'I have all these pictures in my head,' said Sara. 'So it's easy to tell stories about them.'

Poor Ermengarde was not clever. She could never remember any of her school lessons, and Miss Minchin was always angry with her.

Sara often helped Ermengarde with her lessons.

'Listen, Ermie,' she said. 'You remember that French king, Louis the Sixteenth? Well, this is a story about him. One day in 1792 ...'

clever quick-thinking, able to learn and do things well

remember to think about something you know

And so Ermengarde learnt her lessons with Sara's stories, and she loved her friend very much. But not everybody was Sara's friend. Lavinia was an older girl. Before Sara came, Lavinia was the richest and the most important girl in the school. But Sara's father was richer than Lavinia's father. So now Sara was more important than Lavinia, and Lavinia did not like that.

'Oh, Sara is so clever!' Lavinia sometimes said. 'Sara is so good at French! Her dresses are so beautiful, and she can sing so well! And she is so rich! Of course Miss Minchin likes her best!'

Sara did not answer when Lavinia said these things. Sometimes it was not easy, but Sara was a kind, friendly girl, and she did not like to be angry with anyone.



Activities

1 Complete the sentences with these words.

clever

expensive

lessons

like

princess

sad

~~rich~~

richer

- 1 Miss Minchin liked Sara because her father was rich.
- 2 Mr Crewe bought many _____ things for his daughter.
- 3 Miss Minchin thought Sara looked like a little _____.
- 4 When Mr Crewe left London, Sara was very _____.
- 5 Sara's friend Ermengarde was not _____, so Sara helped her with her school _____.
- 6 Sara's father was _____ than Lavinia's father, and because of that, Lavinia did not _____ Sara.

2 Who said this? Write the names.

Miss Minchin

Ermengarde

Lavinia

~~Sara~~

Mr Crewe

- 1 'I don't think I like England very much.' Sara
- 2 'I must go back to India and work.' _____
- 3 'All that money on dresses!' _____
- 4 'How do you think of all those things?' _____
- 5 'Sara is rich! Of course Miss Minchin likes her best!' _____